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Grand Mogul Tea

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RANGES

We have more new ranges in. All makes, styles and prices. Call and inspect these. We have one to suit you.

Barclay & Bell

WAREROOMS opposite Middaugh Ho. Stables.

Directors Meet in Durham.

Continued from page 1. tion for admission to the meeting but were politely informed that as there were other matters than marl to discuss it was desired to keep the afternoon meeting private but would be welcome in the evening. This, then, is a blank, but it has been learned that the system of having a committee of three of the Directors form the executive, has been abolished. All action in the future having thus to be initiated by and at a Board meeting. The three directors who have formed the Executive are Messrs McKay, (the President) Kline and Scott. This action is not to interfere with the allowance granted to each of them; viz \$50.00 a month to each of the three named and \$25.00 a month to each of the others; Messrs Ratz, Cobble-dick, McLaren and McKechnie.

The expert who has been employed by the board at \$6 a day and expenses studying up and reporting on the rock proposition in the Niagara District has been paid his account amounting in all to \$550 and we understand it to cease incurring any more expense.

At the evening meeting, besides the Directors, there were present representatives from the Review and Chronicle, Dr Jamieson, M P P, chairman of the town's committee, Secy Ehrhardt, Manager Farr, Chemist Ludlow, and Mr Harmon, who is a salesman for the company with his office in Toronto.

The chairman, Mr McKay, very succinctly placed before the meeting, the view taken by the Directors of the situation. They were genuinely anxious to make the best use of the trust confided in them by the shareholders and what they had done had been prompted by that motive. He made allusions of course, to matters that had appeared in the press, and regretted certain statements which he alleged, were either misleading or false.

Dr Jamieson presented the report of Messrs McComb and Davidson which was in exact detail showing locality, depth of marl or clay, how covered it at all date of examination and so on. The report is a convincing document as to the quantity of marl in this locality, and bears out the statement of Mr Blue, the well-known mineralogist made some years ago that "We had a Klondyke under our feet."

Greatly to our regret we found that the report made of the explorations of Manager Farr and his associates was not ready. He had before this meeting reported verbally and to the effect that there was no marl of commercial value outside of Wilder's Lake, and that that deposit would last possibly 13 years yet. This is the partial and imperfect report the Directors, we must say, apparently in good faith, have been acting upon, this is the report, that, being so much at variance with early tests, and other tests, and a great body of public opinion, more or less well informed, has aroused a suspicion or distrust that will not be all-

layed until an independent, impartial opinion has been obtained of the quality of the marl and the other facts in question. The manager vigorously maintains his position, with occasional expletives not intended for publication. The independent test secured by the committee shows that the marl in the largest bed tests 95 per cent of carbonate of lime, reckoned an excellent showing. This the Board does not recognize.

An agreement was come to, to get an expert from an outside point to examine the whole situation, the quality of the marl, the means of handling it, the feasibility of transportation, &c. The company and the town will each appoint a man to go with him, and his report will be laid before the Annual Meeting. Mr Delano, one of the minor engineers at the inception of the plant was mentioned by the officials here as a suitable engineer, but we contend now, as we contended at the meeting, that this would be a mistake. There are two views about the Lake, one is Mr Farr's that the supply of suitable marl will soon give out, the opposite view is that there is suitable marl for years yet. Mr Delano is known to be a supporter of the first of these views consequently his judgment will not carry conviction, to the very large number of shareholders who on good ground, take the opposite view.

There was a raking of early transactions in which the interests of the shareholders were not considered. This is not practical now: all are satisfied and know to their cost how money was squandered. Fancy a manager getting an unbreakable contract for 3 years at \$5000.00 a year and live in Toronto!! The point is to safeguard the shareholder's now, and not destroy the rising hope that a dividend is in sight.

At the same time we may point out some curious things. To sell the stock cost over \$70000; the engineer's expenses - always supposed to come out of Cowham's \$250,000 - came to over \$60,000 and came out of the funds of the company. This, with \$5000 each to three directors, or was there five, makes a nice little sum to add to the \$250,000 given for promotion. Get your pencil.

A tendency is observable to talk as if Mr McKechnie was responsible for all early delinquencies. This is manifestly unfair. No Director on the company and few shareholders know as we know what trouble and annoyance falls to the lot of the local Director. Hundreds of times visitors, considerate and otherwise, find out Mr. McKechnie would "like to see the works," with him. "Would like a talk with him." &c, till the thing becomes monotonous and destructive of valuable time.

The town has selected Mr Hassan as an engineer likely to be acceptable to the Board, to settle the points in dispute. Following is a letter of Mr Cobble-dick, one of the Directors, taken from an Exeter paper.

To the Editor of the Exeter Times: Dear Sir - Regarding the Durham mill (National Portland Cement Co.) I wish to say, I am not in favor of moving the plant, as long as it has sufficient marl around Durham. We, the directors, were told by our manager

that there was no sufficient marl in Wilder's Lake in fact, the mill more than two years after that reason. We then instructed our best men to make a thorough search around Durham to ascertain if there was more marl to be got. Their report came before the Directors in writing and is still on file to the effect that there was not any deposits of marl in paying quantities after got through with Wilder's Lake.

With this report lying on our table we passed a resolution as follows: Whereas it has been shown that the marl supply is nearly exhausted we deem it in the best interests of the National Portland Cement Co., to search for and find a suitable location for the cement plant where sufficient raw material can be found. You will understand that one of our directors is a worthy citizen of Durham and was very much displeased with this report and when it became known in Durham the town council (all honor to them) did right. They appointed a committee to investigate for marl, and we are told by this committee that there is marl in abundance to be had to keep the mill running for a lifetime, and by the way, I am personally very glad that there is marl in abundance, because it has increased the value of my stock in the company to the extent of \$8000.

The first directors' meeting that I attended was about one year ago. You will remember I took the place of Dr. Malloy after his death. The debt on the plant was then \$140,000 and the bank would not supply us any more cash to go on with the work without further security, so my installation ceremony consisted in my signing with the rest of the directors our personal notes to the extent of \$30,000. This was a hard dose but it had to be done to save the mill from the auctioneer's hammer. Now one year has gone and I can confidently say that every man on the board has done his duty to the company, and this has resulted in the fact that we only owe the bank \$30,000 instead of \$140,000 and the plant has been kept in first class condition, besides some im-

provements that have been added and paid for, of which you have not heard, and I have no hesitation in saying that with plenty of marl to keep going, the present management can pay every stockholder a dividend next year. I wish to say I can find buyers for it, if the sellers will communicate with me. J. COBBLEDICK. Exeter, Nov 27, 1905.

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Review to Jan 1, 06, 10c



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