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INCLUDING

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State and City Section.

A new number of our "State and City Section," revised to date, appears to-day, and all readers of the paper who are subscribers should receive a copy of it. As previously announced, this Supplement is now printed in two parts, Part One, containing the New England, the Middle and the Middle Western States, having been issued last June, while Part Two, embracing the rest of the country, appears to-day. The change is due to the fact that with the growth and multiplication of the municipalities of the United States the demand for additional space has become too heavy to satisfy within the limits of a single number.

The Financial Situation.

The recent decision upholding the right of the Cotton Exchange to withhold its ticker service from users whom it does not approve is of such fundamental and far-reaching importance that some comment upon it is appropriate at this time. Some 30 years ago the Consolidated Stock Exchange obtained an injunction forbidding the Stock Exchange from withdrawing its quotation service. It was not deemed best then to contest that action, and although bucket shop operations and disclosures thereof have produced very different conditions from those at that time the main Exchange has not yet thought it expedient to push the matter; now, however, comes the decision of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, affirming the action of a lower court in refusing a similar injunction, and not only greatly strengthens the stand of the Stock Exchange, legally and morally, but throws a sharp light upon the substance and the public importance of the subject.

To go directly to the root of the matter, a statement of the positions taken by the contending parties will best serve. The Cotton Exchange considers

the Odd Lot organization a successor to a former body which was guilty of improper trading and therefore refuses to supply its own quotations to that minor body; the minor body insists that it is now clean, and sought the injunction which thus far stands denied; through its official head it puts its case in a statement so clearly contrasting the alleged with the real principle involved that we quote it without attempting to paraphrase it:

"The Odd Lot Cotton Exchange of New York is fighting for a principle, and that principle is the right of the small cotton merchant, the small farmer and the small trader, to the facilities and privileges of the cotton futures market on the same basis as the wealthy and powerful members of the Big Board. . . . We do not believe that the New York Cotton Exchange has any unconditional ownership in the price of a world-wide commodity such as cotton. We appreciate the painstaking care and consideration given our case by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and regret that we should have lost it. We are informed by our attorneys that we have the right of appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and have instructed them to make such appeal."

The action of the final tribunal, when such an appeal reaches it, cannot be properly assumed in advance, however strongly one may feel concerning it. But another appeal has already gone to a tribunal which ultimately decides all human questions that can be decided by a majority concurrence upon them, namely the court of public opinion. It is or should be impossible to entertain doubt what that tribunal will finally do with such an issue as is raised by the foregoing statement, which shows what utter absurdity can be declared when a case of special pleading becomes desperate. The alleged "principle" is "the right of the small farmer and small trader to the facilities and privileges of the cotton futures market on the same basis as the wealthy and powerful members of the Big Board," and it is denied that the accused powerful association "has any unconditional ownership in the price of a world-wide commodity such as cotton." It is worth while to quote these declarations a second time, so illuminating are they. Here is the familiar attempt to fan anew the hatred of the poor against the rich, and the same attempt to convert every business association and every business success into a "trust." Certainly nobody has any "ownership," exclusive and "unconditional," or otherwise, in the prices of commodities. Like the Stock Exchange, the Cotton Exchange is a voluntary organization for business, with an inalienable right to grant or refuse admission to its membership to anybody it chooses (the same right as a literary or social club has to do the same) and a like right to control its own private facilities and information. Destroy this right, and a bank would be compelled to do busi-

ness with unprofitable or undesirable customers, a clearing house could have no control over its own membership, a newspaper could not exclude advertisements deemed objectionable, nor could newspapers associate for the purpose of obtaining news. It is needless to multiply illustrations of the chaos to which such a doctrine of enforced sharing would lead us if carried to the full, because the essence of it is the "principle" that everything must be shared with everybody who is willing to pay something for it; that is to say, there is no indefeasible private ownership, which means that there is no private property. Human beings must have air to breathe, or they cannot exist; not more surely must the rights of ownership in property be maintained or property cannot exist.

It may once more be pointed out that there is no analogy between a bank and a "trade" association; further, there is none between the latter and a common carrier or a public utility. When men get together for obtaining information and other business facilities, at their own cost, they have no franchise, no monopoly power, and no means of preventing an unlimited number of others from combining likewise and for the same purpose.

Some statements in a recent address to associated bankers by President Cromwell of the Stock Exchange may also claim a right to mention at this time. Mr. Cromwell denies the current story that in failures of Exchange houses losses to customers have been a large percentage of the total. In the last three years, he says, the sales of listed securities upon the Exchange have shown a loss to the business handled of only $2\frac{1}{2}$ one-thousandths of 1%; this marks anew the distinction between listed and unlisted securities, and gives emphasis to our recent remark that to be on the Exchange "list," though not a guaranty in the usual sense of that term, does imply and does give a warrant of financial "moral character." Says Mr. Cromwell:

"The remarkably high percentage of cash payments in Exchange failures is well known; the fact must also not be lost sight of that these cash payments are made after large amounts of securities have been returned to customers; failures on the Stock Exchange during recent years have not been isolated instances of business insolvency but were the result of conditions in American business which have brought about failures in all lines of endeavor in even larger proportions, including banking. . . . Upon the Stock Exchange is often placed responsibility for the sins of others."

All perfectly true, but not yet enough "well known." Mr. Cromwell proceeds to say that stockholders of companies are "extraordinarily apathetic" about periodical statements from their companies; that he has no sympathy with excuses for not making such statements, and he thinks the Exchange is not enough awake to the need and expediency of drastic action in such cases; he goes so far as to say that when public reports concerning listed stocks are too long withheld the stockholders ought to be informed, thereby receiving opportunity for action, and that if their demands (supposing they make such) are not complied with the stock ought to be stricken from the list, after a certain period; such an action would deal the company a blow through loss of confidence, yet he believes one such sharp lesson would be sufficient and in the end there would be a public gain.

These are a few of the "high spots" in an address which ought to be read by all persons, in or out of Congress, who let unverified rumors pass as facts and fall into the deplorable habit of denouncing. Mr. Cromwell shows once more that the Stock Exchange has better ability and a keener concern in setting up and keeping the highest standards of business morality than any self-appointed reformers and investigators can have. What business and prosperity need now is in large measure what a mother worrying about the ill-behavior of her little boy was told by a more judicious mother might be hopefully tried: "A little wholesome neglect." Give us a term of rest from meddling interventions. As Grant said long ago, "Let us have peace." In attacking one another we attack ourselves.

With the selection of Henry M. Robinson, lawyer and banker of Los Angeles, the American membership on "the expert committees which are to investigate the condition of Germany's finances under the auspices of the Reparations Commission" has been completed. It will be recalled that "the other two American members, previously selected, are Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young." General Dawes was the first Director of the Budget, while Mr. Young is Chairman of the Board of the General Electric Co. The former has been asked to serve as Chairman of the special committee to which he has been appointed. Mr. Robinson is President of the First National Bank of Los Angeles, and prominently identified with other financial institutions. During the war he was a member of the National Council of Defense and assistant to Edward M. Hurley, Chairman of the Shipping Board. Later he was Special Commissioner of the United States Shipping Board at the Versailles Peace Conference. In the Paris cablegram, through which the announcement of the selection of Mr. Robinson reached this country, it was noted that "he was created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1920." It seems that "Mr. Robinson will be named a member of the committee to estimate the amount of German capital abroad."

According to a Paris dispatch, "all the delegates of the Powers represented on the Reparations Commission have notified Colonel James A. Logan, the American representative, that they will attend a plenary session of the Commission, to be held shortly, and join in extending the invitation to Mr. Robinson." Word was received from the same centre Wednesday evening that "the Reparations Commission to-day formally approved the nominations of the two expert committees which are to investigate Germany's financial situation, and issued an invitation to Henry M. Robinson, Los Angeles lawyer and banker, to be the third American member, Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young having previously been invited. It was announced also that "the first committee, that on budget, will meet here on Jan. 14, and the second, which will consider German capital abroad, on Jan. 21, so as to give Mr. Robinson time to get here." In a later cablegram it was stated that the Commission made "official nomination of 15 delegates who will represent the United States, England, France, Belgium and Italy on the two committees to inquire into the means of creating stable money for Germany and balancing the budget, and into the extent to which German capital has been transferred abroad and methods by which its return can be secured. Notice of their nomination and invitations

to attend the first meetings of the committees in Paris. were sent to the delegates." Announcement was made also that Sir Robert Kinderley had been substituted on the English delegation for Montagu Norman. It seems that the Bank of England, of which he is a Governor, could not "see its way" to give its consent to his being absent from London long enough to serve on the committee. Sir Robert "was the first British representative on the Bankers' Commission on which the United States was represented by J. P. Morgan."

The New York "Times" representative in Paris cabled that, "though the first meeting of the two committees will be held in Paris, it is expected that later they will find it convenient to work in Berlin. Sir John Bradbury and Louis Barthou are in agreement that the fullest liberty shall be granted them to meet where they wish and when they wish, to discuss the situation from every angle with complete freedom and to report their findings irrespective of any political considerations." He added that "among the members of the Reparations Commission responsible for the creation of these two committees and the nomination of their members there is a fairly optimistic spirit, for it is realized that under the chairmanship of General Charles G. Dawes and with such members as Reginald McKenna the two committees will prove themselves 'strong.' It is no secret that much is hoped from the driving force of the American delegation and from its detachment from the circumstances which have recently so much hindered the work of the Reparations Commission and caused a practical deadlock." According to the correspondent also, "there is ground for hope, too, in the fact that the German Government appears to consider very favorably the work of the committees and is ready to give all the help it can both in supplying full information on the actual and potential situation of German finance and in helping Committee No. 2 to estimate and identify exported capital. The Belgian and Italian representatives who were nominated today have been like the American, British and French, selected because of their technical knowledge of the questions to be examined and not because of political prominence."

According to Washington advices, Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young, "for nearly two hours on Thursday conferred with Secretary of State Hughes and later went to the White House, where they were luncheon guests of President Coolidge. Neither would make any statement on their forthcoming visit." They will sail for Europe to-day. The Washington correspondent of "The Sun and The Globe" observed that, "while explanations were made by Administration officials that the American Government is not officially interested in the examination by the Reparations Commission into Germany's budget and the escape of her capital to foreign countries it is appreciated that both President Coolidge and Secretary Hughes entertain the highest hopes that something definite and practical for the restoration of the financial and economic balance in Europe will result from the participation of the members of the delegation from the United States."

Premier Poincare, in the Chamber of Deputies on Dec. 21 made a three-hour address in defense of his foreign policy, particularly with respect to the occupation of the Ruhr. The New York "Times" representative said that he "painted a rosy picture of all

that would result from the exploitation of the Ruhr and a very dark picture indeed of what would have happened had the Ruhr not been occupied." The Premier was reported to have admitted that "it is unfortunately certain that Germany can pay nothing now in cash. She must first stabilize her money. Immediately afterward a loan can be raised on many different securities." He further qualified his optimism by saying that "I do not think the hour of optimism has yet struck. We have still serious reasons for remaining reserved." Relative to the proposed investigation of Germany's financial position by two special committees, under the direction of the Reparations Commission, M. Poincare said: "We are ready to take up or allow the Reparations Commission to take up the study of reparations at the point which the question has now reached, that is to say that, having our guarantees, we will not abandon them before we are paid." The New York "Times" correspondent observed that "the French attitude toward the League of Nations has been one of the points on which the Premier has been attacked, but to the League and the Council he paid this somewhat lukewarm compliment: 'As it exists, without the serious and practical means of action with which we wished to furnish it—an international army—the League exercises great moral authority and can render appreciable services; but it is not capable of stopping a nation animated by warlike and aggressive sentiments, and it does not relieve us from the task of looking to our own security.'"

At the session of the Chamber the next evening the French Premier "won the first stage of a hard fight by a vote of 392 to 169." By this action the Chamber "rejected an amendment to the high cost of living allowance bill." It was explained that "the Premier had made rejection of the amendment a question of confidence in the Government." The further information was imparted that, "as it now stands the bill would give slight increases in the high cost of living allowances to Government employees in those cities where the conditions are severest. To fulfill its provisions would cost about 290,000,000 francs a year, as compared with about 1,000,000,000 francs under the plan favored by the opposition."

As might easily have been expected, the Germans took an entirely different view of this troublesome question of reparations, and it was not at all surprising that the Berlin correspondent of the New York "Herald" should have cabled that "Germany no longer can undertake to make any reparations payments whatever and consequently cannot reimburse individual Ruhr industrialists for coal and other deliveries to France under the Duesseldorf agreement. Chancellor Marx to-day [Dec. 21] so informed the committee of fifteen charged with the economic and financial reorganization of the Rhineland and the Ruhr, according to authoritative information." The correspondent declared that "this development means the canceling of the Duesseldorf contract officially ratified by the German Government in its note to the Reparations Commission of Nov. 30. The Stresemann Cabinet then announced that the reparational deliveries made under the convention signed by Hugo Stinnes and other coal operators with General Degoutte would not be repaid to the individual shippers by the State 'after the Reich's finances had been put in order.'" He also observed that "the Chancellor evidently hopes that his repu-

lication of the Duesseldorf agreement, which certainly will not be carried out by the industrials without Government backing, will clear the ground for an entirely new arrangement evolving out of the present direct negotiations between Paris and Berlin. This step puts back the German position in the occupied territory to what it was immediately after the proclamation abandoning passive resistance, which Premier Poincare refused to recognize, since it did not insure the resumption of work in the Ruhr industries."

Of course, the French have continued to maintain that, not only should Germany pay a full measure of reparations, but that actually she is able to do so, notwithstanding all statements and evidence to the contrary. It was perfectly natural, therefore, that the Paris correspondent of the New York "Times" should have said that "publication by the American press of the opinion of New York bankers that the Germans hold \$200,000,000 or thereabouts in the United States is taken by the French as justification of their argument that Germany can find means to finance food purchases in America other than by asking for the derogation of reparations." He said also that "the French estimate that German citizens hold abroad 15,000,000,000 marks gold, or nearly \$4,000,000,000, which has been sent out of Germany to avoid taxation for reparations. That being the case, the French feel that Berlin should arrange with the holders of this wealth to finance food purchases rather than try to float in the United States a \$70,000,000 loan having priority for repayment over reparations, which, they argue, amounts to asking France and Belgium to foot the bill, since, theoretically at least, if this \$70,000,000 were not repaid it would go for reparations."

Dr. von Hoesch, German Charge d'Affaires at Paris, called upon Premier Poincare on Dec. 24. The New York "Times" correspondent in the French capital said that "what Dr. von Hoesch proposed to M. Poincare to-day was a discussion of issues concerning a modus vivendi in the Ruhr. Official secrecy is thrown about the actual propositions, and so it cannot yet be said whether the German suggestions per se make an accord probable. But the nature of to-day's demarche indicates that Germany is willing to negotiate on the basis laid down by M. Poincare." He added that "it is understood that among the subjects on which Dr. von Hoesch to-day asked conversations were commercial exchanges between occupied and unoccupied Germany, monetary questions, in particular the Rhenish-Westphalian Bank, navigation on the Rhine, transport on the Rhineland railroads and other questions of general administration, and application under the French occupation of German general and local laws." According to this dispatch also, "M. Poincare replied to the German Charge that he would answer his note after he had conferred with the Belgian Government." The Associated Press representative declared that Premier Poincare "agreed with the proposals." The New York "Tribune" representative cabled that "the appointment of Dr. von Hoesch as German Ambassador to France is expected this week."

An announcement of more than ordinary interest came to hand on Dec. 26. It was contained in an Associated Press dispatch from Paris and was to the

effect that "the Chamber of Deputies to-day approved M. Loucheur's proposal to reduce the number of Deputies from 626 to 591. The vote was 290 to 230." It was also stated that "France's budget for next year, submitted to the Senate to-day by its Finance Commission, shows a surplus of 568,000,000 francs. The receipts are given as 23,950,000,000 francs, against expenses of 23,382,000,000." The Associated Press correspondent explained that "the favorable balance is obtained by a steady increase in tax collections, attributed partly to the activity of business through low exchange, which is tending to increase exports." It was further explained that "last summer the Poincare Government obtained the consent of the Chamber and Senate for operation throughout 1924 of the same budget arrangements as had been decided for 1923. During this year the estimates have been exceeded by 750,000,000 francs, from which sum will be taken the amount voted last week by the Chamber toward increased cost of living allowances for State functionaries." Reporter Beranger declared that "the real financial situation of France is very wrongly represented by the adverse exchange rate of the franc, which to-day [Dec. 26] touched nearly twenty to the dollar on the Paris Bourse." M. de Lasteyrie, Minister of Finance, "replying in the Senate to questions regarding the financial situation," said that "commerce and finance were in good shape. But nevertheless the franc had been falling for three years. He concluded that the psychological reactions of world finance were unfavorable to France. He recalled that France this year had repaid to Spain 204,000,000 pesetas, the United States \$13,000,000, and Japan 50,000,000 yen, but had to borrow for expenses chargeable to Germany." The Finance Minister "blamed the depreciation in French exchange on Germany's failure to pay reparations and 'consequent evils.'"

At a session of the Reparations Commission in Paris on Dec. 21 that body "took up the request of Germany for permission to float a \$70,000,000 food loan with priority over reparations and somewhat sidetracked it by referring one part of the request to the Allied Governments and the second part to the Committee on Guarantees. The original German request was made under Article 251 of the Treaty of Versailles. As the point was made in Paris that this article refers to exceptions to the reparations rules which may be made by the Allied and Associated Governments, Berlin sent yesterday a supplementary note asking that action be taken under Article 248, which says about the same thing as Article 251, but refers to exceptions which may be made by the Reparations Commission." The New York "Times" representative cabled that "the Commission decided as follows: 'First—To refer the German Government's request to the Allied Governments in conformity with Article 251 of the Treaty of Versailles. Second—To request the Committee on Guarantees, with a view to facilitating the decision to be taken either by the Governments or by the Reparations Commission, to draw up with as little delay as possible a report on the situation in Germany with regard to bread cereals and edible fats.'" He declared that "this means officially what was apparent from the first, namely that the decision will be made by the Allied Governments and will have to be unanimous. The French and Belgians have firmly decided not to give Germany clear permission to float a loan



which shall come ahead of reparations in repayment."

A lively controversy has been going on for a week or more between Foreign Minister Tchitcherin of the Soviet Government of Russia and Secretary of State Hughes relative to the charge that the Soviet was carrying on propaganda in this country with a view to bringing on a revolution. Near the close of last week the American State Department issued a statement to that effect. The Moscow correspondent of the New York "Times" in a wireless dispatch on Dec. 21, said that "Foreign Minister Tchitcherin issued a vigorous denial to-day of the assertion by the American State Department that the Soviet Government had sent instructions to the American Workers' Party to prepare a revolution in the United States." That evening the Foreign Minister issued the following communique relative to his side of the controversy: "Having acquainted myself with the contents of the documents made public by Mr. Hughes, I communicated with Zinovief and Stekloff, and on behalf of the Soviet Government, and these two citizens, I emphatically declare these documents unmitigated forgeries, like the infamous Sisson papers, and challenge Mr. Hughes—failing unconditional withdrawal—to produce them before any impartial arbitration court jointly agreed upon. If he fails to do this, Mr. Hughes will show the whole world that he consciously made himself instrumental in publishing and broadcasting forged documents. It is for Mr. Hughes to exonerate himself from this accusation leveled against him." According to a Washington dispatch the same evening, "Secretary Hughes declined to-night to comment on Tchitcherin's denial in behalf of Zinovief and Stekloff of the authenticity of the documents which Mr. Hughes made public on Thursday with respect to Communist revolutionary work in this country. It is not the desire of the Secretary to engage in a controversy with the leaders of the Soviet regime at Moscow through the medium of newspaper interviews. The Secretary of State has been assured by the Department of Justice of the authenticity of the Zinovief instructions, as given out by the State Department, and also with respect to the statements made by Stekloff, member of the Russian Communist Party, of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and editor of 'Izvestiya,' official organ of the Soviet regime, and Mr. Hughes has no reason to believe that either document is a forgery."

