

# THE Commercial AND Financial Chronicle

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## The Chronicle.

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### PROSPECTIVE MOVEMENTS IN THE LOAN MARKET.

Two general movements have claimed much attention in the loan market of late, both here and abroad. The first is the remarkable and over-active concentration of idle capital in the great financial centres, causing demand loans to rule at rates unprecedentedly low; the second movement is that of the temporary animation developed at the close of the year, and causing a rise in the rates of interest, with an increased demand for bank accommodation. In this city the Clearing House statements of the last two or three weeks indicate that the causes which have stimulated the recent demand for money have passed their highest point of activity, and that the rates for short-date loans may now gradually recede for a time. Whether the same changes will take place in the European money markets is uncertain.

In London, the monetary situation is very complicated. We see there an immense financial organization, created during the last twenty or thirty years, for the concentration of capital

and its employment in the wide-spread productive machinery of Great Britain and her Colonial possessions. From the great magnitude of the financial operations to which the commerce of Great Britain gives rise, London has become the great Clearing House of Europe, and the monetary transactions of trade throughout the world have tended more and more for many years to concentrate themselves in the British metropolis. But the British financial machinery was constructed on a scale commensurate with the immense volume of the business which it had to do. This business, as is notorious, has undergone changes of a very serious character during the last three or four years; and it is now much smaller in its volume than formerly. Hence the monetary movements of late in England resemble those of a great machine whose power and resources are inadequately used. There is more capital in the money market than can find safe outlets or remunerative employment.

Financial history shows that when such a plethora of capital exists, a natural tendency is often developed towards speculative activity. When money can be had at low rates of interest, many persons are tempted to borrow, and the use of this borrowed capital in the purchase of commodities stimulates the demand for such commodities, and thus gives an upward tendency to prices. This rise in values adds a new stimulus to the demand, because men see that prices are rising, and they rush to buy at existing rates that they may sell again at the expected advance and thus make a profit. If we look back through the history of the last half century, we shall find that both in Europe and here this law has received frequent illustrations, and that low rates of interest have almost invariably tended to stir up speculation and to inflate prices. During the present era of cheap money, however, this law has been held in abeyance. The low rate of interest does not tempt men to borrow, or at least it is unable to bring into the money market good borrowers. Hence prices do not receive the usual upward stimulus from the monetary plethora, nor does speculation thrive under its influence. The same state of stagnation pervades the monetary arena not only in London and in New York, but also throughout the continent of Europe, except in France. A shrewd bank officer in this city being asked to explain this apparent exception in the case of France, told his correspondent that it was easily accounted for by the fact that France was the only country that had wit enough to shake off in time the feverish habit of extravagance and prodigality which has been so rife among all commercial nations during the last decade. "France," he said, "is prosperous because

she is more industrious and frugal than other nations, and, therefore, her annual savings are greater than theirs." This reasoning is very good, but it does not tell us the reason for the suspension of the great economic law to which we have just directed attention.

If we would understand why easy money does not now stir up commercial activity as in former years, we must explore the deep fundamental conditions favorable to business development. The chief of these conditions are three in number. The first requisite of all is a sound financial system, with good legislation governing the currency and contracts. No nation has ever made rapid progress in commerce and wealth whose legislation on banking or monetary circulation, and on the sacred binding force of contracts, did not show a considerable amount of stability and permanence. The second condition favorable to national development in wealth is that there should be a sufficient amount of floating and fixed capital available to keep productive industry remuneratively employed, and that these two descriptions of capital should be in the right proportion to each other. In all these respects the position of this country and of the chief nations of Europe is not so defective as to call forth any special alarm. No doubt much might be said to show how modern legislation could be improved, both as to the regulation of the currency and the protection of contracts. Equally might it be argued that capital, both floating and fixed, offers of late years some eccentric characteristics menacing to commercial stability and hostile to industrial recuperation. These points are, however, subordinate. The great paralysis visible in our commercial and monetary organism does not originate in any of these causes, as is proved by the fact that they have all existed in former years in connection with much apparent prosperity.

The third great condition of national growth in wealth is economic confidence, one of the forms of which is a healthful condition of commercial credit. It is here that the great forces originate which make stagnation so general throughout the commercial world. If the monetary circulation is compared to the circulation of the blood, the movements of economic confidence resemble those of the nerves. It is familiar to us all that in the human body when the nervous system is out of order, everything goes wrong. Depression and weakness cannot give place to buoyancy and vigor until the deep-seated trouble in the nervous centres has been first relieved. This illustration may help us to understand the nature and to suggest a remedy for the stagnation which has so long and so firmly held our productive energies in bondage. What is wanted is a revival of the spirit of economic confidence, which is so nearly allied to frugality and industry that really we might almost say that they invariably go together. In view of this fact, there is much reason to look hopefully on not a few of the aspects of the monetary and commercial situation. If France was the first country in Europe to learn the salutary lesson from her defeats and disasters, we may certainly lay claim as a nation to the honor of being apt learners in the same school of frugality, industry and thrift. It is one of the numerous illustrations of the growth among us of that accumulation of capital, by thrift, which offers so much promise for the future, that, notwithstanding the severe depression which has so long pervaded every department of American industry, the aggregate deposits of the savings banks of the United States have never been larger than they are now.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that

although the great cause of the paralysis of business is want of confidence, and although there are numerous elements combining to revive this confidence, still there is too much of disquiet and uncertainty at present in the political horizon and elsewhere to enable us to forecast with any certainty the monetary movements of the early future.

#### ELECTION ADJUSTMENT.

The conclusion reached by the committees of the two houses of Congress on counting the electoral vote will be received in all business circles with thanksgiving. Judging from the results produced, it might very appropriately be termed "A bill to relieve the distressing 'uncertainties overhanging industrial enterprise and to 'quiet public anxiety.'" But, say the few objectors left—

It is unconstitutional. When such lawyers as Senators Conkling and Edmunds on the one side and Kernan and Thurman on the other hold the opposite opinion, the public will rest wholly satisfied. Besides the exigency has become such, and the constitutional questions raised since the election so intricate and bewildering, that the very large majority of our people will be content if they can simply know that our fundamental law can be stretched to cover a settlement reached. But again it is objected—

That the machinery organized is so cumbersome it will not work. The wisdom, judgment and patriotism shown in suggesting and perfecting the plan will carry it successfully through, we have no doubt, even if the charge were in great measure true. But we really see nothing that need cause a fear or give rise to hesitancy in its support on this ground. To be sure, the plan of the extremists of each party was more simple. It is always far more simple to beat out one's brains against an opposing rock than to turn out of its way; and yet, men with brains to spare prefer the latter course. Again, it is urged in objection to the settlement—

That it is a mere makeshift. In reply to this, we should put in our answer—first, a general denial, and next, a perfect justification. It is, however, unnecessary to discuss the measure. The people are for it. They are determined to settle in a peaceable, orderly manner the strife that is becoming daily more bitter; and they will return unlimited thanks to the men who are foremost in that settlement.

#### VOLUNTARY EXAMINATIONS IN LIFE INSURANCE.

Two occurrences during the past week have done much to heighten, and something to give direction to, the prevalent and not uncalled-for anxiety concerning the Life Insurance Companies, and we cannot do a better public service than to continue the discussion of the subject. One of these occurrences is the Department report of the condition of the Security Company, which appears thus on analysis: Upon the face of the statement the assets will pay 48 cents on the dollar of all liabilities, if all come in to share alike, as they properly should do; if the matured and unpaid claims are allowed preference, they will take more than one-half the cash assets, leaving 3½ cents on the dollar of cash to the "reserve," or 45 cents of cash and loan assets. But nearly one-half the policies are cash ones, and the utmost to those policies is 6½ cents, if the matured claims take full preference, or 13 cents to all the cash claims, matured and unmatured, all sharing alike. But this makes no allowance either for shrinkage of assets or for legal expenses; and we see no escape from the conclusion, that when the concern is settled up, the policy holders will realize nothing except the return of their own premium notes, the cash assets being

only \$396,216 at their most, against \$4,054,783 of liabilities. For the first time in New York experience, this seems to be a case of complete financial destruction without remainder. It carries its own comment. There has been systematic falsification of statements, which were then sworn to, and the guilty persons ought certainly to pay to public morals and safety the debt of punishment they have incurred.

The other occurrence referred to is the voluntary request made by the Finance Committee of the Equitable to nine gentlemen eminent in mercantile and banking circles, that they will institute "a thorough examination of its assets and liabilities." It is no reflection upon the present head of the Insurance Department to say that, under the circumstances, examinations supplementary to those he may make are likely to be useful in restoring public confidence; hence, the proposed step of the Equitable is an excellent one, and is only anticipatory of what we ourselves intended to suggest, to be voluntarily applied to all companies. Such an examination, in order not to be worse than useless, must not only be, but must clearly seem to be, conducted in the judicial spirit of inquiry for the actual facts, with determination to report them exactly as found, without thought of consequences. For example, few persons question the solvency of the Equitable; but, if it were not solvent, it would be better to have that understood now than hereafter. Hence, unless the suspicion as well as the fact of even a willingness on part of the examiners to whitewash is wanting, little good can be accomplished.

In duty bound, however, we must say that the request is too broad, and that the last two words would better be left out. The liabilities of a Life company consist of, first, capital stock, which is always a definite quantity; second, unsettled death-claims and other demand debts, which are always trivial in comparative amount; third, the reinsurance reserve or net present value of the outstanding policies, which is the chief item, forming in general about 65 per cent. of all liabilities. The calculation of this reserve is effected upon each policy-group, and is a technical work in which unprofessional gentlemen are entirely incompetent; hence the visiting committee can only accept the company's own "valuation," or, in other words, they are no more able to investigate the liabilities than they are to calculate eclipses. It is due, not only to truth but to their own reputation, that they should not seem to have affirmed, as of their own knowledge, that which nobody but an experienced actuary is competent to determine.

Furthermore, they are not able to pass upon all of the items constituting assets; premium notes and loans, deferred premiums, premiums in course of transmission, agents' balances, and one or two other items of minor importance, they can only take into estimation as they are stated by the company in each case. In saying this, we mean to define and aid, not to belittle or hinder, a movement which we heartily approve and have only been anticipated in suggesting. In the nature of the business, the investigators cannot take any cognizance whatever of these items of assets further than to notice and admit them as they are presented; what they are fitted by their own business training to do and can do is simply to pass upon what we may call the visible or tangible assets, to-wit: real estate, securities of all kinds, cash on hand, loans on collateral, and mortgages. In order to indicate the significance of their possible work in this respect, and for other purposes, we have prepared the following table as to the city companies:

	Ratio of Mortgages to Assets.	Surplus to Mortgages.	Surplus to Mortgages.	Realized Assets.
American Popular.....	10 75	259 03	Defc.	59 22
Brooklyn.....	48 50	21 65	11 13	76 50
Equitable.....	59 80	24 06	23 46	96 85
Germania.....	73 60	17 24	13 52	94 40
Globe.....	36 03	34 06	28 27	93 95
Home.....	29 53	59 39	49 93	73 05
Homeopathic.....	47 06	33 24	Defc.	91 47
Knickerbocker.....	32 79	36 05	31 84	52 17
Manhattan.....	55 19	35 86	34 01	72 59
Metropolitan.....	31 31	37 96	5 30	63 52
Mutual.....	76 50	15 74	15 74	97 46
New York.....	58 31	32 18	32 18	94 77
United States.....	60 15	28 63	19 63	93 00
Universal.....	46 50	22 55	14 62	69 10
Washington.....	48 90	31 61	26 30	95 13

These ratios are more significant than appears at a glance. As to real estate, in all but four cases the reported surplus exceeds the real estate, and in those four the real estate must shrink almost away before the surplus can be extinguished; hence the danger of insolvency from shrinkage in that item—about which, however, some concern has been expressed—may be treated as nothing. The chief anxiety hinges on the mortgages, which, for reasons we do not stop to discuss, form in every case but one the largest item of assets, and in six of the fifteen companies are more than one-half the assets. The first column in the table explains itself, and can be examined without any hints. The second shows the proportion of surplus to mortgages; and the third shows that proportion after deducting capital stock from surplus, although stock is not a liability in the legal view, as far as policy-holders are concerned. Real estate will stand while any sort of value stands, and hence the sole question as to mortgages concerns the margin on them. The law requires a margin of 33½ cents on the dollar above the loan; the practice has generally been more severe still, requiring 50 to 60 cents, and the significance of columns 2 and 3 above is in showing how great a shrinkage must take place in the mortgages before the surplus can be extinguished thereby. If we suppose that 60 per cent. has been loaned, a decline of one-third in value would still leave a margin, and in the severest case, in column 3 (excepting the two small companies, which show no surplus over capital), there is a margin after that of 13 per cent. before impairment could follow. But it is inconceivable that the mortgage loans have been to any large extent made upon dangerous margins, and there is no compulsion upon solvent companies to force sales upon a depressed market. There appears, therefore, to be an ample margin to cover the severest supposition, except the unreasonable one that the reports are widely different from the facts.

