

INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

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

Trethewey Mining Company.—The shareholders have decided to purchase a controlling interest in the Castle Mining Company. The interest in this property was offered to the company as a means of prolonging its lease of life. It was pointed out that the production of the Trethewey for the next two years would provide the funds necessary to carry on this work.

Brompton Pulp and Paper Company.—At the annual meeting of shareholders held on January 15th, it was announced that the company had acquired on a very reasonable basis two American concerns, the Claremont Paper Company, of Claremont, New Hampshire, and Wyman, Flint and Sons Company, of Bellows Falls, Vermont. No new financing will be necessary to complete the transactions.

West Kootenay Power and Light Company.—The company, which is controlled by Consolidated Mining and Smelting, paid the parent company \$150,000 in dividends last year. This compares with \$83,333 in the preceding fiscal year. A contract has been made with the Northport Smelting and Refining Company to supply a maximum of 1,500 horsepower for a term of years and with the Canada Copper Corporation to supply a maximum of 5,000 horse-power for ten years.

The net profits for the year ending August 31, amounted to \$30,930, as compared with \$70,827 for 1916. This was, however, after writing off \$99,736 for plant depreciation and providing for dividend on preferred shares and dividend on common shares of \$182,666. The profit and loss account, compared with 1916, is as follows:—

	1917.	1916.
By balance brought forward	\$402,467	\$331,640
Net profits	30,930	70,827

Shawinigan Water and Power Company.—Shareholders have received notice as to exercising their rights to subscribe to the new issue of two-year 6 per cent., convertible notes. It is announced that a subsidiary plant engaged in the manufacture of certain chemicals for the British government has had its contracts extended for the entire year 1918. The extent of this chemical enterprise, which was taken up in the summer of 1916, is indicated by the fact that the plant involved the expenditure of about \$1,800,000 by the company. Two existing plants had to be enlarged to provide certain necessary facilities for the new one. The construction of the storage dam at the head of the St. Maurice, which will increase the existing water power at the low stage of the river fully 50 per cent., involved an expenditure of \$2,000,000. The company's subsidiary, which carried out the contract, is being paid by bonds of the Quebec government.

The private bills committee of the Quebec legislature has approved the application of the company for an increase in its capital issuing power by \$5,000,000 from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. This step was approved by the shareholders several weeks ago, and it was announced that no fresh capital issue is intended at this time.

Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company.—The main achievement of the year was the production of 10,000 tons of pure zinc of a value of \$3,000,000, which marks a definite stage in the metallurgical history of the country. The company increased its production of refined lead by 2,000 tons to 22,000 tons, doubled its capacity for the production of sulphuric acid, and made a new record by producing over \$13,000,000 worth of metals. After writing off \$1,028,000 for depreciation of plant and equipment and development of properties, against \$876,000 charged against these accounts in the 1916 year—included in the charge for depreciation is \$450,000 written off the zinc plant, which for a certain time was in an experimental stage—the net profit was \$1,076,828, against \$996,496 in 1916. Depreciation charges were, therefore, about \$162,000 more, and the increase in profits was \$80,000. The company's net after depreciation, however, closely approximates its increased dividend requirement, the

surplus after payments of \$995,012 to the shareholders being \$81,816.

The results for the three years in amounts written off for depreciation and development, net profits, dividends and profit and loss surplus compare as follows:—

	1917.	1916.	1915.
Depreciation ..	\$ 648,058	\$ 278,368	\$ 193,149
Development ..	380,071	598,745
Net profits	1,076,828	996,496	795,411
Dividends	995,012	776,337	464,398
Profit and loss ..	2,360,274	2,278,458	2,058,209

The balance sheet as of September 30 shows a small reduction in bank loans and overdrafts from \$2,288,000 to \$2,081,000. The overdraft was due to an unusual accumulation of ores in anticipation of the needs of the Imperial Munitions Board, for advances towards the cost of additions to the zinc plant, which advances are repayable out of zinc produced, increased by \$100,000 during the period to \$769,000. Accounts payable were reduced, but the company's dividend requirements, occasioned by the increase in capital of \$2,000,000 in 1916, increased by \$219,000. Ores and metals on hand on September 30 were almost the same as at the end of the previous period being \$2,615,000, against \$2,682,000.

Mr. James J. Warren, managing director of the company, is in Montreal this week, consulting with officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who control the company. In an interview, he stated that the previous fiscal year of the company was a trying one, not only as regards labor, coal and other difficulties, but also in getting the various new enterprises that had been undertaken into working shape; this has now been accomplished, and the labor question has now been fought out through a strike which was settled on the company's own terms. He is looking forward to the current year with confidence. The company has been conserving its Rossland gold ores, and have been also acquiring other properties of a similar nature with a view of preparing for the future during peace times. Mr. Warren stated that the control of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company's plant enables them to work on an economical basis properties which were heretofore abandoned, particularly in the McKim and Fairview camps. The company had constantly in view the acquiring of other properties, so that it would establish a permanent enterprise in British Columbia.

BANK CLEARINGS

The following are the bank clearings for the weeks of January 11th, 1917, and January 12th, 1918, respectively, with changes:—

	Jan. 12, '18.	Jan. 11, '17.	Changes.
Montreal	\$ 81,126,216	\$ 77,295,725	+ \$ 3,830,491
Toronto	64,395,261	63,347,095	+ 1,048,166
Winnipeg	46,670,378	39,299,273	+ 7,374,105
Vancouver	9,521,322	6,676,371	+ 2,844,951
Ottawa	6,008,899	4,735,868	+ 1,273,031
Calgary	7,981,649	4,654,226	+ 3,327,423
Hamilton	5,325,504	4,907,180	+ 418,324
Quebec	4,139,220	3,646,027	+ 493,193
Edmonton	4,619,571	3,044,018	+ 1,575,553
Halifax	3,918,930	3,354,896	+ 564,034
London	3,203,418	2,428,671	+ 774,747
Regina	4,317,261	3,040,875	+ 1,276,386
St. John	2,517,818	2,002,859	+ 514,959
Victoria	1,877,407	1,532,701	+ 344,706
Saskatoon	2,018,841	1,701,090	+ 317,751
Moose Jaw	1,456,046	1,458,938	— 2,892
Brandon	698,564	529,456	+ 169,108
Brantford	922,675	747,352	+ 175,323
Fort William	789,975	631,323	+ 158,652
Lethbridge	812,548	761,906	+ 50,642
Medicine Hat	543,658	511,947	+ 31,711
New Westminster	399,930	259,448	+ 131,482
Peterboro'	746,586	548,866	+ 197,720
Sherbrooke	722,032	570,872	+ 151,160
Kitchener	621,417	604,423	+ 16,994
Totals	\$255,346,126	\$228,288,406	+ \$27,057,720

The Toronto bank clearings for the current week are \$57,197,375, compared with \$56,064,523 for the same week in 1917, and \$44,525,524 in 1916.