

CALGARY'S STREET RAILWAY MILEAGE

Has Grown from Sixteen to Fifty-Three Miles—Western Trade Routes Association—Board of Trade Trip

(Special Correspondence).

Calgary, July 16th.

At the banquet given to delegates, British manufacturers party and public men after the Panama Canal conference, Mr. J. S. Dennis, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Natural Resources Department who has placed so many of the United States settlers on the company's lands in the West, said that up to the end of last year £317,000,000 of British capital was invested in Canada as against £656,000,000 in the United States. He expected to see this changed, and urged British manufacturers to cater more to the wishes of Canadian trade. Referring to the influx of settlers from the United States, Mr. Dennis said he hoped in five years to see 500,000 coming instead of 200,000 as now. The Panama Canal conference passed resolutions. Resolutions demanding equalization of western freight rates, relief for the blockade of the eastern grain shipping route, and preparing the Pacific coast ports for the opening of the canal will be presented to the Dominion Government. A permanent organization was formed, of which Mr. L. P. Strong, president of the Alberta Pacific Elevator Company, was elected president. Mr. E. J. Fream, secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, is secretary. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are to elect the executive. No expression of preference to any British Columbia port was given. The Western Trade Routes Association is the name chosen for the new organization.

Calgary's Natural Gas Supply.

Natural gas pipes are being laid throughout the city and into all the residences where application is made. The charge will be 35 cents per thousand cubic feet for domestic use, and on this basis the estimate is that it will be cheaper, as is the difference between \$4.80 for gas and \$7 for coal. A test of the first 78 miles from Bow Island to Lethbridge has been made. The pressure was from 260 to 350 lbs. in the mains, which is probably sufficient for all requirements.

Municipal Street Railway System.

The third year of the Municipal Street Railway system has just been completed. The revenue for 1909 was \$144,244; for 1910, \$275,434, and for 1911, \$479,240. Out of this revenue there has been paid as profits to the city treasurer, after all fixed charges, interest, sinking fund, and five per cent. of the gross revenue set aside as a contingent, accident, insurance and renewal account:—\$29,435; \$87,206; \$101,000 for the three years respectively. The trackage has extended from 16½ miles in 1910 to 53 miles now, with 48 cars and 236 employees. Earnings during the five days of Exhibition week in 1910 were \$6,167; in 1911, \$8,250.70; and this year, \$12,754.55. A new observation car costing \$7,000 was added this week. When routed it will pass over parts of the city of special interest to sightseers. The round trip fare is to be 25 cents.

Board of Trade Trip.

Calgary's business men are arranging for a Board of Trade trip over the southern part of the province. They purpose, with five coaches, spending a week seeing things at first hand, while renewing acquaintances among their customers in the towns and cities to which they distribute their commodities.

Although Calgary's exhibition was somewhat affected by the wet weather, the attendance especially on Monday, when 40,000 people were on the grounds, was in excess of previous years, and the exhibits and entries of manufacturers, farm products, live stock, arts, etc., reached higher standards than previous years.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce have subscribed \$5,000 towards the relief fund for the sufferers in the Regina disaster.

Mr. J. A. Harrison of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Walkerville, has been moved to the Hamilton branch as accountant in place of J. M. Duff, who has been moved to Sherbrooke in that capacity.

The establishment of a three-hour electric rapid transit service between Ottawa and Kingston, giving an outlet to the fertile Rideau valley and rich farming district of the Rideau lakes, is promised within two years by Mr. T. R. Clougher, of London, England. English capital is being interested in the project, and a bond issue will shortly be placed in London. The promoters have already secured the co-operation of electric transit engineers in the British Isles.

MONTREAL COMPANIES INCREASE DIVIDENDS

Suggestion of a Holding Company—Alderman Lapointe and Municipal Financing

Monetary Times Office,

Montreal, July 17th,

There were two dividend changes in Montreal stocks recently, being those of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power, and Canadian Converters.

The 8 per cent. dividend on Montreal Light, Heat & Power was increased to 9 per cent., while the directors of the Canadian Converters start dividends again upon that stock, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The street is discussing both these dividend changes. For probably a year past, 9 per cent. has been predicted on Montreal Power. More hopeful predictions have placed the dividend at 10 per cent., and the general feeling even now is that the higher rate will be paid ere long, unless something in the nature of a new stock deal takes place. Power is earning largely in excess of the amount requisite to pay dividends at the rate just declared, or even at a 10 per cent. rate. The decision to increase the dividend had no effect upon the stock, inasmuch as the increase was fully expected. Activity has now prevailed in the stock, and the market strengthened up perceptibly.

Interesting Suggestion Regarding Power Companies.

This is interesting in view of the talk concerning the possibility that a holding company may be organized to take in the three power concerns of Montreal, namely, the company just referred to, together with Shawinigan Water & Power Company, and the Cedar Rapids Company. All three companies are now working in very close touch with each other. The stocks of the Montreal Power Company, and the Shawinigan Water & Power Company are owned very largely by the same interests, and within the past six months these have acquired control of the Cedar Rapids Company which was previously owned by Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon, who still retains a large interest. With the Cedar Rapids development going on thirty miles west of Montreal, and the Shawinigan Water & Power increasing its development some eighty miles or so east of Montreal, and the Montreal Power Company with several developments in the vicinity of Montreal, and a complete distributing system in its control, it would seem that a holding company for the three concerns would not be at all illogical.

Canadian Converters Dividend.

As to the dividend on Converters, the cause for the declaration of this is said to be more the outlook for the future than results obtained. The company has had difficulties, having a few years ago shown a serious deficit, and having been compelled to pass its dividend. These financial difficulties have been surmounted, and it has a comfortable surplus, although its earnings have been scarcely equal to the 4 per cent. dividend requirements. As was explained at the recent annual meeting, however, the year was not at all a favorable one, whereas the present year had started off exceptionally well, the orders on the books of the company being twice as great as a year ago. A very considerable change also took place in the directorate, and the present directors in taking office were strongly advised by the old directors to make the dividend declaration they have just made.

Difficulties in Municipal Financing.

Financial circles in Montreal are interested in Alderman L. A. Lapointe's suggestion that the time has come for the city to increase its rate of interest from 4 per cent. to 4½ per cent. It will be necessary for the city to obtain the power to accomplish this from the legislative assembly.

Alderman Lapointe declares that money is becoming dearer and, to a considerable extent, he lays the blame of the difficulty of obtaining money upon the low rate of interest which the city is prepared to pay. He refers to the fact that New York is compelled to pay 4½ per cent. in order to obtain par for its loans. He refers to the fact that no bids were sent in last year for the \$7,000,000 loan, and assumes that this may have been due to the placing of a \$5,000,000 loan but a short time previously, upon which occasion the city secured the high price of 101.115. That was eighteen months ago, yet the city has never since been able to get a better offer than 97, which offer was received in January. The city now needs \$13,000,000, as \$6,000,000 is required for the current year's undertakings, in addition to the \$7,000,000 of last year. By advancing the interest to 4½ per cent., interest would be stimulated, he thought, in financial centres, and bidding would be more active.