

TWO SECTIONS—SECTION TWO

The Commercial & Financial Chronicle

BANK AND QUOTATION

SECTION

PAGES 1 TO 64 INCLUSIVE

INDEX TO THIS SECTION

	PAGE		PAGE
REVIEW OF JANUARY.....	11	TEXTILE MANUFACTURING STOCKS—	
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE—		NORTHERN MILLS.....	46
RECORD OF BOND SALES AND PRICES..	18	SOUTHERN MILLS.....	46
RECORD OF STOCK SALES AND PRICES..	28	CANADIAN MILLS.....	46
GENERAL QUOTATIONS—		MINING STOCKS.....	46
STEAM RAILROAD BONDS.....	33	INSURANCE STOCKS AND SCRIP... 46	
STEAM RAILROAD STOCKS.....	38	REAL ESTATE TRUST & LAND STKS. 46	
PUBLIC UTILITY BONDS.....	39	TITLE GUAR. & SAFE DEP. STOCKS. 46	
PUBLIC UTILITY STOCKS.....	43	U. S. AND MUNICIPAL BONDS.... 49	
INDUSTRIAL & MISCELL. BONDS... 44		CANADIAN MUNICIPAL BONDS.... 50	
INDUSTRIAL & MISCELL. STOCKS.. 47		FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BONDS... 49	
EXCHANGE SEATS.....	45	BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES... 55	
		CANADIAN BANKS.....	64

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February 5, 1921

WILLIAM B. DANA COMPANY, PUBLISHERS,
FRONT. PINE & DEPEYSTER STS., NEW YORK.

THE MUTUAL LIFE

Insurance Company of New York

Abstract of Statement December 31, 1920

Income for Year 1920	-	-	-	-	-	\$126,370,360.33
Paid to Policy-holders during year	-	-	-	-	-	87,523,160.11
Reserves and Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	582,037,444.22
Contingency and Dividend Funds	-	-	-	-	-	88,962,736.97
Assets	-	-	-	-	-	671,000,181.19
Insurance in Force	-	-	-	-	-	2,357,973,121.00
Annuities in Force	-	-	-	-	-	2,665,577.69

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BANK AND QUOTATION

SECTION

OF THE

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL CHRONICLE.

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NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5 1921.

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BANK AND QUOTATION SECTION

The Bank & Quotation Section, issued monthly, is furnished *without extra charge* to every subscriber of the Chronicle.

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REVIEW OF JANUARY.

As the country is passing through a period of trade depression, of price reductions and shrinking inventories and of industrial stoppage and growing unemployment, the developments in January were all along these lines. Retailers still continued slow in accommodating themselves to the new situation, though even here some noteworthy instances of drastic cuts in prices were observed. As had been expected, following the Christmas holidays, the demand for which had been counted upon as likely to make important inroads upon old supplies acquired while the level of wholesale prices still ruled high, but which demand did not altogether meet expectations, the department stores in January quite generally slashed prices, as also did some other retailers, the purpose, of course, being to tempt the public to buy. It is understood that banks and financial institutions, who had been extending credit based on these holdings of goods and wares, relic from the earlier days of 1920, insisted on a policy of this kind with a view to inducing liquidation and thereby thawing out what have become known in banking parlance as "frozen credits."

The effort to dispose of these accumulations; it would appear, did not meet with an unwonted measure of success, though it is true that that part of the community which had been awaiting just such an opportunity bought with considerable avidity. On the other hand, there was an offsetting drawback in the circumstance that the winter proved extremely mild and as a consequence served to reduce ordi-

nary winter requirements to a minimum. As an indication that business was on a greatly reduced scale, the returns of the mail order concerns would seem to afford conclusive evidence. Sears, Roebuck & Co. reported sales of \$15,597,766 for January 1921, against \$29,490,976 for January 1920, and Montgomery Ward & Co. sales of \$5,660,131 against \$8,636,147. Reports from the industrial and mercantile centres were uniform throughout the month in speaking of a curtailment of operations, either through complete or partial shutting down of factories, mills and plants, and also in bringing intelligence of the lowering of wages and of increasing idleness, though it is also to be noted that in certain lines of trade, where output had been sharply curtailed, or entirely suspended, on the first signs of business reaction there occurred during January actually some resumption of operations—generally, however, on a part-time basis and at lower wage schedules. This applies particularly to the manufacture of cotton goods and to the textile trades generally. The cuts in the prices of cotton manufactures made with the opening of the new year were exceedingly radical and had the intended effect of working off accumulated stocks, and this in turn led a number of mills to resume operations. And yet even here the improvement was only fitful and lacked enduring character. Some mills felt impelled to mark up prices a trifle from the extreme low levels fixed at the beginning of the month, but the response was an immediate waning of the demand. One obstacle in the way of higher prices was the downward trend of the raw material, for the price of cotton, after enjoying considerable recovery the early part of the month, later in January dropped even lower than before. In this market middling upland cotton, after closing Dec. 31, 1920, at 14.75c., opened Jan. 3 at 16.00c., and on Jan. 10 touched 18.25c., but complete collapse occurred the latter part of the month, and the quotation Jan. 31 was 14.30c., the lowest price since 1916. Printing cloths at Fall River, opening at 6¼c. per yard, were marked up to 6¾c. Jan. 17, and to 6½c. Jan. 18, but Jan. 28 were reduced again to 6¾c. and Jan. 31 to 6¼c.

