

INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

News and Notes of Active Companies—Their Financing, Operations, Developments, Extensions, Dividends and Future Plans

Canadian Converters, Limited.—A dividend of 1 per cent. has been declared by the directors of this company payable May 15th. This presumably brings the stock to the former dividend basis of 4 per cent., which was discontinued in 1915.

Southern Canada Power Company.—The gross and net earnings of the Southern Canada Power Company, Limited, for the five months ended February 28th, 1917, as compared with the same period ended February 28th, 1916, were:—

	1917.	1916.	Increase.
Gross	\$153,282	\$112,108	\$41,174
Net	78,217	56,071	22,146

The increase in gross earnings is approximately 37 per cent. and in net earnings to 40 per cent.

Peterson Lake Mining Company.—The company's quarterly dividend has been passed as a result of the financial position of the company. The last dividend was paid January 2nd of the usual amount of 1¼ per cent., bringing the total amount so paid to shareholders \$462. The balance sheet giving the position as of March 1, 1917, shows cash assets of \$57,924, against which are \$6,500 liabilities.

Managing director Frost states in the report that unless results are obtained from present operations on the Nova Scotia section, activity will be transferred to the Susquehanna lease, where indications are favorable. In addition to some small quantities of ore on hand, there are approximately 300,000 tons of ore on dumps, with sluices and tailings which the directors estimate as being worth \$1,000,000, and which they propose to treat by the latest methods. They intimate that there may be litigation over the ownership of these sluices and tailings, but that every effort will be made to protect the shareholders' rights.

Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company.—The figures of the annual return compared with those of 1915 are as follows:—

	1915.	1916.
Profits from lands, timber, etc.	\$ 83,941	\$ 57,133
Coal and coke operations	345,613	283,368
Dividends	\$ 429,554	\$340,501
		372,666
Balance beginning of year	\$ 429,554	\$*32,167
	1,180,146	431,499
Surplus balance	\$1,609,700	\$399,334
Profits of subsidiaries, written off income, transferred to depreciation of subsidiaries		76,854
Written off old development, plant, furniture, etc	1,078,200	
Transferred to contingent liability reserve	100,000	
Balance carried forward	\$ 431,500	\$322,480

*Deficit.

Robert Simpson Company.—The company's annual report shows net earnings of \$875,089, an increase over 1915 of \$60,000. The company's assets amount to \$11,068,161, this being an increase of \$2,038,422, and the company's increased turnover amounted to \$4,700,000. The net earnings of \$875,089 were made up of \$693,829 on trading and \$181,260 from associated companies. The sum of \$563,226 was brought forward from last year, making a total available for distribution of \$1,438,315. Bond interest and preference dividends absorbed \$272,792, dividends on common stock, together with directors' fees amounted to \$248,541, and \$120,000 was written off buildings, plant equipment and leases, leaving a balance of \$706,981. Of this balance, \$605,100 has been distributed as a stock dividend on common stock, which makes the total at the close of the year \$3,350,000. A dividend of \$82,347 was paid on common stock in February.

The common stock previously issued was 27,449 shares, with par value of \$2,744,900. The dividend of \$605,100 presented in the form of stock therefore represents a bonus of 21¾ per cent. In addition there was the regular cash dividend paid of \$247,041, which represents 9 per cent.

The common shareholders and number of shares held, as given in the last report made to the provincial secretary's department, is as follows: Messrs. H. C. Cox, 1,405; G. A. Cox estate, 1,088; E. W. Cox estate, 57; H. H. Fudger, 7,677; H. H. Fudger, in trust, 1,760; R. B. Fudger, 891; J. W. Flavelle, 8,551; J. E. Flavelle, 10; W. G. Morrow, 10.

The annual inventory showed that the company has merchandise on hand to the extent of \$3,845,465. The balance sheet compared with the previous year is as follows:—

Assets.

	1916.	1915.
Current	\$ 4,834,407	\$4,014,493
Deferred	274,067	268,142
Sinking fund	318	21,850
Property	4,871,850	4,048,053
Investments	11,087,518	677,200
	\$11,068,161	\$9,029,739

Liabilities.

	1916.	1915.
Current	\$ 2,153,501	\$ 904,915
Mortgages	410,000	
Bonds	2,130,432	2,207,714
Capital	6,182,347	5,494,900
Surplus	191,881	422,208
	\$11,068,161	\$9,029,739

In the above assets property shows an increase of over \$800,000, this is the new Toronto mail order building, the financing of which was partly arranged by mortgages of \$350,000 with the Canada Life and \$60,000 with the Independent Order of Foresters. The Robert Simpson Western, Limited, building, in Regina, is included under "investments in associated companies." The other associated companies are: Thompson Manufacturing Company, \$150,000; John Murphy Company (Montreal), \$302,200; Keens Manufacturing Company, \$225,000. The bonds show a decrease of about \$75,000.

Winnipeg Electric Railway.—The following is the text of the letter to the city of Winnipeg of Mr. W. Phillips, general manager of the company, in regard to its claim of \$1,000,000 against the city in connection with jitney competition:—

"I am instructed by the directors of the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company to draw your attention to our communication addressed to you on the subject of 'Jitneys,' under the date of May 21, 1915, and to again point out to you the unfair treatment which we are being subjected to by the city council permitting and encouraging jitneys to operate practically without regulation and in unrestricted competition with our company.

"When the company entered into the contract authorized by by-law 543 of the city of Winnipeg, it assumed very onerous burdens of taxation and otherwise, and was limited as to the rate of fares collected in consideration of being given exclusive rights to carry passengers upon the streets of the city. The company contends that the action of the city in permitting and encouraging jitney competition is in direct breach of that contract. The company in the last two years (being the years of jitney competition) paid to the city approximately \$545,747.92 for general taxes, percentage of gross revenue and pavement charges. During these years it has also cost the company \$20,000 annually for keeping its tracks clear of snow, thus affording a clean road for the jitneys, and also a car tax of \$20 per year per car amounting to \$12,920.

"These are some of the amounts which the company has to pay for the privilege of carrying on the business of carrying passengers over the streets of Winnipeg at fixed fares, and on the other hand the jitneys are allowed free and unlimited competition upon payment of the sum of \$20 per year per car. The company is at a loss to understand why the