Those who know Mr. Hughes and his methods of working realized from the start that he was sure of his position and that he would not have gone as far as he had without having in his possession what he regarded as satisfactory documentary substantiation of his assertions. With respect to this assumption, the Washington correspondent of the New York "Times" said that, "although the Secretary of State refused to comment for publication on the denial made at Moscow, it is ascertained in a trustworthy quarter that the position of the State Department, which has the endorsement of the President, has not been shaken by the attempt of certain Senators to ridicule the statements made by Secretary Hughes, nor by declarations from Moscow that the documents are forgeries. It is learned that the documents given out by Secretary Hughes do not by any means constitute the portfolio of documentary evidence in the

case upon which the Government bases its charge that the men in control of the Soviet regime at Moscow have not abandoned revolutionary propaganda aimed at the American and other Governments. The Department of Justice is declared to be possessed of other evidence, and the State Department is also in possession of what it regards as ample proof that has come to it through other channels of trusted character. The Secretary of State, it is learned, has no reason to doubt the evidence in the case. It is understood that in due time, through official channels, the other documents upon which the Secretary bases his accusations against the Soviet regime will be made public." The same day the Washington correspondent of the New York "Herald" telegraphed that "President Coolidge is standing pat on his statement in regard to recognition by the United States of the Soviet Government of Russia. He has nothing to add or detract. The White House declaration was regarded as notice that the President is committed to the policy set forth by Secretary Hughes as to what the Moscow Government must do by way of restitution before the United States can enter into negotiations." He further suggested that "it was also taken to indicate that the President is not disposed to be stampeded by the fireback in the Senate and the preparations being made there to launch an independent investigation of Communist propaganda in the United States."

It did not take long to show that Secretary of State Hughes has been unmistakably certain of his ground before he made charges against the Soviet Government. On the evening of Dec. 24 he made public in Washington a copy of an article in "Izvestiya." The Washington correspondent of the New York "Herald" said that "Secretary Hughes made public to-night the text of the official document on which he based his charge that the Soviet Government of Russia and the Third or Communist International, the instrument of revolutionary propaganda, are integrally united in their political and material aims." He added that "the document in question is from the pen of Stekloff, the editor of 'Izvestiya,' the mouthpiece of the Soviet Government. Secretary Hughes charged that Zinovief, President of the Communist International, issued revolutionary instructions to the Workers' Party of America." According to the dispatch also, "it was pointed out by the State Department that the Stekloff article, which appeared on Nov. 7 1922, on the fifth anniversary of the October revolution and on the opening of the fourth Congress of the Communist International, was entirely devoted to a recounting of the close political and spiritual unity and aim of the Soviet Government and the International." The New York "Herald" correspondent further stated that "Stekloff asserted that all the Soviet leaders and all the leaders of the International were in accord, and that they accepted the principle of co-operation at home and abroad." The New York "Times" discovered that the copy of the Soviet organ in which the article, written by its editor, appeared, was on file in the New York Public Library. The editor of "Izvestiya" was reported in an Associated Press dispatch from Moscow under date of Dec. 25, to have declared in the issue of the paper of that date that "the American Secretary of State could claim only 'a formal triumph' in his quotation of an article from 'Izvestiya' of Nov. 7 1922 to substantiate his charge that

the Soviets conducted active revolutionary propaganda in the United States and that there was no real difference between the Communist International and the Soviet Government. M. Stekloff also accused Secretary Hughes of changing the sense of the article."

Apparently the leaders in the overthrow of King George of Greece have not known just how to proceed following their victory. A special European correspondent of the New York "Times," cabling from Athens under date of Dec. 22, said in part: "The Greek political leaders are suffering a reaction after launching a thunderbolt that failed to produce the expected detonation. Having got rid of a King by a bold and sudden stroke, they do not quite know what to do with the Kingdom a week after the quietest and most momentous election in the history of Greece, in which ballots replaced for the first time the historic cannon balls." The correspondent added that "the Glucksburg dynasty is abolished, but the next step is as uncertain as ever. Only the return of Venizelos could move to enthusiasm a people who viewed the departure of King George with complete indifference. The Greeks are tired of crises. They cast their votes almost impartially last Sunday between the Liberals, the out-and-out Venizelists, and the Democrats, who in Greece are the Republicans." The situation was outlined still further in part as follows: "The willingness of the Liberals to allow the Republicans to assume full responsibility in the critical interval until Parliament convenes has weakened the clamor for the immediate formation of a Republican Cabinet; also, there are differences between the military wing of the Republicans, represented by General Pangalos, the fiery soldier responsible for the manifesto of the 4,000 army and navy officers that forced the Government to expel the King, and the political wing, headed by M. Papanastasion, the leader of the party. Both are national heroes. Pangalos reorganized and whipped into shape the army after the rout in Asia Minor and enabled Greece to make a stand against paying indemnities to Turkey. Papanastasion was one of the seven members of the Venizelos Cabinet thrown into prison by order of Consantine."

Through an Associated Press cablegram from the Greek capital under date of Dec. 21 it became known in this country that, "Premier Gonatas, replying to formal demands from the Republicans that the Government be turned over to them because of their successes in the election, to-day announced that the Government would retain power until the National Assembly had convened and elected its President." The correspondent said also that "General Pangalos, Military Governor of Athens and Republican leader, expressed surprise and indignation that the Government should not be turned over to the party that won the elections." General Pangalos was reported to have said, "I demand that the Gonatas Government resign immediately. If the Liberals have a majority, let them form a new Government, but the present Government must get out." The Associated Press representative further reported that "it is learned that the officers who sent an appeal by telegraph to former Premier Venizelos in Paris requested his return to Greece only on the condition that he favored a republic. The appeal sent to him declares that the dynasty is ended and says the officers desire him to

return and reunite the people in a republic." He added that "in well-informed circles it is not believed that M. Venizelos will consent to return to Greece, at least until the National Assembly has been given an opportunity to attempt to clarify the present clouded political atmosphere." The very next day word came from Athens through an Associated Press cablegram that "the Council of Ministers has decided to instruct Colonel Plastiras of the revolutionary committee to ask ex-Premier Venizelos, without any conditions and with complete liberty of initiative, to return to Greece and take the political situation in hand." In a subsequent message more details were given, it being stated that "the invitation asks M. Venizelos to arrive before the convocation of the newly elected National Assembly on Jan. 2. This request is interpreted in some quarters as indicating a fear on the part of the Revolutionary Committee that a Republican Government will be formed if the return of the former Premier is delayed." The Paris representative of the Associated Press cabled that "ex-Premier Venizelos of Greece, informed through new sources to-day that a delegation bearing a letter from Colonel Plastiras, head of the Greek revolutionary committee, inviting the ex-Premier to return to Greece, had left Athens for Paris yesterday on the steamer Andros, replied through his secretary that he would be glad to receive the delegation." It was added that "he expressed doubt, however, whether the explanation accompanying the invitation, would cause him to alter his decision not to return to Greece for the present." The next development of interest was the report from Athens on Dec. 24 that "ex-Premier Venizelos has telegraphed from Paris to Colonel Plastiras of the revolutionary committee requesting information as to the relative strength of the contending parties in Greece." It seems that he asked Colonel Plastiras "to transmit to him immediately the following particulars relative to the political situation in Greece: 'First—The number and full names of the Deputies claimed by the Republicans, Liberals and Liberti Republicans. Second—The number and votes they received in each province and the number of people who voted. Third—The number of registered voters in each province and how many of them are refugees. Fourth—The number of people voting in each province in the 1920 elections.'"

Word came from Athens in a cable message dated Dec. 22 that "the Rumanian Minister to Greece, M. Djouvara, has suddenly been summoned back to Bucharest." It was added that "the Minister notified the Greek Government he had received instructions from his Government to depart from Athens forthwith. He planned to leave at 4 o'clock this afternoon" (Dec. 22). Commenting upon the incident, the Associated Press correspondent at Athens called attention to the fact that "Queen Elizabeth is a daughter of Queen Marie of Rumania." It will be recalled that the former, with her husband, King George of Greece, left their country late last week, at the request of the Republicans, who had won at the general election just held. The Athens dispatch stated that "M. Djouvara informer Premier Gonatas that he hoped to return to Athens in three weeks' time." The news came from Bucharest in a dispatch, also dated Dec. 22, that "King George and Queen Elizabeth of Greece arrived here at 3 o'clock this afternoon from Athens." It was also stated that

they "will reside at the royal palace at Controceni."

Definite word came from both Paris and Athens Wednesday morning that former Premier Venizelos had decided to return to Greece "temporarily." The Athens representative of the Associated Press cabled that "ex-Premier Venizelos, in compliance with the request of the Greek people as voiced by the leaders of the various political parties, will return to Athens immediately. In informing the Government of his decision, M. Venizelos, however, clearly points out that his return will be only temporary, for the purpose of acting as a guide and adviser in regulating the situation, and that in no circumstances will he undertake the formation of a Cabinet. He will take ship at Marseilles Dec. 29, according to his present plans, and he begs that there shall be no public reception." The Greek Legation in Paris issued a communique Wednesday afternoon that was said to have been "dictated by Venizelos himself." According to a special Paris cablegram from the New York "Tribune" correspondent at that centre, "of the 396 newly elected members of the Greek Assembly, 300 joined in the plea to Venizelos to return and take the Government in charge. It is the opinion here that, despite his initial reservations, Venizelos is likely to accede in full to this request, and a Greek republic is not considered outside the bounds of probability."

It is a long time since the European cable dispatches have contained even mention of Gabriele D'Annunzio, the highly temperamental and erratic poet-soldier of Italy. His last striking and sensational act was made known here through an Associated Press dispatch from Gardone, Italy, Dec. 24. It said that "Gabriele D'Annunzio, poet-soldier, has bequeathed all his possessions as 'an altar of victory' to his country. The bequest consists of his villa and spacious garden, where he has erected numerous shrines in circular form, each shrine consisting of rock hewn from the Alps, where the fiercest encounters of the war occurred." The further details included the statement that "D'Annunzio has consigned the gift to Major Giovanni Giurati, former Minister of Liberated Regions and former Chief of D'Annunzio's Fiume Cabinet, representing the Government, with a voluminous deed."

Apparently efforts will be made to put Great Britain on a trade protection basis in spite of the unfavorable results of the recent general election. In a special London cablegram to the New York "Times" under date of Dec. 24 it was stated that "the committee on tariff reform, consisting of industrial experts and economists, with Lord Milner as Chairman, which the Government set up to formulate suggestions for the introduction of protection in Great Britain is expected to report soon, in spite of the result of the elections. How far it will go has not been announced, but it is believed that it will lay down certain broad principles, even if the exigencies of time and politics do not permit it to make detailed proposals." The correspondent added that "its determination to report is based on the fact that a good many supporters of the Government do not believe that the protection issue is really dead. They admit that it has had a bad setback, but they argue that the conditions which drove Premier Baldwin to come out in favor of a tariff still exist; that the modified pro-

tection under which the country has lived for the last few years cannot be abolished without a great outcry, and that the sheer force of circumstances may yet induce the politicians who have been loudest in praise of free trade to agree to some kind of protection." In further explanation of the situation, he said that "consequently the Conservatives wish to place on record the policy they would enforce if they could still retain power and to lay it before the electorate, so that its real merits may sink into the popular mind. It is even suggested, but without any trustworthy confirmation, that the Government may put protection into the King's speech and go down to defeat in the House of Commons with its colors flying."

Still another foreign Ministry has gone down. That of Japan is the latest to be reported. The incident occurred on Dec. 27 and followed "the resignation of Home Minister Goto, who assumed the responsibility as Home Minister for the attempted assassination of Prince Regent Hirohito by a youth under arrest." According to an Associated Press cablegram from Tokio, "Baron Goto's home and all Socialist centres are being closely guarded owing to fear of anti-Socialist outbreaks. The assailant of the Prince Regent was identified some hours after his arrest as Daisuke Namba, 27, the son of a politician of minor note. He formerly was a student at Waseda University, but was driven by force of circumstances to work as a laborer. In this occupation he became interested in Communism." Explanation of the whole unfortunate affair apparently may be found in the last sentence. In a cablegram from Tokio last evening it was stated that, "in view of developments growing out of the attempted assassination yesterday of Prince Regent Hirohito, the latter has requested the members of the Cabinet to continue in office for the present. They are expected to retire before the meeting of the Diet on Jan. 20."

Official discount rates at leading European centres have not been changed from 7% in Norway; 6% in Denmark; 5½% in Belgium and Sweden; 5% in France and Madrid; 4½% in Holland and 4% in London and Switzerland. A cable dispatch to the New York News Bureau from Berlin, Dec. 22, stated that with the stabilization of the currency by the issuance of Renten marks, the new discount rate established is 10%. The previous discount rate was 90%. In London the open market discount rate has been advanced to 3 7-16 @ 3½% for short bills, from 3¼%, and to 3 7-16% for three months' bills, against 3 5-16 @ 3⅜% last week. Call money at the British centre, however, was slightly lower for a time at 1½%, but closed at 1¾%, the same as a week earlier. At Paris and Switzerland the open market discounts remain at 4½% and 2½%, the same as last week.

For the first time in several weeks the Bank of England reported a loss in gold holdings, albeit only £3,701, while the proportion of reserve to liabilities again fell, declining to 14.82%, from 15.66% last week and 16.73% for the week of Dec. 12. In the corresponding week of last year the ratio stood at 15¾% and a year earlier at 16⅝%. On the other hand, note circulation was reduced £42,000 and reserve increased £39,000. Public deposits expanded £487,000 and "other" deposits £7,090,000, while

there were increases in both loans on Government securities and loans on other securities—£2,196,000 in the former and £5,153,000 in the latter. These changes were ascribed to preparations for the year-end disbursements. The Bank's gold stock now stands at £128,019,382. At this time a year ago it was £127,443,007, and in 1921 £128,434,359. Reserve amounts to £19,624,000, against £21,015,337 in 1922 and £20,364,114 a year earlier. Circulation is £128,143,000, in comparison with £124,877,670 and £126,520,245 one and two years ago, respectively. Loans aggregate £81,073,000, which compares with £78,158,131 in 1922 and £83,164,909 the year before that. Clearings through the London banks for the week totaled £470,669,000, comparing with £716,406,000 a week ago and £469,566,000 last year. The Bank's minimum discount rate has not been changed from 4%. We append herewith comparisons for a series of years of the different items of the Bank of England returns:

BANK OF ENGLAND'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1923.		1922.		1921.		1920.		1919.	
	Dec. 26.	Dec. 27.	Dec. 27.	Dec. 28.	Dec. 28.	Dec. 29.	Dec. 29.	Dec. 30.	Dec. 31.	Dec. 31.
	£		£		£		£		£	
Circulation.....	128,143,000	124,877,670	126,520,245	132,851,150	91,349,990					
Public deposits.....	15,681,000	13,323,799	16,057,335	14,304,767	19,213,209					
Other deposits.....	116,779,000	119,903,432	106,532,000	175,554,567	180,637,913					
Government securities	49,604,000	51,967,900	36,961,987	107,864,798	92,469,207					
Other securities.....	81,073,000	78,158,131	83,164,909	86,028,242	106,777,576					
Reserve notes & coin	19,624,000	21,015,337	20,364,114	13,866,520	18,442,165					
Coin and bullion.....	128,019,382	127,443,007	128,434,359	128,267,670	91,342,155					
Proportion of reserve										
to liabilities.....	14.82%	15¼%	16¾%	7¼%	9¼%					
Bank rate.....	4%	3%	5%	7%	6%					

The Bank of France continues to report small gains in its gold item, the increase this week being 111,725 francs. The Bank's gold holdings, therefore, now aggregate 5,540,380,600 francs, comparing with 5,534,829,194 francs at this time last year and with 5,524,227,896 francs the year before; of these amounts 1,864,320,900 francs were held abroad in 1923, 1,864,344,927 francs in 1922 and 1,948,367,056 francs in 1921. During the week silver increased 129,000 francs, bills discounted were augmented by 386,953,000 francs and general deposits rose 238,915,000 francs. Advances, on the other hand, fell off 13,836,000 francs, while Treasury deposits were reduced 6,134,000 francs. Note circulation registered the further expansion of 275,437,000 francs, bringing the total outstanding up to 37,905,434,000 francs. This contrasts with 36,359,286,410 francs on the corresponding date last year and with 36,487,456,505 francs in 1921. Just prior to the outbreak of war in 1914, the amount was only 6,683,184,785 francs. Comparisons of the various items in this week's return with the statement of last week and corresponding dates in both 1922 and 1921 are as follows:

BANK OF FRANCE'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	Changes for Week.	Status as of—		
		Dec. 27 1923.	Dec. 28 1922.	Dec. 29 1921.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Gold Holdings—				
In France.....	Inc. 111,725	3,676,059,700	3,670,484,267	3,575,860,840
Abroad.....	No change	1,864,320,900	1,864,344,927	1,948,367,056
Total.....	Inc. 111,725	5,540,380,600	5,534,829,194	5,524,227,896
Silver.....	Inc. 129,000	296,522,000	289,464,199	279,765,203
Bills discounted.....	Inc. 386,953,000	3,657,394,000	2,401,285,057	2,505,828,354
Advances.....	Dec. 13,836,000	2,402,525,000	2,082,076,079	2,240,917,695
Note circulation.....	Inc. 275,437,000	37,905,434,000	36,359,286,410	36,487,456,505
Treasury deposits.....	Dec. 6,134,000	20,178,000	20,481,872	26,013,951
General deposits.....	Inc. 238,915,000	2,363,491,000	2,288,985,390	2,717,192,359

After an interval of two weeks, during which time no reports were received, the Imperial Bank of Germany has issued a statement, as of November 30, showing the usual monumental expansion in the principal items. Note circulation is shown to have again almost doubled, the increase for the week being

given as 176,340,325,217,954,379,000 mks. Bills of exchange and checks increased even more spectacularly, viz.: 203,237,033,414,056,721,000 mks. In discount and Treasury bills there was a decline of 64,171,103,614,178,138,000 mks., but deposits gained 50,309,188,259,450,499,000 mks., and other liabilities 60,305,347,629,873,646,000 mks. There was a large reduction in other assets, which fell 31,121,481,383,061,695,000 mks., and smaller increases in the following,—notes of other banks, 72,400,837,428,834,000 mks.; advances, 5,167,560,817,413,187,000 mks., and investments, 247,400,034,723,000 mks. Total coin and bullion (which now includes aluminum, iron and nickel coins) was reduced 372,000 mks. Gold reserves, however, remained unchanged, total holdings being 467,025,000 mks., as compared with 1,004,800,000 mks. last year and 993,698,000 mks. in 1921. The Bank's note circulation has attained the colossal sum of 400,267,649,729,000,000,000 mks., as against 794,000,000,000 in 1922 and 100,763,000,000 mks. a year earlier. The statement for the previous week, that is for the week ended Nov. 22, was issued at the same time, and this showed changes as follows in thousands of marks—that is three ciphers (000) being omitted:

Total coin and bullion.....	decreased	7,983
Gold.....	unchanged	
Treasury and loan association notes.....	increased	3,021,470,999,424,865
Notes of other banks.....	increased	8,397,700,239,478
Bills of exchange and checks.....	increased	104,534,427,108,490,338
Discount and Treasury bills.....	decreased	28,756,034,323,148,569
Advances.....	increased	1,769,389,808,895,883
Investments.....	increased	80,188,098,791,919
Other assets.....	increased	255,966,146,023,793,314
Notes in circulation.....	increased	131,082,694,340,869,067
Deposits.....	increased	194,114,954,882,387,010
Other liabilities.....	increased	11,426,436,193,223,168

* 000 omitted.

