

INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

News and Notes of Active Companies—Their Financing, Operations, Developments, Extensions, Dividends and Future Plans

Canada Cement Company.—A special general meeting of shareholders has been called for December 9th "for the purpose of considering and, if deemed advisable, passing a resolution authorizing the directors to apply for supplementary letters patent extending the powers of the company to such other purposes or objects as may be defined in such resolution."

Grain Growers' Grain Company.—President T. A. Crerar at the company's annual meeting stated that the net profits on the year's operations were \$226,936.08.

An amount of \$139,000 has been transferred to the reserve fund of the company. This brings the total reserve up to \$340,000. The total paid-up capital of the company is now announced as \$867,422, being an increase of \$86,000. The volume of grain handled last year was 18,821,042 bushels.

Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company.—The Company's stock has been listed on the Toronto Exchange. The announcement was made to the exchange authorities that a new issue of stock had been made amounting to 11,611 shares of treasury stock. The shareholders have been given the right to take this stock at par in the proportion of one new share for every five held by them. The new issue leaves \$533,700 of the \$7,500,000 authorized capital still in the treasury.

Windsor Hotel Company.—The Windsor Hotel Company's statement for the year ended October 31st last shows further shrinkage in revenue and profits. Gross receipts, which in 1914 fell off 13 per cent. from the previous year, were 16¾ per cent. lower this year than in 1914. Operating profits are reported as \$38,747, which, after deducting \$27,000 for bond interest, left only \$11,747 as net profit for the shareholders. In 1914 profits, after payment of bond interest, were \$63,897, which left a small margin over the 4 per cent. paid in dividends. In 1913 the company paid 5 per cent., against a previous 10 per cent. per annum distribution, but surplus had to be drawn on to meet even the reduced dividend, net for that year having amounted to only \$41,887.

Sherwin-Williams Company.—The company's operating profits in the year ended August 31st last fell off \$105,432. The comparisons of profit and loss for two years are given in the following table:—

	1915.	1914.
Earnings	\$577,304	\$682,736
Depreciation	53,485	59,733
Bond interest	139,322	139,737
Preferred dividend	210,000	210,000
Balance	174,495	273,265
Previous surplus	821,828	548,563
Surplus	980,987	821,828

A subscription of \$15,000 was given to the patriotic fund.

Canadian Connecticut Cotton Mills, Limited.—The annual report of the directors states:—

The beginning of active operations by the company was considerably delayed by a machinists' strike in England, which postponed for several months delivery of the spinning machinery which had been ordered for the mill.

In June, 1914, however, the weaving machinery having been installed, a quantity of yarn was purchased in the open market and the manufacture and delivery of fabric was begun.

In July, 1914, the spinning machinery was ready for use, and up to September 25th, 1915, a total of over one million pounds was produced. This, with the yarn purchased, gave a production of over eleven hundred thousand pounds of tire fabric, all manufactured on order and delivered to customers in good standing.

The mill, which is provided with orders which will keep it in operation for many months to come, has been kept in thoroughly up-to-date condition, the grade of the production maintained at a high standard, and the prospects for future profitable business are satisfactory.

The statement of profit and loss account to September 10th is as follows:—

Net profits from operation, \$62,082; less bond interest and sinking fund, \$36,938. Total, \$26,043. Less preferred stock dividend paid, \$4,200. Surplus, \$21,843.

The following directors were elected: Messrs. T. S. Lewis, chairman; H. L. Burrage, president; R. J. Colwell, vice-president; S. H. Ewing, J. Loew, Jr., R. Elliot and O. Butler.

Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company.—The management of Nova Scotia Steel has announced that estimates for the construction of an open-hearth and steel melting furnace of the largest type were submitted at a meeting of directors. The management were directed to proceed with the construction, and it is expected the new furnace will be ready to produce in twelve weeks. Col. Cantley reported that a new equipment for forging eight, nine and twelve-inch shells has been contracted for some weeks ago, and all would be delivered at New Glasgow within forty days.

Mr. R. E. Chambers, superintendent of mines, has been instructed to assume the underground mining of ore at Wabana immediately, and to continue work throughout the winter at maximum capacity. The export of forged shell blanks is increasing weekly, and further new business for foreign account has been offered the company. The Eastern Car Company has despatched three steamers with cars.

Western Canada Investment Company.—The annual return of the company shows the results were as below:—

	1914.	1915.
Interest, discount, etc.	\$20,630	\$19,726
Working expenses, etc.	3,796	4,016
Debtenture and other interest	4,232	4,000
Net profit	\$12,602	\$11,710
Preference dividend, 5 per cent. . .	4,704	4,515
Ordinary dividend	3,398	1,750
Rate per cent.	7	3½
Preliminary expenses	1,000	1,000
Reserve	5,000	5,000
Balance of year's profit	\$ 3,500	\$ 555
Brought forward	2,864	6,364
Carried forward	\$ 6,364	\$ 5,809

IN FAVOR OF SERIAL PLAN BONDS

In *The Monetary Times* recently a letter appeared from Mr. S. Humphreys, city treasurer of North Vancouver. A contemporary in quoting this appears to have misunderstood Mr. Humphreys, who wrote the journal as follows:—

"As a matter of fact, I am absolutely in favor of the serial payment plan with reference to city debentures, but know that before it can be adopted by many western cities that new methods of finance in connection with the collection of taxes, or their equivalent, must be used, or the result will only be disaster.

"For the sake of argument, let us assume that the following facts are correct:—

"A loan rate has been included in the annual tax-levy for the purpose of raising interest and sinking funds, or interest and annual instalments, as the case may be, only 50 per cent. of the taxes has been actually collected, and the bank has refused to advance the amount of the uncollected taxes. It is apparent that under such circumstances some liabilities have to 'go by the board.' In case, then, that the levy was made for debentures of the sinking fund plan it would be a comparatively easy matter not to set aside the sinking fund until such time as the balance of the taxes was collected, but in the case of serial payment debentures, where the full amount of the levy would require to be on hand, what then?

"I might say that the above assumption has been to my knowledge the experience of a good many cities.

"My reason for writing the portion of the letter referred to by you was not to argue upon the merits or demerits of any plan for the repayment of debentures, but to gently infer that whilst 'expert municipal financiers' are often fond of laying down certain arbitrary financial rules for the guidance of cities, it might sometimes be well for them to commence at the root of the matter first, which in this case is the collection, or rather non-collection, of taxes, and then work upwards."