

Four members of the executive of the São Paulo Real Estate Board, led by Roberto Capuano, the Board's president, were in Toronto in October for a firsthand look at the operations of the Toronto Real Estate Board and for discussions with real estate companies and agencies. Following their meetings, representatives of the two boards expressed a mutual interest in real estate investment in the two cities. Accordingly, the two-way flow of real estate and land-use information between the cities will be stepped up.

While the São Paulo real estate delegation was in Toronto, a Toronto team, consisting of a city senior manager, a computer specialist and a planner, conducted a symposium in São Paulo on Toronto's Central Property Registry. More than 80 specialists from São Paulo agencies involved in city planning attended the symposium, which was coordinated by Jair Carvalho Monteiro, São Paulo secretariat of municipal planning.

Also in October, Alex Smith, executive director of the Câmara de Comércio Brasil-Canadá, was in Toronto for a discussion on Phase III projects with Arthur Stevenson, executive director of Toronto's management service department, and Peter van der Laan, director of the city's administration division.

Later this month, Dr. Carlos Eid, a senior São Paulo health official, will visit Toronto to study the city's emergency health services plan, focussing on the recruiting and training of ambulance drivers.

THE LIGHT: Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company  
Limited, 1899-1945

Duncan McDowall  
University of Toronto Press

On October 22, the University of Toronto Press released Duncan McDowall's history of "The Light", or to give the company its formal title, Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company Limited, known today as Brascan.

Except for those with a specific interest in Brazil, few Canadians are aware of the important role The Light played in Brazil's industrial development by providing cheap, reliable electricity early in the century. Historians agree that the company's contribution set Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo on their way to major world-class cities.

Duncan McDowall, an associate professor of history at Carleton University, tells in considerable detail the story of the remarkable men who guided the destiny of The Light during the first half of the century. It is a story every Canadian with an interest in Brazil will want to read.

Although not an "official" history of the company, the author enjoyed the cooperation of Brascan in Canada and Brazil and his access to company documents and records is reflected in his detailed and fascinating account of the company's history.