In the woolen trade President William M. Wood, in a statement issued Jan. 11, announced a wage reduction of 22½%, affecting the company's wage-workers in all mills, effective Jan. 17. In explanation, Mr. Wood said:

We have been giving for some time careful thought as to the probable effect of present stagnation in trade on your wages. Practically all our mills have been closed for the

months. Those in Lawrence and one or two others have been running on a minimum of production.

Despite of this the company has been accumulating cloth. It has been unable to resell its canceled orders or to secure orders for what little cloth we have been manufacturing.

We have been waiting for business, but no business comes, so we have decided to do something to start business, if it can be done. First, we propose immediately to sell the cloth on hand at greatly reduced prices. This will be done at a substantial loss but will be the company's loss alone. It will in no way affect wages. Then we propose immediately to make the biggest effort we have ever made to get business to run our mills. But we are convinced our best efforts will not bring business unless we reduce the prices on our new season's goods. To do this, we must reduce not only our profits, but our costs as well, and among others labor costs. If we do not do this, we must close our mills.

On Jan. 25 the Department of Labor at Washington gave out some statistics which throw an interesting side-light on the extent and character of the industrial relapse which the country is undergoing. The statistics referred to placed the total number of the unemployed in the United States in "mechanical industries" at 3,473,466, the figures being based on comparative information as of January 1 1920 and January 1 1921 from 35 States and the District of Columbia and on estimates for the other 13 States. The information showed that in the 35 States and District of Columbia from which returns had been obtained for the mechanical industries referred to, the number employed in industry January 1921 was only 6,070,648, as against 9,402,000 on January 1 1920, the decrease in the number employed therefore being 3,331,352, or over 35%. In addition, the Department estimated the number unemployed in Mississippi (not included among the 35 States from which returns were obtained) at 35,000, and the number unemployed in Alabama (also not included among the States referred to) at 40,000, besides which it was estimated that the unemployment in 41 leading industrial centres in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Kansas aggregated 67,114, making the grand aggregate of unemployed, as already mentioned, 3,473,466. The number of those out of work in 182 cities is placed at 1,802,755, of which 234,243 are in New York City. The largest percentage of reduction, as compared with January 1920 in specific industries is found in the case of the manufacture of automobiles and accessories, the contraction here being about 60%. The building trades come second, with a shrinkage of 52%. In textiles and products, including clothing, hosiery and underwear, the shrinkage is 35½%; in leather and its products, including boots and shoes, 35%; in lumber, house furniture, boxes and wood products, 32%; in metals and products, including machinery, electric goods and foundry products, 35½%; in clay, glass, cement and stone products, 19%, and in packing and food products also 19%.

As to the geographical distribution of the trade depression, the largest reduction in work is, as would be expected from the depression in the automobile industry, indicated for the State of Michigan, the decrease in employment there, as compared with January 1920, reaching 82%. In Ohio and Indiana, the falling off in employment is 50%; in Illinois, 44%; in Connecticut, 43%; in Massachusetts, 38%; in New York, 28%; in Wisconsin, 32%, and in New Jersey, 22%.

These, as stated, are the figures for January 1, and during the month of January the extent of idleness must have further increased, as will be gathered from what has been said above, since, though a number of establishments in different industries and in different parts of the country resumed work, after previous suspension, a yet larger number previously active shut down in whole or in part. In the iron and steel trades particularly, as noted further below, the depression grew apace. Among the industries which began to show reviving energy may be mentioned the automobile concerns. Thus in De-

troit, the Highland Park plant of the Ford Motor Company resumed operations in part at the close of the month—that is, on Monday, January 28. The plant, however, is at the outset to be operated at only about 25% to 30% of its capacity. This plant was closed down on December 23, at which time the normal complement of its force was about 50,000. In resuming, the rates of wage will be the same as before, that is, on a minimum basis of \$6 per day, but the general impression is that the company will weed out all the least efficient and all who are classed as "slackers." It is learned that the company plans to begin the production of from 1,500 to 2,000 cars a day. The average before the plant closed down was around 4,000 a day.

