

alone were considered. This was for a period of twenty-seven years, and certainly was not an exorbitant return.

The company in its application asks for a straight six-cent fare, eliminating all special fares except those for school children, and counsel said it was obliged to obtain relief by higher fares, by cutting down service, or by borrowing from the bank. The bank indebtedness is \$2,000,000 already, however, and he did not think more could be borrowed there.

Montreal Tramways Co.—The report for the year ended June 30th was submitted at the annual meeting held on September 25th, and shows a gross income of \$2,303,783, and expenses of \$1,800,537, leaving a balance of \$503,246. This, with \$536,571, brought forward from the previous year, made a total of \$1,039,817, after some small deductions had been made. The gross earnings during the seventeen months that the "service at cost" agreement has been in force were \$11,572,210, of which operating expenses, etc., took \$8,784,763, leaving \$2,787,446. There are, however, allowances due to the company under the 1918 contract, allowances, rentals due the city, and contingent reserve according to the contract, which turn this surplus into a debit balance of \$1,364,111.

The balance sheet shows total assets of \$44,678,404, compared with \$43,098,820 last year. The cost of road and new construction increased from \$40,999,552 to \$41,980,353, value of stores from \$814,440 to \$1,004,972, and accounts receivable from \$311,237 to \$595,289. The liability side shows stock outstanding to the amount of \$3,861,070, compared with \$3,403,330 last year, and debentures of \$17,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000. The amount of first mortgage bonds and of underlying bonds is the same, being \$16,335,000 and \$3,237,153, respectively.

The hearing of the appeal to the Quebec Public Utilities Commission regarding the company's fares commenced on September 23rd. The city of Montreal and other interested municipalities are appealing against the award made a few weeks ago by the Montreal Tramways Commission, and the company is also entering its appeal, maintaining that the award was in some ways inadequate. The municipalities requested an eight-day adjournment, which was granted. This adjournment is to enable the city to have an expert, B. J. Arnold, of Chicago, examine the figures submitted by the company. At the first sitting of the Utilities Commission, R. A. Ross, a member of the Montreal Administrative Commission, pointed out that he nor the other members of the latter body, had no way of knowing if the company was being managed in the most efficient manner. J. L. Perron, K.C., representing the company, said in reply, that this question was beyond the scope of the investigation, which was limited to determining what rates were required. If the tramways commission doubted the management, it could engage experts to investigate.

RECENT FIRES

Loss for Past Week Exceeds that for Three Previous Weeks of the Month

Aylmer, Que.—September 24—Bakery of W. J. Sayer, Charles Street, was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$2,500. The building, which is owned by J. K. Neil, is covered by insurance.

Antigonish, N.S.—September 25—St. Francis Xavier College was damaged. Cause, incendiarism. Estimated loss, \$15,000.

Brussels, Ont.—September 27—Dry kiln of Philip Ament at his planing mill was destroyed.

Bayfield, Ont.—September 26—Summer home of Mrs. Spott, of Detroit, was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$5,000.

Brantford, Ont.—September 25—Premises of the Brantford Roofing Co. were damaged. Cause, overheated tanks. Estimated loss, \$5,000.

Courtland, Ont.—September 29—Barn of Chas. Graydon was destroyed with contents.

Cargill, Ont.—September 25—Residence of W. D. Cargill, M.P., was destroyed. Cause, defective chimney. Estimated loss, \$30,000.

Dundas, Ont.—September 27—Home of Geo. Bailey, Baldwin Street, was damaged. Estimated loss, \$300.

Granby, Que.—September 20—The sash and door factory of the Kent Lumber Co. was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$12,000.

Halifax, N.S.—September 25—The Camp Hill Military Hospital was damaged.

Ingersoll, Ont.—September 25—Plant of T. E. Bissell Co. was damaged. Estimated loss, \$5,000.

Lutes Mountain, N.B.—September 25—Two barns, sixty tons of hay and other farm equipment of A. Trites were destroyed. Estimated loss, \$8,000. Insurance carried, \$1,200.

London, Ont.—September 20—Garage, motor car, chicken coop and a quantity of lumber of R. A. Somers, located at the rear of 694 Colborne Street, were destroyed. Estimated loss, \$2,000.

Montreal, Que.—October 2—The building at 11 St. Theresa Street, one of the city's oldest buildings, used as an oil warehouse, was destroyed.

Newtonbrook, Ont.—September 30—Farm buildings of W. M. Robinson and the nearby Humberstone Pottery Works were destroyed. Estimated loss, \$40,000.

Oromocto, N.B.—September 30—The town was almost destroyed. The fire started in the River Valley Lumber Co.'s sawmill, destroying about 4,000,000 feet lumber, causing a loss to that company of about \$200,000. The total damage is estimated at \$500,000. Places of business which were burned were: Harry Cannon's store, Leo Higgins' barber shop, T. J. McElroy's store and Mrs. William Cogswell's ice cream parlor. The blacksmith shops burned belonged to Adolphus Armstrong and W. R. Wield. The hotel was conducted by James Kelly and the mill boarding-house by Frank Cogswell. The public hall was owned by A. D. Burnett. Owners and tenants of dwellings and other buildings burned were: Harry Cannon, house and barn; Leo Higgins, house and barn; Adolphus Armstrong, house and barn; Edward Currie, house and barn; John Malone, house and barn; James Kelly, house and barn; T. J. McElroy, house, barn and warehouse; Charles Ward, house and barn; John W. Gilmour, house and barn; Mrs. Rowan, house; Mrs. Blanche McCafferty, house; Robert Brennan, house and barn; John McPherson, house; Felix McGarr, house and barn; Arthur White, barn and another building; Miss Eliza Currie, house and barn; Mrs. George Holden, house; Frank Cogswell, two houses; Misses Kenneth Wells, house, owned by T. J. McElroy; Mrs. Walter McRae, house and barn; Frank Mason, house; George Wood, house and barn; Frank Gilles, barn; J. E. Kelly, barn.

Prince Albert, Sask.—September 22—Stable at the rear of Rev. Sherstone, Twenty-first Street, was destroyed. Cause, children playing with matches. Estimated loss, \$250.

Quebec, Que.—September 23—Residence of Mrs. N. Du-beau was destroyed. Cause, defective oil stove. Estimated loss, \$3,000.

Sussex, N.B.—September 25—The Sussex manufacturing warehouse was destroyed and the property of the Wallace Machine Works, Ltd., was damaged. Estimated loss, \$20,000. Insurance carried by Sussex Co., \$7,000; by Wallace Co., \$500.

St. Mary's, Ont.—September 21—Barn of J. Fraser, 6th concession of West Missouri Township, with contents, was destroyed by lightning.

Thorold, Ont.—September 26—Constable Brothers' garage was destroyed with contents. Estimated loss, \$20,000. Insurance carried on building, \$1,500; on contents, nil. Two new cars and a truck were destroyed.

Toronto, Ont.—September 27—The Perkins-Ince building, 41 Front Street East, was damaged. Estimated loss by fire, \$25; by water, \$30,000.

Wiarion, Ont.—October 1—The chair factory of the Canada Furniture Manufacturers' Co., Ltd., was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$75,000.