The Federal Reserve Bank statement for the week, issued at the close of business on Thursday, reflected the increased activity due to holiday trade requirements and the coming end of the year settlements, both locally and nationally heavy expansion was shown in rediscounting operations. For the system rediscounts of Government-secured paper increased \$56,000,000; in "all other" discounts there was a gain of \$50,500,000, while bill buying in the open market increased \$14,000,000, so that altogether there was an addition to bill holdings of \$121,000,000. Earning assets showed the unusually large gain of \$144,000,000, while deposits increased \$55,000,000. At New York the same general trend was observable. Discounting of all classes of paper increased approximately \$74,000,000, and this coupled with a small addition to open market purchases, brought about an increase in total bill holdings of \$75,000,000, to \$295,008,000, as compared with \$190,600,000 at this time last year. For the banks as a group total bills on hand aggregate \$1,193,566,000, as against \$876,178,000 in the corresponding week of 1922. The national statement recorded an increase in the amount of Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation amounting to \$44,000,000, and at New York of \$6,400,000. Member bank reserve accounts likewise showed material expansion, more than \$36,000,000 at the local institution and \$25,000,000 for the banks as a group. Gold reserves were reduced, the System reporting a loss of \$21,000,000, and the New York Bank a decrease of \$28,000,000. As a result of this feature and the sharp expansion in deposits, reserve ratios were lowered; at New York 5.9%, to 76.7%, and for the System 2.4%, to 73.3%.

Last Saturday's statement of the New York Clearing House banks and trust companies reflected the usual demands for funds entailed by the holiday trade and was featured by reductions in practically all of the principal items. Chief among these was a cut in net demand deposits of no less than \$49,137,000, which brought the total to \$3,742,147,000, while net time deposits were reduced \$3,331,000, to \$460,873,000. The total of demand deposits here given is exclusive of \$46,518,000 in Government deposits, a gain in the last-named item of \$40,203,000 for the week. Loans and discounts were reduced \$9,397,000. Cash in own vaults of members of the Federal Reserve Bank gained \$6,873,000, to \$61,133,000 (not counted as reserve). Reserves of State banks and trust companies in own vaults were increased \$423,000, but the reserves of these same institutions kept in other depositories dropped \$218,000. Member banks again drew down their reserve credits at the Reserve Bank this time \$10,297,000, so that notwithstanding the decrease in deposits, there was a loss in surplus reserves of \$3,547,880, which brought the total of excess reserves down to \$14,018,060, as compared with \$17,565,940 last week. The figures here given for surplus are based on reserve requirements of 13% from member banks of the Federal Reserve System but not including cash in own vaults to the amount of \$61,133,000 held by these banks on Saturday last.

This is the one week above all others in the entire year when a flurry in call money causes no surprise in financial circles. As it had been realized that the disbursements on or about Jan. 1 1924 would be unusually large, the advance in call money Thursday and yesterday afternoons to 6% was not deemed strange. The Street was prepared for this quotation by the fact that the opening and renewal rates were higher both days. These rates do not signify any real change in the money position, but only an extensive shifting of accounts. Soon after the first of the year the funds will be shifted back again into the regular channels, and the quotations for call money are expected to drop back to about where they have been for some weeks, namely, 4½@4¾%. The Government withdrew \$5,000,000 from local institutions the day following Christmas, while on Thursday and yesterday a fairly large amount of money loaned on demand was said to have been called. But this was incidental to the preparations for next Tuesday's disbursements. On Jan. 2 the Government will withdraw \$8,075,000 from this Federal Reserve District. The reaction in stocks Thursday afternoon was attributed in part to the calling of loans and the 6% quotation. However this may have been, banking authorities say that there are ample funds for all requirements. The offerings of new securities have been on a pretty good-sized scale. Next month the volume is likely to be larger. It is reported that the Persian Government will soon begin negotiations here for a \$10,000,000 loan as the result of the award of oil fields to the Sinclair group. The outlook for business in this country continues somewhat mixed.

Referring to money rates in detail, call funds have shown an upward tendency, owing to preparations for year-end payments, and the range has been 4¾@6%, as against 4½@4¾% last week. On Monday the high was 5%, the low 4¾%, with 4¾%

also the rate for renewals. Tuesday was a holiday (Christmas Day). Wednesday there was an advance to 5½% maximum, although renewals were still put through at 4¾%, which was also the low. Increased firmness developed on Thursday and the range moved up to 5@6%, with 5% the ruling rate. On Friday the renewal basis was 5½%; no loans were negotiated under that figure, while just before the close a high quotation of 6% was again reached. The stiffening was of course due to demands incidental to Jan. 1 settlements. In time money the situation was quiet and quotations unchanged, so that sixty-day money continued at 4¾@5% and ninety days, four, five and six months at 5%, the same as a week ago. Fixed-date funds were in fair demand but the inquiry was light and the market dull.

Commercial paper has been easier and sixty and ninety days' endorsed bills receivable and six months' names of choice character have been dealt in at 4¾@5%, with a fair proportion of the business at the lower figure. Trading, however, was quiet, with the bulk of the limited inquiry still coming from country banks. Names not so well known require 5%.

Banks' and bankers' acceptances were moderately active in the early part of the week but with the stiffening in the call market the demand fell off perceptibly. Only a small turnover was reported. For call loans against bankers' acceptances, the posted rate of the American Acceptance Council has been raised from 4¼ to 4½%. The Acceptance Council makes the discount rates on prime bankers' acceptances eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve banks 4⅛% bid and 4% asked for bills running for 30 days, 4¼% bid and 4⅛% asked for bills running 60, 90 and 120 days, and 4½% bid and 4¼% asked for bills running 150 days. Open market quotations follow:

SPOT DELIVERY.			
	90 Days.	60 Days	30 Days
Prime eligible bills.....	4¼@4½	4¼@4½	4¼@4½
FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.			
Eligible member banks.....	4¼ bid		
Eligible non-member banks.....	4¼ bid		

There have been no changes this week in Federal Reserve Bank rates. The following is the schedule of rates now in effect for the various classes of paper at the different Reserve banks:

DISCOUNT RATES OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS IN EFFECT DEC. 28 1923.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.	Paper Maturing—					
	Within 90 Days.				After 90 Days, but Within 6 Months.	After 6 Months.
	Com'rcial Agricul. & Livest'k Paper.	Secur. by U. S. Govt. Obligations.	Bankers' Acceptances.	Trade Acceptances.	Agricul. and Livestock Paper.	Agricul. and Livestock Paper.
Boston.....	4½	4½	---	4½	4½	5
New York.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Philadelphia.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	5
Cleveland.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Richmond.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Atlanta.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Chicago.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
St. Louis.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Minneapolis.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Kansas City.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Dallas.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
San Francisco.....	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½

* Including bankers' acceptances drawn for an agricultural purpose and secured by warehouse receipts, &c.

Business in sterling exchange has been marked by the holiday inactivity which is usually in evidence at this season. For a while, especially in the early part of the week, the market for long intervals was at a practical standstill owing to the Christmas celebrations, and the volume of transactions was reduced to minimum proportions. Continued uneasiness

over the political crisis in Great Britain, coupled with the sentimental effect of the sustained fall in the value of the French franc, all combined to depress sterling rates, which, while not sharply lowered, sagged steadily until $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$ was reached for demand, although later on there was a rally to $4\ 35\frac{1}{8}$. Large operators apparently took very little interest in foreign exchange. Even the strictly speculative element kept away. The extremes for the week in rates have been $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$ @ $4\ 35\frac{1}{8}$. In the final dealings there was a slight broadening in the inquiry. A small accumulation of orders over the holiday made itself felt in the way of advancing prices, and, although offerings were somewhat larger, the market seemed able to absorb them; hence closing prices were near the highest for the week.

Bankers generally are somewhat mixed as to the immediate outlook for sterling. For the most part an undercurrent of optimism prevails and despite fears of further unsettlement in the event of a change of Ministry in England, the opinion seems to be gaining ground that sterling is due for a rise, although it is practically certain that there will be no general increase in market activity, at least until British political skies have cleared. Intimations that German reparations affairs were proceeding satisfactorily were well received, but failed to exercise any appreciable influence on actual values.

Referring to quotations in greater detail, sterling exchange on Saturday last was heavy and there was a decline to $4\ 33\ 13-16$ @ $4\ 34\frac{3}{8}$ for demand, $4\ 34\ 1-16$ @ $4\ 34\frac{5}{8}$ for cable transfers and $4\ 31\ 9-16$ @ $4\ 32\frac{1}{8}$ for sixty days; the weakness was ascribed to freer offerings on a dull market. On Monday the usual pre-holiday dulness prevailed and trading was at a low ebb, with the range for demand a trifle lower at $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$ @ $4\ 34\ 5-16$, cable transfers at $4\ 34$ @ $4\ 34\ 9-16$ and sixty days at $4\ 31\frac{1}{2}$ @ $4\ 32\ 1-16$. Tuesday was a holiday (Christmas Day). Disappointing foreign news was responsible for a further slight recession on Wednesday, although the loss was limited to a fraction; demand bills ranged between $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$ @ $4\ 34\frac{1}{4}$, cable transfers between $4\ 34$ @ $4\ 34\frac{1}{2}$ and sixty days between $4\ 31\frac{1}{2}$ @ $4\ 32$. On Thursday there was a tendency to improvement and rates were marked up to $4\ 34\frac{1}{8}$ @ $4\ 34\frac{7}{8}$ for demand, $4\ 34\frac{3}{8}$ @ $4\ 35\frac{1}{8}$ for cable transfers and $4\ 31\frac{7}{8}$ @ $4\ 32\frac{5}{8}$ for sixty days. Friday's market was quiet but fairly steady and demand was quoted at $4\ 33\ 13-16$ @ $4\ 35\frac{1}{8}$, cable transfers at $4\ 34\ 1-16$ @ $4\ 35\frac{3}{8}$, and sixty days at $4\ 31\ 9-16$ @ $4\ 32\frac{7}{8}$. Closing quotations were $4\ 31\frac{5}{8}$ for sixty days, $4\ 33\frac{7}{8}$ for demand and $4\ 34\frac{1}{8}$ for cable transfers. Commercial sight bills finished at $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$, sixty days at $4\ 31\frac{1}{4}$, ninety days at $4\ 30$, documents for payment (sight) at $4\ 31\frac{1}{2}$, and seven-day grain bills at $4\ 33\frac{1}{4}$. Cotton and grain for payment closed at $4\ 33\frac{3}{4}$.

So far as could be learned, there were no gold engagements made this week either for import or export.

Dealings in the Continental exchanges have likewise been restricted by Christmas festivities and trading, save in a few instances, has been quiescent. As a matter of fact, most of the limited business passing was in French francs, which again took the lead in point of activity and weakness. Following an opening quotation of $5\ 05\frac{1}{2}$, there was a drop to $4\ 99$, a new low record. Heavy selling for foreign account, with almost no takers, was responsible.

Paris interests were alleged to be unloading francs in large quantities and accumulating dollars. Later on, buying, said to be on the part of the French Government for the purpose of stemming the decline, brought about a rally to $5\ 07\frac{1}{2}$. Subsequently the price dropped back to $4\ 99$, but before the close recovered to $5\ 19\frac{1}{4}$. The sensational pressure to sell, which is regarded as especially disappointing in the face of the conceded improvement in the reparations outlook and what is regarded as France's victory in the Ruhr, was ascribed to a variety of reasons, primarily anxiety over internal financial conditions. Considerable dissatisfaction is felt over the rise in the cost of living and failure to bring about readjustment in trade balances. M. Lasteyrie, Minister of Finance, lays the blame for the fall in the franc to inability of France to collect reparation claims and the heavy additional expenses of the Rhineland occupation. Late in the week publication of the new French budget for 1924 created a better feeling and franc values improved substantially.

The collapse in French exchange exercised a sentimental effect on the rest of the list, although this was apparent more in limited dealings than in lowering of rates. Antwerp francs as usual moved in sympathy with exchange on Paris, but lire ruled steady, at close to last week's levels, while the Central European currencies were only slightly changed, and reichsmarks remained stationary throughout the week. Greek exchange, despite the prevailing political uncertainties in Greece, was firmly held and advanced more than 33 points, to 2.19, on what was regarded as betterment of the outlook for a stable form of government in that unhappy country. For the time being it would seem that the introduction of the rentenmark is having some effect in stabilizing mark exchange, notwithstanding huge increases in note circulation. It is rumored that the Italian Government of late has been supporting lire. This might account for the steadiness of that currency.

The London check rate on Paris finished at 84.25, against 84.75 last week. In New York sight bills on the French centre closed at $5\ 09\frac{1}{2}$, against $5\ 10\frac{3}{4}$; cable transfers at $5\ 10\frac{1}{2}$, against $5\ 11\frac{3}{4}$; commercial sight bills $5\ 08\frac{1}{2}$, against $5\ 09\frac{3}{4}$, and commercial sixty days at $5\ 03\frac{1}{4}$, against $5\ 04\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago. Antwerp francs finished at $4\ 47\frac{1}{2}$ for checks and at $4\ 48\frac{1}{2}$ for cable transfers, in comparison with $4\ 51\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\ 52\frac{1}{2}$ last week. Final rates on Berlin marks were 0.00000000025 for both checks and cable remittances (unchanged). Austrian kronen continue to rule at 0.00014 $\frac{1}{8}$. Lire finished the week at $4\ 32\frac{1}{2}$ for bankers' sight bills and $4\ 33\frac{1}{2}$ for cable transfers, which compares with $4\ 30\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\ 31\frac{1}{2}$ a week earlier. Exchange on Czechoslovakia closed at $2\ 92\frac{1}{4}$, against $2\ 93\frac{1}{4}$; on Bucharest at $0.51\frac{1}{2}$, against $0.52\frac{1}{4}$; on Poland at 0.00017, against 0.00017, and on Finland at 2.48 (unchanged). Greek exchange finished at 2.19 for checks and $2.19\frac{1}{2}$ for cable transfers. This compares with $1.80\frac{1}{2}$ and 1.81 last week.

There is very little to report regarding exchange on the former neutral centres. Trading has been exceptionally dull and rate movements unimportant. In the main the undertone has been steady and guilders have shown a small gain from the close of last week. Swiss francs and the Scandinavian currencies have all been firmly held, but Spanish pesetas closed at a small net loss.

Bankers' sight on Amsterdam closed at 38.01, against 37.81; cable transfers at 38.05, against 37.85; commercial sight bills at 37.93, against 37.75, and commercial sixty days at 37.59, against 37.39 last week. Swiss francs finished at 17.46 for bankers' sight bills and at 17.47 for cable transfers, as compared with 17.42 and 17.43 a week earlier. Copenhagen checks closed at 17.73 and cable transfers at 17.77, against 17.75 and 17.79. Checks on Sweden finished at 26.40 and cable transfers at 26.44, against 26.30 and 26.34, while checks on Norway closed at 14.73 and cable transfers at 14.77, against 14.81 and 14.85, respectively. Spanish pesetas finished at 13.00 for checks and 13.02 for cable transfers. A week ago the close was 13.01½ and 13.03½.

With regard to South American exchange, Argentine currency has been a shade easier, finishing at 32 for checks and 32½ for cable transfers, as against 32¼@32½, but Brazilian milreis turned strong on improvement in the coffee situation and the quotation moved up to 10.10 for checks and 10.15 for cable transfers, with the close 9.95 and 10.00, against 9.40 and 9.54 last week. Chilean exchange was also firmer, finishing at 11.10, against 10.75, but Peru remained unchanged at 3.99.

Far Eastern exchange was as follows: Hong Kong, 51½@51¾ against 51¼@51¾; Shanghai, 73¼@73½ against 73½@73¾; Yokohama, 46¾@47, against 46.55@46.60; Manila, 49¾@50, against 49¾@49¾; Singapore, 51¼@51½, against 51½@51¾; Bombay, 31½@31¾, against 31¼@31½, and Calcutta, 31½@31¾ (unchanged).

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 522 of the Tariff Act of 1922, the Federal Reserve Bank is now certifying daily to the Secretary of the Treasury the buying rate for cable transfers in the different countries of the world. We give below a record for the week just past:

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES CERTIFIED BY FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS TO TREASURY UNDER TARIFF ACT OF 1922, DEC. 22 1923 TO DEC. 28 1923, INCLUSIVE.