In the iron and steel trades indications of depression became, as already indicated, steadily more pronounced and curtailment of production got to be the order of the day. Iron production in the United States in January 1921 aggregated only 2,401,845 tons, against 2,703,855 tons in December 1920, 2,934,908 tons in Nov. 1920, and 3,292,597 tons in Oct. 1920, and comparing with 3,015,181 tons in Jan. 1920 and 3,302,260 tons in Jan. 1919. According to the "Iron Age," not since May 1915, apart from May, June and October (strike months) 1919, has so little pig iron been made in any month as in January. The Steel Corporation, however, it is stated, added 35,000 tons to its December output, while the independent companies made about 170,000 tons less than in December, and the merchant furnace output declined about 165,000 tons. While there was no concerted action to bring about a lowering of labor costs, instances of reductions in wages ranging from 10% to 25% were quite numerous. Conspicuous among the companies making reductions in wages was the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. Press dispatches from Harrisburg, Jan. 17, stated that three large departments of the Steelton plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company had closed for an indefinite period and that this reduced the number of men employed to less than 3,000 as against 8,000 to 10,000, the number in normal times. It was also stated that the men retained would be affected by the wage readjustment scheme—that fully 90% of the company's men would be subject to wage cuts varying from 10% to 20%. The only reduction made by the U. S. Steel Corporation was in the sheet mills, where notice of a cut of 10%, effective Feb. 1, was posted. In Colorado the employees in the steel plant of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company agreed to a 15% reduction in wages in all departments, effective Jan. 16, and it was announced that work in all the idle mills would shortly be started on a part-time basis.

The "Iron Age," in its issue of Jan. 27, in reviewing conditions in the iron and steel industries stated that after four weeks of restricted operations, amounting in some cases to almost complete shut-downs, various independent steel companies were starting up on orders that would keep their plants going on a 50% scale for two weeks or more. In the matter of orders, the United States Steel Corporation has for a long time had the advantage of the independent steel concerns, due to the circumstance that all through 1920 it had continued to do business at the prices fixed in the spring of 1919 by the Industrial Board of the Department of Commerce in conference with the steel producers, while the independent steel producers had been demanding the prevailing market prices, which had soared to prodigious heights. Accordingly the Steel Corporation was able to continue operations to over 80% of capacity, whereas the independent companies found themselves with comparatively few orders, and in some instances without any orders, after reducing prices to the level of those of the Steel Corporation and even lower. The latter's own orders, of course, also kept diminishing under the marked contraction in the demand for the various forms of steel and

steel products. In its customary monthly statement issued on Jan. 10 the United States Steel Corporation reported the unfilled orders on the books of the subsidiary corporations as of Dec. 31 1920 at 8,148,122 tons, as against 9,021,481 tons on Nov. 30, 9,836,852 tons on Oct. 31 and 11,118,468 tons on July 31. Even at the reduction, however, to 8,148,122 tons on Dec. 31 1920, the comparison was only slightly unfavorable as against the amount on Dec. 31 1919, when the total of the unfilled orders stood at 8,265,366 tons. In the summary by the "Iron Age" of Jan. 27, already referred to, it was stated that "the Chicago district shows the independent companies running at 30% to 40% of steel and 50% to 60% of blast furnace capacity, while the Steel Corporation's finishing mills were at 80% to 85%. Pittsburgh and Ohio districts show a slightly lower average of plant operation. At Johnstown, Pa., the Cambria plant will start next week on a 50% basis, after being practically shut down since late December. Two weeks' orders are ahead. While the lowering of wages is much discussed, the steel companies are slow to act, the reductions so far made affecting a relatively small minority of mill workers."

As to prices, it was stated that some independent producers of light rails had gone below the Steel Corporation's price of 2.75c. The following further observations bearing on prices were made:

A 2.50c. Pittsburgh price was recently made on tank plates, or \$3 per ton below the established price. A sharp cut on bolts, nuts and rivets has been made by Central Western producers, the new basis being 12½% below that maintained by Eastern makers.

The dulness of the pig iron market has been somewhat relieved by sales of moderate size. Prices as low as \$27.50, Birmingham, have been done on a sale of 2,000 tons, but the usual quotation in the South is now \$30. Cleveland and Pittsburgh sales of foundry iron have been made at concessions of \$1 to \$1.50 per ton.

In copper, after some sales as low as 12½c. a pound, there were reports of some improvement in the trade, with indications of a revival in demand, but this revival did not materialize to any extent. Electrolytic copper in New York was quoted at 12.75c. Jan. 3 and 4, and then at 13.00c. up to and including Jan. 20 and thereafter at 12¾c. again.

In the prices of petroleum sharp cuts were at last made after a long antecedent rise of tremendous proportions. In the case of Pennsylvania crude oil there were successive reductions, aggregating \$1.10 a barrel, and carrying the price down from \$6.10 a barrel to \$5.00. Mid-Continent crude oil and other grades were also sharply reduced and there likewise were reductions in the price of gasoline and kerosene.