It is necessary to explain, however, that there is no natural relation between surplus and mortgages, and that we compare them only for the special purpose indicated; hence no inference can be drawn by a comparison of these ratios as to the relative standing or strength of different companies.

The fourth column in the table is significant as relating to the proposed volunteer examinations. It shows the proportion in the assets of real estate, cash, securities, collateral loans, and mortgages, excluding, however, premium notes and loans; our object in giving it is to show what portion of assets can be seen and judged by the examiners, and, consequently, what value their work will have as a test of strength. We state the case thus deliberately. The examiners cannot test solvency, because, as already shown, they cannot judge all the assets and cannot judge the liabilities at all. What they can do is simply to pass upon, and certify to, from



show the pressure of industrial failures in various parts of the country, the following table is given:

	1876.				
	No. in Business.	No. of Failures.	Percentage of Failures.	Amount of Liabilities.	Average Liabilities.
New England States.....	77,559	1,314	1 in every 59	\$37,657,062	\$28,628
Middle States.....	165,184	2,909	1 in every 57	72,244,681	24,800
Western States.....	227,306	3,139	1 in every 72	52,870,541	16,843
Southern States.....	87,140	1,361	1 in every 64	23,033,236	16,900
Pacific States.....	22,313	369	1 in every 60	5,262,236	14,261
Canada.....	54,000	1,728	1 in every 32	25,517,991	14,767

	1875.		1874.		1873.	
	No. of Failures.	Amount of Liabilities.	No. of Failures.	Amount of Liabilities.	No. of Failures.	Amount of Liabilities.
New England States.....	1,335	\$40,015,164	790	\$15,845,000	599	\$29,550,000
Middle States.....	2,395	82,522,346	2,035	82,081,000	1,914	140,946,000
Western States.....	1,959	33,918,254	1,744	33,073,000	1,619	36,040,000
Southern States.....	1,333	36,277,777	1,126	20,690,100	917	19,685,000
Pacific States.....	377	2,525,310	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada.....	1,968	28,843,987	966	7,696,765	944	12,334,192

So far as the evidence of these figures goes, it confirms the impression which generally prevails that business in the Western and Southern States has been safer than in the Middle and Eastern States. The failures in the West are as one in every seventy-two firms reported in business, while in New England there is one failure for every fifty-nine names, and in the Middle States one in every fifty-seven. In Canada, during the last two years, mercantile insolvencies appear to have been considerably on the increase. Last year the average was one in thirty-two. From the foregoing table it will be seen that the Canadian failures of 1876 were for \$25,517,991; and in 1875, \$28,843,967, against \$7,696,765 for 1874, and \$12,334,192 for 1873. In England the statistics of failures are very imperfect, and for 1876 no aggregates have as yet appeared. In 1875, a report was made of 1,700 failures among sixty thousand firms prominent in trade. This would give an average of one failure in thirty-six, and an average liability of \$87,870. As the statistics for the United States show a failure of one in sixty-three, with an average liability of \$21,000, it has been inferred that the pressure of the recent industrial stagnation has not been so great in this country as in England, or that it has been borne with less disastrous results. It is obvious, however, that the statistics of the English failures are too partial and incomplete to justify any very positive deductions. Moreover, the English tables comprise names selected because of their "prominence;" and many of the firms that appear in it would doubtless have been overlooked but for their insolvency. If this be so, a multitude of solvent firms have been no doubt omitted, and the increase of the average above given is thus in part accounted for. It is gratifying to find that in Europe, and especially on the Continent, the public attention has been attracted to the statistics of failures, and there is little doubt that before long some international methods of uniform statistics may be agreed upon, which will enable us to compare the results as reported in other countries with those of the United States. Meanwhile, it is due to Messrs. Dun, Barlow & Co. to say that they have rendered to business men, as well as to economists, great services by the frequency and elaborate completeness of their recent reports on failures. An extremely useful and novel feature in the tables before us is that the number of firms reported in business is appended to each State, so that the reader may see at a glance how many traders there are in connection with the reported number of insolvencies. On a review of the whole of the facts here set forth, two conclusions suggest themselves. First, it appears that the favorable anticipations of business revival receive therefrom some confirmation. The reports of failures of the last quarter show not only a favorable aggregate as compared with last year, but also as compared with the previous quarter. The evidence, though not so conclusive as might be wished, is suggestive of hope as far as it goes. Secondly, the time seems to have come when some further solution should be given to the grave financial problems as to the frequency and extent of financial failures, and the best methods of checking and counteracting their indefinite increase in the future.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD DIFFICULTY.

[COMMUNICATED.]

To teach his flatterers wisdom, King Canute permitted himself in his royal chair to be carried to the edge of the sea, and with mock authority ordered the tide to stay and not wet his royal

feet. He understood what his followers seemed not to know—that nature has its laws and bounds, which do not change at the command of kings, but which his amazed followers only discovered after the rising tide had almost drowned them.

Succeeding generations have each insisted on learning wisdom only by experience. From the earliest historical times till the present, men have labored to prove that legislative enactments or the decrees of those in authority were paramount; that, under all circumstances, the governed must submit to those in authority. When justice or power was on the side of the rulers, or it was for the interests of the governed to submit for the time, such laws or decrees have prevailed; but sooner or later, if the laws were based on error, justice has always asserted itself, regardless of the consequences to nations or individuals.

In a free country, the people, through a majority, usually procure such legislation as they may wish. But to have proper laws enacted, it is important that information should be widespread and as nearly universal as possible. At the present juncture of affairs in this country, it is essential that the currency question should be settled on a secure basis. We are just emerging from a period of inflation and speculation in the prices of commodities which were brought on, in part at least, by unsound and improper legislation enacted fifteen years ago. In taking action to restore our money to a specie basis, we are met by the question which was supposed to have been settled three years since, shall we hereafter have one standard and measure of value, namely gold, or two standards or measures, namely gold and silver? The mere statement of the case would seem to imply the true answer, for a measure of value implies intrinsic worth, and if two things measure, there must be twice the risk of variation that there would be if only one is used.

When a demand arises in a country, having two metallic standards, for one of the metals for purposes other than money, an increased value is at once given to that metal, unless its quantity is at the same time increased to meet the enlarged demand. Or if a foreign country, for any reason, desires to increase its stock of one, it has but to send the other metal in exchange, and if this other is worth less in the markets of the world as a commodity than the first, the country to which it is exported is speedily depleted of the more valuable one, and is by the inflexible laws of trade left with but a single standard. Such a proceeding unsettles prices of commodities to the extent of the difference in the market value of the metals, and causes injustice to those having fixed amounts of dollars to receive on extended contracts. No country can or will long serve two such masters; it finally clings to one, and if it does not despise, ultimately banishes the other, either to a subsidiary or the place of merchandise.

Governments have always failed in their endeavors to fix the money value of commodities. No earthly power can fix the relative, invariable value of the two metals, which, although to a less extent than most other commodities, are still finally regulated by the cost of production. Still, we are told to-day, that if the commercial nations will only agree to the standard of 1 to 15½, the problem will be solved and this relation will always continue, as any nation may then pay with either metal it may happen to have on hand, and the receivers will be bound to take it, as they can in turn pass it on to the next and so on around the world.

This seems a pretty theory, and would no doubt work in practice until newer and richer deposits of one or the other were discovered, when the equilibrium would be destroyed, and in spite of the treaty one would be worth more or less than 15½, according to the cost of production. Nations would refuse to receive the cheapened metal except at a discount from the fixed standard, which as long as the treaty existed would be by an advance in prices of commodities when paid for in the depreciated metal. Merchants would not wait for their governments to give notice of a desire to terminate the treaty when the more abundant metal was clogging the wheels of commerce, but would speedily announce to their correspondents throughout the world something like this: "We beg leave to inform you that from this time and until further notice the prices of our goods are expressed in the scarcer metal; the more abundant and cheaper one will be taken in exchange for our commodities at the market price, which is always fixed by the inflexible rule of the higher law, viz., supply and demand. We are sure that in your hearts you will quite approve of our action, which is in strict accordance with right and justice, and which also, we feel confident, are your own guides in the transactions of life."

In this way would the uniform double standard throughout the world, although solemnized by sacred treaty and sealed with

the emblazoned arms of royalty, cease to be operative through the workings of natural laws, which can never be violated with impunity.

If it were possible that the treaty powers should agree that hereafter a barrel of pork should be equal in exchange to three barrels of flour, and that the people of the various nations by common consent should ratify it, it can be easily conceived that the time would speedily arrive when a deficiency in the corn crop would increase the cost of raising hogs, so that a barrel of pork would be worth more than its fixed equivalent in flour, or an increased acreage of wheat would produce a similar result. Sooner or later the equilibrium would be disturbed and the agreement terminated, if not directly, then by some roundabout means.

The losses on contracts for future deliveries of these commodities would be insignificant in comparison to those that would arise, if, as has been assumed, the market value of the two metals should vary from the treaty standard, for in the former case but two articles are affected, viz., pork and flour, but in the latter the result might be general disaster, for money is the tool of exchange and the measure of all value, and the prices of all commodities are governed by the amount of it in circulation.

Let us note some of the fluctuations in the relative value of gold and silver that have been going on since 1482, or from the period a few years before the discovery of America. From that year until the discovery of the Potisi mines in the latter part of the following century the relation stood about 1 to 11. In 1604 it was about 1 to 12, and continued to decline during the century; but in 1717, by the efforts of Sir Isaac Newton, then Master of the Mint, the legal relation was established at 1 to 15.209.

Jevons tells us that Sir Isaac undervalued the price of silver 16-10 per cent.; it was more valuable as bullion, was withdrawn and exported, and gold became the measure of value. Even with this fixed relation existing between the two metals, sometimes when the East India ships were loading and the merchants were preparing their remittances, the price of silver fluctuated as much as 3½ per cent.

From 1600 to 1717 the price of silver in gold had declined 28 3-10 per cent. \* "In 1762 Massachusetts made gold a legal tender as well as silver at the rate of 2½ pence per grain; but that being an over-valuation of 5 per cent., the silver coinage disappeared from circulation. Various laws were passed to remedy this inconvenient state of things, but without success so long as this valuation of gold was maintained."

Ricardo says, p. 222: "During a long period previous to 1797 (the year of the restriction on the Bank payments in coin), gold was so cheap compared with silver, that it suited the Bank of England, and all other debtors, to purchase gold in the market and not silver for the purpose of carrying it to the mint to be coined, as they could in that coined metal more cheaply discharge their debts. The silver currency was, during a great part of this period, very much debased, but it existed in a degree of scarcity, and therefore, on the principle which I have before explained, it never sunk in its current value. Though so debased, it was still the interest of debtors to pay in gold coin. If, indeed, the quantity of this debased silver coin had been enormously great, or if the mint had issued such debased pieces, it might have been the interest of debtors to pay in this debased money; but its quantity was limited, and it sustained its value, and therefore gold was in practice the real standard of currency. \* \* \* \* It appears, then, that whilst each of the two metals was equally a legal tender for debts of any amount, we were subject to a constant change in the principal standard measure of value. It would sometimes be gold, sometimes silver, depending entirely on the variations in the relative value of the two metals."