Country and Monetary Unit.	Noon Buying Rate for Cable Transfers in New York. Value in United States Money.					
	Dec. 22.	Dec. 24.	Dec. 25.	Dec. 26.	Dec. 27.	Dec. 28.
EUROPE—						
Austria, krone.....	\$.000014	\$.000014	\$.000014	\$.000014	\$.000014	\$.000014
Belgium, franc.....	.0451	.0453	.0448	.0454	.0450	.0450
Bulgaria, lev.....	.007717	.007817	.007833	.007883	.007883	.007850
Czechoslovakia, krone.....	.029261	.029238	.029211	.029209	.029230	.029230
Denmark, krone.....	.1771	.1773	.1774	.1775	.1775	.1778
England, pound sterling.....	4.3447	4.3441	4.3438	4.3481	4.3471	4.3471
Finland, markka.....	.024672	.024714	.024675	.024638	.024669	.024669
France, franc.....	.0505	.0508	.0500	.0511	.0513	.0513
Germany, reichsmark.....			a	a	a	a
Greece, drachma.....	.018720	.019090	.021590	.020380	.021889	.021889
Holland, guilder.....	.3786	.3787	.3788	.3789	.3802	.3802
Hungary, krone.....	.000052	.000052	.000052	.000052	.000052	.000052
Italy, lira.....	.0432	.0433	.0432	.0434	.0434	.0434
Norway, krone.....	.1480	.1481	.1482	.1479	.1478	.1478
Poland, mark.....	b	b	b	b	b	b
Portugal, escudo.....	.0351	.0347	.0348	.0342	.0336	.0336
Rumania, leu.....	.005194	.005178	.005156	.005142	.005147	.005147
Spain, peseta.....	.1300	.1299	.1299	.1300	.1302	.1302
Sweden, krona.....	.2631	.2635	.2635	.2638	.2643	.2643
Switzerland, franc.....	.1743	.1745	.1745	.1749	.1751	.1751
Yugoslavia, dinar.....	.011345	.011345	.011341	.011340	.011345	.011345
ASIA—						
China—						
Chefoo, tael.....	.7409	.7369	.7400	.7391	.7391	.7391
Hankow tael.....	.7388	.7347	.7378	.7369	.7369	.7369
Shanghai tael.....	.7214	.7181	.7192	.7211	.7197	.7197
Tientsin tael.....	.7478	.7444	.7478	.7466	.7459	.7459
Hongkong dollar.....	.5092	.5088	.5089	.5098	.5097	.5097
Mexican dollar.....	.5167	.5153	.5153	.5148	.5145	.5145
Tientsin or Pelyang dollar.....	.5188	.5166	.5169	.5175	.5163	.5163
Yuan dollar.....	.5175	.5141	.5156	.5163	.5150	.5150
India, rupee.....	.3106	.3102	.3104	.3110	.3117	.3117
Japan, yen.....	.4660	.4654	.4656	.4657	.4651	.4651
Jingapore (S.S.) dollar.....	.5088	.5084	.5084	.5091	.5088	.5088
NORTH AMER.—						
Canada, dollar.....	.974594	.974573	.974802	.974938	.975255	.975255
Cuba, peso.....	.999594	.999531	.999594	.999625	.999625	.999625
Mexico, peso.....	.484844	.485000	.485342	.483958	.483958	.483958
Newfoundland, dollar.....	.971563	.971563	.971719	.971719	.972344	.972344
SOUTH AMER.—						
Argentina, peso (gold).....	.7281	.7277	.7263	.7239	.7240	.7240
Brazil, milreis.....	.0333	.0937	.0956	.0995	.0997	.0997
Chile, peso (paper).....	.1063	.1096	.1073	.1090	.1083	.1083
Uruguay, peso.....	.7798	.7786	.7778	.7779	.7791	.7791

a The quotation for German marks has been: Dec. 22, .000000000000245; Dec. 24, .000000000000240; Dec. 26, .000000000000242; Dec. 27, .000000000000242; Dec. 28, .000000000000241.

b The quotation for Polish marks has been: Dec. 22, .000000155; Dec. 24, .000000164; Dec. 26, .000000164; Dec. 27, .000000166; Dec. 28, .000000164.

The New York Clearing House banks in their operations with interior banking institutions have gained \$4,621,472 net in cash as a result of the currency movements for the week ended Dec. 27. Their receipts from the interior have aggregated \$5,499,772, while the shipments have reached \$878,300, as per the following table:

CURRENCY RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS BY NEW YORK BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

Week ending Dec. 27.	Into Banks.	Out of Banks.	Gain or Loss to Banks.
Banks' inter or movement.....	\$5,499,772	\$878,300	Gain \$4,621,472

As the Sub-Treasury was taken over by the Federal Reserve Bank on Dec. 6 1920, it is no longer possible to show the effect of Government operations on the Clearing House institutions. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York was creditor at the Clearing House each day as follows:

DAILY CREDIT BALANCES OF NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK AT CLEARING HOUSE.

Saturday, Dec. 22.	Monday, Dec. 24.	Tuesday, Dec. 25.	Wednesday, Dec. 26.	Thursday, Dec. 27.	Friday, Dec. 28.	Aggregate for Week.
\$ 63,000,000	\$ 79,000,000	Holiday	\$ 78,000,000	\$ 57,000,000	\$ 70,000,000	Cr. 347,000,000

Note.—The foregoing heavy credits reflect the huge mass of checks which come to the New York Reserve Bank from all parts of the country in the operation of the Federal Reserve system's par collection scheme. These large credit balances, however, reflect only a part of the Reserve Bank's operations with the Clearing House institutions, as only the items payable in New York City are represented in the daily balances. The large volume of checks on institutions located outside of New York are not accounted for in arriving at these balances, as such checks do not pass through the Clearing House but are deposited with the Federal Reserve Bank for collection for the account of the local Clearing House banks.

The following table indicates the amount of bullion in the principal European banks:

Banks of	Dec. 27 1923.			Dec. 28 1922.		
	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
England.....	£ 128,019,382	£	£ 128,019,382	£ 127,443,007	£	£ 127,443,007
France a.....	147,041,427	11,840,000	158,881,427	146,818,486	11,560,000	158,378,486
Germany.....	28,390,850	63,475,400	91,866,250	50,110,730	7,114,300	57,225,030
Aus.-Hun.....	10,944,000	2,369,000	13,313,000	10,944,000	2,369,000	13,313,000
Spain.....	101,105,000	26,030,000	127,135,000	100,955,000	25,856,000	126,811,000
Italy.....	35,309,000	3,420,000	38,729,000	35,053,000	3,029,000	38,082,000
Netherlands.....	48,482,000	723,000	49,205,000	48,482,000	756,000	49,238,000
Nat. Belg.....	10,789,000	2,676,000	13,465,000	10,757,000	2,154,000	12,911,000
Switzerland.....	21,488,000	3,470,000	24,958,000	21,359,000	4,350,000	25,709,000
Sweden.....	15,107,000	-----	15,107,000	15,220,000	-----	15,220,030
Denmark.....	11,645,000	182,000	11,827,000	12,682,000	252,000	12,934,000
Norway.....	8,182,000	-----	8,182,000	8,183,000	-----	8,183,000
Total week.....	566,502,659	54,185,400	620,688,059	588,007,223	57,440,300	645,447,523
Prev. week.....	566,506,891	54,012,400	620,519,291	587,988,848	57,271,300	645,260,148

a Gold holdings of the Bank of France this year are exclusive of £74,573,797 held abroad. b It is no longer possible to tell the amount of silver held by the Bank of Germany. On March 15 1923 the Reichsbank began including in its "Metal Reserve" not only gold and silver but aluminum, nickel and iron coin as well. The Bank still gives the gold holdings as a separate item, but as under the new practice the remainder of the metal reserve can no longer be considered as being silver, there is now no way of arriving at the Bank's stock of silver, and we therefore carry it along at the figure computed March 7 1923.

Taxation the "Paramount Issue."

That the Democrats in Congress intend to oppose the "Mellon Plan" is indicated by the statement of Senator Simmons, made before adjournment for the holidays. The old political war-cry "make the rich pay" is not to be allowed to languish. The unanswerable argument in favor of lowering the inordinate surtaxes—and thus to re-invigorate business—seems to take no hold on the party mind. Here is a chance for division; and an appeal to "the people"! Here is opportunity to ring the changes on "Wall Street" and make the small taxpayer believe he is the victim of an unholy alliance between wealth and the ruling party. At the time this statement appears, in a page editorial on taxation, the "Saturday Evening Post," with its tremendous popular circulation, warns all parties against the evil of "playing politics," when so important a subject is at stake.

We have already expressed an individual opinion as to some changes that might well be made in the law, changes apparently not embodied in the "plan."

But on the whole we concede it to be equitable. We do not believe that the people will receive it otherwise. It is the matured plan of a great financial mind working inside the needs of the Government; and a mind, we may be assured, that is not thinking of parties or politics. The holiday recess is to be devoted to committee consideration, pending a time, apparently, when it must be determined whether tax revision or the bonus is to have precedence. We do not know what the outcome of this will be. There is in the thought a species of disquietude we do not like to entertain. Is it more important, as a Government, that we spend money than save it? Is there anything that can be more important than the reduction of taxes?

As we ask ourselves this question we are reminded that a very riot of public expenditures is taking place. Cities are veritably running a race to see which shall be first in "improvements." Let us cite, for instance, the old, conservative, financially powerful and stable city of St. Louis. A city that has not grown by "fits and starts" due to booms. A city not so long ago the outpost of Western advance, just this side the then "Great American Desert," now the centre of agriculture and home of the bloc. St. Louis, in the next few years, is to spend from eighty to ninety millions on civic improvements. Kansas City, nearest important neighbor on the West, is in agitation over new needs to be met only by bonds. Chicago, some think destined to be the largest city on this continent, is reaching out for population and territory, with the taxing power this will give. Pacific Coast cities are not wont to lag behind, and are not deeply aroused over civic economies.

One might argue from these conditions that the people are not concerned over Federal taxation. On the contrary, they are the more deeply concerned. The benefits of huge national appropriations are in a way intangible. These local expenditures promise, at least, local benefit. Your county seat town that votes two hundred thousand for a "consolidated district," or a "high" school—one often that it does not need more than the average taxpayer "needs a diamond ring"—your county seat town can see and touch the "improvement." But these local expenditures are not made without a murmur. Those who pay the tax, who foot the bill, are protesting with all their power. They vote *against* these "improvements." They see the coming burden and would avoid it. They *know* that business in the end must pay. They are fully aware of the mounting annual tax levies. Thus, when Congress, far away at Washington, refuses to reduce the Federal tax, toys with new expenditures not even experts can estimate at the full, the people are awake and watching—or at least this part of the people.

Whence comes this determination to repass a Soldier Bonus bill once vetoed by a President? Our belief is that *any* party that refuses to entertain taxation on broad and non-partisan lines will "hear from" the thoughtful, patriotic, conservative business people in the next election. We admit the chaos that often rides like a storm in political elections. But it is our only method of relief. And since uninstructed members of Congress and Senators do sometimes play politics for party purposes, voters have the one means of redress. And they will use it. And he who thinks he can ride down this "paramount issue" for petty political advantage will, we think, live to regret the fact.

We concern ourselves not at all with the politics of this problem save for the economic effect. There must come a time when reduction will be imperative. Strong Governments, as well as strong corporations and financiers, *may* overreach themselves. We can conceive of a time of depression, when business would be unable to earn these extraordinary taxes, when the Government would have to pay high rates on renewals—and when *our* Government securities might sag in the market. The time to retrench is *now*. Laboring mightily and bringing forth the Budget, shall all the good work go for naught because of the Bonus? There is such a thing as a long-suffering people. But beware of the wrath of the silent man! Again, we care nothing for the politics involved—care not which party fails or refuses in the hour of need—the time and opportunity point the way, and those who refuse to walk therein will live to find they have mistaken the numbers who can be trifled with by false and hollow appeals.

The Immigration Law.

The necessity of re-enacting the law on immigration, soon to expire, gives rise to widespread discussion concerning proper amendments thereto. Even though the Per Centum Act be retained there is call for change in its administration to overcome admitted evils. And the subject is likely to be completely "overhauled" in debate, if not in enactment, by the present Congress. In view of this, popular interest covers a wide range of consideration. Industry and "labor" are again at "outs" over the question, with "labor" occupying the decidedly selfish ground of restriction in the interest of wages and scarcity. Industry, including agriculture, in actual want of employees, may be expected to advocate an increase in the quota of admissions though endorsing better means of selection and distribution.

Some very broad questions of correct national policy suggest themselves. If "self-determination" of peoples be advocated, as in recent times, (a policy that must be taken with a large grain of allowance at its best) why deny individuals in their world-freedom the right to choose the country in which to live and government under which to pursue their natural and needful activities? The question can be asked without reference to racial restrictions already instituted. And while the question pertains to theory rather than practice it involves a principle that affects world peace. Consideration cannot escape the fact of post-war conditions. But it is material to brotherhood, and to that merging of manners and customs, by means of the so-called melting-pot process, which, it is so often averred, freshens and advances civilization—or, conversely, according to the peoples to be amalgamated, sends it downward or into decay. In certain areas of the earth's surface the population (comparatively) is crowded, confined, cramped. War often comes as a means of liberation and escape. Is it a mere dream that an international conference might some time consider the proper distribution of the present world's population. We merely call attention to a basic principle vital to a fair and equitable consideration of our present law. As citizens we are not very far removed in point of time from the period when the bars were down and our forefathers came from England and the rest of Europe, regardless of political divisions, to subdue a continent and create a Government free to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And though it

may now be desirable to have some degree of restriction as to numbers, some means of selection as to kind; and important to include in the new law the element of enforced distribution; in view of the manifest needs of agriculture and industry, is it not wise to be guided by the liberal policies of the past, rather than to shut the gates as we have been doing?

It may not be quite germane to the decisive question at issue, but it again is part of a guiding principle, to examine immigration with reference to "isolation." We are berated by some for the policy of "minding our own business." These would have us engage in a constant world crusade in behalf of the down-trodden and oppressed. Others, not following this belief, are eager for "saving" peoples by feeding them out of a limitless Government chest or by huge private charities. Why, then, would it not be a real and helpful "Good Samaritan" policy to offer to these suffering millions (who can show health and character) the *opportunity to work* in a new land, with all its attendant benefits? Here we do not deal in quotas. We ask the question as a matter of principle and policy. At best, the present quota is an arbitrary policy founded not on present needs abroad and at home, but upon a policy of shutting out foreign labor in the interest of domestic. It proves itself inadequate to our own industrial advancement and should meet with considerable, just and liberal change. It must appear contradictory to many of the unfortunates of the World War in Europe that we are willing to give alms but unwilling to give work—and this to worthy and honest men and women eager to escape into new environments. As to the *emigration* policy of these older countries, that is a domestic question for each to consider—a question with which we have nothing to do. And when this is properly so considered it will act as a foil to any "too great" liberality on our part.

The present law expires in June. It should have careful and serious amendment. Its administration features are of themselves faulty. The spectacle of overloaded ships crowding our harbor on the first of each month, and dumping tens of thousands upon our inspection officers and facilities, should be obviated in some way. If it seems impractical to examine health and character on the other side in advance of departure, there should be enlarged facilities for a deliberate sifting policy on this side. And above all, the scenes at Ellis Island which give rise to reproachful comments by intelligent visitors should be done away with. These are minor matters and should easily be met by legislation. But the view others take of our main position on immigration we should not ignore in the re-enactment.

As the law now stands it will hardly be disputed that we are at war with our traditional policy. The latch-string no longer hangs on the outside. As a political policy we no longer import the "cheap goods" or the "pauper labor" of Europe. If political contentions are superseded by industrial needs and popular benefits, are we pursuing an immigration policy that will bring greatest good to greatest numbers? Or are we protecting a certain class at the expense of the great majority of the people? And are we really furthering that growth in commerce, trade and manufacture, that, spreading blessings over the whole earth, unites peoples in amity and peace?

The Summons of the New Year.

After the usual festivities the first summons of the New Year is that we face facts. In business, books automatically close, and trial balances are studied. In the larger relations of the State and the nation the facts are not so readily obtained, nor are they so seriously regarded; yet they are the foundation upon which all business is conducted; and to-day they are beginning in all lands to be recognized as conditions ultimately determining the happiness and even the lives of the people.

At this time a year ago, at a public meeting in London, Viscount Grey, who was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Great Britain at the outbreak of the war in 1914, in replying to the question, What was the underlying cause which had been working for years to bring about war, said three things. We had only now learned that great armaments did not prevent war; they brought it about. Also, that if war came again on the modern scale no victory would enable the conqueror to escape from the awful suffering which would ensue; and that if there should be another war it would be far more terrible than the last, and it was certain that civilization would not recover from it. The moral he drew was that we must apply the lessons of the war and set to work to make war impossible.

To make this more than an individual opinion, however wise the speaker, we must recognize that whatever advance the year has made towards an established peace the extent of the destruction wrought by the war has become increasingly evident, and, if we would appreciate the situation, we must try to visualize it, that it may influence our actions.

For this purpose the destructiveness of the war, viewed simply as wrought in the materials of human peace and progress, may be summarized in four groups: the waste of human life; the waste of raw material; the waste of accumulated production, and the waste of moral strength.

We can only call attention to a few facts under each of these heads, while we refer to a new book which gives them in authoritative detail.* The official summary of casualties of the 18 States engaged in the war is 8,646,024 killed and 20,775,459 active men wounded. To estimate the meaning of this, we must add the number in whom the destructive effect of the war appeared later, greatly increasing the mortality list and amplifying the extent of subsequent disease and disability. We have also to note that both groups are composed almost entirely of young and sound men, depleting the vital productivity of the world correspondingly both in human energy and in the possible size of the next generation. The direct economic loss of human capital, or Social Value, is put by the actuaries at over £5,000,000,000. In a new war the development of deadly gases and of aeroplanes introduces an element of human destruction almost, or altogether, beyond possible calculation. It would be inconceivably frightful.

The destruction of the materials of industry is too varied and vast to estimate. It extends to the product of forests and of mines of all kinds, and to the elementary materials of chemistry and combustion. As a single item, the British Ministry of Munitions

*"The Problem of Armaments." Arthur G. Enock, of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Macmillan Co.

reports that it spent during the war £1,600,000,000 extra, beyond the normal demand, in things of destruction. During the latter years of the war 95% of the steel production of the country was used by the Government, and probably between 50 and 60% went into weapons and war material, war ships, guns, shells, etc. The demand for shell steel rose from 2,000 tons monthly in 1914 to 183,000 tons monthly in 1917; the total amounted to 5,375,000 tons; all economic waste of first magnitude; and this in addition to the material of 11½ thousand million rounds of ammunition for small arms. 800 naval vessels and 5,500 merchant vessels were sunk during the war.

As a suggestion of the wasted product of human effort during the war, it is estimated that it equals the employment of one million workers working 44 hours a week for 3,000 years! A sum altogether beyond imagination. A concrete single instance is more intelligible. At the time of the French intervention in the Ruhr the great Krupp works, which during the war were producing instruments of war, had shifted to articles of general use, machinery for agriculture, public works, railways and the like, and were employing 18,000 more men than during the war. Or, to return to Great Britain and the shells produced under the Ministry of Munitions and fired at the enemy, the statement is that the steel consumed represents only half their cost, and that to produce them complete, including finishing, filling, packing, transport, etc., which doubles the initial cost of the steel, would require the labor of 30,000 persons for 100 years.

Turning to the waste of moral strength, this is witnessed in the heavy cloud of discouragement which after five years prevails over so much of Europe, and the tendency to cast aside moral obligations visible everywhere. While it is true that the war did not create moral delinquency, and only brought to light, or gave opportunity to such as already existed, if one would know what this means in a single and terrible instance, he has but to turn to the intimate and accurate account of what transpired in Russia, affecting every rank of society during the terrible revolutions which occurred during the closing years of the war, as now recounted in the personal narrative of Madam Varoubova, the lifelong friend of the Empress, just published by Macmillan. It is a revelation of the perfidy and ruthless savagery which can break forth when men are released by war from the ordinary restraints of civilized society.

The summons of the New Year is to recognize that the conditions which still make war possible have not been removed.

Despite high military authority, both English and American, corroborating Lord Robert Cecil's statement that "without disarmament there can be no complete security against future war"; and the economic civilian statement that "the more a State does for its army and navy the less it does, or can do, for its people"; armament everywhere goes on. Great Britain spent on her army and navy, according to the figures in this book, in 1921-22 £201,000,000, as against £85,000,000 in 1913-14; France spent in 1921, £146,000,000, as against £58,000,000 in 1913-14, and the United States in 1920-21 £379,000,000‡, as against

£92,000,000 in 1913-14. Limited reduction has begun in navies; but no agreement is reached as to armies; and with aeroplanes, which, according to General Foch, "are to be the greatest factor in the next war," construction advances rapidly. The total expenditures on war affairs in 14 leading nations rose from £284,618,820 in 1900 to £14,242,644,850 in 1919. "To keep this business going in times of prolonged peace is to produce eventual bankruptcy."