In food prices there were quite generally further marked declines. Cuban raw sugar on the spot got down to 3¾c. cost and freight—a new low level on the great break in prices. Refined sugar, granulated, was subjected to vigorous price cutting, and against 7.90@8c. at the beginning of the month, was by successive steps marked down until on Feb. 1 the price got down to 6.85c. In grain, after sharp recoveries early in the month, there were renewed declines, as already stated. In the case of wheat the decline was followed by further bank suspensions in North Dakota and also some in South Dakota. The March option for wheat at Chicago rose from \$1.67½ Jan. 6 to \$1.84½ Jan. 13, but Jan. 27 saw the quotation down to \$1.58¾; the close Jan. 31 was at \$1.60¾. The May option for wheat at Chicago, after touching \$1.61½ Jan. 6, sold up to \$1.75½ Jan. 13; the break which followed carried the quotation down to \$1.48 Jan. 27, and the same figure was again reached Jan. 31. May corn at Chicago sold down from 76½c. Jan. 3 to 64½c. Jan. 31. The July option for corn at Chicago dropped from 77¾c. Jan. 3 to 66½c. Jan. 31. May oats, from 50¼c. Jan. 3 declined to 41¼c. Jan. 31, while the July option tumbled from 49c. Jan. 3 to 41¾c. Jan. 31.

The unfavorable trade conditions, with the large inventories that many companies were obliged to carry, were reflected in further dividend reductions or suspensions, and also in the declaration in a number of instances of dividends payable in stock or in scrip instead of in cash. Prominent in this latter class were some of the mail-order concerns. Thus the directors of Sears, Roebuck & Company, Chicago, announced that the current quarterly dividend of \$2 per share (2%) on the common stock would be paid in scrip on Feb. 5 to shareholders of record Jan. 3. The scrip is due and payable on or before August 15 1922 with interest at the rate of 6%. It was stated that it was deemed more conservative to pay in this way in order to maintain cash resources. The company had the previous July, aside from the regular quarterly dividend of 2% in cash, made a stock dividend of 40%, calling for \$30,000,000 and raising the total outstanding amount of the common stock to \$105,000,000. The annual report, issued shortly after the declaration of the scrip dividend, was not altogether assuring. It showed that the company was carrying inventories aggregating \$105,071,243 and held accounts receivable of \$47,797,135, and that on Dec. 31 1920, besides the \$50,000,000 7% serial gold notes floated the previous October the company was still indebted on notes payable to an aggregate of \$44,560,165, besides owing \$10,623,905 on accounts payable. Wilson & Co., Inc. (meat packers at Chicago) also withheld payment in cash, making the 1¼% due on the common stock March 1 payable in common stock instead. President Thomas E. Wilson stated that pending a return of more settled conditions in the commercial and financial world it was deemed prudent to conserve cash. The packing industry, he stated, had passed through the period of readjustment probably in advance of all other industries, and in his view the indications were that these adjustments had now virtually run their course. Montgomery Ward & Company, another mail-order concern, on Jan. 1 omitted payment of the quarterly dividend of 1¾% on the 7% cumulative Class A stock and a preliminary report for the calendar year 1920 stated that the year had been one of hard work and no profits. Gross sales were \$112,333,525, as against \$108,514,367 in 1919. It was stated that the business for the whole year would show an operating loss of about \$1,000,000. Among the companies which omitted or deferred dividend declarations may be mentioned the Packard Motor Car Company on common, the Lincoln Motor Company on Class A stock, the Federal Motor Company, the National Leather Company, the American Druggists' Syndicate, the McCord Manufacturing Company on common, the H. W. Gossard Company on common, the Jones Bros. Tea Company Inc. on common, the American Zinc, Lead & Smelting Company on preferred, the Mohawk Mining Company, the Parish & Bingham Corporation, the W. H. McElwain Company on common, the Geneva Cutlery Corporation on preferred, the Ohio Body & Blower Company on common and the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Company on preferred.

The Vulcan Detinning Company made the quarterly dividends of 1¾% each on the preferred and the preferred "A" stocks payable in scrip instead of in cash, while the Graton & Knight Manufacturing Company, in lieu of the quarterly cash dividends of \$1.25 on the common stock declared 5% in common. The Cluett, Peabody & Company, Inc., reduced the quarterly dividend on common from 2 to 1½%. The Miller Rubber Company reduced the quarterly dividend on common from 2% to 1%. The Bates Manufacturing Company cut the semi-annual dividend from 6% to 5%, while the Edwards Manufacturing Company reduced its semi-annual dividend from 4% to 3%. The Pioneer (Sugar) Mill Company, Ltd. (Hawaii), decreased its monthly dividend from 1%

only $\frac{1}{2}\%$. The Inland Steel Company reduced its quarterly dividend from 3% to 1% and the Midvale Steel & Ordnance Company cut its quarterly payment from 2% to 1%.

