

## STOCK EXCHANGE THIS WEEK.

Monetary Times' Office,

July 11th, 1907.

To the more sanguine speculators, the course of the stock market, during the past week, has been a grievous disappointment. The activity in certain issues a week ago, and the advance which all stocks were showing, led many to believe that a turn had come for the better, and that from this forward prices might advance. The result was that quite a number went into the market in the hope of picking up a few stocks which might show a rise of several points within a few days. The activity and the strength soon gave way to the conditions of dullness and easiness which have prevailed for so many months, and to-day prices are within a few points of the lowest figure reached during the depression. The recent flurry being to some extent the result of the bright outlook for a settlement of the Steel-Coal dispute, it could only be expected that the renewal of hostilities and the uncertainty of the situation would again exercise a depressing influence on the market. Steel common is again down to 20½, now, which is not much better than its worst. The buying has almost entirely stopped. Iron preferred is selling at 48, and Scotia has dropped again, and is selling at 66¾. Rio bonds have been showing a slight improvement at 75, and with the half-yearly interest paid are higher than they were with it added a few weeks ago. The stock has again eased off to 46¾. Dominion Coal, owing possibly to the threatening appearance of the Steel-Coal dispute, sagged off considerably at 56. The whole market, in fact, is feeling much less buoyant than a week ago. The mining markets have been dull, and transactions comparatively few.

**Monday.**—The Toronto market was quiet and irregular. General Electric, Sao Paulo and Mackay common were weak. Consumers Gas, Rio, and Mexico Light and Power were higher. Consumers Gas was in good demand, with sales at 195 and 196. Bank shares were steady, with Dominion fairly active. After the recent activity in Dominion Iron mines the Montreal market was again dull, business in the afternoon practically coming to a standstill.

**Tuesday.**—Bank stocks were stronger at Toronto, Dominion sold at 227 to 228. Canada Permanent Mortgage sold at 120, a decline of 1½. The course of prices at Montreal was downward, there being declines throughout the list. The active issues were Detroit United and Rio, the former declining 1½ points from yesterday's close.

**Wednesday.**—Trade was fairly active at Toronto, and prices were generally lower. C. P. R. was down a point, with a sale at 172½, and Twin City was 1½ lower, with sales at 94½. Dullness throughout the list marked business at Montreal. C. P. R. sold at 173, or 2½ points lower than the last previous sale. Nearly all the issues declined. Mexican Electric bonds were placed at 74½, and Mexican Light and Power bonds at 82.

**Thursday.**—There were unimportant price changes on the Toronto market, which was less active. Dominion Bank was in demand and 595 shares changed hands at 229½ to 234, closing at 233¾. Trading at Montreal was of small volume. A movement in Montreal Power carried the price up from 89½ to 92½, some 632 shares were sold. This activity was due to a report that the directors will place the stock on a six per cent. basis.

**Friday, 5 p.m.**—Stock markets continued dull and dealings were light.

## STEEL-COAL DISPUTE.

**Everything Points to a Big Legal Fight—Mr. Plummer of the Steel Co. is Apparently in a Strong Position.**

Steel-Coal affairs have been almost the only subject of discussion in financial circles in Montreal. An air of uncertainty is distinctly noticeable in quarters which were previously radiating information, and in place of the hopeful look is one of doubt.

Mr. Plummer has unquestionably created a good impression among the purely Steel interests by his recent action. It is now felt that the peace interests were unfavorable to the interests of the Steel shareholders, and that had it not been for the prompt and resourceful move of the directorate in postponing the meeting, much might have been lost which it is now hoped may be saved.

## Taking Sides in the Newspapers.

Undoubtedly, the situation in Montreal is being considerably affected by the attitude of the different newspapers. Three dailies would appear to be favorable to the Steel side of the controversy, while the Ross party is certainly championed by one paper. The latter announced the resignation of Mr. Plummer at a time when matters looked black for him but when he was quietly preparing for the coup which spread

consternation throughout the Coal camp. The false alarm followed by the vigorous action of Mr. Plummer, drew many to his ranks, and a prominent financier stated to-day that he would not be surprised, now, to find that the Ross party was in the minority instead of the majority, notwithstanding what had been said about the stock they could control.

Mr. Plummer's success in guiding the Steel Company through the year, as shown partly in the annual statement, is responsible for not a little of the sentiment in his favor. The public appear to think now that the president is in reality confident of winning his suit and that in case he succeeds, the company will in one bound be placed in a most enviable position.

## Concerning the Postponed Annual Meeting.

The profits for the year were actually \$687,824, after making allowance for sinking fund, and after deducting \$810,713 for cost of coal in excess of the price payable under the contract. So that the company easily earned its \$350,000 dividend for its preferred stock, as it was; if it should win its suit against the Coal Company it would have \$800,000 to the good, which would mean 4 per cent. on its common stock. Of course a dividend on common could not be paid till the \$2,000,000 or so accumulated preferred dividends have been wiped off.

There is no doubt that the output of the company during the present year will be largely in excess of that of the past, and it is claimed that if the company had only to pay \$1.28 for its coal it would show profits of \$2,000,000 at the end of the present year. The realization of these facts has done much to create a diversion in favor of the Plummer interests.

## Likelihood of Settlement in the Law Courts.

So that, providing the Coal people are not prepared to give way in their attitude, there is every likelihood of a hot legal battle in Nova Scotia at the end of the month. Already Mr. Plummer has arrived there, and Mr. James Ross left for there last Tuesday on his private yacht. Both sides in the struggle are well supplied with legal counsel. The fight will be conducted by Mr. W. B. A. Ritchie, K.C., and Mr. Hector McInnis, K.C., on behalf of the Steel Company, while for the Coal Company will be Mr. J. J. Ritchie, K.C., H. A. Lovitt, K.C., and E. M. McDonald, M.P., K.C.

Mr. Ross, being an enormous holder of Coal stock—about \$5,000,000 par, it is said—has the greatest interests at stake, but he is being warmly backed by Mr. F. L. Wanklyn, James Reid Wilson, and probably Mr. R. B. Angus. Mr. Plummer has an able backer and strong fighter behind him in Sir Wm. VanHorne. It was thought for a time that the Forget interests had allied themselves with the Ross party and Mr. Rodolphe Forget spent considerable time with Sir Henry Pellatt trying to affect a settlement. It is now admitted that Senator Forget is in line with Mr. Plummer and that Rodolphe Forget, M.P., is with him also.

## DIVIDENDS.

## Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., Ltd.

## Dividend Notice

A dividend of two per cent. on the preferred shares, and a dividend of one and one-half per cent. on the ordinary shares of this company, for the quarter ending June 30, 1907, has been declared payable on **July 15, 1907**, to shareholders of record of June 30, 1907.

The transfer books will be closed from the 2nd to the 5th of July, both days inclusive. By order of the directors.

THOS. GREEN, Cashier.

## THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of one and one-half per cent., (1½ p.c.) for the current quarter, being at the rate of six per cent. (6 p.c.) per annum on the Capital Stock of this Bank (to be reduced to Three million dollars) has been declared, and that the same will be payable on such reduced capital at the Head Office and at the Branches on and after Friday, the 16th day of August, next.

The transfer Books will be closed from the 1st to the 15th. August, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

F. G. JEMMETT

General Manager

Toronto, July 2nd., 1907