

the first half of 1903, and £106,435,000 in the June half of 1902. The following is a statement of new capital issues, quarter by quarter, for the current and the previous four years:—

	New Capital Applications.			
	1904.	1903.	1902.	1900.
	£	£	£	£
First quarter ..	19,905,000	22,226,000	47,993,000	51,587,000
Second quarter.	50,654,000	55,188,000	58,397,000	31,189,000
Third quarter	15,063,000	21,276,000	49,769,000
Fourth quarter.	15,986,000	26,146,000	32,954,000
	<u>70,559,000</u>	<u>108,463,000</u>	<u>153,812,000</u>	<u>165,499,000</u>

Three foreign Government loans have been offered during the half-year. The first was a moiety of the Japanese War Loan of £10,000,000, the other half being offered in the United States. A high rate of interest was offered with good security and the amount was subscribed for fully twenty times over. A large Cuban loan made its appearance, and was probably taken up chiefly in the United States, and the Greek International Commission offered the balance of the Greek Railway Loan of 1902—a 4 per cent. security at 84.

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL AND COAL.

Montreal, August 3rd.—There was a meeting to-day of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, the following directors being present: John F. Stairs, Hon. S. D. McGregor, J. Walter Allison, Hon. L. Melvin-Jones, Robert Jaffray, Robert Reford, Thos. Cantile, N. H. Harris, K.C., George Stairs, Harvey Graham and James C. McGregor. The general manager presented a report of the business of the company for the current year, and the progress of the new works at Port Sydney, and stated that the new blast furnace would be blown in before the end of the present month, which it was expected would materially add to the profits and efficiency of the company's business. A discussion took place regarding the finances of the company, and increase of capital required to fully complete and equip the new works. The solution met with the unanimous approval of the directors. Arrangements will be made to carry the project into effect at an early date.

The above despatch appeared in the Toronto papers of yesterday morning. On the previous day the Monetary Times received a lengthy letter, postmarked New Glasgow, containing what professed to be information of an important nature about the position of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. It was unsigned, however, and although the writer displays much acquaintance with the company's affairs and professes to be deeply interested in the welfare of the town of New Glasgow, he does not give his name. We therefore do not publish his letter. But some of his statements are of moment—if backed by a respectable man's signature they would be weighty. For example, commenting on the sharp decline of the common stock, he accounts for it thus:—

"The business of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. is thus divided: The steel plant at New Glasgow, N.S.; blast furnace at Ferrona, N.S.; coal mines at Coalburn, N.S., and Sydney Mines, C.B., and the iron mine at Wabana, Newfoundland. Of these I am in a position to say that the only one paying to-day is the coal mine at Sydney Mines. The blast furnace at Ferrona is closed down for good, representing a loss of about \$1,000,000; the coal mine at Coalburn, on which over \$500,000 has been spent, is now known by all insiders to be practically worthless, while the steel plant at New Glasgow is barely earning the interest on the bonds and preferred stock. The iron mine at Wabana, it has been discovered, is not nearly as good as that portion sold to the Dominion Steel Co.; so the whole load rests with the coal mine at Sydney Mines."

Now, he argues, in the face of such circumstances as these, to declare six per cent. dividend on the common stock is madness. In his opinion, the greatest asset the company had was Graham Fraser. And he adds, the real reason

Graham Fraser left the company was that he would not consent to paying six per cent., holding that two per cent. was all that could honestly be paid—and indeed that was a good return, considering the small amount that had been paid for the stock. He contends warmly and at length that for the ultimate good of the company itself, and for the good of the town, whose prosperity depends largely on the welfare of this company, the common stock should be forced down out of the hands of its present holders to a point at which it can become a dividend payer in the face of all conditions, and that the policy of Graham Fraser should be carried out.

UNLICENSED INSURANCE COMPANIES.

That people are entitled to get what they pay for, and that what are known as "underground" insurance companies should not be allowed to profit by the money of good law-abiding Canadian citizens, seems to be the moral of the following decision, of which we hear from Victoria, B.C. The account which follows describes a fire insurance case, the first of its kind tried in the Province. A full court has sustained the appeal of Barrett and Turner, hotel keepers, White Horse, Yukon Territory.

In 1900 the firm were hotel keepers, as stated; and Joshua Holland, of Victoria, applied for insurance on their premises. They agreed to insure \$12,000 in some companies authorized to do business in Canada. They paid Holland part of the premium, and Mr. Holland sent the application to Victoria. It was attempted to effect the assurance in Victoria, but being unable to do so, they sent the application to insurance brokers in New York City. They issued three policies in companies which were not licensed to do business in Canada under the Canada Insurance Act. The policies were sent through the bank, the plaintiffs accepted and sent the balance of the premium, amounting to \$651. The insurance policies were for one year.

Subsequently Barrett and Turner ascertained that the companies were not authorized to do business in Canada. They claimed to have all money paid as premiums returned to them, notwithstanding the fact that Holland had deducted only his own commission and forwarded the remainder to New York. The case was tried before Justice Drake, who dismissed it. Barrett and Turner then appealed to the full court, who rendered judgment in their favor for the amount of the premiums paid, namely, \$868, and the costs of the action and of the appeal.

ABOUT THE TOBACCO TRADE.

Hon. Mr. Brodeur is preparing a measure by which he intends that Parliament shall rectify a wrong done to the tobacco trade of Canada. The claim is made that the American Tobacco Company have treated their customers high-handedly, and have injured other traders. Mr. J. M. Fortier, of Montreal, speaking for himself and some other manufacturers of tobacco, approves Mr. Brodeur's effort, and adds: "We are not looking for favors, but we do want equity, and this is exactly what Mr. Brodeur's measure seeks to give us. In other words, we demand the right to sell our goods to people who were compelled to abandon us by the arbitrary restrictions of the American Tobacco Company's contract or arrangement."

For a number of years, Mr. Fortier contended that tobacco growing in Canada was an industry worth fostering. He and his friends in 1896 secured a duty of ten cents a pound, and the Canadian tobacco industry succeeded so well that the American Tobacco Company realized the fact that successful factories had been started at different points, and they bought out the factories at Granby, Joliette, of L. Larue, jr., and later on that of B. Houde and Company, Quebec. Since then they closed up the Joliette factory and Larue's as well. Mr. Fortier maintains that this has diminished the competition in the buying from the farmers and affecting the customers likewise. "We want," he declared,