Jevons says again: "Only when standard silver is exactly 60 13-16 pence per ounce, is it a matter of indifference in France whether a debt be paid in gold or silver, and this exact price has only been quoted a few times in the London market in the last thirty years. When silver is lower in price than 60 13-16 pence per ounce, silver becomes the standard; when silver rises above this price, gold takes its place as the real measure of value. Thus it is that a double standard is not really a double one, but only an alternate gold and silver standard."

Let us add, it is rightly called, also, a debtor's standard, because it leaves one the option of paying in the cheapest metal, which the creditor is bound to receive, no matter how much loss he may sustain.

It should be said that France has now a practical single stand-

\* Jevons' "Money and Mechanism of Exchange," p. 99.

ard of gold, as the coinage of silver is suspended by treaty in the Latin Union, of which she is one of the contracting parties.

After the adoption of the Constitution of this country, the legal relation between gold and silver was fixed at 1 to 15; the mint value and market price of the latter was \$1.2403 per standard ounce in gold of the same standard. But in 1820, although the mint value remained the same, the market price had fallen to \$1.1628; this made gold undervalued in the coinage, compared with silver, 6 1-6 per cent, and caused its shipment out of the country, which left but a single standard.

According to the report of Mr. Snowden, late Director of the United States Mint, the aggregate coinage of the two metals, from 1818 to 1837, was less than eighteen millions gold to more than forty and a half millions silver.

In 1830, specie flowed to the country, and complaint was made of an overabundance of silver. In 1834 the gold standard was reduced about 6½ per cent, and silver was driven out of the currency except for small change, and that which remained was principally of light weight. In his last annual report, Mr. Knox, Comptroller of the Currency, says: "It may be confidently stated that from 1834 to 1873 no silver dollar-pieces have been presented at any Custom House in payment for duties." (The average yearly coinage, however, was \$160,000). "The entire customs duties of the country during this period were, with the exception of silver used in change, paid in gold coin."

The coinage laws were remodeled again in 1837, and the legal relation of gold to silver was fixed at 1 to 15.988. The mint value and market price of the latter were temporarily \$1.1636 per ounce in gold, but from that date until 1847 the coinage of gold was nearly fifty million dollars, and silver twenty-two and a third millions; during this period there was really but a single standard of gold.

The effort made in 1837 to restore silver to the currency was unsuccessful for the reason that the legal proportion required a greater weight of that metal to pay a specified number of dollars than was legally required in some countries of Europe, which caused silver to be exported to pay for imports, as it had more purchasing power abroad than it had at home. The discovery of gold in California and Australia, after 1849, caused a further advance in the market price of standard silver in the former metal, and in 1859 the silver dollar was undervalued in the coinage nearly 5 per cent.

In his last annual report, Mr. Linderman, the present Director of the United States Mint, says: "The highest monthly average of value between (standard) gold and silver, in July, 1859, was 1 to 15.11, at which rate a silver dollar of 412½ grains was equivalent to \$1.05½ gold.

The ratio for the lowest monthly average, July, 1876, was 1 to 19.19, at which time the dollar was worth 83½ cents, a decline in seventeen years of more than 21½ per cent.

Who wants a double standard on such terms? Not the great majority of the people, it is safe to say, for they are creditors, not debtors, and when settling time comes around they are unwilling to have their accounts squared with a metal that has declined in purchasing power between the time the contract was made and its final settlement.

A double standard is simply impossible until it can be proved that the cost of producing gold (taking the proportion suggested, for illustration) will always be, under all circumstances, 15½ times as great as the cost of producing the same weight of silver, which is an absurdity; for the discovery of new and rich mines of either, or improved methods of mining, by lessening the cost of production, will always change any legal relation that can be established between the two metals.

The passage by Congress of the Bland Silver bill, which re-monetizes the old silver dollar, would not restore the double standard after the resumption of specie payments, for, if the bullion price of silver remained at its present gold price, silver coin alone would be the standard, and gold would be driven out of the currency according to the Gresham law; if silver should advance a little more, the 412½ grains silver dollar would be exported, and gold only would be the standard, with the small over-valued silver coins for change.

Sound policy would seem to require a single unlimited legal tender, gold standard and measure of value, with silver subsidiary, over-valued, and limited in amount, to the actual requirements of retail trade and for change, and a legal tender for but ten dollars. We would probably require, say, \$200,000,000 of subsidiary silver, if the small paper notes were prohibited; England, France, Germany, etc., will continue to use large amounts for change and in retail trade; the various Asiatic nations,

Russia, etc., on account of the low price of labor, the necessities of life and most of their productions, will continue to use silver as their principal coin, so that there need be no fear of scarcity or a great advance in the purchasing power of gold, or a permanent depression in the gold price of silver; the causes which have been lately operative are temporary and will pass away. Both metals are required for money. There is use enough for them in the ways indicated. Supply and demand, cost and consumption, will arrange the commercial value of gold and silver bullion, sometimes at one price and again at another, but the productions of a country having a single standard and measure of value are less liable to fluctuations in price on account of its currency than others having a double standard; so that it is a misfortune that the flatterers of King Canute still survive, and that from time to time, depending on their interests or whims, they bring the royal victim in great state down to the sea shore, decked in his imperial robes. With a great flourish of trumpets and the blare of brass music, they erect his throne in the sands on a given line, and issue the decree to the raging sea: "Thus far *shalt* thou come and *no farther*." But the sequel always proves the fallacy of the edict; either the tide refuses to come up and they are left to the derision of the assembled multitude, or it rises beyond the line, involves them, their fine robes and their poor king in dampness and despair.

Mr. Henry Kemp has prepared with great care two sets of tables, which are here appended. They show the legal proportion of fine gold to silver, the value of silver in gold according to that proportion, the market price of silver in gold, the undervaluation in the coinage of both gold and silver at different periods—in England from 1482 to 1775, and in the United States from 1795 to 1859. JNO. P. TOWNSEND.

New York, January, 1877.

Year.	Proportion of fine gold to fine silver in English coins.	At previous proportions value of one ounce silver in gold, both of U. S. standard, viz: 900 fine.	London market price of one ounce standard silver, 925 fine, at its equivalent for silver, 900 fine, in U. S. gold coin of latter fineness.	Undervaluation of silver in the coinage of England.
1482.....	1 to 11.158	\$1.667	.....	0 .....
1697.....	1 to 15.572	\$1.194	\$1.194	.....
1716.....	1 to 15.572	\$1.194	\$1.243 lowest.	3 9-10 p. c.
1716.....	1 to 15.572	\$1.194	\$1.29 highest.	9 1-10 p. c.
1717.....	1 to 15.209	\$1.223	\$1.243 lowest.	1 6-10 p. c.
1717.....	1 to 15.209	\$1.223	\$1.292 highest.	5 4-10 p. c.
1775.....	1 to 15.209	\$1.223	\$1.243 lowest.	1 6-10 p. c.
1775.....	1 to 15.209	\$1.223	\$1.287 highest.	5 p. c.

Year.	Proportion of fine gold to fine silver in U. S. coin.	Mint value of one ounce silver, 900 fine, in U. S. gold coin, of same fineness.	Market price of one ounce silver in New York in U. S. gold coin, both 900 fine.	Undervaluation of gold in U. S. coinage.
1795.....	1 to 15	\$1.2403	\$1.2403	0
1820.....	1 to 15	\$1.2403	\$1.203 highest.	3 23-100 p. c.
1820.....	1 to 15	\$1.2403	\$1.1628 lowest.	6 1-6 p. c.
1831.....	1 to 15	\$1.2403	\$1.1926	3 77-100 p. c.
1337.....	1 to 15.988	\$1.1636	\$1.1636	Undervaluation of silver.
1847.....	1 to 15.988	\$1.1636	\$1.175	0
1851.....	1 to 15.988	\$1.1636	\$1.203	8-10 p. c.
1859.....	1 to 15.988	\$1.1636	\$1.213	3 3-10 p. c.
1859*.....	1 to 15.988	\$1.1636	\$1.224	4 1-10 p. c.
				4 91-100 p. c.

\* In 1853 the silver coins under one dollar were made subsidiary, and 6 91-100 per cent lighter in weight. Therefore the undervaluation for the year 1859 is only for the silver dollar piece. The above expressed gold dollar contains 25 8-10 grains.

**Latest Monetary and Commercial English News**

[From our own correspondent.]

LONDON, January 1, 1877.

Another year has now terminated, and it has been chiefly remarkable for the want of enterprise which has characterized it. The severe losses incurred in previous years have had a very discouraging effect, and in nearly every department of business, the dealings have been upon a very restricted scale. Capitalists have been timid lenders, and as the leading firms of the country have shown no disposition to trade beyond their actual means, the demand for accommodation has been extremely quiet, and in consequence low rates of interest have continued to rule. That there should have been a period of caution in commercial and financial circles in 1876 can occasion no surprise. So continuous a series of disasters as has occurred since the Austrian war with Prussia has not been previously recorded. Following upon that conflict was the Franco-German war, which, while it lasted, had the effect, no doubt, of throwing a considerable amount of legitimate trade into our hands, temporarily advantageous to us.

Then there was a crisis upon the Stock Exchanges of Germany, while the state of our money market was rendered very uncertain by the large purchases of gold which were effected in the London market for coinage purposes. That uncertainty, and the low point to which the reserve of the Bank of England was on several occasions reduced, naturally led merchants to trade with caution, as—except to traders of high standing—the money market might, for all practical purposes, be closed to them. Then, in the Autumn of 1873, a more serious panic, as far as this country was concerned, took place, and from this we have not yet recovered, but are, on the contrary, still feeling the effects of it in our diminished trade. In the same year, also, was the panic in the United States, following the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., which has interfered very greatly with the commercial prosperity of Great Britain ever since, the trade of the United States with this country being, as a result, diminished very considerably, and the only redeeming feature at present is that there has been a slight recovery from the worst point. Following upon that panic were the serious commercial difficulties which existed in this country in 1875. There was the failure of Messrs. im Thurn & Co., caused by the unsatisfactory and unremunerative trading with South America, and there were also the numerous disasters caused by the discreditable failure of Collie & Co. Then there has been the heavy fall in the price of silver, which has disorganized, during the greater part of the current year, our India and China trade, and last, and certainly not least, there has been the great political question of the day which seemed at one time to threaten Europe with the most serious and deplorable war the world has known. When we bear all these facts in mind, it can scarcely be a matter of surprise that, at the close of this year, we have to say there has been timidity amongst traders, and that from the lack of confidence, business has been impeded, and, indeed, seriously curtailed in every quarter. That the fancy and more luxurious trades should suffer is but natural; but the heavy losses the community has sustained have led to numerous economies and the majority of the people have been compelled to limit their purchases to articles of strict necessity. That a large class has suffered seriously from diminished incomes and the high cost of living, is but too evident. Those who had so injudiciously invested their savings in Turkish, Egyptian, Spanish, Peruvian, Honduras, Costa Rica, or Paraguay bonds are not only regretting their folly in seeking for high rates of interest, but are suffering from an important loss of incomes and also from a partial, and, in some cases, almost total loss of capital. It takes a long period of economy to recover such heavy losses, and for that reason a return to a normal condition of activity may yet be distant.

It is satisfactory, however, to be able to notice that there have been few failures during the year. There has been scarcely one of any considerable importance, and there is now every reason to believe that the trade of the country is being conducted on a secure and solid basis. The numerous suspensions which took place in 1875, some of which were, as is well known, very discreditable, seem to have cleared the country of unsound trading and this is, obviously, a good feature. There can be no doubt that the state of our commerce is more satisfactory than it was at this period last year, for, although the business doing is restricted, and is attended with small profits, yet losses are few, and, consequently, the net result this year has been more favorable than in 1875, when so many heavy failures took place. It is quite probable that only a settlement of the Eastern question is necessary to produce a more active movement in commercial circles. A peaceful termination to the Conference will certainly lead to a considerable degree of animation in the Levant trade, which has necessarily been depressed by the apprehensions of a great war. For a long time past, business with the Levant has been upon a very restricted scale. Stocks at the principal ports must now be low, and, consequently, an impetus is likely to be given to certain branches of our commerce, should peace become a certainty.

