AMONG THE COMPANIES

THE DULUTH-SUPERIOR TRACTION CO.

Comparative statement of gross passenger earnings for the month of June, 1917, is as follows:

	1917.	1916.	Inc.	%
1st week	$ 28,661.22	$ 24,296.12	$ 4,365.10	18.0
2nd week	29,016.86	25,791.45	3,225.41	12.5
3rd week	29,312.79	27,637.79	1,675.00	6.1
Month to date .	86,990.87	77,725.36	9,265.51	11.9
Year to date..	719,255.05	612,507.21	106,747.84	17.4

WM. A. ROGERS COMPANY DIVIDENDS.

A circular sent to shareholders of the William A. Rogers Co., of Toronto, announcing that the dividend due July 3rd would not be paid, says:

"During the past two years the amount of working capital required in connection with the company's operations has greatly increased, due to the rise in costs and the necessity for carrying extra stocks of raw materials as a protection against uncertain delivery and frequent embargoes. After careful consideration, the directors believe that while these heavy requirements continue, or until conditions become favorable for providing the company with an increased amount of working capital, dividend payments on the ordinary shares should be suspended."

The dividend on Rogers common in the last two years was at the rate of 6 per cent. It was 8 per cent. in 1914 and 12 per cent. in 1912 and 1913. The 1916 statement, issued not long ago, showed net profits over $50,000 in excess of those earned in 1915.

CANADIAN NORTHERN GAIN.

The gross earnings of the C.N.R. for the month of May are reported as $3,784,700 an increase of $695,800 over the month of May, 1916. Operating expenses were $2,730,300 for May, 1917, and $2,361,700 for the same month of last year, or an increase of $368,600. Net earnings were given as $1,054,400, comparing with $727,200 for May, 1916. The May figures compared favorably with those of April, 1917, in every respect. Gross earnings were $469,200 higher, and net earnings showed an increase of $297,500.

The statement of earnings and expenses for May, 1917, follow:

	1917.	1916.	Increase.
Total gross earnings ..	$ 3,784,700	$ 3,088,900	$ 695,800
Operating expenses ...	2,730,300	2,361,700	368,600
Net earnings	1,054,400	727,200	327,200
Aggregate gross earnings from July 1st ..	37,196,100	30,047,800	7,148,300
Aggregate net earnings from July 1st ..	9,316,800	7,552,800	1.764,000

C.P.R. EARNINGS CONTINUE HIGH.

According to the May statement of the Canadian Pacific Railway both the gross and net earnings were the largest ever reported for the month of May and the aggregate gross and net earnings for the first five months of 1917 are also the best in the history of this company.

In spite of its satisfactory showing the May statement emphasises the need of higher rates to meet the increased costs of operating.

The gross earnings of the C.P.R. for May were 15.1 per cent. higher than those for May, 1916, but operating expenses for May, 1917 were 21 per cent. higher than for May, 1916, so that the gain in gross is reduced to 4.1 per cent. The following is the statement of earnings and expenses for the month of May, 1917:

	1917.	1916.	Increase.
Gross earnings	$14,355,149	$12,472,167	$1,882,982
Working expenses ...	9,803,429	8,099,884	1,703,545
Net profits	$4,551,719	$ 4,372,282	$ 179,436
Gross earnings from January 1st.	$57,799,796	$51,119,112	$6,680,684
Net profits	17,081,542	15,912,100	1,169,442

MR. D. LORNE McGIBBON,
President Ames-Holden-McCready Company.

AMES HOLDEN MAKES RECORD RECOVERY.

The financial statement, for the year ending April 30th, of Messrs. Ames-Holden-Macready, Limited, shows a brilliant recovery in earnings as well as a marked improvement in finances. The figures submitted at the annual meeting on Thursday showed net manufacturing profits of $720,242, an increase of $398,451, or 124 per cent. over 1916, and an increase of $504,570, or 235 per cent., over 1915.

Current liabilities were reduced from $2,843,288 to $1,576,310 within the year, the chief reduction being effected in bank loans, which are down from $2,046,000 to $1,267,500. With current assets only slightly lower at $3,319,246, as compared with $3,394,042 a year ago, net working capital stood at $1,742,936 against $550,754 in 1916. Current assets are now better than 2 to 1 in respect to current liabilities, whereas a year ago there was little more than a balance between the two.

"This improved condition in the company's finances," President D. L. McGibbon, notes in his report, "has been brought about by the sale of $250,000 first mortage bonds, $500,000 debentures and over $440,000 from the year's operations."