Notwithstanding the depression in business and the unfavorable statements coming to hand in so many instances for 1920, and the dividend reductions and suspensions and the withholding of cash payments, no difficulty was experienced in floating numerous large new loans. And this constituted one of the prominent features of the month. It is to be said, however, that these new loans all bore high interest rates and were made attractive to investors in other ways. Municipal loans also were aplenty, and, while these carried much lower coupon rates, they possessed distinct advantages in their freedom from all forms of Federal taxation. Altogether these new loan flotations were evidence that confidence in the future remained strong, notwithstanding the many unfavorable developments attending the process of a readjustment to normal conditions in the mercantile and financial world.

Among the noteworthy favorable events of the month were the sensational rise in exchange rates on London and on Paris and most of the other Continental centres, which is referred to more at length in our review of the foreign exchange market further below, the slight easing in money rates at this centre also referred to further below, and last, but not least, the diminished borrowing at the Federal Reserve banks and the large reduction in the outstanding volume of Federal Reserve note circulation. At the same time there was also a substantial addition to the gold holdings arising out of gold importations, and altogether the ratio of cash reserves to liabilities was greatly strengthened. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York did not fare as well in the matter of cash holdings as the other Reserve banks, but in other respects it recorded improvement along lines parallel with the rest of the Reserve system. In this Federal Reserve District the aggregate of Federal Reserve notes in circulation declined week by week, and Jan. 28 was down to \$787,745,715, as against \$880,869,790 on Dec. 23. In the same period there was also a decrease from \$39,807,200 to \$36,630,200 in the aggregate of Federal Reserve Bank notes in circulation. The amount of bills held under discount was reduced from \$1,004,035,464 on Dec. 23 and \$1,014,141,128 Dec. 30, to \$893,747,905 on Jan. 14, after which there was an increase to \$944,120,113 Jan. 21, followed by a decrease again to \$937,361,837 Jan. 28. The ratio of cash reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined kept decreasing, nevertheless, owing to the fact that the New York Reserve Bank lost gold to the other Reserve banks. The ratio was 39.9% Dec. 23, 40.0% Dec. 30, 39.0% Jan. 7, 40.6% Jan. 14, 38.1% Jan. 21 and 38.3% Jan. 28.

For the twelve Reserve banks combined, however, there was improvement in every direction. Gold reserves increased week by week and, Jan. 28 stood at \$2,106,137,000, as against \$2,055,802,000 Dec. 23 and still smaller figures in the weeks preceding, while total cash reserves were \$2,319,974,000 Jan. 28, against \$2,236,754,000 Dec. 23, and smaller totals previously. Bills held under discount, on the other hand, from \$2,972,858,000 Dec. 23 and \$2,974,836,000 Dec. 30, were reduced to \$2,621,533,000 Jan. 28. The aggregate of Federal Reserve notes in circulation at the same time decreased from \$3,404,931,000 Dec. 23 to \$3,090,748,000 Jan. 28, and the amount of Federal Reserve Bank circulation from \$218,832,000 Dec. 23 to \$202,169,000 Jan. 28. The ratio of total cash reserves to net deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined kept steadily rising, and Jan. 28 was up to 49.0%, against 45.1% Dec. 23.

The New York Clearing House banks made a very substantial reduction in their loans, discounts and investments, this item being down to \$5,091,224,000

Jan. 29, against \$5,274,451,000 Dec. 31. Their deposit item also was very substantially reduced, and Jan. 29 was only \$4,089,900,000, as against \$4,275,462,000 Dec. 31. Surplus reserves varied considerably from week to week, more or less in accordance with the borrowing at the Federal Reserve Bank. On Dec. 31 this surplus was \$11,043,880; on Jan. 8 it was \$9,131,530; on Jan. 15 there was a deficiency in the required legal reserve of \$2,072,390; on Jan. 22 there was again a surplus of \$12,427,640, but the Jan. 29 statement showed the excess reserve reduced to \$8,875,150.