The heavy fall in the price of silver, and its subsequent recovery, have been prominent features during the year. The large supplies of German silver, coming upon our market at a time when other influences were adverse, led to a heavy fall in prices, business having been transacted in fine bars at 46½d. per ounce. So low a quotation, however, attracted the attention of buyers, and those countries having only a paper currency, determined to coin silver, in order to prepare the way for specie payments. Purchases on American and Italian accounts gave an upward tendency to values, and on a marked revival in the demand for the means of remittance to the East, a further important advance took place. From 46½d. there was a rise to 58½d.,





Table showing Bank Rate and Open Market data for 1876 and 1877, with columns for date, bank rate, and open market values.

The returns of the Bankers' Clearing House have been as follows, each week for three years :

Table showing returns of the Bankers' Clearing House for 1874, 1875, and 1876, with columns for date and monetary values.

English Market Reports—Per Cable.

The daily closing quotations in the markets of London and Liverpool for the past week have been reported by cable, as shown in the following summary :

London Money and Stock Market.—The bullion in the Bank of England has decreased £618,000 during the week.

Table showing Consols for money, U.S. 6s, U.S. 10-40s, and New 5s with their respective market rates.

The quotations for United States new fives at Frankfurt were :

Small table showing U.S. new fives quotations at Frankfurt.

Liverpool Cotton Market.—See special report of cotton.

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market.—

Table showing Liverpool Breadstuffs Market prices for Flour, Wheat, and Corn from Saturday to Friday.

Liverpool Provisions Market.—

Table showing Liverpool Provisions Market prices for Beef, Pork, Bacon, Lard, and Cheese from Saturday to Friday.

Commercial and Miscellaneous News.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE WEEK.—The imports this week show an increase in both dry goods and general merchandise. The total imports amount to \$6,985,322 this week, against \$5,259,709 last week, and \$4,035,572 the previous week.

Table showing FOREIGN IMPORTS AT NEW YORK FOR THE WEEK for 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877.

The following is a statement of the exports (exclusive of specie) from the port of New York to foreign ports, for the week ending Jan. 16:

Table showing EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK FOR THE WEEK for 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877.

The following will show the exports of specie from the port of

New York for the week ending Jan. 13, 1877, and also a comparison of the total since Jan. 1, with the corresponding figures for several previous years :

Table showing New York specie exports for the week ending Jan. 13, 1877, and comparison with previous years.

Total for the week. Previously reported. Total since Jan. 1, 1877.

Table showing Total since Jan. 1, 1877, with columns for same time in previous years (1870-1876).

The imports of specie at this port during the same periods have been as follows :

Table showing imports of specie at this port during the same periods.

Total for the week. Previously reported.

Table showing Total since Jan. 1, 1877, with columns for same time in previous years (1870-1876).

The readers of the CHRONICLE will take much interest in the semi-annual statement of the Bank of California, which appears in our advertising columns. The reorganization and subsequent management of the Bank appear to have been successful beyond the anticipation of many of its friends.

Messrs. Fisk & Hatch have just issued a new and revised edition of their useful little pamphlet, entitled "Memoranda Concerning Government Bonds," which contains a summary of valuable information in regard to those securities.

Mr. O. H. Schreiner, cashier from 1854 to 1876 successively of the Chatham National and German American banks of this city, has opened an office at No. 15 Nassau street, for the transaction of a general banking business and executing orders for purchase or sale of gold, Government, State, city, and other investment stocks and securities—negotiating commercial paper, &c.

Bondholders of the New Jersey and New York Railway Company, the Hackensack and New York Railroad Company, and the Hackensack and New York Extension Railroad Company will observe in our advertising columns that a meeting is called for Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 2 P. M., at room No. 74 Drexel Building.

The transactions for the week at the Custom House and Sub-Treasury have been as follows:

Table showing transactions for the week at the Custom House and Sub-Treasury, including Receipts and Payments for Gold and Currency.

CALIFORNIA MINING STOCKS.—The following prices, by telegraph, are furnished by Messrs. Wm. W. Wakeman & Co., 36 Wall street, N. Y.:

Table showing CALIFORNIA MINING STOCKS prices for various companies like Alpha, Belcher, Best & Belc, etc.

TEXAS SECURITIES.—Messrs. Forster, Ludlow & Co., 7 Wall st., quote: State 7s, gold \$105 109 State 10s, pens \$103 106 Dallas 10s... 90

The Bankers' Gazette.

NATIONAL BANKS ORGANIZED.

The United States Comptroller of the Currency furnishes the following statement of National Banks organized the past week: 2,345.—First National Bank of Franklinville, New York. Authorized capital, \$55,000; paid-in capital, \$55,000. William F. Weed, President; Jason D. Case, Cashier. Authorized to commence business, January 15, 1877.

DIVIDENDS.

The following Dividends have recently been announced:

Table with columns: COMPANY, PER CENT., WHEN PAYABLE, BOOKS CLOSED (Days inclusive.). Includes insurance companies like Exchange Fire, Fairfield Fire, etc.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19, 1877—6 P. M.

The Money Market and Financial Situation.—The great event of the week has been the plan of adjustment submitted by the joint committees of the Senate and House of Representatives. The pending uncertainty had become a matter of such general concern as to lift the subject out of the sphere of ordinary politics...

In summing up briefly the features of the late crisis and its lessons, the following points are noticed. 1. That in this Republic, notwithstanding the wonderful excellence of its Constitution, emergencies will sometimes arise which could not be specifically provided for by that document. 2. That in such emergencies the elasticity of our system permits Congress to adopt such reasonable measures of relief, as are not in direct violation of constitutional provisions...

Our local money market has been growing easier all the week and on government collaterals money has loaned on call at 4 per cent. The general quotation for call loans is about 4@5 per cent. Prime commercial paper is in limited supply and sells at 5@6 per cent., with exceptions at 4½ on some very choice grades.

On Thursday the Bank of England statement showed a decline of £643,000 in specie, and the rate of discount was left at 2 per cent. The Bank of France gained 26,103,000 francs in specie.

The last statement of the New York City Clearing-House banks, issued January 13, showed an increase of \$2,355,125 in the excess above their 25 per cent. legal reserve, the whole of such excess being \$20,813,225, against \$18,458,100 the previous week.

The following table shows the changes from the previous week and a comparison with the two preceding years:

Table showing changes in Loans and dis., Specie, Circulation, Net deposits, and Legal tenders from 1876 to 1877.

United States Bonds.—Government securities have still been in active demand from individual investors, and it is noticed that the small bonds, \$100s and \$50s, are getting scarce. The inquiry for bonds has been well distributed among the different issues, one party wanting only one sort of bonds, and another being equally set on taking only those of some other particular class.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress, to pay judgments of the Commissioners of Alabama Claims, the Secretary of the Treasury gives notice that he will receive proposals until the 22d instant for \$307,000 5 per cents of 1881.

Closing prices of securities in London have been as follows:

Table showing closing prices of U.S. 6s, 5-20s, and New 6s bonds in London, including range since Jan 1, 1877.

Closing prices daily have been as follows:

Table showing bond prices for various denominations (6s, 5-20s, 4½s) and interest periods (Jan. 13, Jan. 15, etc.) with prices and interest rates.

The range in prices since Jan. 1, 1877, and the amount of each class of bonds outstanding Jan. 1, 1877, were as follows:

Table showing range in prices (Lowest, Highest) and amount of bonds outstanding (Registered, Coupon) for various bond classes.

State and Railroad Bonds.—The strength in Louisiana consols and South Carolinas is the principal point in State bonds, the first being quoted at 59½@60 this afternoon, and the latter at 53½@55. Tennessee bonds were slightly weaker on the reports from Nashville that a resolution had been adopted by the House directing the State Treasurer to pay no more interest on the bonds till otherwise ordered.

Railroad bonds are generally strong and more active, the prices of some of the best bonds ruling at such figures as to invite purchasers. The large demand for investments which usually comes after the middle of January has thus far been limited, so far as railroad securities are concerned, and hence prices have not yet advanced so sharply as they often do at this season.

The following securities were sold at auction:

Table listing securities sold at auction, categorized by Shares and Bonds, including entities like Merchants' Nat. Bank, U.S. Trust Co., etc.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The stock market has been somewhat variable during the week, and closes with Western Union Telegraph and Central & Hudson among the strongest of the specialties. It is understood that the advance in freights from the West over the trunk lines has become general, although the Lake Shore at first objected to another rise at present.

The strength of Western Union Telegraph, in the face of a reduction in rates, to correspond with the Atlantic & Pacific, is not explained by any change in the affairs of the company, and is attributed to some manipulation of the stock. Illinois Central ex-dividend has further declined, and the loss of earnings last year is attributed in large part to the diversion of freight by the numerous East and West lines crossing it.

Total sales of the week in leading stocks were as follows:

Table showing total sales of leading stocks (Ohio & Lake, West'n Central, Mich., Del.L. St. Paul, Pacific) with prices and whole stock values.

The total number of shares of stock outstanding is given in the last line, for the purpose of comparison.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday to Friday) and various stock categories (At. & Pac. prf, C. Mil. & St. P., etc.) showing prices and shares.

Total sales this week, and the range in prices since Jan. 1, 1876, were as follows:

Table showing sales of various stocks (Atlantic & Pacific pref, Chicago Mil. & St. Paul, etc.) with columns for shares, lowest price, and highest price.

The latest railroad earnings, and the totals from Jan. 1 to latest dates, are given below. The statement includes the gross earnings of all railroads from which returns can be obtained.

Table of railroad earnings with columns for 'Latest earnings reported' and 'Jan. 1 to latest date' for various lines like Atch. Top. & S. Fe., Bur. & Mo. Riv. in Neb., etc.

The Gold Market.—Gold, after advancing to 107 in the middle of the week, fell off again and closed at 106 1/4. The weaker tone to day is attributed in part to the better aspect of political affairs.

The following table will show the course of gold, and gold clearings and balances, each day of the past week:

Table showing gold quotations (Op'n, Low, High, Clos.) and total clearings and balances for Saturday through Friday.

The following are the quotations in gold for foreign and American coin:

Table listing gold coin quotations for various countries including Sovereigns, Napoleons, Reichmarks, etc.

Exchange.—Foreign exchange is very dull and steady, with the prices on actual business about 4.83 for 60-day bills, 4.84 1/2 for short sight, and 4.85 for cable transfers.

In domestic exchange the rates on New York to-day were as follows at the cities named: Savannah, buying, 3-16; selling, par; St. Louis, 75 premium; Cincinnati, firm, buying 50@par; selling 50 premium; Chicago, 50 premium; New Orleans, commercial, 7-16; bank, 1/2; and Charleston, easy, 1/2 dis. @ par.

Table of foreign exchange quotations for various cities like London, Paris, Antwerp, etc., with columns for 60 days and 3 days rates.

New York City Banks.—The following statement shows the condition of the Associated Banks of New York City for the week ending at the commencement of business on Jan. 13, 1877:

Large table showing the financial condition of various New York City banks, including Capital, Loans and Discounts, Specie, Legal Tenders, Deposits, and Circulation.

The deviations from the returns of the previous week are as follows:

Small table showing deviations in Loans, Specie, Legal Tenders, Deposits, and Circulation.

The following are the totals for a series of weeks past:

Table showing totals for various bank categories (Loans, Specie, Legal Tenders, Deposits, Circulation, Clearings) for weeks ending from Nov. 25 to Jan. 13.

GENERAL QUOTATIONS OF STOCKS AND BONDS IN NEW YORK.

U. S. Bonds and active Railroad Stocks are quoted on a previous page. Prices represent the per cent value, whatever the par may be.

Table with multiple columns: SECURITIES, Bid, Ask, and various stock/bond listings including State Bonds, Railroad Stocks, Miscellaneous Stocks, and Past Due Coupons.

