

The creation of a sinking fund, so soon as the works of the Company are made perfect, I would also recommend ; said fund having for its object the gradual extinguishment of the debt of the Company, amounting to £13,840, and on which they now pay interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum.

I have also to bring under your notice that a feeling seems to exist, that the present number of the Directors of this Company is altogether too numerous, and it would be found highly advantageous to reduce the number to seven, by consent of the Legislature, to be applied for and obtained for that purpose. I may also remark that several members of the Board, with whom I have conversed, have expressed themselves ready to resign in order to ensure a more effectual management.

Another and most important matter to which I wish to call your attention, is, to have the Books of the Company balanced on the last day of February, instead of the 31st January, as at present ; and to appoint the third Monday in March as the day for the General Meeting, of the Shareholders, as, under the present arrangement, there is not time enough allowed for devoting sufficient care and attention to the adjustment of the Company's accounts, and preparation of Statements for the Annual Meeting.

The last suggestion which I wish to make is, that the Board do now declare a dividend of three per cent, payable on the 17th March next, on the paid-up capital ; the Shareholders not having received any for the last two years. To many of them, I am satisfied, it will be highly acceptable ; and the Company, besides having the requisite funds, will after paying all liabilities, have a surplus of £1641 ; and, I have no hesitation in stating, that if properly managed and no unfortunate and unforeseen events should arise to derange and alter the affairs of the Company, the Directors will be able to continue paying dividends, and thereby increase the value of the stock, which is now sold 20 per cent higher than it was some time ago.