

Investments and the Market

Riordan's and Kipawa Companies to Unite—New Brunswick Telephone Operating Expenses Heavy— Lyll Construction Company Had Trying Year but Looks to Future with Confidence

London Street Railway.—The employees and officials of the company have reached a tentative agreement by which the men will receive an advance of 8 cents an hour, providing a maximum wage of 52 cents an hour. The city of London will enact a by-law authorizing a straight 5-cent cash fare, with six tickets for 25 cents good only in limited hours. The present fares are seven unlimited or nine limited tickets for 25 cents.

Consumers' Gas Co.—The company has sent out notices to its customers that all accounts for gas issued after June 15 next, will be at the rate of \$1.20 per thousand cubic feet, instead of at the usual rate of \$1.10. Increased cost of gas coal, gas oil, taxation and labor are the reasons, says Mr. Arthur Hewitt, general manager.

City Auditor S. C. Scott, Toronto, and the acting finance commissioner, A. E. Black, have begun an investigation of the books of the company, with a view to determining whether the claim of an increase of \$753,000 in cost of production is correct and rate increases accordingly justifiable. Their investigation will continue the audit from September 23 last, when the last report was made.

Peterson Lake Cobalt Mining Co., Ltd.—The annual statement of the company for the year ended April 30, 1920, shows that receipts for the year amounted to \$92,086, divided between \$39,918 from ore receipts, \$50,000 from ore on dump, \$1,019 from exchange and \$1,148 from rents at mine. The general disbursement amounted to \$39,407, and the head office expenses to \$4,379, leaving a balance for the year of \$48,299. The total surplus is now \$127,886.

Mr. W. A. Lamport, the president, in his report to the shareholders, says that valuable and considerable progress has been made since the new board of directors took charge last year. "The hard work of the past year," he added, "ought to yield results in the near future. Our property is in good physical condition, our position financially much improved, and with the results in hand which we are now anticipating we think we are justified in saying that our expression of optimism for the future prospects of the company is not unwarranted."

Porto Rico Telephone Co.—Net income of the company for the year ended December 31, 1919, amounted to \$83,313, as against \$74,883 for 1918, an increase of \$8,430. Gross earnings from all sources increased \$29,669 to \$344,321. Regular semi-annual dividends of 4 per cent. on the preferred stock totalling \$23,200 were paid during 1919, and the board declared and paid quarterly dividends of 1 per cent. on the common shares, aggregating \$24,000, as well as an additional dividend of 1 per cent. which was declared on March 16th and paid on April 1st, 1920.

The sum of \$203,191 having been expended in the erection of exchange buildings at Mayaguez and Fajardo, in the extension of the metallic circuit lines and in general improvements to the system, the company will be entitled to issue new bonds to the extent of 75 per cent. of the amount, or the sum of \$152,300, which will be used for the payment of the liabilities created in the manner indicated. The company on September 1st last redeemed \$8,500 worth of bonds, the amount now held in the sinking fund being \$16,500.

North Crown Porcupine Mines, Ltd.—The first organization meeting of the company was held in Toronto last week, and the following directors were elected: Sir John Carson, president and managing director; William I. Gear, James G. Ross, C.M.G., James Cooper, A. G. Gardner, Zida Gallagher, J. R. L. Starr, J. B. Bartram and Percy Galt. The capital of the new company has been placed at \$3,000,000, the Por-

cupine-Crown Mines, Ltd., paying \$20,000 cash and the Thompson-Krist Mining Co., Ltd., paying \$10,000 cash into the treasury of the new company.

For their properties and cash payment as stipulate above, the Porcupine-Crown Mines, Ltd., receives two million shares of the stock of the new company, and the Thompson-Krist Mining Co., Ltd., the balance of one million shares. The combined properties, which are included in the amalgamation will give the new company a total area of 160 acres. Transfer of the properties took place on May 15. The executive office of the company will be in the city of Montreal.

New Brunswick Telephone Co.—Gross earnings of the company for 1919 amounted to \$740,808, an increase of \$91,201 over the previous year. Operating expenses, however, offset this good showing, advancing \$148,694 to \$615,566, leaving the net earnings at \$125,252. The profit and loss account shows a credit balance of \$7,223. Liquid assets amount to \$139,744, while reserve for depreciation totals \$762,294.

Mention is made in the annual report of the company's application which was made last December, for increased revenue to the amount of \$264,000. Since that time, however, the cost of all material and labor has greatly increased, necessitating a still further increase in rates. The Public Utilities Commission of New Brunswick is now considering the increasing of the company's revenue to the extent of \$330,000. In order to maintain the dividend payment during the year, the amount set aside for depreciation was reduced to 2½ per cent., whereas under normal conditions the amount should have been 8 per cent.

Grand Trunk Railway.—The annual report of the company just made public, shows gross revenue of £14,125,553, as compared with £12,655,225 in 1918. Net revenue amounted to £1,659,860, as against £1,857,152 in 1918. To net revenue was added sums received from the International Bridge Co., interest on Vermont Railway bonds, and interest on securities of controlled companies, bringing the total net revenue receipts up to £2,232,112, as compared with £2,269,833 in 1918. Operating expenses, including taxes, amounted to £12,405,705, or 87.83 per cent. of gross receipts, as compared with £10,762,969, or 85.04 per cent. in 1918, an increase of £1,642,736.

Total expenditure of £12,645,152 was made up as follows: Maintenance of way, £1,947,593; maintenance of equipment, £3,398,184; traffic expenses, £205,749; conducting transportation, £6,311,076; general expenses, £462,444; taxes, £239,447; miscellaneous, £80,659. Total charges to capital account for 1919 were £149,063, including charges for new works, new rolling stock, machinery, new rails and the acquisition of the Lachine, Jacques Cartier and Maisonneuve Railway. Total bonds and debenture stock of £35,660,615 called for payment of £1,504,178 in annual interest.

Lyll and Sons Construction Co.—For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1920, earnings, after providing for the usual charges of rent, insurance, taxes and general expense, etc., amounted to \$377,734, as compared with \$1,314,582 in the previous year. Net earnings available on the common stock were only \$148,164, compared with \$1,163,274 in 1919. Of this amount common dividends took up \$140,000. After sinking fund there was a deficit on the year of \$45,336, as compared with a surplus in 1919 of \$114,236. The 1920 report shows, also, that a number of charges included in last year's report were abolished. Profit and loss balance was thus reduced to \$356,665, as compared with \$402,001 in 1919.