NEW YORK LOCAL SECURITIES.

Bank Stock List.

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, DIVIDENDS, PRICE. Lists various banks like America, American Exchange, Bowery, etc., with their respective financial details.

Insurance Stock List.

(Quotations by E. S. BAILEY, broker, 65 Wall street.)

Table with columns: COMPANIES, CAPITAL, NET SURPLUS, DIVIDENDS, PRICE. Lists various insurance companies like Adriatic, Aetna, American, etc., with their financial details.

Gas and City Railroad Stocks and Bonds.

[Gas Quotations by George H. Prentiss, Broker, 30 Broad Street.]

Table with columns: GAS COMPANIES, Par Amount, Periods, Last dividend, Bid, Ask. Lists gas companies like Brooklyn Gas Light Co, Citizens Gas Co, etc.

[Quotations by H. L. GRANT, Broker, 145 Broadway.]

Table with columns: Stock/Bond Name, Par Amount, Periods, Last dividend, Bid, Ask. Lists various stocks and bonds like Beecker St. & Fulton Ferry, Broadway & Seventh Ave, etc.

\* This column shows last dividend on stocks, also date of maturity of bonds.

City Securities.

[Quotations by DANIEL A. MORAN, Broker, 40 Wall Street.]

Table with columns: INTEREST, Months Payable, Bond Date, Bid, Ask. Lists various city securities like New York Water stock, Croton water stock, etc.

[Quotations by N. T. BEERS, Jr., Broker, 2 1/2 Wall st.]

Table with columns: Bond Name, Interest, Months Payable, Bond Date, Bid, Ask. Lists Brooklyn Local Improvement City bonds, Park bonds, etc.

[Quotations by C. ZABRISKIE, 47 Montgomery St., Jersey City.]

Table with columns: Bond Name, Interest, Months Payable, Bond Date, Bid, Ask. Lists Jersey City Water loan, Sewerage bonds, etc.

## Investments

### AND STATE, CITY AND CORPORATION FINANCES.

The "Investors' Supplement" is published on the last Saturday of each month, and furnished to all regular subscribers of the CHRONICLE. No single copies of the Supplement are sold at the office, as only a sufficient number is printed to supply regular subscribers.

### ANNUAL REPORTS.

#### Chesapeake & Ohio.

(For the year ending Sept. 30, 1876.)

The annual meeting of this company was recently held in Richmond, Va. The report of the president, Mr. C. P. Huntington, gave an account of the passage of the road into the hands of Henry Tyson, receiver, and of subsequent events, including the appointment of A. S. Hatch, A. A. Low, C. P. Huntington, John Caskie and Isaac Davenport as a committee of purchase and reorganization, in April, 1876, and of their action in making arrangements for the payment out of its earnings of the obligations that it will assume.

The report of the receiver, General W. C. Wickham, gave the following figures for the year ending Sept. 30:

EARNINGS.	
Passenger fare.....	\$365,865
Freight.....	1,177,942
Express freight.....	16,127
United States mail.....	37,218
Miscellaneous sources.....	2,263
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,599,512</b>
OPERATING EXPENSES.	
Train expenses.....	\$360,657
Depot expenses.....	126,374
Losses and damages.....	6,933
Miscellaneous expenses.....	54,722
Maintenance of way.....	372,085
Repairs of machinery.....	223,423
General expenses.....	26,872
Salaries.....	66,961
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,213,035</b>
Earnings over operating expenses.....	386,476
Increase of gross earnings over 1874-5.....	139,323
Increase of operating expenses over 1874-5.....	130,715
Increase of net earnings for 1875-6 over 1874-5.....	9,607

The sum of \$372,085 for maintenance of way in the operating expenses includes \$88,068 expended in new rails, fastening ties, labor, &c., which might have been charged as extraordinary expense, and which would have decreased the expense of maintaining way, and increased the net earnings that amount.

The passenger business was decreased during the year in a great measure, owing to the Centennial, which drew off many people who have heretofore visited the springs on the line.

The freight traffic was increased by the sum of \$184,079, but suffered on account of the competition between east and west trunk lines. The tonnage for the year amounted to 415,462 tons, an increase of 55,893 tons, not including fuel and materials hauled for the company.

#### Richmond & Petersburg.

(For the year ending September 30, 1876.)

The report has the following:

The Board of Directors submit the following statement of the business of the company for the fiscal year ending 30th Sept., 1876.

The net receipts of the road, after paying ordinary and extraordinary expenses, have been \$60,000, which have been applied to the payment of interest, \$20,000; principal of debt, \$40,000.

Of the \$150,000 of first mortgage bonds that matured last year, \$120,500 have been paid, and the company is prepared to pay the balance, but the holders have not yet presented them. Of the new consolidated mortgage, authorized to be issued to meet maturing bonds, only \$31,000 have been sold; the balance has been withdrawn from the market, as the accruing revenues have been found ample to meet the matured bonds as fast as presented. In accordance with the policy that has been steadily followed for three years of a permanent annual betterment of the property, the amount of new rails placed on the track (reported in detail by the Superintendent) is largely in excess of the annual wear. This heavy outlay has all been charged to operating expenses.

The following is a condensed statement of operation of road for fiscal year ending September 30th, 1876:

	Passengers.	Freight.	Total.
Gross earnings.....	\$60,149	\$57,257	\$117,407
Operating expenses.....	37,154	40,157	77,312
<b>Net earnings.....</b>	<b>\$42,994</b>	<b>\$17,100</b>	<b>\$60,094</b>
Percentage of expenses to gross receipts.....	1	56	

#### GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, SEPT. 30, 1876.

Cost of Road and Property.	
From Richmond to Petersburg.....	\$1,102,683
Land Purchase.....	49,007
Equipment account.....	154,814
Supply account.....	8,987
This company's stock, 55 shares.....	5,600

Debts due to the Company.	
Bills receivable.....	\$ 307
Open accounts and connection balances.....	22,209
Cash on hand.....	3,019
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,317,268</b>

Capital Stock.	
Subscribed by individuals.....	6,856 shares, \$685,600
Converted loan stock, at \$100.....	3,230 " 323,000— 1,008,600

Debts due by the Company.	
Total funded debt.....	\$236,796
Open accounts and connection balances.....	29,665
Profit and loss.....	72,207
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,317,268</b>

#### Charlotte Columbia & Augusta.

(For the year ending September 30, 1876.)

The report of Colonel John B. Palmer, president, has the following.

	Through.	Local.	Total.
From passengers.....	\$65,967	\$97,218	\$163,185
From freights.....	74,869	218,588	293,457
From Southern Express Co.....			5,140
From United States Mail Service.....			24,375
From minor sources.....			38,403
<b>Total receipts.....</b>			<b>\$524,562</b>
Operating expenses.....			321,235
<b>Net.....</b>			<b>\$203,327</b>

Percentage of operating expenses to gross receipts 61.24. As compared with last year there, have been transported 1,830 bales cotton more, weighing 823,500 lbs., and 19,767,163 lbs. of merchandise less, a falling off of about eight and three-quarters per cent. The revenue from local freights has fallen off 15.86 per cent; from through freights, 30.56 per cent; from all freights, through and local, 20.17 per cent. The falling of revenue from local passengers has been 17.33 per cent, and from through passengers, 15.64 per cent.

#### FINANCIAL.

The Board of Directors in their last annual report called your attention to the large floating debt of the company, and suggested that if shareholders and bondholders would subscribe to the one half million dollars first mortgage bonds remaining unsold, and to a similar amount of the second mortgage bonds at an average price of 70 cents and accrued interest, the floating debt that has for years so heavily oppressed us, would be discharged, and the company placed in a financial condition second to but few roads in the country.

The board is gratified at being able to state that the effort has been successfully made, and the bonds disposed of at the rates stated. \$107,500 of the bonds have been sold along the line of the road, and the balance in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and other northern cities.

The second mortgage was for \$1,000,000, and it was the original intention to place the remaining \$500,000 in the hands of the trustee to be held till they had appreciated in value to a certain price, but the board, after consultation, concluded to have them canceled and the mortgage to that extent satisfied and discharged, which was done.

The mortgage debt of the road is, then, as follows:

Columbia & Augusta first mortgage bonds.....	\$193,500
Charlotte Columbia & Augusta first mortgage bonds.....	1,806,500
Charlotte Columbia & Augusta second mortgage bonds.....	500,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>

The length of the road is 195 miles. The first mortgage is, therefore, \$10,256 per mile; second mortgage, \$2,564 per mile. Total first and second mortgages, \$12,820 per mile.

#### West Chester & Philadelphia.

(For the year ending October 31, 1876.)

The annual report says:

The business of the road for the year ending Oct. 31, 1876, shows an improvement over the preceding year, and the largest gross receipts since its commencement.

The increase in passenger earnings makes a very fair showing, being about 9 per cent., while the increase in number of passengers carried is only about 3 per cent. This demonstrates that a good portion of the travel has been carried this season a greater distance than heretofore.

Our freight receipts show no material change, there being a slight decrease from the previous year—owing, in a great measure, to the continued depression in the manufacturing interests along the line of the road, in common with other localities throughout the country.

The Treasurer's account shows an increase in the revenue account, or a credit to profit and loss of \$25,035, which is a fair balance of gain after paying the usual expenses, together with interest and dividend. Most of this surplus, amounting to \$24,367, has been invested in additions to construction and improvements of the rolling-stock and equipment of the road.

The following statement of earnings is made for the year ending Oct. 31, 1876:

Passenger fares.....	\$246,086
Freight.....	111,642
Incidental receipts.....	1,187
United States mail.....	2,312
Rents received.....	5,298
Interest on bills receivable, as per Treasurer's account.....	3,014
<b>Gross earnings.....</b>	<b>\$369,544</b>

The operating expenses were \$201,575, and the expenditures for the construction, equipment, and real estate account brought the total outlay to \$225,892.

About one-third of the roadway is now laid with steel rails.

#### North Pennsylvania.

(For the year ending October 31, 1876.)

The annual meeting of the stockholders of this company was held on January 8. Mr. F. A. Comly, president of the company, presented the annual report.

The gross receipts of the main line, including the Delaware River and Doylestown branches, during the year ending October 31, 1876, were:

From passengers.....	\$796,941
From coal.....	282,903
From pig iron.....	11,967
From through lumber.....	18,577
From local freight.....	272,524
From through freight.....	247,212
From mails and miscellaneous.....	45,738
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,675,865</b>

The expenses, including renewals and repairs, were:

For maintenance of way.....	\$130,502
For motive power.....	300,649
For maintenance of cars.....	95,910
For conducting transportation.....	323,731
For general expenses.....	88,552
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$889,346</b>

The gross receipts for the year show an increase over the year 1875 of \$253,131  
 Decrease in expenses..... 16,195

Increase in net earnings..... \$274,326  
 Gross receipts..... \$1,675,860  
 Gross expenses..... 889,346

Net earnings..... \$786,519  
 Interest on bonded debt, ground rents, interest on mortgages, insurance, &c., less interest reserved..... 460,115

Balance to profit and loss..... \$326,403  
 being a fraction over 8 per cent. on the capital stock.

Two dividends of 3 per cent. each were declared during the year, leaving a balance to the credit of profit and loss, at the end of the year, of \$454,356.

The total number of passengers carried during the year was 1,660,064, against 1,067,494 carried in 1875, being an increase of 592,590, producing an increase in passenger receipts of \$312,548.

The Delaware River branch, now completed, cost \$1,779,430.

The construction and equipment accounts have been increased \$1,226,165.

The New York and Philadelphia New Line is referred to in the report, which states that the agreement between the North Pennsylvania Railroad, Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad Company, and the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, "has worked to the entire satisfaction of the parties in interest, and must result in their mutual benefit."

**New York N. Haven & Hartford—Shore Line.**

(For the year ending Sept. 30, 1876.)