When it is considered that many great private concerns, in peace and in war, are engaged in the business of furnishing armaments for other countries than their own, as well as the multitude engaged in supplying material for their own Governments, it will be seen that an attempt to arrest the whole business might cause some economic dislocation and for a time at least more or less unemployment. But as against this the lessening of the oppressive burden of taxation will stimulate enterprise almost beyond measure. Restriction and steady deflection into other forms of production are the only feasible steps. This can only be brought about under pressure of public opinion. The extent of the evil and the reality of the danger must be recognized by the man in the street.

Major-Gen. F. B. Maurice, of the British General Staff, says: "I went into the army believing that if you want peace you must prepare for war. I believe now that if you prepare thoroughly and efficiently for war you get war." Major-General Tasker H. Bliss, of the United States Army, says: "Those of you are mistaken who may think that there can be an effective and enduring association of the nations for the maintenance of peace so long as those nations are armed to the teeth."

With this, as with other great moral and economic reforms, it is idle to wait for general agreement. External pressure would be futile. Even if treaties were written in its interest they would become "mere scraps of paper," when found in the way of self-interest. Dependence must be upon a growing sentiment of better feeling, upon the spread of knowledge, and then upon the convincing power of individual national example.

King George V., in visiting the war graves on the Continent, describes them as "visible memorials which will eventually serve to draw all people together in sanity and self-control." As in many lands such graves exist of men who gave their lives in defense of a cause which to them was dear, it may be expected that under the mellowing influence of time, and the rapidly advancing better knowledge of other peoples, these memorials will exert their influence.

The continued uncertainty in Europe, political and financial, which is the chief factor in keeping up armaments and fostering suspicion and enmity, must soon give way to effective readjustment. Peace will be recognized as being ultimately dependent upon good-will; and that this in turn requires both right thinking and right feeling.

Their example, like that of the long-established unarmed peace between the United States and Canada, will be found convincing; and the quiet, but widespread and steady pressure of right-minded men in all lands will in God's good time bring to pass the promised peace of which the angels sang at the opening of the first Christian New Year. The summons to men of affairs to make their influence count in public matters was never more urgent.

‡To make comparative tables, as the nations make very diverse summaries, our author has had to equalize them. Our Government gives the figures for 1920-21 as \$1,212,435,145, and for the current fiscal year \$646,057,940.

The New Capital Flotations in November and the Eleven Months Since January 1

In more recent months, and particularly since the recovery in values on the Stock Exchange, conditions have been quite propitious for the bringing out of new loans, and as a consequence new capital flotations have again been proceeding on a large scale. Our compilations this time cover the month of November, and the aggregate of the new issues for that month constitutes the largest November total on record. The amount for that month is also the largest of any month of 1923 excepting only January. The November total was swollen by the offering of \$100,000,000 American Tel. & Tel. debentures, but the awards of State and municipal bonds were also on an unusual scale, the total of these reaching \$95,450,088. State bonds figured very prominently in the month's offerings, North Carolina coming on the market with \$15,649,000, California with \$6,000,000, Missouri with \$5,000,000, Minnesota with \$5,000,000 and Michigan with \$3,000,000.

Our tabulations, as always, include the stock, bond and note issues by corporations and by States and municipalities, foreign and domestic, and also Farm Loan issues. The grand aggregate of the offerings of new securities under these various heads during November 1923 was no less than \$539,740,990. This compares with \$390,106,577 for October, with \$249,734,549 for September, with \$224,867,650 for August, and with \$197,467,011 for July, when the new offerings were the lightest of any month of any year since March 1919, but with \$536,577,225 for June, \$312,635,831 for May, \$458,133,469 for April, \$392,262,540 for March, and \$380,187,119 for February. In January, however, the new issues were of prodigious extent, aggregating \$879,238,265. This latter, though, as explained by us on previous occasions, stands in a class all by itself, the total having been swollen to exceptional proportions by the bringing out of several issues of unusual size—the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. alone by its financing having then added \$150,000,000 to the total and Armour & Co. \$110,000,000, with the result that January broke all records for new capital flotations in the United States, the highest previous amount for any month of any year having been \$655,817,946 for April 1922.

The size of this year's November aggregate becomes particularly apparent when contrasted with the November figures of other years. As against a total of new issues for November 1923 of \$539,740,990 the amount last year was only \$207,225,424, in November 1921 \$365,182,697, in November 1920 \$222,478,911 and in November 1919 \$379,733,015. The bulk of the increase was in the offerings by corporations, which foot up \$387,040,902 for November this year, as against \$132,720,940 in 1922, \$207,804,080 in 1921, \$147,976,794 in 1920 and \$249,536,175 in 1919.

Going into detail with reference to the corporate flotations during November, we find that the issues brought out by public utility companies exceeded those of the other corporate subdivisions with a total of \$191,770,552, which compares with \$70,634,500 in October and \$40,715,120 in September. Industrial issues ranged next, with a total of \$107,177,900, as against \$81,006,400 in October and \$75,755,040 in September. Railroad offerings aggregated \$88,092,450, as compared with \$78,785,000 in October and \$24,810,000 in September.

As stated above, the total of all corporate offerings in November was \$387,040,902, and of this amount \$290,373,000, or 75%, comprised long-term issues, \$95,402,902 consisted of stock issues, while short-term offerings made up the remaining \$1,265,000. A relatively large proportion of the new corporate issues was for refunding purposes, the amount being \$65,126,000, or about 17% of the month's total output. Of the amount for refunding \$22,126,000 consisted of long-term issues to take up existing long-term issues; \$40,000,000 was long-term issues to refund existing short-term obligations, while a new preferred stock issue was sold which provided for the refunding of a \$3,000,000 outstanding preferred stock issue.

The largest corporate issue of the month was the \$100,000,000 American Telephone & Telegraph Co. 20-year debenture 5½s, 1943, offered at 98½, yielding about 5½%. This issue and the \$100,000,000 Anaconda Copper Mining Co. 1st consolidated mtge. 6s, 1953, offered in January, share the distinction of being the largest single offerings made during the current year. Other public utility offerings of impor-

tance during November were: \$20,000,000 Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania 6½% cum. pref. stock, taken by employees and customers at par, \$100; \$10,300,000 Penn Central Light & Power Co. 1st & ref. mtge. 6s, 1953, at 98, to yield about 6.15%; \$10,000,000 Northern States Power Co. (Minn.) conv. 6½s, 1933, at 98½, yielding about 6.70%; \$8,300,000 Minnesota Power & Light Co. 1st & ref. mtge. 6s, 1950, at 97¾, yielding about 6.15%.

The more important industrial issues included: 2,000,000 shares of no par value common stock of Shell Union Oil Corporation, which were taken by stockholders at \$10 per share; \$12,000,000 Pan-American Petroleum & Transport Co.—California Division 1st mtge. conv. 6½s, 1935, offered at 96, yielding about 7.00%; 300,000 shares of no par value capital stock of Wm. Wrigley, Jr., & Co. (Chicago), at \$40 per share and \$7,700,000 General Cigar Co., Inc. (N. Y.) serial 6% notes, 1925-35, at prices yielding from 6.00% to 6.59%. Railroad issues worthy of special mention comprised the following: \$23,100,000 Southern Pacific Co. equip. trust 5s "F," 1928-38, offered on a 5.35% basis; \$20,000,000 Southern Ry. Co. dev. & gen. mtge. bonds, bearing 6% interest, due 1956, offered at 96½, to yield about 6.25%; \$15,250,000 Chicago & North Western Ry. Co. 1st & ref. mtge. 5s, 2037, offered at 93½, yielding about 5.35%; \$12,022,450 Illinois Central RR. 6% conv. pref., series A, offered to stockholders at par, \$100, and \$7,000,000 Baltimore & Ohio RR. equip. trust 5s "A," 1925-38, offered on a 5.40% basis.

Farm loan bonds sold during the month totaled \$23,250,000, such offerings being made at prices yielding from 4.50% to 4.93%. The principal issue of this character was \$10,000,000 Federal Intermediate Credit Banks 6 months 4½% debenture, due May 14 1924, which were offered at par, yielding, therefore, 4½%. This was the third offering of Federal Intermediate Credit Bank bonds made this year, the earlier offerings having been for \$10,000,000 each in August and October.

Only one foreign Government loan was brought out during November. An additional offering of Dutch East Indies 30-year sinking fund 5½% bonds, due 1953, amounting to \$25,000,000, was made. The price was 90, making the yield about 6.24%.

The following is a complete summary of the new financing—corporate, State and city, foreign Government, as well as Farm Loan issues—for November and the eleven months ending with November of the current calendar year. It will be observed that in the case of the corporate offerings we subdivide the figures so as to show the long term and the short term issues separately and we also separate common stock from preferred stock.

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE, FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, FARM LOAN AND MUNICIPAL FINANCING.

	New Capital.	Refunding.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$
NOVEMBER—			
Corporate—Long term bonds and notes.....	228,247,000	62,126,000	290,373,000
Short term.....	1,265,000	—	1,265,000
Preferred stocks.....	47,822,450	3,000,000	50,822,450
Common stocks.....	44,580,452	—	44,580,452
Foreign.....	—	—	—
Total.....	321,914,902	65,126,000	387,040,902
Foreign Government.....	25,000,000	—	25,000,000
Farm Loan issues.....	23,250,000	—	23,250,000
War Finance Corporation.....	—	—	—
Municipal.....	93,931,088	1,519,000	95,450,088
Canadian.....	—	9,000,000	9,000,000
U. S. Possessions.....	—	—	—
Grand Total.....	464,095,990	75,645,000	539,740,990
11 MONTHS ENDED NOV. 31.			
Corporate—Long term bonds and notes.....	1,727,347,557	402,925,543	2,130,273,100
Short term.....	134,970,700	36,966,800	171,937,500
Preferred stocks.....	287,221,297	71,609,830	358,831,127
Common stocks.....	285,053,126	3,966,760	289,019,886
Foreign.....	24,100,000	—	24,100,000
Total.....	2,458,692,680	515,468,933	2,974,161,613
Foreign Government.....	186,845,000	56,000,000	242,845,000
Farm Loan issues.....	335,368,000	55,032,000	390,400,000
War Finance Corporation.....	—	—	—
Municipal.....	904,368,890	17,112,948	921,481,838
Canadian.....	26,308,000	23,100,000	49,408,000
U. S. Possessions.....	7,211,000	—	7,211,000
Grand total.....	3,918,793,570	666,713,881	4,585,507,451

In the elaborate and comprehensive tables, which cover the whole of the two succeeding pages, we compare the foregoing figures for 1923 with the corresponding figures for the four years preceding, thus affording a five-year comparison. We also furnish a detailed analysis for the five years of the corporate offerings showing separately the amounts for all the different classes of corporations.

LONG-TERM BONDS AND NOTES (ISSUES MATURING LATER THAN FIVE YEARS).

Amount.	Purpose of Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue and by Whom Offered.
\$ 7,000,000	Railroads— New equipment.....	---	5.40	Baltimore & Ohio RR. Equip. Trust 5s, "A," 1925-38. Offered by Kuhn, Loeb & Co.; Speyer & Co. and National City Co.
5,400,000	New equipment.....	---	6.10	Chicago & Alton RR. Equip. Trust 6s, "A," 1924-37. Offered by Freeman & Co.; N. Y. Trust Co.; Hayden, Stone & Co. and Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.
15,250,000	Refunding, addns. & improvements	93½	5.35	Chicago & North Western Ry. Co. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 5s, 2037. Offered by Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and National City Co.
200,000	New equipment.....	---	6-6.25	Live Poultry Transit Co. Equipment 6s "O," 1924-34. Offered by Illinois Merchants Trust Co., Chicago.
3,500,000	Refunding; other corp. purposes..	99	5.08	Old Colony RR. 1st Mtge. 5½s, 1944. Offered by R. L. Day & Co.; Harris, Forbes & Co.; Kidder, Peabody & Co. and Remick, Hodges & Co.
1,620,000	New equipment.....	---	6.10	Seaboard Air Line Ry. Co. Equip. Trust 6s, "W," 1924-37. Offered by Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.; Redmond & Co.; Kissel, Kinncutt & Co., and Freeman & Co.
23,100,000	New equipment.....	---	5.35	Southern Pacific Co. Equip. Trust 5s "F," 1923-33. Offered by Kuhn, Loeb & Co.
20,000,000	Additions and betterments.....	96½	6.25	Southern Ry. Co. Development & Gen. Mtge. bonds bearing 6% int., 1956. Offered by J. P. Morgan & Co.; First National Bank, N. Y.; National City Co.; Harris, Forbes & Co.; Guaranty Co. of New York, and Bankers Trust Co.
76,070,000	Public Utilities—			
100,000,000	Refunding; add'ns & improvements	98½	5%	American Telephone & Telegraph Co. 20-Year Debenture 5½s, 1943. Offered by J. P. Morgan & Co.; Kuhn, Loeb & Co.; Kidder, Peabody & Co.; First National Bank, N. Y.; National City Co.; Bankers Trust Co.; Guaranty Co. of N. Y.; Harris, Forbes & Co. and Lee, Higginson & Co.
826,000	Extensions and additions.....	90½	5.85	Appalachian Power Co. 1st Mtge. 5s, 1941. Offered by Bonbright & Co., Inc.; Harris, Forbes & Co. and Coffin & Burr, Inc.
10,000	Refunding; add'ns & improvements	92	6.70	The Arizona Power Co. 1st Lien & Unifying Mtge. 6s "A," 1947. Offered by Stephens & Co., San Francisco.
16,000	General corporate purposes.....	---	6.50	Bartlesville Gas & Electric Co. 1st Mtge. 6s, 1947. Offered by E. W. Clucas & Co., N. Y., and Bown & Co., Philadelphia.
10,000	Additions, extensions, &c.....	98½	6.10	Illinois Power & Light Corp. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6s, "A," 1953. Offered by E. H. Rollins & Sons; Harris, Forbes & Co.; Halsey, Stuart & Co.; Spencer Trask & Co.; Marshall Field, Gloré, Ward & Co. and Blyth, Witter & Co.
10,000	New construction.....	86¾	6.00	Indiana Service Corp. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 5s, "A," 1950. Offered by Arthur Perry & Co. and Paine, Webber & Co.
500,000	Additions and improvements.....	99½	7.05	Kansas Power Co. Deb. 7s, 1933. Offered by Dangler P. Lapham & Co. and Bartlett & Gordon, Inc., Chicago.
8,300,000	Acquisition constituent companies.	97¾	6.15	Minnesota Pr. & Lt. Co. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6s, 1950. Offered by Harris, Forbes & Co.; Tucker, Anthony & Co.; Bonbright & Co., and Coffin & Burr, Inc.
70,000	Additions, extensions and impts..	94½	7.00	Mississippi Pr. & Lt. Co. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6½s, "A," 1943. Offered by W. C. Langley & Co. and John Nickerson & Co.
15,000	Refunding.....	100	7.00	Mobile (Ala.) Gas Co. 1st Mtge. 7s, "A," 1951. Offered by H. T. Holtz & Co., Chicago.
10,000	General corporate purposes.....	94	6.45	Nevada-California Electric Corp. 1st Lien 6s, "B," 1950. Offered by United States National Co.; International Trust Co.; Boettcher, Porter & Co., and Bosworth, Chanute & Co., Denver.
10,000,000	Refunding; extensions & impts....	98½	6.70	Northern States Pr. Co. (Minn.) Conv. 6½s, 1933. Offered by Guaranty Co. of N. Y., H. M. Bylesby & Co. and Spencer Trask & Co.
2,400,000	General corporate purposes.....	94½	6.40	Ohio Public Service Co. 1st Mtge. & Ref. 6s, "C," 1953. Offered by Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.
10,300,000	Refunding; add'ns & extensions..	98	6.15	Penn Central Lt. & Pr. Co. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6s, 1953. Offered by United States National Co., W. H. Newbold's Son & Co., Robert Glendinning & Co. and Edw. B. Smith & Co., Phila.
2,500,000	Corporate requirements.....	98½	6½	Penn Public Service Corp. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6s, "C," 1947. Offered by Harris, Forbes & Co. and E. H. Rollins & Sons.
250,000	Capital expenditures.....	100	6.50	Pennsylvania-Ohio Electric Co. 1st Mtge. & Coll. Tr. 6½s, "B," 1938. Offered by A. C. Allyn & Co., Inc., Chicago.
2,000,000	New construction.....	95½	5.80	Pennsylvania Water & Pr. Co. 1st Ref. Mtge. 5½s, "A," 1953. Offered by Aldred & Co., N. Y.; Chase & Co., Boston; Minsch, Monell & Co., N. Y., and Joseph W. Gross & Co., Philadelphia.
1,000,000	Additions and extensions.....	99	6.10	Rochester Telephone Corp. 1st & Ref. Mtge. 6s, "A," 1946. Offered by R. F. De Voë & Co., Inc.
1,000,000	Capital expend.; working capital..	96	7.05	Tennessee Elec. Pr. Co. Deb. 6½s, 1933. Offered by National City Co. and Bonbright & Co., Inc.
360,000	Refunding.....	98½	6%	Wisconsin Fuel & Light Co. 1st Mtge. 6½s, "A," 1948. Offered by Cammack & Co., Chicago, and Henry C. Quarles & Co., Grossman, Lewis & Co., Milwaukee, and Lake State Bank, Chicago.
148,507,000	Iron, Steel, Coal, Copper, &c.			
550,000	Additional capital.....	100	7.00	Arcade Malleable Iron Co. 20-Year 1st Mtge. 7s, 1943. Offered by C. D. Parker & Co., Boston, and Merchants Securities Corp., Worcester, Mass.
1,000,000	Additional capital.....	---	6.00-7.00	Oklahoma Iron Works-International Supply Co. Joint 1st Mtge. 7s, 1924-33. Offered by A. C. Allyn & Co., Inc., Chicago.
0,000	Equipment Manufacturers—			
0,000	Finance lease of equipment.....	100	6.00	General American Tank Car Corp. Equip. Tr. 6s, "A," 1924-30. Offered by Drexel & Co., Chas. D. Barney & Co., and First Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago.
0,000	Finance lease of equipment.....	100	7.00	National Steel Car Lines Co. Equip. Tr. 7s, "C," 1924-29. Offered by Freeman & Co.
0,000	Other Industrial & Mfg.—			
7,700,000	Reduce floating debt; wor'g capital	---	6.00-6.50	General Cigar Co., Inc. (N. Y.) Serial 6s, 1925-35. Offered by Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Lehman Bros.
1,125,000	Refunding, new equipment, &c....	100	7.00	Milton (Pa.) Mfg. Co. 1st (closed) Mtge. 7s, 1943. Offered by Cassatt & Co. and Harper & Turner, Philadelphia.
500,000	Reduce current debt; work. capital	---	6.50-7.00	Peerless Plush Mfg. Co. (Paterson, N. J.) 1st Mtge. 7s, 1924-33. Offered by Peabody, Houghteling & Co., Inc., New York.
650,000	Reduce current debt; work. capital	100	6.50	Portland (Ore.) Woolen Mills 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1927-38. Offered by Ladd & Tilton Bank and Clark, Kendall & Co., Portland, Ore.
250,000	Additional capital.....	100	7.00	Randall-Faichney Corp. 1st Mtge. 7s, 1925-39. Offered by P. W. Brooks & Co., New York.
600,000	Refunding; add'ns; work. capital..	100	7.50	Vulcan Portland Cement Co. 1st Mtge. 7½s, 1943. Offered by Schibener, Boening & Co., Philadelphia, and MacLaughlin, MacAfee & Co., Pittsburgh.
700,000	New mill.....	95½	7.00	Washington Pulp & Paper Corp. 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1938. Offered by Blyth, Witter & Co.
5,500,000	Acquisitions; extensions, &c.....	99	6%	Webster Mills 10-year 6½s, 1933. Offered by Brown Bros. & Co. and Hayden, Stone & Co.
17,025,000	Oil—			
100	Succeed Mass. Oil Refining Co....	97	7.40	Cities Service Refining Co. Guaranteed 1st Mtge. 7s, 1933. Offered by Hambleton & Co., Federal Securities Corp. and A. B. Leach & Co.
100	Additional capital.....	96	7.00	Pan American Petroleum & Transport Co. California Division 1st Mtge. 12-year Convertible 6½s, 1935. Offered by Blair & Co., Inc.
14,500,000	Land, Buildings, &c.—			
260,000	Finance construction of apartment	100	6.50	Albee Court Apt. (Larchmont, N. Y.) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1943. Offered by A. D. Converse & Co., New York.
375,000	Finance construction of apartment	100	6.50	Ambassador Apt. Hotel (Indianapolis) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-39. Offered by Fletcher American Co.
350,000	Finance construction of building..	100	7.00	American Theatre Bldg. (Salt Lake City) 1st Mtge. 7s, 1925-33. Offered by Blyth, Witter & Co.
56,000	Finance construction of houses....	100	7.00	Atkinson-Deacon-Elliott Co. Guar. 1st Mtge. 7s, 1925-31. Offered by Backus, Fordon & Co., Det.
450,000	Acquisitions, improvements.....	100	6.50	Bishop-Cass Investment Co. 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1930-36. Offered by James N. Wright & Co., International Trust Co., Sidlo, Simons, Fels & Co. and Benwell, Phillips & Co., Denver.
800,000	Finance construction of building..	100	6.00	Central Bldg. (Worcester, Mass.) 1st Mtge. 6s, 1938. Offered by Puritan Mortgage Corp. and Coffin & Burr, Inc., New York.
145,000	Finance construction of apartment	100	7.00	Covington Arms Apts. (Miami Beach, Fla.) 1st Mtge. Real Estate 7s, 1925-33. Offered by G. L. Miller & Co., Atlanta.
000	Finance construction of apartment	100	6.50	41 Fifth Avenue Corp. 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1926-35. Offered by S. W. Straus & Co.
000	Finance construction of apartment	100	6.50	Georgia Ltd.-Devonshire Apts. (Vancouver, B. C.) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1926-38. Offered by S. W. Straus & Co.
000	Finance construction of hotel.....	100	7.00	Henry Grady Hotel (Atlanta, Ga.) 1st Mtge. Leasehold 7s, 1926-43. Offered by G. L. Miller & Co., Atlanta.
000	Finance construction of building..	---	6.50-6.70	Guaranty Bldg. (Hollywood, Los Angeles) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1926-40. Offered by Metzler & Co. of Calif., Los Angeles.
000	Finance construction of apartment	---	5.50	Gwynwood Apts. (Baltimore) Guar. 1st Mtge. Certificates, 1927-33. Offered by Mortgage Guarantee Co.
0,000	Acquire building.....	100	7.00	Hotel Seneca (Columbus, O.) 1st Mtge. Leasehold 7s, 1925-38. Offered by Citizens Trust & Savings Bank, Columbus, O., and L. R. Ballinger Co., Cincinnati.
600,000	Finance construction of building..	---	6.75	Insurance Bldg. Co. (Los Angeles) 1st (closed) Mtge. 6½s, 1926-45. Offered by Alvin H. Frank & Co. and Cass, Howard & Sanford, Inc., Los Angeles, and Wm. Cavalier & Co. and Shingle, Brown & Co., San Francisco.
1,150,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.50	International Commerce Bldg. (New York) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1943. Offered by P. W. Chapman & Co. and Peabody, Houghteling & Co.
1,200,000	Improvements to property.....	100	7.00	Jefferson-Belle Isle Realty Co. (Detroit) 1st Mtge. Leasehold 7s, 1928-37. Offered by Scherer Investment Co., Detroit.
130,000	Finance lease of property.....	100	6.50	Jens-Marie Hotel (Ponca City, Okla.) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1924-31. Offered by American National Co., Oklahoma City.
275,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.50	The Lunt Mansions (Chicago) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-33. Offered by Greenbaum Sons Invest. Co.
1,000,000	Finance construction of apartment	100	6.50	(R. J.) Macher Realty Corp.-Buckingham Court Apt. House (Brooklyn, N. Y.) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-33. Offered by S. W. Straus & Co.
250,000	Finance lease of property.....	100	6.50	Michigan Seating Realty Co. (Jackson, Mich.) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-33. Offered by Fenton, Davis & Boyle, Detroit.
2,000,000	Extension of business.....	100	6.00	Mortgage Bond Co. of N. Y. 10-year 6s, Series "4," 1933. Offered by company.
3,000,000	Finance construct on of building..	100	6.00	Packard Bldg. (Philadelphia) 1st Mtge. 6s, 1933. Offered by Drexel & Co.
800,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	5.50	The Prudence Co., N. Y.-45 Park Ave. Apt. 5½% Guar. Prudence Certificates, 1924-31. Offered by The Prudence Co., Inc., New York.
550,000	Finance construction of hotel.....	100	7.00	Ritz Hotel Co. (Los Angeles) 1st Mtge. 7s, 1925-38. Offered by Leo G. MacLaughlin Co. and Howard N. Martin & Co., Los Angeles.
500,000	Extension of business.....	93	7.00	Security Housing Corp. 1st Mtge. Coll. 6s, 1933. Offered by Blyth, Witter & Co.
1,000,000	Additions to building.....	99½	6.00+	The Shelburne, Inc. (Atlantic City, N. J.) 1st (closed) Mtge. 6s, 1926-32. Offered by Lewis & Snyder, Philadelphia.

