

AMONG THE COMPANIES

BASIS OF "OLD GLORY."

The original of the United States flag—soon now, it seems, to fly alongside those of the Allies—may be seen in the family arms on the tomb of Laurence Washington, great-great-grandfather of the first President, in Solgrave Church, Huntingdonshire. The Washington arms there represented comprise a white shield having two horizontal red bars and above them a row of three red stars, and it may well be that popular tradition is correct in declaring that they suggested the stars and stripes of the Union flag. London Daily News.

MCKINLEY-DARRAGH MINE.

The McKinley-Darragh have cut a new high grade vein averaging four inches in width on the 350-foot level. The extension of the famous Cobalt Lake fault vein has also been discovered on the 400-foot level, which gives every indication of developing into a large tonnage of good milling ore. The alterations to the mill are being pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, and within a short time the mill will be treating 250 tons per day.

UNION BAG & PAPER CO.

Union Bag and Paper Corporation's statement for the second quarter of the year shows a small decrease in earnings as compared with the first quarter, net being \$844,447 against \$863,722.

The change is trivial and the statement again reflects a high degree of prosperity in the paper industry. In each of the two quarters the company has earned more than the full year's dividend of 6 per cent, paid on the capital stock. Surplus available for dividends in the first six months of the year was \$1,230,658, equal to earnings at the rate of 26.2 per cent, per annum, and this, too, after all provision for taxes, depreciation, etc.

The corporation owns the St. Maurice Paper Company at Three Rivers and has a fairly large list of shareholders in Canada.

PATON MANUFACTURING CO.

The Paton Manufacturing Co., one of the largest woollen manufacturers of Canada, which has had an interesting dividend career since the war started, has made its initial dividend declaration for the current year. The 4 per cent, regular for the half year is maintained, but the bonus is reduced from 2½ per cent, to 2 per cent.

The return indicated for the year is therefore 12 per cent, against 13 per cent, in 1916-17, 10½ in 1915-16, and 9 per cent, in 1914-15. But the bonus is an elastic form of payment, and much will depend on the business of the second half of the year.

The company was paying 6 per cent, per annum prior to the war, but had been through a depressed period in which dividends were suspended altogether for a time. The bonus payments latterly have been with a view to making up for income lost to shareholders when business was poor.

MARCONI WIRELESS CO.

The net income of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America for the year 1916 was \$259,888 as compared with \$177,316 for the previous year, and the total surplus now carried forward amounts to \$801,556. The very large orders now being executed on behalf of the Government of the United States of America have necessitated the construction of considerable additional factory accommodation.

The American trans-Atlantic stations which were expected to constitute the principal source of revenue have remained idle in consequence of this company's stations continuing to be employed by the Government. A very satisfactory telegraph service was being conducted from the Pacific coast across the Pacific ocean to the Hawaiian Islands and Japan up to the time the United States entered the war, when the Government took possession of the station.

NIPISSING MINES CO.

Production of silver in July by Nipissing Mines Co. was 344,925 ounces, valued at \$272,490, and shipments were 314,283 ounces, of an estimated net value of \$295,495. Assets in cash and bullion, which amounted to \$2,150,555 December 31, 1916, has since increased approximately 33 per cent., and an extra dividend, to be declared at the stockholders' meeting in September, is considered not improbable.

Stockholders of Nipissing Mines Co. voted, Aug. 21, to transfer the charter of the company from Maine to Ontario. Nipissing Mines Co., Ltd., the operating company, the capital stock of which is owned by the Nipissing Mines Co., is already incorporated in Canada, and the transfer of the parent company, while incidentally effecting a material saving in taxation, will afford both corporations the same privileges and restrictions.

Price of 91½c. an ounce received by Nipissing for its last shipments of bullion to San Francisco, is the highest price yet recorded for silver on its recent advance.

CONIAGAS IN PORCUPINE.

(Canadian Mining Journal.)

The Coniagas Mines, Limited, of St. Catharines, are now proceeding to development of deposits located on the Ankerite property, porcupine. The Coniagas company has held this property under option since February, 1916, and during this period has conducted an extensive and successful exploration of one of the three claims comprising the group. Two strong, parallel veins were located, one for a length of over 1,400 ft., and the other for about 900 ft. These were explored by cross-cutting, sinking, drifting and diamond drilling at numerous points along their strike, and it is said that satisfactory gold values were found at every point. A steam power plant for development purposes is now being installed and while development of located deposits is under way the company will proceed with exploration of other areas of the property.