The figures for the late fiscal year, were published in the CHRONICLE several weeks since, as they were returned to the Massachusetts railroad commissioners, in advance of the publication of the annual report. From the latter, since issued we have the following:

The rental paid for the use of the Harlem track, which was \$260,620 in 1875-6, and \$273,753 in 1874-5, is not included in the earnings or expenses of either year.

The income account for the year may be summed up as follows:

Cash and materials on hand Oct. 1, 1875.....	\$1,656,374
Net earnings.....	1,740,621
Decrease in Shore Line debtor balance.....	18,927
Proceeds of 686 shares stock sold.....	99,417
Charged insurance and credited contingent account.....	3,600
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3,718,840</b>
Interest, Harlem River & Portchester bonds.....	\$130,000
Dividends, two of 5 per cent each.....	550,000
Boston & Albany R.R., settlement of land and car-house account at Springfield.....	38,947
Decrease in accounts payable.....	50,439—
<b>Balance, Oct. 1, 1876.....</b>	<b>\$1,949,394</b>

This balance is made up of \$1,524,854 cash and cash assets, \$381,165 materials on hand, and \$43,374 materials on hand, Shore Line Division. Contingent account has been increased by \$3,600 fire reserve fund and \$30,817, premium on stock sold, and diminished by \$38,947 paid in settlement of Springfield car-house account.

**SHORE LINE DIVISION.**

The earnings of the Shore Line Division for the year were as follows:

	1875-6.	1874-5.	Dec. p.c
Passengers.....	\$278,983	\$300,710	7.2
Freight.....	74,432	82,044	9.3
Mails, express, &c.....	26,154	27,217	3.9
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$379,571</b>	<b>\$409,971</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Expenses.....	260,643	282,185	7.6
<b>Net earnings.....</b>	<b>\$118,927</b>	<b>\$127,786</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Rent.....	100,000	100,000	....
<b>Net profit.....</b>	<b>\$18,927</b>	<b>\$27,786</b>	<b>81.9</b>

The balance to debit of Shore Line Division at the close of the year had been reduced to \$148,680 69.

**Cleveland & Pittsburgh.**

(For the year ending Nov. 30, 1876.)

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad Company, president McCullough submitted his report:

The receipts, aside from the guaranteed income, were \$13,098, and the amount expended from the same, \$902.

RECEIPTS.	
For account rental, interest, sinking fund, &c.....	\$1,198 509
EXPENDITURES.	
Dividends.....	\$786,833
Interest on funded debt.....	343,135
Sinking funds.....	58,454
Maintaining of organization.....	9,431—
<b>Balance.....</b>	<b>\$655</b>

No bonds were issued during the year, but a consolidated mort-

gage for \$1,000 and construction and equipment bonds to the amount of \$6,000 were retired to the sinking fund. Of this description of bonds, \$14,000 were allotted and called in last January, interest on which ceased on July 1st. Of these, only the \$6,000 have been presented for payment.

The business of the lessee upon the property for the year 1875 was as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Gross earnings.....	\$2,629,037
Pitts. Ft. Wayne & Chic. RR. cons. earnings.....	75,764
Other sources.....	11,200
<b>Total receipts.....</b>	<b>\$2,716,001</b>

EXPENDITURES.	
Operating expenses.....	\$1,885,410
Improvements to the property.....	16,723
Rental, interest, &c.....	1,302,111
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2,704,244</b>

Leaving a surplus of..... \$11,756

About 5,000 tons of steel rails have been laid in the past two years.

**GENERAL INVESTMENT NEWS.**

**Brooklyn City Bonds.**—Mayor Schroeder says in his message: "I called attention in my last annual message to the fact that no steps had been taken to raise the means to pay certain bonds of the city, then outstanding, to the amount of over \$600,000, for local improvements, the assessments for which had been set aside or reduced by the Legislature or the Courts, or could not be laid on the property benefited because of the legislation at Albany. To-day, the amount thus involved, according to the estimate of the Comptroller, is over \$700,000 for principal." \* \* \* "I doubt the advisability of raising any part of the principal until a change for the better shall have taken place in the condition of our financial affairs. I therefore recommend that application be made to the Legislature for authority to fund this debt by the issue of bonds payable in ten equal annual instalments, commencing in the year 1880; and that provision be made to pay the interest on such bonds through the annual budget."

**California Mining Company.**—SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17.—The annual meeting of the California Mining Company was held to-day. The report of the superintendent showed that the mine produced during the year nearly 129,000 tons of ore, and 127,500 tons were reduced, yielding \$13,400,000 in bullion, 73 per cent. of the assay value. The Secretary's report for the past fiscal year shows the gross receipts to be \$13,400,000; balance on hand 18th instant—cash, \$1,449; bullion in the Nevada Bank, \$1,342,963 in value, against which there is an overdraft of \$339,637 and a dividend, payable on the 15th instant, of \$1,080,000.

**Central Railroad of New Jersey.**—The subjoined statement of business for the year 1876, as compared with 1875, was presented at a recent meeting of the directors:

	1875.	1876.
Gross earnings.....	\$7,411,636	\$7,322,000—Dec..... \$89,636
Operating expenses.....	4,320,997	3,634,000—Dec..... 686,997
<b>Net earnings.....</b>	<b>\$3,029,639</b>	<b>\$3,688,000—Inc..... \$547,361</b>
Interest, taxes, and lease of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad and canals.....	1,993,063	3,167,000—Inc..... 1,173,937
<b>Surplus.....</b>	<b>\$1,097,576</b>	<b>\$471,000—Dec..... \$626,576</b>

**Chicago Burlington & Quincy.**—Proposals for bonds amounting to \$2,200,000, being part of a series of \$2,500,000, dated Oct. 1, 1876, and payable in 25 years, with interest semi-annually at the rate of five per cent, will be opened at the office of this company, in Boston, on the 27th instant.

For the security of these bonds, an equal amount of bonds of even date of the St. Louis Rock Island & Chicago Railroad Company, bearing 7 per cent interest, and secured by a first mortgage on said road and equipment thereon, which road has been agreed to be leased to the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, will be deposited with trustees, and said trustees are to apply, each six months, the amount of the difference then received between the 5 per cent and the 7 per cent, to buying such 5 per cent bonds upon public proposals as may be offered at a cost not exceeding par and interest; and all bonds so purchased to be canceled by the trustees.

The sinking fund will absorb the whole issue within the 25 years. The advertisement in another column gives full particulars of the offering.

**Chicago Dubuque & Minnesota—Chicago Clinton & Dubuque.**—The bondholders of the Chicago Dubuque & Minnesota and Chicago Clinton & Dubuque railroads, who have claims upon the directors of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad who were interested in the contracts for building the Dubuque roads, met at Boston and decided it was not expedient for them to exchange bonds for stock, as proposed by the trustees of those roads, and appointed a committee to negotiate for a plan of reorganization and otherwise protect the interests of the bondholders. The committee is as follows: R. S. Watson, of Boston; W. H. Forbes, of Boston; C. L. Young, of Boston; A. G. King, of New York; C. W. Clifford, of New Bedford. The meeting then adjourned.

**Chicago & Pacific Railroad.**—The Chicago Tribune says: The affairs of the Chicago & Pacific Railroad Company have been in a failing condition for a year past, and have been made still worse by the financial embarrassment of Thomas S. Dobbins, its principal founder, as he may be called. A bill has been filed against this Company to foreclose a mortgage for \$3,000,000 on all its property. The complainants are John I. Blair, of Blairs-town, N. J., the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Company, the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, and Robert

Bayard, of Bergen, N. J., on their own behalf and on behalf of all other bondholders who may choose to join.

**Connecticut Western.**—At a special stockholders' meeting at Hartford, 13th inst., it was voted to accept the proposition of the bondholders' committee for the creation of preferred stock, or to accept any other plan agreed upon by that committee and the board of directors. The scheme creates preferred stock (\$3,000,000), to be given to the bondholders, they holding their bonds, meanwhile, as collateral. This stock elects officers, and is entitled to seven per cent before the common stock gets any income. The common stock, till the year 1900, has the right to redeem the preferred stock and retire the bonds. The preferred stockholders, on taking possession, must pay off the floating debt when they take the road. The bondholders have not yet decided whether they will accept the scheme.

**County of Portage (Wis.) Bonds.**—In a suit by this county to compel the Wisconsin Central Railroad to deliver to the plaintiffs certain bonds which are in the possession of the National Exchange Bank, it appears that the county of Portage issued bonds which were to be used in exchange for the stock of the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company. The plaintiffs now ask that the trust might be decreed to be terminated and the bonds delivered back to them, because the bonds were illegally issued, and because the railroad corporation has failed to perform the conditions imposed upon it. The court dismissed the bill with costs. The rescript is as follows:

1. The laws under which the bonds in controversy were issued did not violate the constitution of Wisconsin.
2. The bonds were not illegally issued under the provisions of those laws.
3. The railroad corporation has not failed to perform the terms and conditions of the contract by which the bonds were deposited with the defendant bank, and the court cannot say that its performance has not been within a reasonable time.

**Houston & Texas Central.**—The following statement of earnings and expenses, monthly, has just been furnished to us. During the year the gauge of road was changed from Houston to Hearve, 120 miles, and the rolling stock to conform thereto. They also added to equipment 8 locomotives and 200 freight cars:

	Earnings.	Expenses.
January.....	\$304,687 73	\$178,187 51
February.....	259,965 33	163,555 71
March.....	221,760 90	153,077 17
April.....	191,922 77	167,950 23
May.....	178,372 95	142,024 12
June.....	151,844 60	142,245 67
July.....	148,375 21	125,822 18
August.....	208,108 07	134,749 58
September.....	320,255 50	145,567 64
October.....	377,349 23	175,169 24
November.....	421,490 88	150,837 79
December.....	*375,341 00	*170,000 00
	\$3,162,518 22	\$1,835,196 89

RECAPITULATION.

Gross earnings.....	\$3,162,518 22
Operating expenses.....	1,835,196 89
Net.....	\$1,277,321 33
Net earnings, 1875.....	1,143,935 65
Net earnings, 1874.....	1,256,626 15
Interest on bonded debt.....	950,000 00
* Estimated.	

**Louisville Paducah & Southwestern.**—This railroad, with all its appurtenances, has been transferred to the officers of the Louisville Nashville and Great Southern Line.

**Missouri Pacific.**—A decision of the United States Supreme Court was given on Monday, of which Messrs. Trask & Stone, of No. 7 New street, bankers of the St. L. & S. F. Company, write as follows:

In the case of *Cowdrey et al., vs. the Missouri Pacific Railroad Co.*, on a motion to set aside the decree of sale, the Supreme Court of the United States yesterday denied the motion for the following reasons: That they 'were not parties to the suit'; that, 'stockholders could not become parties, except where it is shown that the directors are greatly negligent of their duties, and then only with great caution and as a matter of discretion with the Circuit Court with which the Supreme Court will not interfere.'

This decision virtually closes the litigation and ignores all the assumed rights of the stockholders of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company.

**North Carolina State Debt.**—In a recent message to the North Carolina Legislature, Governor Vance speaks as follows in regard to the public debt of that State:

"Many inquiries are being made as to the disposition of our public debt. I presume it is the intention and desire of our people to provide for its liquidation at some figure, as soon as the necessary taxation can be borne, but when, and on what terms, it can be done, you, as the immediate representatives of the people, must decide. Whilst it is certainly desirable in many respects to take this debt up and restore our credit to its ancient standard, I am far from believing that we are subject to self-approach, or are in any way obnoxious to the sneers of those who hold claims upon us. In regard to much the greater part of these claims, there is not the slightest moral obligation resting on the conscience of any honest citizen of North Carolina. The story of the iniquities practiced upon us is an ample justification of our delay. The most that I can say to you on this weighty matter is to recommend the appointment of a commission to negotiate with our creditors and see what terms can be obtained."