Amount.	Purpose of Issue	Price.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue and by Whom Offered.
\$	Land, Buildings, &c. (Concl.)		%	
150,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.50	1650 Broadway Corp. 1st Mtge. Leasehold 6s, 1924-30. Offered by Edmund Seymour & Co., N. Y.
6,750,000	Acquire building.....	100	6.00	State and Washington Bldgs. (Chicago) 1st Mtge. 6s, 1924-38. Offered by Halsey, Stuart & Co., E. H. Rollins & Sons, Northern Trust Co. and Union Trust Co., Chicago.
500,000	Finance loans on real estate.....	100	7.00	Superior Bond & Mtge. Co. (Cleveland) 1st Coll. Trust 7s, "B," 1924-33. Offered by Stanley & Blssett, Cleveland.
750,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.50	Woods Bldg. Corp. 1st (closed) Mtge. Leasehold 6½s, 1938. Offered by P. W. Chapman & Co., Inc., and Taylor, Ewart & Co., Chicago.
26,521,000				
	Miscellaneous—			
600,000	Refunding, acquisitions.....	100	7.00	Abbott-Kinney Co. 1st Mtge. 7s, 1925-38. Offered by Banks, Huntley & Co. and Stevens, Page & Sterling, Los Angeles.
400,000	Additions.....	100	6.50	Arden Dairy Products Co. (St. Paul) 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-35. Offered by Hyney, Emerson & Co., Chicago.
500,000	Reduce current liabilities.....	100	6.50	Armstrong Packing Co. 1st Mtge. 6½s, 1925-33. Offered by Mercantile Trust Co., St. Louis.
500,000	Reduce current debt; work. capital	101-100	5.95-7.00	National Lumber & Creosoting Co. (of Del.) 1st Mtge. 7s, 1924-38. Offered by Wm. R. Compton Co., St. Louis.
350,000	Improvements to property.....	100	7.00	Santa Ana Gardens, Inc., 1st (closed) Mtge. 7s, 1926-38. Offered by Alvin H. Frank & Co., Los Angeles.
200,000	Development of property.....	100	7.00	Ventura Farms, Inc., 1st Mtge. 7s, 1926-36. Offered by Bond & Goodwin & Tucker, Inc., San Fr
2,550,000				

SHORT-TERM BONDS AND NOTES (ISSUES MATURING UP TO AND INCLUDING FIVE YEARS).

Amount.	Purpose of Issue	Price.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue and by Whom Offered.
150,000	Public Utilities— General corporate purposes.....	99	7.25	Salt Lake & Utah RR. 7% Secured Notes, 1928. Offered by Palmer Bond & Mtge. Co., Salt Lake
1,115,000	Equipment Manufacturers— Finance lease of equipment.....	---	5¼-6	Electric Ry. Equipment Securities Corp. Equip. Tr. 6s, 1924-28. Offered by Drexel & Philadelphia, and Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.

STOCKS.

Par or No. of Shares	Purpose of Issue.	a Amount Invested.	Price Per Share.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue, and by Whom Offered.
\$	Railroad—	\$		%	
12,022,450	Construction.....	12,022,450	100	6.00	Illinois Central RR. 6% Convertible Preferred, Series "A." Offered by comp to stockholders.
20,000,000	Public Utilities— Improvements.....	20,000,000	100	6.50	Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania 6½% Cum. Pref. Offered by company employees and customers.
6,488,100	Additions, extensions, &c.....	9,083,340	140	---	Edison Electric Illuminating Co. of Boston Capital stock. Offered by compa to stockholders.
2,400,000	Expansion of business.....	2,400,000	97½	6.15	Electric Bond & Share Co. 6% Cum. Pref. Offered by Bonbright & Co., Inc.
1,400,000	General corporate purposes.....	1,400,000	104	7.69	Georgia Ry. & Pr. Co. 1st 8% Cum. Pref., Series of 1924. Offered by Harrison & Co., Philadelphia; Curtis & Sanger, New York, and Janney & Co., Philadelphia.
500,000	Additions, extensions & impts.....	500,000	90	7.78	Indiana Pr Co. 7% Cum. Partic. Pref. Offered by W. C. Langley & Co.
*10,185 shs.	Corporate requirements.....	458,325	45	---	Niagara, Lockport & Ontario Pr. Co. Common. Offered by company to stockholders.
3,000,000	Additions, extensions, &c.....	3,000,000	93½	7.50	Ohio River Edison Co. 7% Cum. Guar. Pref. Offered by Bonbright & Co. and Eastman, Dillon & Co.
300,000	Corporate requirements.....	300,000	100	7.00	Peninsular Telephone Co. 7% Cum. Pref. "A." Offered by Coggshall & Hicks, N. Y.
1,000,000	Capital expenditures.....	1,000,000	93½	7.50	Public Service Co. of Colorado 7% Cum. 1st Pref. Offered by company.
647,925	Extensions to properties.....	971,887	37½	---	Springfield (Mass.) Gas Light Co. Capital stock. Offered by company to stockholders.
4,000,000	Extensions & additions.....	4,000,000	89½	7.80	West Penn Co. 7% Cum. Pref. Offered by W. A. Harriman & Co. and Dominick & Dominick.
		43,113,552			
119,400	Iron, Steel, Coal, Copper, &c. Additional capital.....	119,400	50 (par)	---	Pittsburgh Malleable Iron Co. Capital stock. Offered by company to stockholders.
100,000	Other Industrial & Mfg.— Additions; new construction.....	100,000	100	7.50	Celite Co. 7½% Cum. 1st Pref. "A." Offered by Pacific Bond & Share Co., Los Angeles.
*30,000 shs.	Expansion; working capital.....	450,000	15	---	Commercial Chemical Co. of Tennessee Common "B." Offered by Jelke, Hood & Co., New York.
125,000	Working capital.....	125,000	50	8.00	The Dyer Co. 8% Cum. Partic. Pref. Offered by Roy J. Foster & Co., Inc., Boston.
500,000	Expansion.....	500,000	2 shs. Pref.) For	---	Fain Knitting Mills, Inc., 8% Cum. Prior Pref. Offered by Hitt, Farwell & Co., N. Y.
\$2,500 shs.	Expansion.....	500,000	1 sh. Com.) \$200	---	Fain Knitting Mills, Inc., Common. Offered by Hitt, Farwell & Co., New York.
4,000,000	Refunding; working capital.....	4,000,000	101	6.93	The Palmolive Co. (Del.) 7% Cum. Pref. Offered by Morris F. Fox & Co., Milwaukee, and Bosworth, Chanute & Co., Denver.
500,000	Working capital.....	125,000	2½	---	Sweets Co. of America, Inc., Capital stock. Placed privately by company.
\$300,000 shs	(See explanatory note "b.")	12,000,000	40	---	Wm. Wrigley Jr. & Co. (Chicago) Capital stock. Offered by Hornblower & Weeks.
		17,300,000			
*2,000,000 shs.	Oil— Development; additions, &c.....	20,000,000	10	---	Shell Union Oil Corp. Common. Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten.
600,000	Miscellaneous— Expansion of business.....	600,000	100	7.00	Brock & Co. 7% Cum. Prior Pref. Offered by F. H. Richmond & Co., Los Angeles;
300,000	Acq. predecessor company.....	300,000	2 shs. Pref.) For	---	Carter, Macy Co., Inc., 7% Pref. Offered by Kidder, Peabody & Co.
*1,500 shs.	Acq. predecessor company.....	300,000	1 sh. Com.) \$200	---	Carter, Macy Co., Inc., Common. Offered by Kidder, Peabody & Co.
*30,000 shs.	Extensions and additions.....	1,125,000	37½	---	Childs Co. (N. Y.) Common. Offered by Dillon, Read & Co.
75,000	Extensions; develop. of property.....	75,000	97½	8.20	Malmoe & Co. Nurses 8% Cum. Prior Pref. Offered by H. M. Herrin & Co., Seattle
250,000	New capital.....	250,000	102	7.84	Missouri-Illinois Stores Co. 8% Cum. Conv. Pref. Offered by Mark C. Steinberg & Co., St. Louis.
*22,500 shs.	New capital.....	247,500	11	---	Missouri-Illinois Stores Co. Common. Offered by Mark C. Steinberg & Co., St. Louis.
250,000	Additions; other corp. purposes.....	250,000	100	8.00	D. Pender Grocery Co. 8% Cum. Pref. Offered by Durfey & Marr, Raleigh, N. C.
		2,847,500			

FARM LOAN ISSUES.

Amount.	Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Offered by
\$			%	
1,000,000	Central Iowa Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. of Des Moines 5s, 1933-53.....	101½	4.80	Equitable Tr. Co., Hayden, Stone & Co. and P. W. Chapman & Co.
2,000,000	Chicago Joint Stock Land Bank 5s, 1933-63.....	101¾	4.77	Kissell, Kinnicutt & Co., N. Y., and Janney & Co., Philadelphia.
10,000,000	Federal Intermediate Credit Bank 6 Months 4½% Debentures, March 14 1924.....	100	4.50	Guaranty Co. of N. Y.; Nat. City Co., Bankers Tr. Co., N. Y. Trust Co., Bank of the Manhattan Co., N. Y.; First Tr. & Savs. Bk. and Continental & Commercial Tr. & Savs. Bk., Chicago; Old Colony Tr. Co., Boston; Hibernia Bk. & Tr. Co., New Orleans; First Nat. Co., St. Louis; Nat. Bk. of Commerce in St. Louis, and the Philadel Nat. Bank.
1,000,000	First Trust Joint Stock Land Bank of Chicago 4½s, 1933-53.....	100	4.75	First Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago.
750,000	Kentucky Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.87	J. J. B. Hilliard & Son, Louisville, and Security Trust Co., Lexington, Ky.
500,000	Lincoln Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1933-53.....	101½	4.80	Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.; Harris, Tr. & Savs. Bk. and Wm. R. Compton Co
650,000	Pacific Coast Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. of Los Angeles 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	Harris, Forbes & Co.; Wm. R. Compton Co.; Halsey, Stuart & Co.; First Securities Co Los Angeles; Mercantile Tr. Co. of Calif., and Security Co., Los Angeles.
700,000	Pacific Coast Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. of Salt Lake City 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	do do do do do
650,000	Pacific Coast Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. of San Francisco 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	do do do do do
2,000,000	St. Louis Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1943 and 1953.....	101	---	Wm. R. Compton Co.
	First Carolina Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1933-53.....	100½	4.93	Harris, Forbes & Co.; Halsey, Stuart & Co. and Wm. R. Compton Co.
	Greensboro Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1933-53.....	100½	4.93	do do do do do
	Kentucky Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	do do do do do
4,000,000	Louisville (Ky.) Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. 5s, 1932-52 and 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	do do do do do
	Union Jt. Stk. Ld. Bk. (Louisville, Ky.) 5s, 1932-52 and 5s, 1933-53.....	101	4.85	do do do do do
23,250,000				

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LOANS.

Amount.	Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Offered by
\$			%	
25,000,000	Dutch East Indies 30-Year External S. F. 5½s, 1953.....	90	6.24	Guaranty Co. of N. Y.; Harris, Forbes & Co.; Lee, Higginson & Co.; Bankers Trust Co., N. Y.; Kidder, Peabody & Co.; Union Trust Co. of Pittsburgh; Continental & Commercial Trust & Savs. Bank; Illinois Merchants Trust Co., Chicago, and Union Trust Co., Cleveland.

* Shares of no par value. a Preferred stocks are taken at par, while in the case of Common stocks, the amount is based on the offering price. b This stock was purchased by the bankers from associates of the company, and while the proceeds do not go directly to the treasury of the issuing company, the financing nevertheless constitutes a demand on the investment market.

Indications of Business Activity

THE STATE OF TRADE—COMMERCIAL EPITOME. *Friday Night, Dec. 28 1923.*

Mild weather still hurts trade in general, despite the fact that in many lines the retail holiday business has eclipsed anything ever known in the past. After the holiday outburst, however, the sales rapidly fell off. Retail clothing dealers have had to cut prices in various parts of the country, some 15 to 35%, owing to the prolonged and unseasonable mildness of the weather. Up to this time there has been practically no snow in New York or adjacent parts of the country. The winter wheat belt for the most part is without a protecting blanket of much desired snow, which is also "the poor man's fertilizer." The weather at the West has been too wet and mild. The rains tend to lower the grade of the grain in the corn belt; there is too great a moisture content. Also, the rains at the Southwest interfere with trade because of bad roads. Building continues active. The mild weather naturally favors it. It is expected to be unusually large, especially if it should continue to be an open winter. For a year or two ahead, indeed, it is likely to be heavy. There is still a regrettable shortage of housing here and in other parts of the country. The deficit caused by the war and the diverting of labor to war uses and by the natural increase in population must be made up. Meanwhile builders are large buyers of steel, vying with automobile manufacturers in active purchases even at a time of the year when it is an almost immemorial custom, in ordinary times at least, to slow down for the holidays if for no other reason. Usually the rigors of winter interpose an effectual bar to outdoor work and thus checks building. Meanwhile there is an advance in crude petroleum despite some slight increase of late in the production.