U. S. FOODSTUFFS DECREASE.

Professors Seager and Craddock, in a series of papers published at Columbia University, point out that per capita production of foodstuffs in the United States has been decreasing. Thirty years ago 8.5 bushels of wheat were produced per capita, while in period from 1906 to 1914 production was 7.7 bushels. These authorities point out that increase in meat production in 1916 was due to the fact that owners killed cattle to avoid feeding them, and that this involved a danger to breeding stock. Different varieties of foodstuffs held in cold storage were decreased between 29.3 per cent and 86.3 per cent during the past year.

DULUTH-SUPERIOR CO.

Gross passenger earnings of the Duluth-Superior Traction Company for the second week of August were \$30,783, as compared with \$32,371 for the preceding week. In comparison with the same week of last year there is a balance of \$178 in favor of the current week, which is an increase of 5 per cent. Gross earnings for the year to date are 15.6 per cent, in excess of the corresponding period of 1916.

SUPERVISING OUR SHIPBUILDING.

In the British House of Commons a few days ago, Mr. Shirley Benn asked what steps we had taken to supervise the construction of steamers built in Canada for the Government; what expert advice had been obtained to ensure that the steamers being built there should not only be serviceable for the trade of the moment, but suitable for specific trades after the war.

Sir Leo Chiozza Money replied that all steel steamers being built in Canada were being constructed to the classifications of Lloyd's or the British Corporation, under the supervision of surveyors of these societies. The vessels had been allocated to shipowners of good standing for management after completion, and these firms have sent out experienced superintendents, who watch the progress of the work. He thought there was no risk of any of the ships proving unsuitable for general service either during or after the war.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY.

Montreal Works Ceasing to Make Munitions.

The combined profit and loss statement of the American Locomotive Co. and the Montreal Locomotive Works, Ltd., shows earnings at the rate of 21.8 per cent, on the \$25,000,000 common stock of American Locomotive for the year ending June 30th last, against 36.1 per cent, in 1915-16.

Gross earnings were nearly \$13,000,000 higher than in the preceding year, but operating expenses, including depreciation, rose about \$25,000,000, depreciation evidently including heavy writing off on munition plant account. Allowances for profits taxes in both American and Canadian business, too, took more than \$1,400,000 in excess of allowances in 1915-16.

The net balance available for distribution on the common stock was \$5,451,679, against \$9,019,429 the year before. But in the year ending June, 1915, the company had a deficit of \$3,241,980, after preferred dividend, while the surplus the year before that was only \$326,127.

The directors in the course of their year's review confirm the recent report that munition work is to cease at the company's plant in Montreal. As to this phase of the company's business the report says:

"The munitions work at Richmond and Montreal will be completed in August, 1917. The work of restoring these plants to locomotive production uses has already been started, and when completed the entire capacity of all of the plants of the company will be devoted exclusively to the manufacture of locomotives, which are urgently needed abroad as a war necessity, and also by the railroads of this country."

Regarding general conditions in the equipment, business and in munition business in the past year the directors have this to say:

"During the year prices of materials of all kinds increased to an unprecedented degree; a great scarcity of both skilled and unskilled labor existed, notwithstanding that large increases in wages were made, and the working time of the shops shortened. These abnormal operating conditions which could not be fully anticipated, affected the profits on both locomotives and munitions."

"Both in Canada and the United States, the selling prices on munitions were reduced to lower levels than prevailed in the preceding year, and the new contracts for shells admitted, even under normal conditions, of a much smaller margin of profit than previous contracts allowed. The new contracts were for larger shells than those previously made, and necessitated large additions of equipment and extensive alterations to plants, for which the sum of \$3,760,561 has been included in the manufacturing cost and deducted from earnings."

The amount of unfilled locomotive orders on the books on June 30, 1917, was \$7,620,449, as compared with \$19,376,532 on June 30, 1916. The amount of munitions orders which were uncompleted on June 30, 1917, was \$3,566,528.

THE PORTO RICO RAILWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

Comparative statement of earnings for July, 1917: July, 1916. July, 1917. Increase P.C.

For July:				
Gross	\$70,524	\$77,905	\$7,380	10.46
Net	36,870	37,845	974	2.65
For seven months:				
Gross	\$502,496	\$522,885	\$20,389	4.06
Net	260,537	234,901	*25,395	*9.75

*Decrease.

U. S. IRON ORE PRODUCTION.

Iron ore mined in the United States in 1916 reached a total of 75,167,672 gross tons, the greatest annual output ever made. Shipments from the mines in 1916 were 77,870,553 gross tons, valued at \$181,902,277. The quantity mined in 1916 was more than 19,600,000 tons greater than that mined in 1915. The increases in quantity and in value of iron ore shipped in 1916 amounted to 40 and 80 per cent, respectively. The average value per ton at the mines in 1916 was \$2.34 as against \$1.83 in 1915.