

WESTERN CANNERIES.

Toronto Shareholders Confer—Recommendations to Coming Meeting.

That Mr. Charles A. Flower be appointed managing director of the Western Canneries was the recommendation of a well-attended meeting of the Toronto shareholders of that company held at the King Edward Hotel on Tuesday. It will be recollected that Mr. F. H. Malcolm, the organizer and promoter of this concern, has tendered his resignation, which with the above recommendation will be considered at a meeting of the Canneries to be held at Regina on December 29th. Mr. A. B. Barry, chairman of the meeting, introduced Mr. Flower, who at present is assistant managing director of the company. He read several important resolutions which the Toronto shareholders' committee had sent to a Canneries meeting, held at Maple Creek in May last. Mr. Barry said the shareholders unanimously thought that their money had been recklessly spent in organization and other expenses. If it were possible for the company to go ahead, they would all be heartily pleased. It seemed that the mismanagement was chiefly a personal matter, and that with Mr. Malcolm out of the way the prospects for the company's success would be good.

Possible Profits and Competition.

Mr. Flower went into details concerning the proposed methods of canning at the plant at Medicine Hat. He thought a large profit would be made from handling the by-products alone, to say nothing of the chilled beef, with which they would commence operations. He already had an order for one thousand quarters of chilled beef as an experimental shipment to England. Mr. Flower dealt with his connection with the company, stating he might have been managing director long since, but he desired first the confidence of the shareholders generally. Asked as to the probable competition of the Armours and Swifts, Mr. Flower thought that whatever competition was met, the Western Canneries would be able to do a good business. Before the proposition could be placed on a proper and shipping basis, \$150,000 cash would be required.

Regarding the many shareholders in arrears with their payments, he proposed to obtain legal advice as to what could be done. If it were legally possible to give the shareholders an opportunity to pay up their arrears, this opportunity would be afforded. If after that, they did not pay, the company would proceed to cancellation at once. Mr. Flower then asked the Monetary Times representative to speak, as that journal, he added, had taken an active part in placing before the public the position of the company in its true light.

Suggestions of the Monetary Times.

The Monetary Times asked the permission of Mr. Flower and of the shareholders to go fully into the subject; this was agreed to. He traced the history of the company from its beginning, when the absurd prospectus issued by F. H. Malcolm was first published. Speaking of the recently issued financial statement, he drew special attention to the item of \$72,577 expended on organization. This was an immense sum, and he suggested the shareholders should obtain further information as to how this had been expended, and whether it had been expended legally.

Attention he also drew to an item of \$200,000 which appeared both under assets and liabilities. Apparently this was stock given to the promoters. One creditable feature of the statement was that apparently it was the first Western Canneries balance sheet to tell the truth. All this was past history, but it seemed to be in the interest of the shareholders to know something regarding it.

The Monetary Times also suggested that the Ontario shareholders should be represented on the board of directors. Hitherto they had been almost ignored. Their protests and representations had been unavailing. The articles of association, too, should be carefully considered. They were very complicated, and even after the proposed deletion of the articles referring to Mr. Malcolm it would be as well for the shareholders to examine the remainder. A careful scrutiny would show exactly where they stood. The Monetary Times had received several reports from the West regarding Mr. Flower, and from all that could be gathered he was a capable, straightforward business man of some responsibility and means.

The shareholders present handed Mr. Flower their proxies, and passed a resolution recommending him for the appointment of managing director.

Another reference to this matter appears in our editorial columns.

Official Report of Meeting.

The following official report has been sent to us for publication:—

About forty shareholders of the above company met at the King Edward Hotel, in the city of Toronto, on Tuesday, the 1st inst., when two meetings were held during the after-

noon and evening. Mr. C. A. Flower, assistant managing director, of Winnipeg, was present on behalf of the board. Mr. A. B. Barry, C.E., presided in the chair, and representatives of the Press and financial journals attended.

The affairs of the company from its first inception to date were fully gone into, most of the shareholders taking part, with at times pointed questions not particularly complimentary to the former management: the extraordinary cost of promotion, the great delay in operations, the discrepancy between promises and performances (wide concessions, etc., to be furnished by the promoter, but not forthcoming), the promise that the management would not draw salaries until works were in operation, the failure to produce detailed audit of expenditure, etc., all of which were duly explained by Mr. Flower, who did not exonerate the former management, but laid blame where blame was due, and succeeded in convincing the shareholders that after the annual meeting in Regina the company will start with a bright future, and, under new management, will secure the confidence and support of those financial institutions which can only be looked for after the appointment of a strong, practical business man of sterling integrity and with the necessary ability and energy to put the business on a sound, paying basis.

Resolutions Carried at Meeting.

The shareholders also took steps to ascertain from Winnipeg and elsewhere the standing and general reputation of Mr. Flower, and before adjourning adopted the following resolutions unanimously:—

Moved by James Williams, Esq., seconded by Arthur T. Walmsley, Esq.: "That the Toronto shareholders in the Malcolm Western Canneries Company, Limited, beg to thank the board of directors for its courtesy in sending Mr. Flower to Toronto to explain the operations of the company, its present status, and also to explain the prospects now in view, and we now wish to express our confidence in the future of the company when placed under practical management."—Carried.

Moved by Miss M. Gunn, seconded by Mr. A. White: "That, having heard the statements of Mr. C. A. Flower in reference to the present state of the company and its prospects, we are of the opinion that he should be appointed general manager of the company, and we hereby express our appreciation of the straightforward statement made by him, and believe that the company's prospects will be safely guarded by this appointment of a strong financial man, and one who, we are assured, is persona grata to the financial circles of the locality."—Carried.

A copy of the above resolution was ordered to be sent to Mr. Flower as representing the board, to the Winnipeg Free Press, and to the Monetary Times.

A. B. Barry,
Chairman.

Toronto, 1st Dec., 1908.

HURON AND ONTARIO BOND SALE.

What the Cable Has Said—Particulars of Incorporation.

That a large block of bonds of the Huron & Ontario Railway Company have been sold to R. G. Shaw Co., East India merchants, London, is the advice of the Canadian Associated Press. The amount has been given variously, ranging from \$324,000 to \$3,024,000. The latter figures seem to be improbable. A. McDonald Allan, of Goderich, has been in London some months in connection with this matter. Latterly, says the cable message, he had the assistance of T. M. Sanders, the well-known engineer, who is to manage the entire construction and equipment of the road; J. Gerry, London, Ont., contractor, and H. Middlemist, Toronto, construction engineer.

The Shaw Company give the railway the use of their offices, London, and throughout Europe, Asia, and America, where the bonds and their interest coupons are likely to be payable.

Have Not Purchased but are Negotiating.

Shaws have stated that the bonds have not been sold to them, but they are negotiating and have sent a representative to Canada regarding the matter.

The Company obtained an Ontario charter on April 7th, 1890, when the following were named as directors: W. J. R. Holmes, M. C. Cameron, J. Williams, H. Horton, I. F. Toms and F. T. Garrow, of Goderich; P. Kelly of Blyth; F. C. Rogers of Brussels, W. Milne of Grey, J. C. Hay and S. Bricker of Listowel. The capital stock was given as \$250,000. The proposed route was from Goderich through Blyth and Brussels and Listowel to Hamilton. The charter gave power to make running arrangements with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company, and with the Michigan Central and Canada Southern Railway Company.

The bonds were not to exceed \$20,000 per mile.