

## WILL DOMINION BUY RAILROAD?

## Question Stands Prominent in Trustees' Report on Charing Cross Bank Liquidation

A second dividend of eight pence in the pound was paid to depositors in the Charing Cross Bank, London, last week, which is now in liquidation. This bank was interested in the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway, the road being the bank's most important asset.

In connection with the second dividend, the joint trustees, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Wm. Plender, have issued to the creditors a further report on the progress made in realizing the assets. Although several of the assets so far realized have fallen seriously short of the debtor's estimates, one or two of them have come out better than was anticipated. Certain miscellaneous stocks and shares have yielded a few hundreds of pounds more, and various properties in Canada over £8,000 more than in the bankrupt's statement. The net realization to date is £333,376, as against liabilities ranking for dividend amounting to £2,803,779.

## Heavy Fees for Trustees.

From the net realization heavy expenses have had to be deducted, the largest item being £12,578 for trustees' remuneration, which seems, from this distance, a very large sum. In addition to expenses of liquidation, amounting to over £25,000, there has been an outlay of nearly £48,000 on the properties. The dividend of 8d. in the pound, paid last week amounts to £93,459, making, with the previous dividend of 1s. in the pound, £235,575 which will have been distributed, and leaving a balance of £26,768 to be carried forward.

The most important of the bank's assets, as stated above, is the bankrupt's interest in the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway, consisting of £343,000 nominal of first mortgage debenture bonds and practically the whole of the second bond issue and ordinary share capital. This line, in the province of Quebec, was unfinished at the commencement of the bankruptcy, 20 miles having to be laid out of a total length of 102. After an inspection of the railway by the trustees in 1911 and interviewing the Canadian government on the subject of subsidies the line was completed and equipped by the trustees with the consent of the committee of inspection. The cost of this work was £44,665, but towards this £39,215 has been received in interest on the bonds. The line was opened for traffic in August, 1912, and for the year ending June 30th, 1913, shows a loss of approximately \$50,000. The traffic returns have since shown improvement; and, owing to developments in the local pulp and timber industries, it is expected that there will be an increase in the receipts for the current year.

## As to the Land Grant.

The trustees have claimed from the Quebec provincial government the land grant of 400,000 acres to which the company was entitled on the completion of the railway, and an order in council has been made for this grant. The trustees, in concurrence with the trustees for the debentureholders of the railway company, have given an option to a responsible group in Canada for the selection and purchase of these lands. The question of the purchase of the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway by the government has also been taken up, and there is a hope that legislation enabling the acquisition of this and other lines to be made will shortly pass the legislature at Ottawa. Interest on the bonds of the railway held by the trustees of the Charing Cross Bank liquidation is provided for until 1915 out of cash subsidies in the hands of the trustees of the bondholders of the railway company. On the fortunes of this line and the prospects of a favorable sale of the lands granted, the creditors of the bank have now to depend for any future dividend or dividends, and the trustees point out that the realization of these assets must be a work of time.

Mr. David Burke died recently at his residence, Montreal. The late Mr. Burke was one of the highly respected members of the old generation of Canadian life insurance men. Born in Prince Edward Island in 1850, he entered life insurance in Montreal in 1869, being associated with his brother, the late Mr. Walter Burke, then general manager for Canada of the New York Life. In 1883, Mr. Burke was appointed to this position, which he continued to hold until 1897, when he retired in order to organize the Royal-Victoria Life of Montreal, with which he was associated until its absorption by the Sun Life in 1911. Mr. Burke for many years was a member of the Institute of Actuaries, and a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society of Great Britain. Mr. Burke held the presidency of the Canadian Life Officers' Association for two years.

## INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

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

**Kirkland Lake Syndicate.**—The Kirkland Lake Syndicate, owners of the Tough-Oakes and a number of other properties in Teck and Labelle have successfully floated a company and offered £275,000 to the public in London. The shares were over-subscribed.

**International Nickel Company.**—For the first time in the current fiscal year, International Nickel Company has felt this month the business depression which has affected practically all branches of industry. As yet the company has not been so seriously affected as to consider the question of reducing forces.

**Consumers Gas Company.**—At a meeting of the directors of the Consumers Gas Company, it was decided to accept tenders for the unissued capital stock of the company to the extent of 3,140 shares, at a premium averaging 62 per cent., and realizing a total of \$254,262.50. At this rate the net return to the investor, on the basis of a 10 per cent. dividend, will be 6.17 per cent. per annum.

**Alberta Pacific Grain Company.**—An offer of a limited amount of Alberta Pacific Grain Company, Limited, 7 per cent. cumulative preference stock is being made by the Royal Securities Corporation, Limited, for which application for listing on the Montreal Stock Exchange will be made in due course. The issue is offered at par and accrued dividend with a bonus of 20 per cent. in common shares.

**Bank of Commerce.**—The Canadian Bank of Commerce directors at their regular meeting are understood to have given out, but the staff received an intimation that a 10 per cent. bonus would be paid to all members of the service, numbering some three thousand, and this was taken to mean that the profits justified these measures. Last year the Bank of Commerce bonus was 7½ per cent.

**The Porto Rico Railways Company, Limited.**—The comparative statement of earnings of this company for November, 1913, are:—

	1912.	1913.	Increase.	%
For November:				
Gross . . . . .	\$ 70,477.87	\$ 71,044.04	\$ 566.17	0.80
Net . . . . .	29,658.37	34,499.09	4,840.72	16.32
For 11 months:				
Gross . . . . .	\$755,637.10	\$778,756.50	\$23,119.40	3.06
Net . . . . .	273,671.64	344,475.97	70,804.33	25.87

**Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company.**—The report of this company covers a period of 15 months in accordance with the change in the fiscal year.

Profits for the 15 months, after allowances for development and depreciation, were \$998,367, or roughly 18 per cent. upon the capital issued. In the previous year, ending June 30, 1912, profits were \$310,345.

During the last fiscal year the company increased its mineral holdings in British Columbia by the addition of general other properties and the property account is the higher by \$232,113.

**The Porto Rico Railways Company, Limited.**—The comparative statement of earnings of the Porto Rico Railways Company, Limited, for October, 1913, is as follows:—

	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Per cent.
October:				
Gross . . . . .	\$ 69,613.26	\$ 70,589.24	\$ 975.98	1.40
Net . . . . .	27,394.38	32,466.87	5,072.49	18.52

For ten months:

Gross . . . . .	\$685,159.23	\$707,712.46	\$22,553.23	3.29
Net . . . . .	244,013.27	309,976.88	65,963.61	27.03

**Jupiter Mines.**—At an adjourned meeting of directors of the Jupiter Mines, it was announced that the \$50,000 bond issue recently decided upon had been over-subscribed by shareholders. It was decided to let the list remain open till January 20, so that shareholders in England may have a chance to subscribe. The funds raised by the bond issue will be used to pay off outstanding obligations.

The bonds bear 6 per cent. interest and are dated December 1, 1913, maturing August 1, 1914. The issue constitutes a first charge on all the company's property. Stockholders subscribed for the issue at 80.