

BANKING & FINANCIAL NEWS.

BACK DIVIDENDS

To be Paid to Preferred Shareholders of Dominion Iron and Steel Company.

On another page appears a reference to the position of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company. The former company held an important meeting at Montreal recently. Owing to pressure on space the report in our columns was crowded out.

It was decided to pay all preferred shareholders of record on the 24th of April, 10½ per cent., or equal to 3 half-yearly dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on \$5,000,000, the total amount of the company's preferred stock. These preferred holders will, therefore, receive on the 10th of next month the sum of \$500,000, bringing the paid-up dividend to the first day of October, 1904, or, in other words, leaving four and a half years in arrears, or 31 per cent., equalling \$1,575,000 yet to be paid. The directors announced that it is their intention to pay this balance just as soon as income will permit.

Without Further Litigation.

The following is the text of the official circular sent to the shareholders: The coal contract of 20th October, 1903, has been resumed, and is now in full force and effect as if there had been no breach.

The sum of \$2,750,000 has been paid by the Coal Company on account of the claim for damages.

Full details of this claim are to be submitted to the Coal Co. as soon as possible, and they are to be afforded every means of verifying its correctness. After they have satisfied themselves as far as possible on this point, it has been agreed that both parties should make an effort to effect a settlement without further litigation.

The arrangement made is quite satisfactory to your directors, and they hope that it will lead to an early and amicable settlement of all matters in dispute. The company is now receiving full supplies of coal in accordance with the contract.

Abstract of Steel Company's Claim.

For your information the following abstract of claim for damages is here given:—

Excess cost of coal	\$3,019,863 83
Interest paid on same	227,000 00
Damages due to increased cost of production and to non-production of materials arising from non-delivery of coal	583,437 70
Miscellaneous damages and interest	120,791 25

Total	\$3,951,092 78
Paid on account 30th March, 1909.....	\$2,750,000 00

Balance	\$1,201,092 78
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The last dividend paid on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference stock of the company was that for the 1st of April, 1903. A dividend of 10½ per cent. has now been declared payable on the 10th of May next, which will leave 4½ years still in arrear, amounting in all to 31½ per cent.

Application of Monies Received from Coal Company.

Your directors propose that the balance of the accumulated dividends shall be paid as rapidly as the income of the company will permit, and they intend, in addition, to devote to that object all moneys hereafter received on the claim against the Coal Company.

It is also the intention of your directors that the regular payment of the half-yearly dividends on the preferred stock shall be resumed, beginning with the dividend payable on the 1st of October, 1909.

The larger portion of the \$2,750,000 received from the Coal Company has been used to pay off the company's

floating liabilities, and, apart from its bonds and from current pay-rolls, etc., the company is now free from debt and has a cash balance on hand.

Bond Issue for Improvements.

At the annual meeting of shareholders on 25th June last an issue of consolidated mortgage bonds was authorized to provide for the company's financial requirements, and a portion of these bonds was issued and used as security for advances. These advances having been paid off, the bonds have been withdrawn and none of that issue are now outstanding. Your directors have, however, certain enlargements and improvements of the plant at Sydney under consideration, in connection with which a portion of the bonds, not exceeding \$2,000,000, will now be made use of. The necessary financial arrangements for this have already been made. The balance of the authorized issue will remain available for the future requirements of the company.

There were present at this important meeting Mr. J. H. Plummer, president; Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir William Van Horne, Sir H. Montague Allan, Mr. H. F. Dimock, Mr. William McMaster, Mr. George Caverhill, Mr. W. G. Ross and Mr. Elias Rogers.

CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures for the Canadian Clearing House for the weeks ended April 30th, 1908, April 22nd, and April 29th, 1909, with percentage, increase or decrease:—

	April 30,'08.	April 22,'09.	April 29,'09.	Change
Montreal ..	\$25,561,203	\$35,296,303	\$30,243,907	+18.3
Toronto ...	20,906,848	20,568,477	25,020,519	+19.6
Winnipeg ..	11,309,355	13,855,536	11,969,510	+ 5.8
Vancouver ..	3,169,983	5,068,745	+ ...
Ottawa	2,344,993	4,115,261	3,179,178	+35.5
Quebec	1,821,281	2,206,677	1,887,327	+ 3.6
Halifax	1,642,355	1,755,933	1,488,682	— 9.3
Hamilton	1,182,981	1,617,333	1,311,036	+10.8
St. John	1,113,284	1,288,988	1,373,582	+23.3
Calgary	1,013,951	1,794,330	1,416,332	+39.6
London	991,552	1,238,869	987,376	— .4
Victoria* ..	1,209,713	1,682,502	1,139,367	— 5.8
Edmonton ..	650,079	1,030,531	979,555	+50.6
Total	72,917,578	\$100,519,485	\$.....	

*Week ended Tuesday.

EXCHANGE RATES.

Monetary Times Office, Friday 1 p.m.

The following prices are supplied by Messrs. Glazebrook & Cronyn, 75 Yonge Street, Toronto:—

New York Funds.....	par
Sterling—60 Days' Sight	9 3-8 9 13-32
“ Demand	9 58 9 21-32
Cable Transfers	9 23-32 9¾
Sterling—60 Days' Sight.....	4 86 20
“ Demand	4 87 40
Call Money in Toronto	4 4½
Bank of England Rate	2½
Open Market Discount Rate in London for	
Short Bills	1¼

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

Road.	Week Ending.	1908	1909	Change.
C. N. R.	April 21	\$ 181,100	\$ 189,300	+\$ 8,200
C. P. R.	April 21	1,306,000	1,401,000	+ 95,000
G. T. R.	April 21	682,775	724,631	+ 41,856
T. & N. O.	April 21	15,746	34,098	+ 18,352
Montreal Street	April 26	67,065	67,714	+ 649
Toronto Street	April 26	65,734	67,824	+ 2,089