

of governments, manufacturers of explosives and others, which had to be liquidated during a period when normal consumers were endeavoring to reopen their pre-war business. This situation, coupled with the unusual accumulations of charcoal, caused the whole wood distillation industry in America to be shut down to about 30 per cent. of its normal capacity during the spring and summer months. During the year the funded and deferred liabilities were reduced \$41,362 and the current liabilities \$545,823, a total reduction of \$587,185.

"A satisfactory physical and financial position is the goal toward which your board has been striving for the last five years. Although to accomplish this it was necessary to defer dividends, your directors feel sure that you will appreciate that no other course could have been prudently adopted. From now on, after reasonable provision has been made for depreciation and improvements, the profits will be available for dividends instead of having to be devoted to the rehabilitation of the company, which in 1914 was on the verge of liquidation.

"Market conditions affecting the products of the company have improved during the past six months, and steps are now being taken to bring the operations of the factories up to their full capacity. Conditions are now favorable and should continue to be so during the current year, as a result of which substantial profits may be expected."

As 75 per cent. of the share capital is held by English shareholders, a London committee has been formed, comprising W. S. Poole, John Cross and W. W. Boulton.

Spanish River Pulp and Paper Co.—A circular has been mailed to shareholders of the company calling a meeting for June 23rd, to ratify the proposal of the directors in connection with the payment of dividend arrears on preferred stock. The circular reads in part as follows:—

"During recent years a considerable part of the company's earnings has been utilized for capital expenditure, resulting in an increased output of over 50 per cent., and materially adding to the earning power of the plants. Had this money been paid to shareholders by way of dividends, the company would not be in the strong position it now finds itself. Even if the situation could be met by distribution over the next few years cash payments in liquidation of the arrears of these dividends, the shareholders would meantime continue to lose interest on the amount involved.

"The accumulated and unpaid dividends (exclusive of the vouchers above referred to), as of June 30th, 1920, will amount to 42 per cent. of the total issue of preference shares. Your directors, therefore, believe it to be in the best interests of all the security holders of the company, and they recommend, that the present issue of preference stock be increased by an amount equal to the accumulated and unpaid dividends as at June 30th, 1920, including the voucher.

"Providing that the holders of preference stock now issued accept this plan, a dividend of 42 per cent. and a further dividend of 7 per cent. to cover the outstanding 'dividend vouchers' will be declared and be made payable in preference stock at par, to the registered holders of preference stock as of June 30th, 1920, in full satisfaction of the accumulated and unpaid preference dividends on their shares to that date.

"It will be remembered that in 1915 an arrangement was made with the bondholders that in consideration of certain concessions made by the latter it was agreed that thereafter out of any sum available for dividends to shareholders 10 per cent. of the same should be paid to the bondholders. Under the terms of the present scheme, this 10 per cent. will be paid in preference stock. Your directors confidently expect that if this plan is accepted and the company's operations continue as at present, the future earnings will be sufficient to warrant the payment in cash of regular quarterly dividends on the total issue of preference stock, accruing from July 1st, 1920. The approval of the above proposal will also leave the company free to consider the payment of dividends on its common stock."

Reference was also made to the disposal of the talons and notes representing deferred interest on the first mortgage bond and second mortgage notes by recent financing, thus enabling the directors to submit for consideration a plan for payment of arrears of dividend on preferred since July 1st, 1914, as well as the dividend voucher recently issued covering the previous year with respect to the original issue of \$3,000,000.

RECENT FIRES

Sanitorium at Windsor is Heaviest Loss this Week—Business Block in Carmangay, Alta., is Burnt—Elevator Destroyed at Killam, Alta.

Belleville, Ont.—April 28—Dairy of G. A. B. Gay, together with equipment, was destroyed. Insurance carried, \$4,000.

Beulah, Man.—April 29—Presbyterian church was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$3,000. Insurance on building, \$2,000.

Bordeaux, Que.—April 29—Garage belonging to A. Lavoie was damaged. Cause, lantern explosion. Estimated loss, \$20,000, partly covered by insurance.

Bridgeburg, Ont.—April 28—Residence of J. H. Fitzgibbon, Niagara Street, was damaged. Loss is estimated at \$2,500, and partly covered by insurance.

Burnaby, B.C.—April 24—Chicken house, property of F. C. Baker, Telford Street, was destroyed and barn damaged. Estimated loss, \$1,000.

Carmangay, Alta.—April 30—Business block was damaged. Estimated loss, \$50,000.

New Liskeard, Ont.—May 5—Sawmill at Matagami Lake, owned by S. McChesney, destroyed. Loss, \$10,000. No insurance.

Fort William, Ont.—April 28—Residence of Echia Paul was damaged. Estimated loss, \$400. Insurance, \$1,000.

Fredericton, N.B.—April 28—Residence of Alfred Mills, Nashwaaksis, was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$1,500. Insurance, \$900.

Killam, Alta.—April 28—Pioneer elevator was destroyed, together with a large quantity of grain. Total estimated loss, \$100,000, with about 50 per cent. insurance.

Montreal, Que.—May 4—The Imperial Tobacco Co. of Canada, Ltd., 900 St. Antoine Street, was damaged.

Pembroke, Ont.—April 28—Residence of Sergt.-Major Flinter destroyed. Three fatalities.

Port Arthur, Ont.—April 30—The Continental Hotel, corner of Cumberland and Victoria Streets, was damaged. Estimated loss, \$5,000. Insurance carried, \$7,000.

Sydney, N.S.—April 30—Thompson-Christie Block on Commerical Street was damaged. Estimated loss, \$40,000. Insurance carried, \$12,000.

Shannonville, Ont.—May 1—Farmhouse and barn of A. Brown, 2nd concession of Thurlow, was destroyed. Loss partly covered by insurance.

Toronto, Ont.—April 29—The Exclusive Skirt Co., 73 Adelaide Street, was damaged. Estimated loss, \$1,000.

May 2—Residence of E. Rostock, 2440½ Queen Street, was damaged to the extent of \$500. Dry goods store of Joseph Libman, 112 Dundas Street West, was damaged. Estimated loss, \$3,400. Insurance, \$2,800.

Vancouver, B.C.—April 24—Great Western Metal Smelting Co. was damaged. Cause, sparks from a metal furnace. Estimated loss, \$600, covered by insurance.

Windsor, Ont.—April 29—Essex County Sanitorium at Union-on-the-Lake was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$200,000.

(For Additional Information see page 45)

A bill was introduced into the Ontario legislature on April 26th to place the fire marshal's office under the supervision of the provincial treasurer instead of the attorney-general.