In the stock market the upward reaction witnessed towards the close of December, after the long and severe period of decline in prices in 1920, was continued into the early part of January, and on the whole a very substantial recovery was established from the extreme low points recorded in December. Short covering played an important part in the upward reaction, as was evident from the fact that in the case of a number of special stocks, in which the rise was particularly pronounced, high premiums had to be paid for the use of the stock for delivery against short sales. For Crucible Steel common a premium of 1% for the use of the stock was paid over night on Jan. 11. But there were other factors that had more or less potency in stimulating the upward movement early in the month. The improvement in exchange rates on the European centres, and especially the advance in the rate of sterling remittances, was one of these. Somewhat of an easier trend to money was another. Then again there were multiplying indications going to show that liquidation in stock holdings had been pretty thorough and assaults on the market no longer were successful in shaking out stocks. On the other hand, dividend reductions and omissions were a reminder that the country was passing through a critical period of readjustment, or, to be frank, through a period of bad times. Furthermore, the fact that depression in the steel trade became steadily more pronounced made it plain that these bad times had not yet run their course. Besides, the shipping and the export trade was in a poor way and this found reflection in a sharp break in the shares of companies engaged in these lines. Atlantic Gulf & West Indies common, for instance, suffered a severe drop even when the general market was strong, the stock selling down to $61\frac{1}{2}$ on Jan. 10 from 76 Jan. 3, though the close Jan. 31 was better at $70\frac{7}{8}$ in common with the general improvement in the shipping and export shares. Pool manipulation was very much in evidence in the case of certain stocks in which a large short interest was known to exist, but such manipulation while it was successful in frightening those who had made extensive short commitments did not succeed in attracting outside interest for these shares or for the general market. The speculative spirit, as far as the community at large is concerned, was and is entirely absent. This will account for the fact that after the early improvement the course of the market was irregular and without any distinct trend either upward or downward.

One of the stocks on which speculative interest particularly converged was General Asphalt common, and this was boosted up in pronounced fashion, the shares touching $71\frac{3}{4}$ Jan. 26 as against $40\frac{1}{4}$ Jan. 3, with the close Jan. 31 at $69\frac{3}{8}$. The railroad properties followed the course of the general market. The latter part of January the returns for the month of December began to come in, and some of these made quite favorable exhibits in comparison with the very poor exhibits of the year preceding, and this might have led to an advance in those shares except that for other roads the showing was very poor. Furthermore, as a result of the depression in business the volume of railroad traffic was being heavily reduced, leaving large numbers of railroad hands without work and inducing railroad executives to consider seriously the advisability of inaugurating a movement for bringing wages down somewhat from

the extremely high level to which they had been raised as the result of Government operation.

In the bond market there was further improvement in the prices of the better grade of bonds and it seemed as if this must be a result of the customary January investment demand. From the extreme low point touched in December, the recovery in high-grade bonds reached 5 to 8 points. U. S. Government bonds shared in the general improvement or, perhaps it would be more accurate to say, led in it. The last 10 days of the month somewhat of a downward reaction ensued and this may have been due to the superior attractions in the way of interest rates and other advantages afforded by the new loan flotations which came in such great profusion in January, and to which reference has already been made. Some of the local traction securities were for a time favorably influenced by the special message sent by Governor Miller to the State Legislature, suggesting a plan for dealing with the fare question, but part of the recovery was lost when it was seen that the plan was meeting with much opposition on the part of the city administration. U. S. Fourth Liberty Loan 4½s, after having recovered from 83.50 Dec. 20 to 85.20 Dec. 31, advanced further and touched 88.60 Jan. 21, but closed at 86.60. Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe gen. 4s, which had recovered from 72½ Dec. 22 to 76½ Dec. 31, advanced to 79¼ Jan. 18, but closed Jan. 31 at 78. Northern Pacific prior lien 4s, which had moved up from 71¼ Dec. 23 to 76 Dec. 31, reached 79 Jan. 17 and closed at 77½. Reading gen. 4s, which had recovered from 75 Dec. 23 to 79½ Dec. 31, sold at 81¾ Jan. 22, with the close Jan. 31 at 81½.

VOLUME OF BUSINESS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE.				
Month of January—	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.
Stock sales—				
No. of shares—	16,144,876	19,880,166	11,858,465	13,616,357
Par value—	\$1,327,513,750	\$1,781,060,200	\$1,126,755,705	\$1,279,740,700
Bond sales (par value)—				
RR. & misc. bonds	\$97,625,500	\$52,930,000	\$41,335,000	\$33,092,500
U. S. Govt. bonds	179,714,600	292,435,600	167,167,500	51,597,500
State, municipal and foreign bonds—	22,282,500	25,769,000	68,356,000	22,106,500
Total bond sales—	\$299,622,600	\$371,134,600	\$276,858,500	\$106,796,500