While railroads are buying steel on a fair scale and builders and auto makers are taking it on something like an extraordinary scale, there is a good business reported in tin plate, and the production of this item exceeds anything in previous records. Automobile concerns are also buying cotton goods on a considerable scale. The grain markets have not greatly changed during the week. Prices in the main are steady, though the demand is nothing like what could be desired. Wheat is ending the year 7 to 26 cents a bushel lower than a year ago, while corn, though 4 cents lower on December delivery is some 2 to 3 cents higher than a year ago for May and July deliveries. Oats are slightly lower for December but somewhat higher than a year ago for later deliveries. Cotton is some \$50 a bale higher than at this time last year. Sugar is nearly 2 cents a pound higher for refined than then. Coffee is not quite 1 cent per pound lower than at the ending of last year. Flour is about \$1.50 per barrel cheaper than then. Pig iron is \$2.75 lower. Steel billets are \$6 a ton higher than a year ago, as a partial reflex of the extraordinary activity in building throughout the United States. During the week cotton has advanced owing to its growing scarcity and an insistent demand from mills at home and abroad. England continues to use foreign and competing growths of cotton, but it cannot wholly dispense with American. Besides, the supplies of foreign growths have been greatly depleted. The extensive use of East Indian, South American and other growths enabled consumers last year to make out in spite of the deficit in American supplies, but it is said to have resulted in depleting reserves of foreign cotton something over 1,000,000 bales. The world's production in recent years has been running noticeably behind the world's consumption so that there has been a very noticeable falling off in the world's reserves of cotton. How it all will turn out remains to be seen. The crying need of the time is an effective remedy for the boll weevil in the cotton fields of this country. Sugar in the latter part of the week has shown a downward tendency, owing to reports that the railroad strike in Cuba has been broken. Coffee has advanced with the marketing of the crop still artificially restricted by the Brazilian Government. No doubt, in part at least, because of unseasonable weather and the diminution of trade, there is some unemployment in parts of the country, including even such centres as Chicago, and as far West as Los Angeles, as well as in parts of Alabama and Oklahoma. But Michigan has a high record of employment because of the extraordinary activity in the automobile industry.

Various projects are under way to help the farmer, especially the wheat farmer, whose prices are noticeably below those of a year ago. That the sluggishness of trade in some lines is partly or largely due to the diminishing purchasing power of the wheat farmer there can be no doubt, although his condition is better than it was at one time. It is pointed out by the Department of Agriculture that the cultivated crops his year are worth, however, some \$880,000,000 more than those of last year and nearly \$2,700,000,000 more than in 1921. That is to say, the value of the crops this year has increased nearly 12% over that of last year and some 50% as compared with two years ago. The improvement has been gradual but on the whole continuous, whatever may be said about the admitted distress of the wheat farmer. The corn farmer fares much better than his brother who raises wheat. It is estimated that the purchasing power of corn may be put as compared with 100 in 1913 at the index figure of 92, as against 79 for wheat, with potatoes at 84, hogs 63 and cattle 61. The cotton warmer towers above them all, with a high figure of 152. He is at the peak of prosperity. As regards the wheat farmer there is just one thing for him to do and that is to cut down his acreage. Undue paternalism for his benefit would simply mean that he would keep up his acreage or increase it and in the end have to grapple with the difficulty in accordance with economic law and regulations of supply and demand. Wool has been quiet but firm. Some of the Carolina cotton mills have been curtailing for the time being. But it is noticeable that some of the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island mills have arranged to close only for one day for each of the Christmas and New Year holidays. It was said to-day that some of the Georgia cotton mills contemplate reducing their output in the near future because of the high cost of the raw material. It is hardly necessary to say that with the supply of cotton so short there must sooner or later be a drastic curtailment of consumption at home and abroad. There is no doubt that the next acreage will be greatly increased.

The stock market has been active and strong and certainly this is a cheering circumstance as the year draws to a close. For many months trade has been proceeding on a conservative scale, but even as it was the car loadings have made an exhibit which has been an outstanding feature of the business year. It is not surprising to find that Secretary of the Treasury Mellon takes a hopeful view of the business prospects for 1924. He is not alone in that opinion. The foundation for increased trade in 1924 has been laid in the prudent manner with which business has been conducted since early in the present year. There are no burdensome supplies in any line of trade. And the prospects point to a decrease in taxation. One of the remarkable signs of the times is what looks like a widespread suspension of partisanship as regards this particular matter of taxation in many parts of the country. In other words, regardless of political affiliations, merchants naturally want to see a curtailment of the oppressive burdens still being imposed upon the citizen five years after the armistice. It is to be hoped that the advice of not a few merchants sent out to their correspondents to make it plain to Congressmen that the people insist upon a mitigation of this intolerable evil will be carried out on such a scale as to make it effective. It is plain that the people are in no mood to be trifled with and that the political future of representatives in Washington depends upon an obedience to the will of the great mass of the population as regards this crying evil of the times.

The new building wage scale for 100,000 workers here would increase wages by 50 cents a day and would add about \$12,000,000 a year to the cost of building in New York. The present scale is \$9 a day for journeymen, but the employers have been paying a bonus of \$1 a day additional. Several weeks ago the Building Trades Council presented a demand for a flat rate of \$11. This was rejected by the Building Trades Employers' Association on the ground that it would make the cost of building prohibitive. Many employers insisted on retention of the \$10 scale. In view, however, of prospects of a peak year for building in New York in 1924 steps were taken by some interests looking to a compromise scale of \$10.50. Counting the time lost for holidays, bad weather and other hazards the employers base their estimate of the added cost on 240 days a year.

A preliminary report on housing has been submitted to Governor Smith of this State by the State Commission on Housing and Regional Planning. It sets forth that rents have increased from 40% to 93% in four years. Though rents have risen, some factory wages have decreased in the same period. Families with an income of \$2,000 pay 21.3% for rent, as against 14.4% in 1919. New tenants pay from 50% to 300% more rent than old tenants. Houses are sold frequently and each change in ownership brings an increase in rents. Repairs always bring increased rents; in one instance, after installing electric fixtures the landlord raised the rent 200%. Sanitary conditions are worse than in 1920. Gas bills run to \$8 a month because the dark inside rooms make lighting necessary. It costs as much as \$19 a month to heat many of these rooms. Overcrowding is evident everywhere.

At New Bedford, Mass., the cotton mills closed only one day for Christmas and will close only one day next week for New Year's. The same program at Lowell, Mass., Manchester, N. H., and in Rhode Island mills. At Manchester, N. H., still further departments of the Amoskeag mills were opened, it having been announced recently that the upper weaving section of the northern half of the Amory mill and the Draper looms in the south lower canal mill would be started the day after Christmas. Thus the mill continues to add to the number of operatives employed and steadily the mills are nearing the capacity production mark. Fitchburg, Mass., wired Dec. 27 that for the first time in over 30 years the Star Worsted Co. had been obliged to close for lack of orders. It is expected to resume operations Jan. 3. At Lawrence, Mass., the Pacific mills now with a total spindleage of 150,000 will reopen Jan. 7. It is supposed that it will be on full time. At Charlotte, N. C., and in that district, a number of textile mills closed down last Saturday for one to two weeks. At Akron, Ohio, tire mills report a larger output, most of them adding to their working force and will require some 275,000 bales of cotton in 1924. The Ford Motor Co., it is said, bought 1,000,000 yards of drills, sheeting and duck in New York on Wednesday. Motor works are buying steel freely. Retail clothiers in many cities have reduced prices 15 to 35% owing to mild weather. The National Association of Retail Clothiers attributes the decrease in the buying of men's clothing to the fact that the average man is buying autos instead. Yet December department store sales rose 6% in the New York district. Big buying in the West includes all lines. Holiday purchases have been eclipsing previous high records. Continued activity in manufacturing and merchandising is forecast for 1924 in the Chicago district. Automobile sales are helped by the open winter. The seasonal decrease is smaller than was expected. The year's output is estimated at 4,000,000.

Car loadings for the week ended Dec. 15 were 899,552, a decrease of 14% from the previous week, but an increase of over 20,000 compared with the same week last year.

The cost of living fell 20.5% in September from the peak of June 1920, but was 72.1% above 1913, according to statistics issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics covering 32 cities. Savannah showed the greatest decrease since 1920, with reduction of 25.5%, while Los Angeles reduced the cost of living only 12.2% in the period. New York reduced it 20%.

Winnipeg wired: "Navigation closed Dec. 25, a steamer leaving Fort William that night with a cargo of grain for Tiffin, Ont.

The weather here has been in the main unseasonably mild. There was a light snow storm on Thursday night, which turned to rain. The United States has been unusually warm for this time of the year. To-day it is much colder at the Northwest, but mild and rainy at the South. Here cleared this morning. To-night it is cooler and fair.

Department Store Sales in New York Federal Reserve District in December This Year Six Per Cent. Higher Than Last Year.

According to an item on department store trade which will appear in the Jan. 1 issue of the Monthly Review of Credit and Business Conditions by the Federal Reserve Agent at New York "December sales by department stores in the Second District estimated on a basis of the business done prior to Dec. 20, by 17 of the largest stores of New York and adjacent cities were about 6% larger than those of December of last year. This," says the item, "is a smaller increase than was shown by October and November sales." The item continues:

Merchants reported particularly heavy sales of toys, radio equipment, jewelry, talking machines and holiday gift articles, while sales of pianos and household furnishings were also large. Sales of apparel, furs and shoes, however, were retarded by unusually mild weather.

Total sales for the year 1923, with December sales partly estimated, exceeded those of 1922 by 7.8%, or not far from the normal rate of growth from year to year, which is computed to be about 8%. The sales were 10.3% larger than in 1921 and 5.7% above those of 1920, a year of exceptionally high prices and heretofore the year of largest department store sales.

During the early part of 1923 sales increased somewhat more rapidly than stocks of goods on hand, whereas during the latter part of the year the reverse was true. The average increase in stocks for the entire year was about 7%, due in part to higher prices and in part to extensive additions to some of the stores. In 1923 stocks turned 3.9 times, as compared with 3.8 times in 1922, the same rate in 1921, and 3.3 times in 1920.

Final reports on department store sales for November indicated an increase of 8% over the previous November, as compared with a gain of 10% shown in October. The following table shows the percentage change in the major departments:

Men's and boy's wear.....	+15.2
Hosiery.....	+6.8
Cotton goods.....	+6.5
Women's and misses' ready-to-wear.....	+6.4
Woolen goods.....	+5.0
Furniture.....	+4.1
House furnishings.....	+3.7
Women's and misses' ready-to-wear accessories.....	+2.2
Shoes.....	+1.3
Silk goods.....	-6.1
Miscellaneous.....	+12.3

Detailed figures of November sales and stocks as of Dec. 1 for department stores in the different cities of this district, as compared with figures for previous years, are shown in the following table:

	Dollar Sales in November.				Stock on Hand, Dec. 1.				
	November 1922=100				Dec. 1 1922=100				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	
All dept. stores.....	90	101	93	100	107	98	109	99	100
New York.....	92	101	93	100	109	98	107	99	100
Buffalo.....	84	104	95	100	98	110	103	100	102
Newark.....	82	96	88	100	108	101	108	94	100
Rochester.....	89	105	97	100	112	122	134	102	100
Syracuse.....	101	109	97	100	108	126	143	101	100
Bridgeport.....	105	110	91	100	102	100	105	97	100
Elsewhere.....	92	101	94	100	102	96	110	109	100
Apparel stores.....	84	100	89	100	103	83	99	96	100
Mail order houses.....	133	113	74	100	110	---	---	---	---

Increase in Christmas Savings Deposits in the Federal Reserve District of Philadelphia.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia forwarded questionnaires early in December to all banks in the Third Federal Reserve District with the purpose of ascertaining the trend of Christmas savings and other savings deposits in comparison with last year. Complete reports on Christmas savings were received from three-fourths of the banks, and on other savings deposits from three-fifths. The following tabulation made public by the Reserve Bank Dec. 22 gives the results of this investigation:

	Christmas Savings Funds.			Other Savings Deposits.		
	1922.	1923.	% of Change.	1922.	1923.	% of Change.
Number of depositors:						
Pennsylvania.....	412,346	517,849	+26%	1,698,756	1,865,941	+10%
New Jersey.....	74,063	82,584	+12%	160,193	173,811	+9%
Delaware.....	3,196	4,531	+42%	23,255	28,834	+24%
3d dist. total	489,605	604,964	+24%	1,882,205	2,068,586	+10%
Amount of deposits:						
Pennsylvania.....	\$16,075,573	\$21,795,442	+36%	\$659,857,061	\$756,291,293	+15%
New Jersey.....	3,142,290	3,777,894	+20%	62,275,649	67,283,968	+8%
Delaware.....	107,603	153,825	+43%	12,466,766	15,806,280	+27%
3d dist. total	\$19,325,466	\$25,727,161	+33%	\$734,599,476	\$839,381,541	+14%
Philadelphia*:						
No. of depos.....	94,290	132,555	+41%	775,404	826,119	+7%
Amts. of depos.....	\$3,785,005	\$5,645,813	+49%	\$337,491,534	\$34,782,897	+14%

* Philadelphia figures included in preceding data. Ninety-six banks reported on Christmas savings funds, and 90 banks on other savings deposits.

Cost of Living Now Highest Since 1921, According to National Industrial Conference Board—Rent and Food Rise—Employment Increases.

Detailed figures on the cost of living, the trend of the nation's employment, and of general wage changes, made public on Dec. 24 by the National Industrial Conference Board of 10 East 39th Street, show that while household expenses of the nation for the period ended Nov. 15 last were the highest since 1921, general business is slowly improving after the mid-year recession. The Board says:

For the month ending Nov. 15 the cost of living throughout the United States had increased seven-tenths of 1% over the previous month, bringing the people to the threshold of the New Year with a family budget requirement greater than at any time since May 1921. The principal increases were in food prices and rents. The increase in all items since last July was 2.1%, and this was a decrease from the high figures of July 1920 of 19.2%, but an increase over the pre-war level of 65.3%.

The Conference Board's survey of industrial conditions in nearly 1,700 establishments for October, the last month available, disclose an increase in the average work week and a substantial advance in weekly earnings. For the first time since last April the trend in hours worked was upward and, while the gain was not a large one, the Board says, it is pronounced "encouraging in that it indicates a lessening of the curtailment of manufacturing activity."

In the month ending Dec. 14, there were 34 major wage changes noted in American industry by the Board, of which only one was a decrease. This occurred in the western Kentucky coal mines, where the miners accepted lower wages to accomplish a lower production cost of coal. There were 20 increases in the printing industry due to the termination of yearly contracts and the drawing of new agreements. Two classes of railway labor—mainte-

nance of way men and the telegraphers and station agents—received increases.

Detailed data regarding the changes in the cost of living are furnished as follows by the Board:

Changes in Cost of Living Between July 1914—November 1923.

The cost of living in the United States on Nov. 15 1923 had increased seven-tenths of 1% over the level of Oct. 15 1923 as shown by figures just collected by the National Industrial Conference Board in a comprehensive survey of conditions the country over. The increase since last July was 2.1%. In the month Oct. 15 1923 to Nov. 15 1923, there were increases in the average cost of food and sundries. Average rents advanced, but the cost of clothing, coal, gas and electricity was lower. Between July 1920, when the peak of the rise in the cost of living since 1914 was reached, and November 1923, the cost of living decreased 19.2%. The increase since July 1914 was 65.3%.

The following table shows in detail the changes in the cost of living noted above:

Item.	Relative Importance in Family Budget.	Percentage of Increase in the Cost of Living Above Average Prices in July 1914 to—				Percentage of Decrease in the Cost of Living on Nov. 15 1923 from Average Prices in—		
		July 1920.	July 1923.	Oct. 1923.	Nov. 1923.	July 1920.	July 1923.	Oct. 1923.
		1920.	1923.	1923.	1923.	1920.	1923.	1923.
Food*	43.1	119	47	50	51	31.1	2.7a	0.7a
Shelter	17.7	58	75	75	80	13.9a	2.9a	2.9a
Clothing	13.2	166	70	76	74	34.7	2.6a	1.1
Fuel and light..	5.6	66	76	78	76	6.0a	b	1.1
(Fuel)	(3.7)	(92)	(92)	(94)	(93)	(0.5)a	(0.5)a	(0.5)
(Light)	(1.9)	(15)	(46)	(46)	(43)	(24.3)c	(2.1)	(2.1)
Sundries	20.4	85	73	73	74	5.9	0.6a	0.6a
Weighted avge. of all items..	100.0	104.5	61.9	64.1	65.3	19.2	2.1a	0.7a

* Food price changes are from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. a Increase. b No change.

The purchasing value of the dollar based on the cost of living in November 1923 was 60.5 cents, as contrasted with \$1 in July 1914.

Federal Reserve Board's Summary of Business Conditions in the United States—Decrease in Production and Factory Employment in November.

Production of basic commodities and factory employment decreased in November. According to the Federal Reserve Board's summary of business conditions in the United States made public Dec. 27, which continues as follows:

Distribution of merchandise by wholesalers and retailers was somewhat less active and wholesale prices showed a slight further recession.

Production.

Production in basic industries decreased about 2% in November. The decline was due chiefly to reduced production of iron and steel and smaller sugar meltings. The Federal Reserve Board's new index of factory employment, which is shown by the accompanying chart, also declined due to lessened activity at iron and steel plants and large seasonal reductions at clothing establishments. The volume of employment is now 2% smaller than in the spring but 3% larger than a year ago. Contract awards for new building were smaller in November than in October in all reporting districts except New York but were 20% larger than a year ago.

Final estimates by the Department of Agriculture show larger yields of corn, oats, tobacco, and cotton than in 1922, and smaller yields of wheat, hay, and potatoes. The total value of agricultural production at Dec. 1 prices was 12% larger than in 1922. Each of the ten principal crops except wheat showed an increase in value.

Trade.

Railroad freight shipments in November showed about the usual seasonal decline from October but were in heavier volume as compared with previous years. Wholesale trade was 13% less in November than in October, which is more than the usual decrease at this season, but sales continued to be slightly larger than a year ago. Sales of hardware, drugs, and meat were larger than in November 1922, while sales of shoes were smaller. Retail business was smaller than in October in most lines. Sales of mail order houses declined more than sales of department stores but were 11% larger than a year ago.

Prices.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices declined in November to a point 4% lower than last spring and about 3% lower than a year ago. The chief reductions occurred in prices of animal products, fuel, and house furnishings. Prices of clothing and crops, on the other hand, increased and the latter group averaged higher than in any month since 1920. During the first half of December, prices of sheep, beef, sugar, cotton, silk, and rubber declined while quotations on crude oil, wheat, and wool were slightly higher.

Bank Credit.

The total volume of credit extended by member banks in leading cities showed but little change between the middle of November and the middle of December. A seasonal reduction in commercial and agricultural loans in most districts was accompanied by increased loans on securities with the result that total loans remained practically constant.

