

The protest, which was in the form of a letter to shareholders, says:—

"The balance sheets of the Dominion Steel, the Nova Scotia Steel and Canada Steamship Lines have been published, and are available. The properties of the Nova Scotia Steel Co. are well known to your directors, but beyond the information furnished by the balance sheet, they have little knowledge of the affairs of Canada Steamships; certainly, not sufficient to enable them to form an opinion as to the propriety of joining with them in a merger on the terms mentioned. As regards the remaining eight companies, no information whatever has been given as to their separate assets, liabilities and earnings, it being stated that in some cases the owners refuse to allow their position to be disclosed to your board.

"In order that the proposals might receive proper consideration, your directors have pressed urgently for full information as to each of the companies which are to be merged, but so far it has not been furnished, the promoters taking the ground that you are not concerned in what others receive, and that certain companies decline to have their affairs investigated. But the value of the shares offered to you depends on what the constituent companies contribute in assets and earning power, and what they receive in exchange. You are, in effect, asked to buy an interest of 51 per cent. in the combined properties on values not verified by you, or to form a partnership in which you contribute 51 per cent., without being allowed to satisfy yourselves as to the value of what the other partners contribute.

"The promoters have, however, submitted a certified consolidated balance sheet, prepared for them by Messrs. Marwick, Mitchell and Co., as it would be if all the companies were merged, and if \$25,000,000 new money had been provided for capital expenditure by the sale of preferred stock, which is one of the conditions named in the proposal. This balance sheet shows the total common stock issued as \$77,000,000, of which \$39,000,000 goes to the merging companies. The balance, \$38,000,000, is to be sold to realize \$11,400,000, out of which the cash payments of \$6,945,000 to certain companies above mentioned will be provided, with the costs of the merger, discount on securities, etc.

"Your directors are not satisfied to proceed until full information on all points is available, as they cannot recommend you to accept shares in the new corporation, in exchange for your stock, until they are satisfied as to their value; they feel that they are asked to approve of the comparative values assigned to the various properties by the promoters of the merger, without knowledge of the facts on which these values are based. This they regard as out of the question."

In connection with this statement, Mark Workman, who is at present in England, states that he has put the facts before the London Advisory Committee, and that on May 6th the committee instructed their secretary, asking that full information be furnished.

"The Advisory Committee," continued Mr. Workman, "are still without the information asked for regarding the companies it is proposed to merge. Under these conditions I feel it my duty and in the interest of all concerned that I make these facts public. I protest most vigorously against this proposed merger of non-essential companies without the fullest investigation, and in this I have, to the best of my knowledge, the fullest co-operation of members of the London Advisory Committee. Some of the most influential members of the London syndicate have already lodged protests with the syndicate manager here."

BANK MANAGER, with seventeen years' banking experience, desires change of position. Has first-class executive ability, fully reliable, and can furnish highest references. Thirty-three years of age and married. Open for position of trust with Industrial or other corporation. Box 317, *Monetary Times*, Toronto.

RECENT FIRES

Buildings in Chatham, N.B., Bishop Lumber Co. at Nester-ville, and Moyneur, Ltd., Ottawa, Had the Largest Loss This Week

Chatham, N.B.—June 9—Ten buildings were destroyed and caused a loss estimated at \$250,000. The fire is believed to have been caused by gasoline fumes coming in contact with a lighted lantern.

Erindale, Ont.—June 12—Residence and barn of Price Bros. were destroyed. Loss estimated at \$50,000. Fire caused by lightning. Several other buildings were destroyed in Erindale by the electric storm. There is a total loss of about \$100,000.

Granton, Ont.—June 10—Home of Jos. Casey burnt. Insurance of \$1,000.

Lumsden, Sask.—June 12—Garage, elevator and school destroyed by fire.

Montmagny, Que.—June 10—Sawmill destroyed. Loss, about \$75,000. The mill was owned by Price Bros.

Ottawa, Ont.—June 13—Warehouse of Moyneur, Ltd., destroyed. Damage estimated at \$150,000 to building and contents. The building and contents are partly covered by insurance.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.—Bishop Lumber Co. at Nester-ville was burnt, resulting in a loss of more than \$200,000. The lumber mill, owned by Robert Hare, of Laird township, was destroyed by fire. The fire was caused from a spark from the sawmill. Loss, \$4,000, partly covered by insurance.

Woodstock, Ont.—June 11—Brewery, owned by James Clothes, damaged. Estimated loss, \$4,000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING FIRES

Ontario.—The fire marshal's report for February, 1920, shows that during the month there were 828 fires, with a loss of \$1,152,950, of which \$721,390 fell upon the insurance companies and the balance of \$431,560 was uncovered. The corresponding number of fires in February, 1919, was 708, with a loss of \$496,753, of which \$364,109 was met by the insurance companies.

An analysis of the causes of fires during February shows that stoves, furnaces, boilers and their pipes caused 147, matches caused 96, exposure 52, electricity 46, smoking 45, chimneys 40 and sparks 40. Five hundred and fifty-one dwellings were destroyed or damaged, 105 stores, 49 manufacturing and special hazards, and 16 barns. The largest losses were at Timmins, Ont., Capreol, Ont., and Toronto.

Milford, N.B.—The following insurance companies were interested in the fire which destroyed the Dwyer property on May 20th: Norwich Union, \$5,000; Hartford, \$3,000; Aetna, \$3,000; British Empire, \$3,000; British and Canadian, \$2,000; Atlas, \$4,000. Total, \$20,000.

Specific to Stock—North Empire, \$2,500; Newark, \$2,500; St. Lawrence, \$2,000; London and Lancashire, \$3,000. Total, \$10,000.

Buildings—Globe Underwriters, \$3,000; Great American, \$3,000; Rochester Underwriters, \$2,000; Palatine, \$3,000; Canada Accident, \$3,000; Home Underwriters, \$2,000. Total, \$16,000.

Other insurance carried was: W. T. Stout, \$800 on dwelling, Liverpool and London and Globe; \$400 on furniture, New York Underwriters. W. J. Evans, \$1,000 on dwelling, Liverpool and London and Globe; \$400 in Royal. Thomas McGrath, \$800 on dwelling, Liverpool and London and Globe; \$800 on furniture, Nova Scotia Fire Insurance. Dwyer Bros., \$400 on small building, London and Liverpool and Globe. James Ingalls, \$1,000 on dwelling, Queen; partial loss. J. W. Crowley, dwelling, \$1,000 in Continental. E. Percy Howard has declared the Dwyer property a total loss as regards insurance after a personal examination. Mr. Howard expressed the opinion that Dwyer Bros. had suffered a loss double the amount of insurance.