Those who had counted upon complete ease in money with the turn of the year were doomed to disappointment. While rates for call loans did tend lower about the middle of the month and offerings were freely made at 6%, this condition proved to be of but short duration, the market turning firm again. The range on call loans for the month was 6@8%. At the opening of the year 7% was quoted as the high, low and renewal rate and call money continued "pegged" at that figure up to Jan. 10. On that date funds on call were loaned at 6% with 7% the high and renewal figure. These rates remained unchanged during the two succeeding days. On Jan. 13 the market displayed the first real ease shown in some time, the high, low and renewal rate dropping to 6%. This was the first time the renewal rate had dropped below 7% since the previous Nov. 30. On Jan. 14, 17 and 18 the quotations remained the same. On these days over-the-counter or outside loans were available at as low as 4½@5% and the wide disparity between these rates and the figure charged on the Stock Exchange excited some comment. On Jan. 19 and 20 the range was 6@7% although on both days renewals were put through at 6%. On Jan. 21 a slightly firmer tone developed, the single rate of 7% prevailing. The firmness was attributed to heavy Government withdrawals and the recall of funds by interior banks, although money continued in fair supply. The large new loan flotations, noted above, served to keep the tone strong and the 7% rate was continued unchanged up to the last day of the month. On Jan. 31 there was a spurt upward which carried the quotation to 8%, the renewal and low rate, however, remained at 7%. These rates applied to loans on mixed collateral and all-industrial collateral without differentiation. In the market for time funds there was but little activity, and while rates shifted quite frequently, the quotations were largely nominal, though they tended strongly

downward at one time. At the opening of the month rates were 7¼@7½% for 60 and 90-day funds and 7@7¼% for four, five and six months' money. During the following week rates became considerably easier, reacting to 6% for the shorter maturities and 5½% for five and six months' loans. The succeeding week saw rates stiffen slightly, with the result that 6% was quoted for short and long accommodation alike. Despite the easier rates borrowers displayed a tendency to hold aloof from the market in anticipation of still lower prices. The closing week of the month rates were advanced to 6½% for all maturities. The rates given apply to money loaned on regular mixed collateral. Time loans on exclusively industrial collateral ranged at about ¼ of 1% above the levels of loans on mixed collateral. Commercial paper took on some semblance of activity, trading becoming fairly animated. During the first half of the month 7¾@8% was charged on 60 and 90 days' endorsed bills receivable and six months' names of choice character. Rates then eased off to 7½@8%, and a fairly large volume of business was done with the bulk of the business at 7¾%. Local institutions as well as country banks were represented in the dealings. Names not so well known at first required 8%, but during the latter half of the month funds on this class of paper were obtainable at 7¾@8%. Bankers' acceptances were in greatly improved demand, but rates after being sharply marked down were advanced again the latter part of the month. There were no changes in the rates of rediscount by the Federal Reserve Banks, except that rediscount rates on bills secured by U. S. certificates of indebtedness bearing interest rates under 6% were advanced to 6% at St. Louis, San Francisco, Richmond and Chicago.

RATES FOR MONEY AT NEW YORK, WEEKLY.				
Week ending—	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.	Jan. 28.
Call Loans at Stock Exchange—				
Range for week (mixed collateral).....	7-7	6-7	6-7	7-7
Week's average (mixed collateral).....	7	6½	6½	7
Range for week (all industrial collateral)....	7-7	6-7	6-7	7-7
Week's average (all industrial collateral)....	7	6½	6½	7
Time Loans (Mixed Collateral)—				
Sixty days.....	7¼-7½	6-7½	6	6-6½
Ninety days.....	7¼-7½	6-7½	6	6-6½
Four months.....	7-7½	6-7½	6	6-6½
Five months.....	7-7½	5½-7½	6	6-6½
Six months.....	7-7½	5½-7½	5½-6	6-6½
Time Loans (All Industrial Collateral)—				
Sixty days.....	7¼-7½	6¼-7½	6½	6¼-6½
Ninety days.....	7¼-7½	6¼-7½	6½	6¼-6½
Four months.....	7¼-7½	6¼-7½	6½	6¼-6½
Five months.....	7¼-7½	5¾-7½	6½	6¼-6½
Six months.....	7¼-7½	5¾-7½	5¾-6½	6¼-6½
Commercial Paper—				
Double names—Choice 60 to 90 days.....	7¼-8	7¼-8	7¼-8	7¼-8
Single names—Prime 4 to 6 months.....	7¼-8	7¼-8	7¼-8	7¼-8
—Good 4 to 6 months.....	8	8	7¼-8	7¼-8

In the foreign exchange market the feature of the month was the spectacular rise in sterling exchange. The recovery, which really began towards the close of the previous month, continued week by week during January and at an accelerating pace until on Jan. 27 the high point of \$3 89 for sight bills was reached. This was the best figure sterling had touched since July 16 last. The chief factors in the remarkable rise were, first, discussion in British official circles of tentative suggestions that Great Britain fund its outstanding indebtedness in this country into a long-term loan; and secondly, news that the Allied premiers had definitely reached a solution of the troublesome German reparations problem. After the terms of the agreement, however, were announced, the effect on the exchange market was anything but stimulating: On the contrary, advices received from Berlin on the last day of the month indicated that the German Government would refuse to pay the huge indemnity demanded by the Allies (226,000,000,000 marks payable over a period of 42 years with a 12% tax on exports) and this led to a vigorous selling movement with the result that sterling registered a net loss of nearly 3 cents for the day. Despite the downward reaction the last few days of January sight bills were 30¼ cents higher at the close than at the opening of the month. The improvement was practically continuous throughout the month, aided by numerous factors aside from those mentioned. There was a large outstanding short interest, and this naturally brough-

