

AMONG THE COMPANIES

RAILWAY EARNINGS.



SIR HUGH MONTAGU ALLAN,
President of Merchants Bank of Canada, whose semi-annual statement has just been made public.

THE DOMINION ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

Earnings for September, 1918.

	Gross.	Net.
Railroad	\$6,579.29	\$ 271.69
Light and Power	\$388.45	4,659.11
Miscellaneous		68.38
		\$4,999.18

WOODS MANUFACTURING CO.

The Woods Manufacturing Company (formerly the Smart-Woods Company), has declared a bonus of 5 per cent. This, with the regular dividend of 7 per cent., makes a distribution of 12 per cent. for the year, against 7 p.c. for 1917, nothing in the three years 1914-16, and 5 p.c. previously.

The 12 p.c. for the year fulfills, apparently, maximum expectations as to the size of the year's distribution, but not all expectations as to the way in which it would be declared. Market gossip in the early summer seemed to point to the likelihood of an increase in the regular rate with the final payment of the year, probably inaugurating a 10 p.c. distribution, which would be the basis on which the stock would enter 1919.

THE MERCHANTS' BANK.

The Merchants Bank has adopted the policy of issuing half-yearly reports. For the half-year ended October 31st, some very satisfactory gains were reported.

Total assets amount to \$165,924,436, an increase of \$35,355,783 over the corresponding date last year. Of this total the readily available portion amounts to \$72,448,227, an increase of \$16,933,191, showing that the liquid position of the bank is being well maintained.

An interesting feature of the gain in readily available assets is the increase of \$13,913,837 under the headings of securities of the Dominion and Provincial governments, and of Canadian municipalities and British, foreign and colonial governments, the increase indicating that a full measure of assistance has been extended to the Canadian and Imperial authorities in the important matter of war finance.

Substantial increases in current loans and discounts in Canada and in note circulation are both measures of business activity in the territory served by the bank. Current loans and discounts at \$86,029,341 are \$17,959,150 higher than a year ago.

Deposits amount to \$132,941,581, against \$97,357,619 on October 31st, 1917, being an increase for the period of \$35,583,962, or more than 36 per cent. A notable feature in this connection is that the whole important and gratifying increase has taken place in deposits bearing interest. Deposits not bearing interest, in other words, demand deposits, remain at practically last year's figures.

Traffic earnings of the three principal Canadian railways for the second week in November aggregated \$5,784,554, an increase of \$210,618, or 3 3/8 per cent. over the corresponding week a year ago. The increase of 53.4 per cent. in the earnings of the Grand Trunk is the largest this year to date, and compares with the road's 42.2 per cent. gain for the first week in this month. The Canadian Pacific, on the other hand, showed a decline of 9.2 per cent., while Canadian Northern's gain was small.

Following are the earnings for the past week with the changes from a year ago:—

	1918.	Increase.	P.C.
C. P. R.	\$3,247,000	x\$328,000	9.2
G. T. R.	1,471,654	512,518	53.4
C. N. R.	1,065,900	26,100	2.5
Totals	\$5,784,554	\$210,618	3.8

x—Decrease.

IMPERIAL OIL COMPANY.

The Wall Street Journal, discussing the three per cent. dividend of the Imperial Oil Company, says:

Declaration of a dividend of \$3 a share by the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, payable November 30, makes 16 per cent. on the stock this year. The company paid 11 per cent. in cash and five per cent. in Canadian Government war bonds. It is believed in certain quarters that the stock is on a 16 per cent. basis, and that dividends will be declared quarterly next year.

Imperial Oil Company, Ltd., is the Canadian Subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey, which is credited with owning 80 per cent. of the former's stock. It is regarded as one of the most valuable properties owned by the New Jersey Company. It is by far the leading oil interest in the Dominion.

Possibilities of the marketing business of Imperial Oil in Canada have been anticipated by the directors, who have organized a subsidiary, known as the Imperial Oil, Limited, with a capital of \$50,000,000, to take over the refining and marketing properties of the parent company. Nothing is known publicly of what is to be the disposition of this stock, but it is rumored that it will be distributed share for share to stockholders of Imperial Oil Company, Limited, which is also capitalized at \$50,000,000. Of that amount \$28,547,280 is outstanding.

