came out showing that owing to the fortunate circumstance that the Dominion

came out showing that owing to the fortunate circumstance that the Dominion Steel Corporation engaged in the mining of coal as well as the manufacture of steel, it had been possible to pay dividends. Without the coal end of the business the corporation would have been in a rather bad way. Another security having to do with a basic industry then became involved in politics. The government was asked to remove the duty on cement and in deference to the West the tariff was cut in two, as already outlined on this page. In the case of the cement duty the government's action will have a more far-reaching effect than its lack of action when the question of the protection of the steel trade was before it. For the most part cement plants have been established in centres of small investors. The production of cement is not confined to one large plant, as is the case with the steel trade, but is necessarily scattered over the country. For this reason there has been a very wide distribution of shares in cement enterprises, and it would be quite safe to say that the security investments of a considerable number of people safe to say that the security investments of a considerable number of people are confined entirely to cement stocks. The Canada Cement Company, the dominant corporation in Canada, has reduced its prices to meet the competi-tion from the United States rendered possible by the new tariff arrangement, and the smaller enterprises are facing the disagreeable possibility of being forced out of business.

220 220 220

Ripening a Melon.

D R. F. S. PEARSON, the wizard of the South American traction enter-prises, spent a portion of the week here in conference with Sir William Mackenzie, and followers of Sao Paulo and Rio regarded the visit as a forerunner of some definite announcement regarding the future of these cor-porations. Although no announcement was made it is not improbable that a definite arrangement for an increased distribution was reached.

98 98 98

Sunshine After Shadow.

Y the time the next issue of the COURIER is in the hands of its readers the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company will have concluded its fiscal year. It has been a good year; in fact, the best that the enter-se has experienced since it cut its dividend. There are a very large prise has experienced since it cut its dividend. prise has experienced since it cut its dividend. There are a very large number of shareholders throughout the country who followed the fortunes of Smelters' stock as the last hope of retrieving, or at least reducing, their losses in British Columbia mining ventures. The Smelters people were caught in the break in the metal market in 1907. They were holding large stocks of their product for a further rise in prices and this policy proved very costly in the end. The last dividend was paid at the close of 1907, and since then the surplus profits of the concern have gone towards the reduction of a large bank over-draft which came into being when the company hit hard times. An extraordinary period of inactivity in the market for silver, copper and lead followed, but the inevitable turn came about the middle of this year. Now copper is selling around seventeen cents, lead is selling in London above seventeen pounds and silver is above sixty-one cents an ounce. These prices seventeen pounds and silver is above sixty-one cents an ounce. These prices afford the Consolidated Smelters a very handsome margin of profit and they have, in fact, stimulated production not only on the Consolidated properties alone, but on many other mining propositions which feed the smelter of the big company. At the last annual meeting it will be remembered that the President, Mr. W. D. Matthews, threw out a hint that a dividend would be declared during the fiscal year, which concludes on lune 30. With only be declared during the fiscal year, which concludes on June 30. With only two weeks of the year left the stock a fortnight ago began to discount such an event and it was found then that there was little floating supply of Smelters in the market. It is probable that the annual report, which, of course, will In the market. It is probable that the annual report, which, of course, will not be ready for some time yet, will show a very much increased production this year, and as the average selling price has been well above last year, Smelters should return to popular favour. Canadian Gold Fields, another relic of the Western boom, will benefit proportionately. The only lucky in-vestment made by this company, which was a holding corporation, was in Smelters stock and it therefore shares the fortunes of the larger concern.

196 196 196

Boom in Car Building Plants.

AR building companies being in fashion in investment circles, there was little surprise at the announcement that the issue of \$1,000,000 of first mortgage six per cent. sinking fund bonds of the Eastern Car Company was subscribed as soon as it reached the market. A local stock exchange firm had purchased the entire issue and found no difficulty in distributing the bonds among their followers. There was, in fact, a considerable over-subscription, but those who were disappointed will probably have their wants filled by other offerings of car building companies' securities. If all the com-panies which propose to go into business and the railways themselves enlarge their own equipment plants there should be no searcity of rolling stock in their own equipment plants there should be no scarcity of rolling stock in this country in a few years. In addition to the Eastern Car Company, which as everybody knows is a subsidiary of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Com-pany, the Ontario Western Canada Car Company has come into being. This plant will be at Port Arthur and it will have a capacity of forty steel or provide the area can and can bundled conserver area can be the steel or the steel of the s plant will be at Port Arthur and it will have a capacity of forty steel or wooden freight cars per day and one hundred passenger cars per year. This concern being backed by Port Arthur, another enterprise of a similar char-acter is planned for Fort William. Then we will have, in addition, possibly another plant for the construction of railway equipment created as a sub-sidiary of the Dominion Steel Corporation so that in spite of the present flurry no investor who is looking for railway equipment securities need go unsatisfied unsatisfied.

* * *

A Revolution in Textiles.

THE victory won by the Gordon interests in Canadian Converters was a The victory won by the Gordon interests in Canadian Converters was a good deal of a surprise. The new administration were formerly the selling agents for the company, but were dropped with the result that they went out and secured control. John P. Black, who was ousted as president of the company, is at the head of one of the concerns included in the con-solidation. In spite of the sharp contest it is probable that the new board will carry out the recommendation of the old directors to pay a dividend at the rate of four per cent. per annum, the first payment to be made in August next August next.



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