BONDS

N Y STOCK EXCHANGE

BONDS		Interest	Period	Sales in January 1921.	Sales in December 1920.	PRICES IN JANUARY.								RANGE FOR YEAR 1920.			
N	Y					STOCK	EXCHANGE	Jan. 3.		Jan. 31.		Lowest.		Highest.		Lowest.	
						Bid.	Ask.	Bid.	Ask.	Sale Prices.		Sale Prices.		Sale Prices.		Sale Prices.	
Seaboard Air Line (Concl.)—																	
Caro Cent 1st cons g 4s. 1949	J	J				60		60 1/8						64	May 27	64	May 27
Fla Cent & Pen 1st ext 6s. '23	J	J				89 3/4		90	99					90	Nov. 5	98	Oct. 15
1st land grant ext g 5s. 1930	J	J						88									
Consol gold 5s. 1943	J	J		8,000	1,000	73 1/2	80	81		75	Jan. 7	80 1/4	Jan. 17	78	Oct. 14	86	Dec. 9
Ga & Ala 1st cons 5s. Oct 1945	J	J		6,000		71	80	78	80	80	Jan. 21	80	Jan. 21	82 1/2	Oct. 14	84 1/2	Sept. 20
Ga Car & Nor 1st g 5s. 1929	J	J						83						81	July 30	89	Oct. 22
Seab & Roanoke 1st 5s. 1926	J	J												92	Nov. 8	92	Nov. 8
Sher Shr & So. See Mo K & T																	
Sil Sp O & G. See Atl Coast L																	
Sou Caro & Ga. See Southern																	
Southern Pacific Co—																	
4s g Cent Pac coll. Aug 1949	J	D		139,000	346,000	70 1/8	Sale	71 3/8	Sale	70	Jan. 3	73	Jan. 18	61 1/2	May 19	73	Jan. 10
Convertible 4s. June 1929	M	S		1,074,000	1,714,000	75 1/2	Sale	78 1/2	Sale	75 1/2	Jan. 3	79 1/2	Jan. 22	72 1/2	Dec. 22	81 1/2	Jan. 6
Convertible 5s. 1934	J	J		1,766,000	2,985,000	100 1/2	Sale			97	Jan. 14	100 1/2	Jan. 3	92 1/2	Dec. 21	117	Nov. 4
Cent Pac 1st ref gu g 4s. 1940	F	A		871,000	1,080,000	73 1/4	Sale	73	Sale	72 1/2	Jan. 4	75	Jan. 17	65 1/4	Apr. 22	78	Jan. 3
Registered. 1949	F	A															
Mtg gu g 3 1/2s. Aug 1929	J	D		56,000	87,000	75 1/2	76	77 1/2	Sale	75 1/2	Jan. 5	78	Jan. 4	72 1/2	Dec. 27	82 1/2	Jan. 1
Through St L 1st gu g 4s. '54	A	O		54,000	43,000	68 3/8	Sale	71	73	68 3/8	Jan. 3	73 1/4	Jan. 18	60 1/4	May 8	74 1/2	Oct. 1
Gal H & San Ant 1st 5s. 1931	M	N				80		86 1/4	90					85	Oct. 29	87	Mar. 3
2d guar exten 5s. 1931	J	J		2,000			97		97	90	Jan. 18	90	Jan. 18				
Gila V G & N 1st gu g 5s. 1924	M	N						90									
H E & W T 1st g 5s. 1933	M	N		8,000	12,000		85 1/2			84	Jan. 6	84	Jan. 6	74 1/2	Dec. 14	85 1/4	Jan. 7
1st gu g 5s redeem. 1933	M	N						83 3/4						82 1/4	Aug. 27	82 1/4	Aug. 27
H & Tex C 1st g 5s int gu. 1937	J	J			23,000		88 1/4	79 1/4						84	Dec. 17	93 1/2	Oct. 18
Gen gold 4s, int guar. 1921	A	O			12,000	95 1/2		96 1/8						93	Jan. 9	97 1/2	Sept. 23
Waco & N W 1st g 6s. 1930	M	N						85									
A & N W 1st gu g 5s. 1941	J	J		1,000			83 1/2	85		84	Jan. 7	84	Jan. 7	83	Sept. 2	85	Mar. 31
Louisiana West 1st 6s. 1921	J	J				95 3/8	99 1/2	95 3/8	99 1/2					95 3/8	Sept. 28	95 3/8	Sept. 28
Nor of Cal gu gold 5s. 1938	A	O		1,000		86 1/2											