**Ohio & Mississippi.**—There has been some skirmishing among stock and bondholders since this road went into the hands of receivers. According to accounts in the daily newspapers, no less than four petitions to the courts have been in circulation, the first and most largely signed requesting the removal of Mr. Daniel Torrance as receiver, the second requesting the removal of both King and Torrance, the third a counter petition requesting that Mr. King be retained, and the fourth a petition by Mr. Torrance's friends that he also be retained. We have also from Cincinnati the report of a meeting of "stockholders," but to what

amount is not stated, protesting against the past management under Torrance and the probable future management under Baltimore & Ohio influences. Altogether, it would appear that affairs are rather mixed, but the number of petitions and meetings would indicate that all parties consider the road worth something. It is no injustice to Mr. Torrance to say that his management and reports have created a lack of confidence in him—whether well or ill-founded, it is not our object to inquire. The Ohio & Mississippi is certainly the proper connecting line of the Baltimore & Ohio, and, so far as bondholders' interests are concerned, there would seem to be no better arrangement than to have it fall into the hands of that company, if they will protect the bonded interest. Possibly the Baltimore & Ohio would also make an agreement, based on possible future increase of profits, which would offer the stockholders better prospects than they could have under any other plan. But as to the immediate present—is the floating debt to be paid before interest on bonds? This is the question of immediate importance to bondholders and the following dispatch from Indianapolis, January 16, to the *Chicago Tribune*, would indicate that it may be the purpose to obtain such payment, and that bondholders should look out for their interests before the Courts:

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—The Receivers of the Ohio & Mississippi road today filed in the United States District Court a statement of their business since their connection therewith. The exhibit must be satisfactory to the unsecured creditors, as it shows that the earnings from November 18 to December 31, inclusive, are \$545,869 72. All debts contracted for labor prior to their appointment have been paid. It is understood an application will be made to Judge Gresham for liberty to declare a dividend of 25 per cent on supply bills, prior to their appointment, out of surplus earnings in their hands, after defraying operating expenses. It is further stated that all indebtedness incurred for running the road will be paid promptly, and that creditors will be requested to send in their accounts. Judge Gresham, it is believed, will retain the present receivers, Messrs. King and Torrance.

When a railroad like the Ohio & Mississippi goes to default, who are the several parties in interest? First, are the mortgage bondholders; second, the floating debt creditors; and third, the stockholders. It is too often the case that floating debt creditors, being parties who loaned the company at high rates of interest, just before its default, combine with the officers of the road to secure payment of their claims before interest on the bonds. This is altogether unjust, and as bondholders have a prior lien, it should be floating debt creditors who fund their claims before bondholders are asked to fund their coupons. In the case of the Kansas Pacific and St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroads, the bondholders consented to fund a certain number of coupons ahead, under promise of resumption of full interest at the end of the time. For a year or two large amounts of cash from the earnings were applied to paying floating debt, and before the end of the term the Kansas Pacific went to default altogether, and the St. Louis & Iron Mountain defaulted on half the coupons falling due in November, 1876 and thereafter, and continues to pay off floating debt creditors in preference to the interest on its bonds.

**Peoria & Rock Island Railroad.**—The final decree in the foreclosure suit of Veeder G. Thomas and others against the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad Company, the Coal Valley Mining Company, and others, was entered recently by Judge Drummond. The original bill was filed Dec. 7, 1874, to foreclose a mortgage for \$1,500,000 made Dec. 10, 1869, and covering the road of the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad Company. The decree finds that there is due the whole of this mortgage, and also a further sum of \$256,666 interest from August, 1874, to date, making the sum of \$1,756,666 which is payable in gold. This is a first lien, except as against the rights of the Coal Valley Mining Company to demand 50 cents a ton for every ton of coal transported over the Peoria & Rock Island road, and as against \$150,000 worth of bonds of the Rock Island & Peoria Railway Company on part of the road. There is now due the Coal Valley Company \$13,073 and \$784 interest under this contract, which is to be paid before the bondholders receive their dividend. It is decreed that the Master in Chancery, H. W. Bishop, shall sell the road at public auction in Chicago to the highest bidder, after giving notice for three weeks.

**United States Land Grant Railroads.**—The United States Supreme Court has decided that land grant railroads are not bound to transport the troops and property of the United States free of charge; that they are only to allow the Government the free use of their tracks in return for the grants, and that they are each entitled to compensation for all such transportation they have performed, excepting the carrying of the mails, subject to a fair deduction for the use of their several roads.

The conclusion is drawn that when Congress, in granting lands in aid of a road, declared that it shall be and remain a public highway for the use of the Government, it only meant that the Government shall have the right to use the road, but not that it shall have the right to require its transportation to be performed by the railroad company; and that, when this right to use the road is granted, "free from all toll or other charge for transportation of any property or troops of the United States," it only means that the government shall not be subject to any toll for such use of the road.

This decision is in the cases of the Lake Superior and Mississippi and the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Companies, and reverses the judgment of the Court of Claims. It is stated that the A. T. & S. F. has about \$190,000 due from the Government.

**Valley Railroad of Virginia.**—This road has been turned over to Mr. P. P. Pendleton, the president, by the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company, lessees, notice having been given by the latter company that it was unwilling to continue the temporary lease, made some months ago, at \$2,000 per month.





The market for cotton on the spot has been very quiet the past week, and prices for the most part nominal. There was some weakness to be noted on Monday and Tuesday, but Wednesday and Thursday were steadier. For export, nothing was done, the main demand being from home-spinners, with some little speculation. To-day, the market was firmer, but not quotably higher. For future delivery, the market weakened from day to day. The more liberal receipts at the ports and at the interior towns of the South, early in the week, had a depressing influence here, as well as abroad, but the falling off in the receipts at the ports on Wednesday and Thursday caused some revival of speculative confidence and a recovery in prices, especially for the later months. Navigation of rivers in the cotton region has been generally resumed, and the effect of this fact upon the cotton movement is now seen. To-day, there was a further advance of 1-16c., with considerable activity.

The total sales for forward delivery for the week are 153,300 bales, including — free on board. For immediate delivery the total sales foot up this week 5,113 bales, including 216 for export, 3,808 for consumption, 1,089 for speculation, and — in transit. Of the above, 100 bales were to arrive. The following tables show the official quotations and sales for each day of the past week :

Table with columns for New Classification, UPLANDS, ALABAMA, N. ORLEANS, TEXAS, and rows for various cotton grades like Ordinary, Strict Ordinary, Good Ordinary, etc., with sub-columns for dates (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Th, Fri) and prices.

STAINED.

Table showing sales for Stained cotton with columns for dates (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Th, Fri) and prices.

SALES.

Table showing sales of spot and transit versus futures, with columns for Exp't, Consump, Specula'n, Trans, Total, Sales, and Deliveries.

For forward delivery the sales (including — free on board) have reached during the week 153,300 bales (all middling or on the basis of middling), and the following is a statement of the sales and prices :

Table showing sales and prices for various months from January to November, with columns for bales and cents.

The following exchange has been made during the week : %c. pd. to exch. 1,300 Feb. for March.

The following will show spot quotations, and the closing prices bid for future delivery, at the several dates named :

Table titled MIDDLING UPLANDS—AMERICAN CLASSIFICATION, showing spot and future prices for various months from January to November.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COTTON, as made up by cable and telegraph, is as follows. The continental stocks are the figures of last Saturday, but the totals for Great Britain and the afloat for the Continent are this week's returns, and consequently brought down to Thursday evening; hence, to make the totals the complete figures for to-night (Jan. 19), we add the item of exports from the United States, including in it the exports of Friday only :

Table showing stock at Liverpool, London, and various continental ports, along with total European stocks and American cotton afloat for Europe.

Of the above, the totals of American and other descriptions are as follow :

Table showing American and East Indian stocks, with columns for Liverpool stock, Continental stocks, and various regional stocks.

Total visible supply... bales 2,826,862 2,954,439 2,839,786 2,839,886 Price Middling Uplands, Liverpool 16 13-16d. 6% c. 7% d. 8@8 1/2 d.

By cable, last Friday, the American afloat to Great Britain was given at 308,000 bales. Saturday, this was corrected and given at 389,000 bales. Our visible supply was made up by using, of course, Friday's figures, and hence our total was 72,000 bales too small.

These figures indicate a decrease in the cotton in sight to-night of 127,577 bales as compared with the same date of 1875, a decrease of 12,924 bales as compared with the corresponding date of 1874, and a decrease of 13,024 bales as compared with 1873.

AT THE INTERIOR PORTS the movement—that is the receipts and shipments for the week and stock to-night, and for the corresponding week of 1875—is set out in detail in the following statement :

Table comparing interior port receipts, shipments, and stock for the week ending Jan. 19, 1877, and the week ending Jan. 21, 1876, listing various ports like Augusta, Columbia, Macon, etc.

\* Actual count to-day (Friday).

The above totals show that the old interior stocks have decreased during the week 8,029 bales, and are to-night 2,462 bales less than at the same period last year.

BOMBAY SHIPMENTS.—According to our cable despatch received to-day, there have been — bales shipped from Bombay to Great Britain the past week, and 7,000 bales to the Continent; while the receipts at Bombay during this week have been 25,000 bales.

Table with 7 columns: Shipments this week (Great Britain, Continent, Total), Shipments since Jan. 1 (Great Britain, Continent, Total), Receipts (This week, Since Jan. 1). Rows for 1877, 1876, 1875.

From the foregoing it would appear that, compared with last year, there is a decrease of 3,000 bales this year in the week's shipments from Bombay to Europe, and that the total movement since January 1 shows a decrease in shipments of 12,000 bales, compared with the corresponding period of 1876.

GUNNY BAGS, BAGGING, ETC.—Bagging is in more demand, and the inquiry is increasing with parties in the market ready to take any cheap lots that may be offered.

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.—The past week has been a very rainy week in the most of the cotton section. In the Southwest it has also continued remarkably cold.

Galveston, Texas.—We have had a drizzling rain on four days this week, and the rest has been cloudy, the rainfall reaching forty-six hundredths of an inch.

Indianola, Texas.—It has rained heavily on two days, the rest of the week being foggy, but mostly cloudy. There have been killing frosts on two nights.

Corsicana, Texas.—There has been a drizzling rain here on two days, and a tremendous sleet on two days, stopping all work and movement.

Dallas, Texas.—We have had a two days' drizzle, and on two days the heaviest sleet ever known. We are still in the Arctic regions, having had ice all the week.

New Orleans, Louisiana.—It has rained on three days during the week, the rainfall aggregating two and thirty hundredths inches.

Shreveport, Louisiana.—Not even a glimpse of the sun for more than a week. If the weather continues as the prospect this morning is, we will become thoroughly familiar with uniform darkness.

Vicksburg, Mississippi.—It has rained on every day this week, with a rainfall of sixty-seven hundredths of an inch.

Columbus, Mississippi.—The weather during the week has been rainy, the rainfall aggregating twenty-four hundredths of an inch.

Little Rock, Arkansas.—It has been cloudy, with more or less rain all the week. Trade is suspended, as the roads are impassable.

Nashville, Tennessee.—It has rained on five days this week, the rainfall reaching two and seventy-four hundredths inches.

Memphis, Tennessee.—We have had rain on six days this week, the rainfall aggregating two and fifty-six hundredths inches.

lowest 29. The Mississippi and tributaries are rising fast, giving an outlet to the landings, but the excessively bad roads check the movement of the remnant of the crop distant from the landings and depots.

Mobile, Alabama.—It has been showery two days, the rest of the week being pleasant, the rainfall reaching seventy-seven hundredths of an inch.

Montgomery, Alabama.—We are having too much rain. It has rained on six days this week, the rainfall reaching two inches and fifty hundredths.

Selma, Alabama.—It has rained on five days this week, and is now cloudy and threatening.

Madison, Florida.—It has rained on one day this week. The thermometer has ranged from 73 to 67, averaging 61.

Macon, Georgia.—Telegram not received.

Atlanta, Georgia.—We have had a steady rain on one day this week, and a drizzling rain on three days, the rainfall reaching one inch and two hundredths.

Columbus, Georgia.—Thermometer has ranged from 46 to 67 during the week, averaging 63.

Savannah, Georgia.—It has rained on one day this week, but the rest has been pleasant. The rainfall is one hundredth of an inch.