Fixed charges for interest amounted to $202,595 of the year's profits, bond interest being down for $61,245, debenture interest for $22,500 and net bank interest for $118,885. The sum of $57,758 was applied to bad debts, as a write-off in part and in part as reserve; $25,000 was set aside for contingencies and $237,549 for depreciation and the writing off of the balance of organization expenses. The last named is the largest appropriation of the kind yet made by the company and goes to the general improvement of its position.

After all deductions a net surplus of $197,303 remained to be carried forward, an amount equalling a shade less than 8 per cent. on the preferred stock, and comparing with a net deficit of $21,846 the previous year (after special writing off from surplus account) and a deficit of $126,829 two years ago.

The company's sales for the year were $5,880,840, an increase of 14 per cent. over the previous year, of which $1,094,111 was army business. The domestic business of the company showed an increase of $978,465, or 30 per cent. over the previous year.

The main features of the profit and loss accounts of the past three years are summarized below:

	1917.	1916.	1915.
Profits	$720,242	$321,791	$215,672
Less:—			
Bond int.	$ 61,245	$ 56,203	$ 57,500
Deb. int.	22,500	......	......
Bank int.	118,885	112,035	95,176
Bad debts	57,758	45,982	44,093
Deprec. etc.	237,549	54,709	101,982
Conting.	25,000	......	......
Pfd. divid.	......	......	43,750
Total deduc.	$522,938	$268,930	$342,501
Surplus	$197,303	$ 52,861	†$126,829
Prev. surp.	9,038	30,885	157,714
Total surplus	$206,342	*$ 83,746	$ 30,885

HOWARD SMITH PAPER CO.

The Howard Smith Paper Company have just inaugurated dividends on the common stock at the rate of 2% a quarter, thus making the stock start off on an 8% per annum basis. In common with all other paper companies the Howard Smith concern has been making big money during the past two or three years. Within the past year the Company have cleaned up 21% of accrued dividends on the preferred stock and now have inaugurated an 8% dividend on the common as well as purchasing the Edwin Crabtree & Sons mills and instaling new machinery in the main plant at Beauharnois. The Howard Smith Company make high class bond and writing paper.

(†)—Deficit. (*)—From this $74,707 was appropriated to apply to losses from previous years.

Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon, in the course of his report as president, says:

"During the year considerable progress has been made in carrying out new policies in production and distribution, designed to increase the efficiency of your organization, reduce expenses and increase net profits. One of the most important things accomplished was the consolidation of our Nos. 1 and 2 factories in the latter plant, and the leasing of the Inspector street property for a term of three years. This move not only eliminates a substantial item of overhead expense in plant maintenance, but materially improves the factory facilities and centralizes the production in a manner that will further reduce factory overhead and greatly increase efficiency in the buying and handling of materials, makes possible better control and improvement of the product and eliminate many small weaknesses of a scattered organization.

"The company is equipped to produce all the shoes required for present domestic business with a margin to spare for future growth.

"The inventories of materials and manufactured stock at factories and branches have been taken at cost which is below present market value. All stocks have been carefully examined and reported to be in excellent condition.

"Additions to plant and equipment with the exception of improvements owing to the combination of Nos. 1 and 2 plants have been kept at a low figure, and this policy of conserving current assets will continue.

"Credits and collections during the past year have received most careful attention. A credit department has been established in the general office to supervise and control branch credits. The improvement in this respect, owing to this supervision, has been apparent. All bad accounts have been written off and an ample reserve set up for future losses.

"During the coming year the company expect to materially reduce stocks of raw materials and manufactured stock, which will, in turn, reduce bank loans.

"The high cost of leather and other raw materials, the difficulty of getting materials when wanted, have necessitated the carrying of a larger stock than usual and your officers feel that the present costs of materials in the inventories are sufficiently below current market prices to safely guard the company except in case of an exceedingly serious setback to general business.

ASSETS.

	1917.	1916.
Cash ....$	52,922	$ 80,626
Accs, rec.	481,223	906,773
Bills rec.	51,430	......
Inventory	2,733,670	2,406,642
Prepaid rev.	34,410	56,838
Dies, etc.	217,199	287,283
Plant, etc.	5,913,723	6,028,163
Total	$9,484,579	$9,766,327

LIABILITIES.

	1917.	1916.
Accs. pay. ... .$	130,672	$ 532,306
Bills pay.	178,137	264,981
Bank loans	1,267,500	2,046,000
Bonds	1,136,926	914,000
Debs.	500,000	......
Pfd. stock	2,500,000	2,500,000
Com. stock.	3,500,000	3,500,000
Reserves	65,000	......
Surplus	206,342	9,038
Total	$9,484,579	$9,766,327