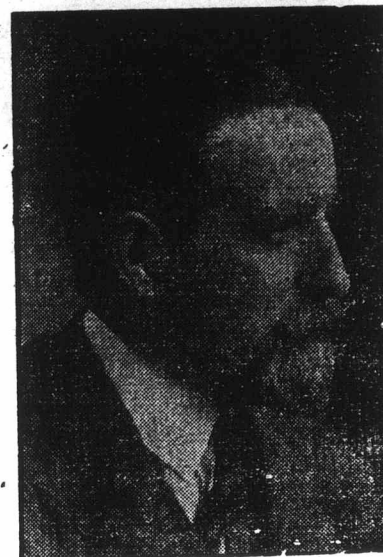
CANADIAN EXPORT PAPER CO.

The Canadian Export Paper Company has decided to enter the South American field, and also the Australian market.

The Canadian Export Paper Co., Ltd., transacts the foreign business of five of the larger newsprint producers, namely, Laurentide, Brompton, Price Bros., Belgo-Canadian, and St. Maurice, and of several of the book paper producers, such as Howard Smith, and Provincial. It is organized exclusively for the foreign trade field on the general principle recognized in the Webb Law of the United States that, while combinations of competitors in the domestic field are prohibited, combinations for the improvement of export trade are not only permitted, but encouraged.

George F. Steele, general manager of the company, in discussing the outlook for continued expansion in Canadian exports of paper, stated that he believed a very promising market was opening up in Latin America. With that in view the Export Company had recently concluded arrangements with one of the largest trading organizations in South America whereby the latter would become the exclusive representative of the Export Company for the products it had to sell.

Recent extensions of banking facilities between North and South America have removed one obstacle in the way of a more active trade between the two. Shipping facilities leave much to be desired, but there are indications of improvement. This improvement, Mr. Steele believes, will continue, and as Canada and South America, just as the United States and South America, are both producers of many exchangeable commodities, he considers there are large possibilities of growth in the trade between the two countries.



SIR FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR,
General Manager of the Bank of Montreal, whose annual report has just appeared.

DOMINION STEEL CORPORATION.

Directors of the Dominion Steel Corporation have increased the dividend from the heretofore 5 per cent rate to 6 per cent, the first distribution of 1 1/2 per cent going to shareholders on Jan. 1 of record Dec 5.

The 5 per cent rate which is now superceded was declared at this time a year ago, and replaced a 4 per cent rate which was initiated in 1917 and continued for three quarters. The original 4 per cent. rate was discontinued in 1914.

DOMINION PARK COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Dominion Park Company, held a few days ago, the passing of control to a new group of existing interests in the company was effected without a hitch.

There had been some talk in the street of a "scrap" but nothing of the kind developed, and the new board composed of J. H. Redpath, Capt. R. S. Clift, L. R. Cooper, Leon Garneau and Guy D. C. Dobbin was elected on one ballot, the old board announcing, through President W. G. Ross, that it would not offer for re-election.

UNION BAG & PAPER CO.

The Union Bag & Paper Co. reports for the quarter ended September 30 last a balance after interest, but before deducting taxes of \$712,581, compared with \$724,280 in the corresponding period of 1917.

The report follows:

	1918.	1917.
Net earnings	\$816,877	\$837,286
Depreciation	53,188	59,848
Balance	\$763,689	\$777,438
Bond interest	51,108	53,153

Balance	\$712,581	\$724,280
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The fiscal year of the corporation will end December 31, instead of January 31, as formerly, consequently there will be but two months on the next quarter.

A comparison of the earnings for the first three quarters of this year follows:

	Third quarter.	Second quarter.	First quarter.
Net earnings	\$816,877	\$848,462	\$752,958
Depreciation	53,188	55,957	65,509
Balance	\$763,689	\$792,505	\$660,449
Bond interest	51,108	51,639	51,504

Balance \$712,581 \$740,866 \$608,345
The board of directors has declared the usual quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, payable December 15 to holders of record December 6.