Augusta, Georgia.—The weather during the week has been warm, sultry, and wet, rain having fallen on every day, the rainfall reaching forty hundredths of an inch.

Charleston, South Carolina.—It has rained on one day of the week, the rainfall reaching five hundredths of an inch.

The following statement we have also received by telegraph, showing the height of the rivers at the points named at 3 o'clock Jan. 18. We give last year's figures (Jan. 20, 1876,) for comparison.

Table with 4 columns: Location, Jan. 18, '77 (Feet, Inch.), Jan. 20, '76 (Feet, Inch.). Rows for New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Shreveport, Vicksburg.

New Orleans reported below high-water mark of 1871 until Sept. 9, 1874, when the zero of gauge was changed to high-water mark of April 15 and 16, 1874, which is 6-10ths of a foot above 1871, or 16 feet above low-water mark at that point.

GREAT BRITAIN COTTON MOVEMENT FOR 1876.—Below we give the imports, exports and stocks of cotton for Great Britain, as published by the Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association, in their annual circular.

Table: IMPORT INTO GREAT BRITAIN, 1876. Columns: Description, Liverpool, London &c, Total, Av. weight, Pounds, 1875.

Table: CONSUMPTION OF GREAT BRITAIN. Columns: Description, Liverpool, London &c, Total, Av. weight, Pounds, 1875.

Table: EXPORT FROM GREAT BRITAIN. Columns: Description, Liverpool, London &c, Total, Av. weight, Pounds, 1875.

Table: STOCK IN THE PORTS OF GREAT BRITAIN, 31st DECEMBER. Columns: Description, Liverpool, London &c, Total, Pounds, 1875.

Table: ESTIMATED STOCK HELD BY SPINNERS AT THE CLOSE OF EACH YEAR. Columns: Description, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872.

The weekly sales and prices have been as follows through the year:

Table with columns: DATE, REPORTED WEEKLY SALES & FORWARDED, PRICES, and various sub-columns for trade, export, and prices.

The above table shows that the highest point of the market was on the 1st January, for all kinds except East Indian, which have continued to advance from the 20th July, which was the lowest point of the market for them, and all other kinds, to the close of the year.

STOCK IN LIVERPOOL AT THE CLOSE OF PAST THREE YEARS.

Table showing stock in Liverpool for 1874, 1875, and 1876, categorized by region like Sea Island, Algerine, etc.

AUGUSTA COTTON EXCHANGE REPORT.—The following, issued by the Crop Committee of the Augusta Exchange, sufficiently explains itself:

To the President and Board of Directors of the Augusta Exchange: GENTLEMEN:—The correctness of the information received by us from our correspondents in reply to questions sent them for our November report, upon the prospects and condition of the cotton crop of this section, having been called into question in well-informed circles, we deemed it best to send out the same series of questions again, to cover the month of December, with special request to our correspondents to be very careful in their answers to our 3d and 4th questions. We now beg to submit the following summary of 23 replies received from 18 counties, under date of January 1st.

First Question.—Has the weather for gathering the crop been more or less favorable, during the month of December, than last year? ANSWER.—The weather is universally reported as far less favorable than in 1875. The last ten days of the month, continued frosty storms virtually suspended all labor in the fields.

Second Question.—What proportion of the crop has been picked, and when will it all be gathered? ANSWER.—The crop is reported as absolutely all picked, except in two counties, but the cotton left in the fields there is an insignificant percentage, and so ruined by the late storms that it is not now likely to be gathered.

Third Question.—Will the yield in your county be greater or less than last year? State increase or decrease. ANSWER.—The average of our replies state the yield very positively as less by 2 1/2 per cent than last season. This on an acreage of 5 1/2 to 6 per cent less than in 1875, would indicate an out-turn greater by about 3 per cent per acre than during the previous season.

Fourth Question.—What proportion of the crop has been marketed from your section? ANSWER.—The proportion of the crop already marketed is placed on an average at 80 per cent.

Fifth Question.—State fully any and all material facts relative to the yield, not covered by the foregoing questions.

ANSWER.—Red lands have, as a rule, yielded much more largely than last year, while light sandy soils have not done as well as during the preceding season. There seems to be no doubt that the crop has yielded more lint in proportion to seed cotton than usual. The staple of all grades has proved very superior, while the average grade of the crop has been more uniform and decidedly above that of last season, but with a larger proportion of high colored and frost-stained cotton.

Your committee beg to call your attention to the fact, that our correspondents now report the out-turn of the crop at 97 1/2 per cent of that of last season, as against 92 per cent on the 1st of December, and the proportion marketed January 1st at 89 per cent, as against 75 per cent reported 1st December.

As matter of further information, and for purposes of comparison with the above, your committee beg to state, that they have obtained the views and estimates of 22 receivers and factors of cotton in this city as to the probable receipts at this point for the current season, with the following result, brought in c mparison with last season's receipts:

Table comparing actual total receipts, receipts to January 1st, 1876, and estimated total receipts for 1876-7.

Of our receipts up to the 1st instant, as near as can be ascertained, some 8,000 or 10,000 bales were due to the long-continued epidemic at Savannah. But fully as much cotton was lost to this market by increased direct shipments to Northern mills and to ports, from Atlanta, Athens, and other tributary interior points. If these premises are correct, as we believe they are, the expected increase in receipts at this point of nearly 29,000 bales ought to represent quite closely the increased production of the territory for which Augusta serves as a market, and would indicate an increased yield of 16 1/2 per cent. over last season. We state these facts for your information, and for purposes of comparison with the conclusions derived from the letters of our correspondents. Our cotton factors cover a much larger field of information than your committee. They are individually acquainted with the localities where their correspondents lie; and, for obvious reasons, watch the results of planting operations with great care and attention. With perfect confidence in the good faith and sincerity of our correspondents, as to their statements of facts, we cannot refrain from calling your attention to the great discrepancy between their opinions and those of our factors, whose views furthermore are so closely in accord with the statistical information obtained, both by our State and the United States Agricultural Departments.

We beg to add, as matter of further interest and information, that an average of the estimates of thirty-eight cotton merchants of this city places the cotton crop of the United States for the current season at 4,320,000 bales.

Very respectfully, L. L. ZULAVSKY, J. W. ECHOLS, A. M. BENSON, Chairman, R. W. HEARD, W. M. READ, J. J. PEARCE, C. A. ROWLAND, Committee.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 19—3:30 P. M.—BY CABLE FROM LIVERPOOL.—Estimated sales of the day were 12,000 bales, of which 2,000 bales were for export and speculation. Of to-day's sales, 7,600 bales were American. The weekly movement is given as follows:

Table showing weekly movement of cotton sales in Liverpool, including sales of the week, forwarded, and total stock.

The following table will show the daily closing prices of cotton for the week:

Table showing daily closing prices of cotton for the week, categorized by day (Sat., Mon., Tues., Wednes., Thurs., Fri.) and type (Mid. Upl'ds, Mid. Orln's).

Futures. These sales are on the basis of Uplands, Low Middling clause, unless otherwise stated.

Table showing futures for Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, detailing delivery and shipment dates for various periods.

Table showing futures for Thursday, detailing delivery and shipment dates for various periods.

Table showing futures for Wednesday, detailing delivery and shipment dates for various periods.

Table showing futures for Thursday, detailing delivery and shipment dates for various periods.

FRIDAY.

Table with two columns listing shipping schedules for various ports including Liverpool, New Orleans, and others, with dates and shipment details.

THE EXPORTS OF COTTON from New York, this week, show an increase, as compared with last week, the total reaching 11,387 bales, against 7,686 bales last week.

Exports of Cotton (bales) from New York since Sept. 1, 1876

Table showing weekly export data for cotton from New York, categorized by destination (Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, etc.) and total weekly figures.

The following are the receipts of cotton at New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore for the last week, and since Sept. 1, '76.

Table showing cotton receipts from various ports (New Orleans, Texas, Savannah, etc.) to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, with weekly and year-to-date figures.

SHIPPING NEWS.—The exports of cotton from the United States the past week, as per latest mail returns, have reached 128,925 bales. So far as the Southern ports are concerned, these are the same exports reported by telegraph, and published in THE CHRONICLE last Friday.

Detailed shipping manifest table listing specific vessels, their destinations, and cargo details for various ports like New York, Mobile, Charleston, and Texas.

The particulars of these shipments, arranged in our usual form, are as follows:

Summary table of shipment particulars for various ports including Liverpool, New Orleans, Mobile, etc., showing quantities and values.

Total... 55,585 5,740 16,420 10,192 1,775 1,300 6,663 650 128,925

Included in the above totals are from New Orleans 600 bales to Genoa. Below we give all news received to date of disasters, &c., to vessels carrying cotton from United States ports:

News reports regarding ship disasters and incidents, including Rio GRANDE, ARCTURUS, CHAMPION, CLARA, WINCHESTER, DISCO, and others.

Cotton freights the past week have been as follows:

Table showing cotton freight rates for various ports (Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, Hamburg) across different days of the week.

BREADSTUFFS.

FRIDAY, P. M., Jan. 19, 1877.

The buoyancy which latterly has prevailed in our flour market has at length received a severe check. Prices do not as yet show any material abatement from the prices quoted early in the week.

The wheat market was inactive all the week, and latterly exhibited less buoyancy of tone. There was toward the close less speculation on Western account, which had previously carried up prices to a point fully five cents above the general limits of shippers.

Indian corn has met with a better demand. Shippers have been favored by a considerable decline in ocean freights and some advance in the rates of exchange, while supplies have been curtailed by the obstructions to railroad transportation.

Rye has been dull, and prices are somewhat unsettled. Barley has been quite salable at \$1 10@1 12 for No. 1 Canada.

Oats have been in active demand, partly speculative, and prices close at a material advance for the week, though rather less active or buoyant yesterday.



Importations of Dry Goods.

The importations of dry goods at this port for the week ending Jan. 18, 1877, and for the corresponding weeks of 1876 and 1875, have been as follows:

Table with columns for Year (1875, 1876, 1877), Pkgs., and Value. Rows include Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods.

WITHDRAWN FROM WAREHOUSE AND THROWN INTO THE MARKET DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

Table with columns for Year (1875, 1876, 1877), Pkgs., and Value. Rows include Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods.

ENTERED FOR WAREHOUSING DURING SAME PERIOD.

Table with columns for Year (1875, 1876, 1877), Pkgs., and Value. Rows include Manufactures of wool, cotton, silk, flax, and Miscellaneous dry goods.

Imports of Leading Articles.

The following table, compiled from Custom House returns, shows the foreign imports of leading articles at this port since January 1, 1877, and for the same period in 1876:

[The quantity is given in packages when not otherwise specified.]

Large table with columns for 'Since Jan. 1, 1877' and 'Same time 1876'. Rows list various goods such as China, Earthenware, Glass, Metals, &c., and other commodities.

Receipts of Domestic Produce.

The receipts of domestic produce since January 1, 1877, and for the same time in 1876, have been as follows:

Table with columns for 'Since Jan. 1, 1877' and 'Same time 1876'. Rows list various domestic products like Ashes, Breadstuffs, Flour, Wheat, Corn, etc.

Exports of Leading Articles from New York. The following table, compiled from Custom House returns, shows the exports since Jan. 1, 1877, of leading articles from the port of New York to all the principal foreign countries...

Large table with columns for 'Same time 1876', 'Total since January 1, 1877', and 'Total this week'. Rows list various countries and articles such as British Guiana, Mex. Ico., Other W. Indies, etc.

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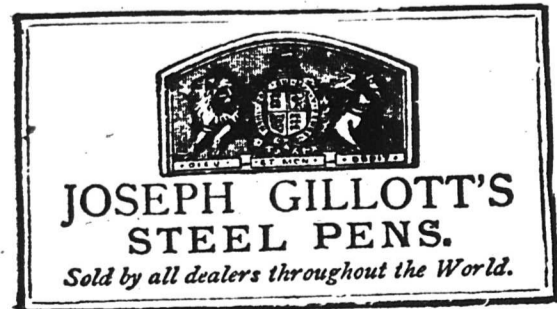
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