During the same period borrowings at the Federal Reserve Banks were also practically unchanged. Holdings of acceptances increased somewhat partly in connection with the financing of cotton exports. The increased demand for currency for holiday trade was reflected in both a moderate expansion in Federal Reserve note circulation and a reduction in gold certificates held by the Reserve banks.

Rates of commercial paper sold in the open market continued to show an easier tendency as indicated by increased sales at 4 3/4% particularly in interior districts. The December issues of one year 4 1/4% and six months 4% Treasury Certificates compared with 4 1/4% on a six months issue sold in September were largely oversubscribed.

Further Advances Take Place in Crude Petroleum and in Gasoline Prices.

A number of advances in the price of crude petroleum were posted during the week just passed, among the earlier changes being one by the Eastern refiners, who raised the price of Cabell, Somerset medium and light crude oils 15c. a barrel to \$1 35, \$1 30 and \$1 45 per barrel, respectively. Press

reports on Dec. 22 also stated that the price of Canadian crude oil had been advanced from \$1 83 to \$1 93 per barrel, or an advance of 10c. per barrel.

A further advance of 25c. per barrel in the price of Pennsylvania crude oil was posted when on Dec. 26 the Joseph Seep Purchasing Agency announced the following:

The Joseph Seep Purchasing Agency of South Penn Oil Co. will pay the following prices for producers' credit balances:

Pennsylvania grade oil in New York Transit Co. lines.....	\$3 10
Bradford district oil in National Transit Co. lines.....	3 10
Pennsylvania grade oil in National Transit Co. lines.....	2 85
Pennsylvania grade oil in Southwest Penn lines.....	2 85
Pennsylvania grade oil in Eureka Pipe Line.....	2 85
Pennsylvania grade oil in Buckeye Pipe Line.....	2 85
Balance unchanged.	

These prices compare with the list given in our columns in the Dec. 15 issue, page 2592.

Additional reports on Dec. 26 stated that the independent buyers of the Pennsylvania grades of crude oil had followed the advance announced by the Seep Agency and in addition were paying a premium of 10c. a barrel on all oil offered them.

On Dec. 27 increases of from 10c. to 25c. per barrel were made for Oklahoma, Texas, Gulf Coast, Louisiana and Arkansas crude oils. The new schedule of prices as it appeared in the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 27 is as follows:

Texas Company advanced crude oil in four different districts 10c. to 15c. a barrel in Oklahoma and north and north central Texas, 25c. a barrel in central Texas and Gulf Coast districts, and 15c. in north Louisiana and Arkansas.

With the new price schedule in Oklahoma and north and central Texas, Texas Company also revised the gravity basis under which it purchases crude oil, making gravities in Oklahoma to correspond with those of north and north central Texas. New prices and bases are: Under 33 gravity, 90c. a barrel, advance of 15c.; 33 to 35.9 gravity, \$1 15, advance of 15c.; 36 to 38.9 gravity, \$1 30, advance of 15c., and 39 and above, \$1 40, advance of 10c.

Company's previous schedule in Oklahoma was 75c. for under 33 gravity; \$1 for 33 to 39.9, and \$1 25 a barrel for 40 and above.

In Gulf Coast district, Texas Company raised the price 25c. a barrel to \$1 25. Crude in Powell, Mexia and Currie pools was also raised 25c. to \$1 25 a barrel, while north Louisiana grades, including Caddo, De Soto, Bull Bayou, Criton and Smackover (Ark.), were raised 15c. a barrel.

The Magnolia Petroleum Co. on the same day advanced the price of crude oil from 10c. to 25c. a barrel. The new price for Corsicana light and Mexia crude is \$1 25 and for Corsicana heavy 50c.

The Humble Oil & Refining Co. on Dec. 28 followed the advances announced by the Texas Company in all fields except Currie, where it advanced 35c. above the previous price. The new price for Currie is \$1 35 per barrel.

Similar advances were made by the Gulf Oil Co., which posted new prices as follows: "A" grade, \$1 25 per barrel, an advance of 25c., and "B" grade, \$1 per barrel. These are the same as the prices posted by the Humble Oil & Refining Co. A flat price for Blue Ridge and Pierce Junction was made at \$1 a barrel, against the former price of 65c.

Also on Dec. 28 the Seep Agency announced an advance of 10c. as follows: Cabell grade, now \$1 45; Somerset medium, \$1 40; Somerset light, \$1 55, and Ragland, 85c.

Additional advances were posted by the Magnolia Petroleum Co. for crude oil in Texas as follows:

Grade—	New Prices.	Old Prices.
Under 28 gravity	50c.	40c.
28 to 30.9 gravity	75c.	60c.
31 to 32.9 gravity	90c.	75c.
33 to 35.9 gravity	\$1 15	\$1 00
36 to 38.9 gravity	\$1 30	----
39 gravity and above.....	\$1 40	\$1 25

Changes in the price of gasoline during the past week have not been as numerous as the crude oil changes but nevertheless they cover a wide territory. On Dec. 24 advices were received to the effect that the price had been advanced 1c. to 14.9c. per gallon in Kansas City and the surrounding territory. This price includes a city tax of 1c. per gallon. Late on Friday (Dec. 28) it was announced that the White Eagle Oil & Refining Co. at Kansas City had advanced the tank wagon price of gasoline 2c. per gallon through its territory, comprising ten States.

In addition, a dispatch from Chicago on Dec. 28 stated that effective Dec. 29 the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana will advance its price for gasoline 2c. per gallon throughout its entire territory. The tank wagon price will be 14c. and the retail price 16c. per gallon.

Crude Petroleum Production Remains at About the Same Level.

The statement issued Dec. 27 by the American Petroleum Institute shows that the production of crude oil in the week ended Dec. 22 was little changed from that for the previous week. The Institute estimates that the daily average gross crude oil production in the United States for the week ended

Dec. 22 was 1,944,250 barrels, as compared with 1,943,300 barrels for the preceding week, an increase of 950 barrels. In the corresponding week of 1922, 1,691,750 barrels were produced. A decrease from the previous week of 14,000 barrels in the daily average production of the Powell field in Texas was offset by an increase of 18,000 barrels in California. The daily average production east of the Rocky Mountains was 1,217,900 barrels, as compared with 1,234,950 barrels the previous week, a decrease of 17,050 barrels. California production was 726,350 barrels, as compared with 708,350 barrels; Santa Fe Springs is reported at 181,000 barrels, against 185,000 barrels; Long Beach, 230,000 barrels, against 225,000 barrels; Huntington Beach, 69,000 barrels, against 71,000 barrels; and Torrance, 42,000 barrels, against 33,000 barrels. The following are estimates of daily average gross production for the weeks indicated:

DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION.

(In Barrels.)	Dec. 22 '23.	Dec. 15 '23.	Dec. 8 '23.	Dec. 23 '22.
Oklahoma	374,700	381,900	385,750	406,500
Kansas	71,050	70,800	71,150	86,800
North Texas	66,250	64,450	63,600	59,100
Central Texas	176,600	191,750	222,500	124,400
North Louisiana	54,550	54,900	56,450	79,300
Arkansas	118,150	119,350	119,500	95,600
Gulf Coast	93,100	93,550	92,900	118,300
Eastern	111,500	111,000	110,000	115,000
Wyoming and Montana	152,000	147,250	155,950	106,750
California	726,350	708,350	728,350	500,000
Total	1,944,250	1,943,300	2,006,150	1,691,750

New Model by Packard Motor Car Co. at Advanced Price.

A news dispatch from Detroit on Saturday, Dec. 22, stated that the Packard Motor Car Co. will soon announce a new improved single six. The price will be advanced about \$100. The new car will be identical in appearance with the present car. However, it will have four-wheel brakes, heavier transmission and more standard equipment. This is in line with the policy of a number of automobile manufacturers who have announced slight advances in prices, noted in our issues of Dec. 8, p. 2480, and Dec. 15, p. 2591.

Copper Export Association—Reports of Proposed Segregation.

Supplementing the item appearing in these columns last week (page 2701) regarding the Copper Export Association, we quote the following from the New York "Times" of yesterday (Dec. 28):

The breaking up of the Copper Export Association will be completed in January, when the companies now forming that association will go into the marketing end of the copper business independent of one another, according to information obtained yesterday. Some of the larger interests announced some time ago their plans to withdraw. The remaining companies decided to follow the lead of the larger companies, saying they were afraid they might run counter to the Sherman Anti-Trust Law if they continued.

The Copper Export Association was organized in 1918 to meet the after-war unsettlement in the copper industry. The industry has since then been placed on a more normal footing and producers say that the extraordinary conditions then existing have been weathered.

The main part of the selling organization was the United Metals Selling Co. This organization, it is understood, will continue to distribute abroad the metal produced by the Chile, Inspiration, Greene-Cananea and other copper companies classed as friendly to the Anaconda company. The Guggenheim organization, known as Guggenheim Brothers, which is a selling agency for the Guggenheim mines, will, it is understood, operate entirely independently of the United Metals Selling Co., and smaller units will withdraw from the Copper Export Association, following original action to that end by the American Smelting & Refining Co.

Buying of Steel Is on the Increase—Pig Iron Market Is Quiet.

Further buying, broad in scope if not great in quantity, marked the week. Sales usually were not at expense of prices, but indications still are that buyers see no protection in contracts and cover only for closely estimated requirements, declares "The Iron Age" in its weekly review of conditions affecting the markets for iron and steel which was issued Dec. 27 and is quoted below:

Steel making output may taper off in the remainder of the year, as numbers of rolling mills, taking advantage of the satisfied demand for immediate deliveries, are employing a part or all of the holiday period to make repairs. At that, the production of steel ingots for 1923 seems likely to exceed 43 million tons, and the pig iron make will be a record at over 40 million tons.

The idea of price firmness has spread to semi-finished steel, first quarter contracts in rerolling billets at the \$40, Pittsburgh, price being reported. One Middle Western sheet bar producer has so heavily booked for the quarter that it has withdrawn from the market. Some of the sheet bar business provides for prices obtaining at the time of shipment. Forging billets alone seem not definitely strong at \$45, because obtainable from more mills than usual.

Sheet buying has been notably heavy. December orders of independent makers are estimated in excess of 300,000 tons, but it is not yet clear that price shading has disappeared.

In tin plate, following a record output of 40,000,000 boxes for 1923, the leading producer is solidly committed against its maximum production for the first half of next year and the position of the independents is almost as favorable.

The outstanding structural steel activity is shown by awards of 26,000 tons, including 8,650 tons for bridge work. Fresh inquiries amount to

37,000 tons, including 11,000 tons for the Chicago Tribune tower and 6,050 tons for assembling plants for the Ford Motor Co. November bookings of fabricated steel, according to Census Bureau statistics, amounted to 135,000 tons, better than the average for the six months preceding and 10% more than November of last year.

Railroad equipment business was lean, 1,225 cars being the total of purchases, an equal number the total of inquiries and none taking much steel. Bids are now all in on the Southern Pacific cars, requiring some 100,000 tons of plates, shapes and bars. The New York Central has distributed 30,000 tons of tie plates and 25,000 kegs of track bolts.

The appearance of inquiries for a considerable tonnage of pig iron from speculative sources, including 10,000 tons understood to come from New York banking interests, is accepted as evidence of belief that prices have touched bottom. Some pig iron bought recently by brokers is being sold at concessions and a sale of 10,000 tons of basic by a steel company in western Pennsylvania was made below recent Valley quotations, but for the most part prices are firm and deliveries are going forward satisfactorily. A St. Louis buyer has asked for earlier shipment of 5,000 tons bought for first quarter delivery. A Canton, Ohio, company has purchased 5,000 tons of basic.

German No. 1 foundry pig iron, now at 116 gold marks per metric ton, is in American currency \$28.05 per gross ton, comparing with \$23.30 for British iron and \$22.75, the foundry component for "The Iron Age" pig iron composite price.

Eastern plate makers are confronted by European competition. An Atlantic Coast ship and car builder finds a 2c., Pittsburgh, price necessary to meet a foreign mill quotation on 2,700 tons of car plates. This is a big gap from the \$2 a ton concession occasionally met from the 2.50c. price.

Hot-rolled flats and cold-rolled strips are well sold into the first quarter, and the steel bar market has been enlivened by a number of first quarter sales to makers of shafting and cold-finished bars.

Bolts, nuts and rivets give a sign of the changing price sentiment, Pittsburgh reporting more freedom of movement than when prices were lower. Current demand in nails is sufficiently heavy to make it difficult to build up stocks for spring demand.

A Welsh £1,000,000 tin plate selling corporation has been formed, absorbing eight tin plate merchants, with the idea of wiping out the middlemen. It will handle the output of three or more of the large works.

For the South Manchuria Railroad 200,000 tie plates have been placed in the United States.

No change has occurred for several weeks in either of "The Iron Age" composite prices, the pig iron composite standing at \$21.88, while finished steel is 2.775c. per lb. One year ago pig iron was \$25.79 and finished steel 2.439c.; two years ago, \$18.68 and 2.062c.

The composite price table compiled by the "Age"—follows:

Composite Price, Dec. 24 1923, Finished Steel, 2.775c. per Pound.	
Based on prices of steel bars, beams, tank	Dec. 18 1923 ----- 2.775c.
plates, plain wire, open-hearth rails, black	Nov. 27 1923 ----- 2.775c.
pipe and black sheets, constituting 88%	Dec. 23 1922 ----- 2.439c.
of the United States output	10-yr. pre-war average 1.689c.
Composite Price, Dec. 24 1923, Pig Iron, \$21.88 per Gross Ton.	
Based on average of basic and foundry irons,	Dec. 18 1923 ----- \$21.88
the basic being Valley quotation, the	Nov. 17 1923 ----- 21.86
foundry an average of Chicago, Philadel-	Dec. 26 1922 ----- 25.79
phia and Birmingham	10-yr. pre-war average 15.72

The prospects for the new year appear to be favorable to the "Iron Trade Review" of Cleveland, which reviews market conditions in its weekly summary of Dec. 27, appended hereto:

The year of 1923 is ending in the iron and steel business not unlike that of 1922. Buying is on the upgrade and prospects are favorable. The outlook for the new year has been improving steadily from week to week, dating back to mid-November and sentiment has become increasingly confident. The result is an expanding market, based on the covering for future requirements and this is expected to broaden still further with the completion of inventory taking and the usual details incident to the balancing up of the year's business. Consumption apparently is running high and according to present indications is more likely to increase than to shrink during the coming months.

If the parallel of a year ago is borne out, operations in the first half should show progressive enlargement. During the past seven months they have gradually settled until they have reached a point about 22% below the high level of last April and May. At present production is at 70 to 71% for the whole country. A year ago they were about 80%. The Steel Corporation plants are slightly higher, showing 84 1/2% of ingot capacity engaged the past week while the independents have not done quite so well, averaging 63 1/2% compared with 65% one week ago.

"Iron Trade Review" composite of 14 leading iron and steel products ends the year at \$43.02, a slight advance over last week. One year ago it was \$40.65.

Contracts for first quarter requirements of steel by consumers has been active and has embraced a widened circle of buyers in diversified lines. Further heavy tonnages for 1924 delivery have been placed by some of the larger consumers, notably in the automotive group. The General Motors Corp. has distributed its first quarter needs with a number of the mills. The normal requirements of this buyer for a single quarter are not less than 100,000 tons. The Willys-Overland Co. also has closed for first quarter with an estimated total of 25,000 to 30,000 tons. One automotive contract placed this week with a Chicago mill calls for 12,000 tons. Nut and bolt manufacturers in the Cleveland district have been heavy buyers. Jobbers as well as manufacturing consumers have been entering the market and some contracts closed of this character have called for 10,000 tons individually.

Railroad orders the past week have not been numerous though inquiries from this source are heavy. The New York Central has been a heavy buyer of track fastenings for 1924, the total, it is reported, exceeding its recent large inquiries. It placed 20,000 tons of tie plates with several producers and 75,000 or more kegs of spikes. About 130,000 tons of rails for foreign countries is being inquired for here.

The rising line of building continues to be reflected by structural steel activity. This week has brought forth a total of 47,400 tons of new awards, including 18,000 tons for the New York Telephone Bldg., New York, and 14,000 tons for the Pictorial Review Bldg., New York. Another section of the Newark Bridge, 8,000 tons, is out, and it is estimated the total for this job eventually will reach 50,000 tons.

The week in pig iron has been quiet, the effect both of the holiday period and of the heavy buying of a few weeks back. Steelmaking grades continue to develop some broadening of interest among consumers. A Canton, Ohio, plant bought 5,000 tons of basic from a nearby furnace. Two St. Louis interests want 5,000 tons each.

Operations in the Ruhr are reviving under the agreement reached between the forces of occupation and the Stinnes, Thyssen and Kloeckner groups. A dozen furnaces have resumed, according to cable advices to "Iron Trade

Production, Shipments and Stocks of Acetate of Lime and Methanol.

The Department of Commerce on Dec. 26 announced the October production, shipments and stocks of acetate of lime and methanol based on reports received from manufacturers.

Table with multiple columns: Month (1923, 1922), Production (ton), Shipments (or Use), Stocks, End of Month, Production (ton), Shipments (or Use), Stocks, End of Month, Wood (in cords), Capacity (in cords per day), Re-ports.

35,390,137 for May 1923, and 34,658,096 for November 1922. The aggregate number of active spindle hours reported for the month was 8,014,579,167.

Table showing Spinning Spindles and Active Spindle Hours for various states including United States, Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and All Other States.

Domestic Exports of Cotton, Cotton Cloths, Yarn, Thread and Hosiery—High Prices Swell Values.

On Dec. 24 the Department of Commerce at Washington gave out its report for the month of November and the eleven months ending with November, of the exports of cotton, cotton cloths, yarn, thread and hosiery.

Table with columns for Month of November and 11 Months ended November, comparing 1922 and 1923 values for raw cotton, cotton manufactures, and various textile products.

Wage of Printers in Canada Maintains Advance—Declines in Majority of Industries Since 1920.

Canadian press advices from Ottawa Dec. 19 appeared as follows in the "Montreal Gazette":

Declining wages in a majority of the industries throughout the Dominion are recorded by the Department of Labor during the past two years.

Taking an index number of 100 for the average wage paid in each of a number of industries during the year 1913, the Department of Labor has shown average rates for the years 1901 to 1922, inclusive.

The average wage rate in the building trades was 60.3 in 1901, as compared with 100 in 1913. During all the years since 1901 there was a steady increase, until in 1920 the figure of 180.9 was reached.

Activity in the Cotton Spinning Industry for October 1923.

The Department of Commerce announced on Dec. 21 that, according to preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census, there were 37,585,049 cotton spinning spindles in place in the United States on Nov. 30 1923, of which 34,101,452 were operated at some time during the month.

Domestic Exports of Food Products—Large Falling Off in Grain Shipments.

The Department of Commerce at Washington on Dec. 21 issued its monthly report showing the domestic exports of principal food products for November and the eleven months to Nov. 30.

President of the Exchange, and George M. Seaman, of the Seaman Paper Co., Chairman of the committee on organization of the paper board interests.

John R. Mauff, Executive Vice-President of the Paper Industries Exchange, has issued a statement in which he said it was the plan of the paper board group to carry on and function under the new organization in the same quarters in the Wrigley Building under the same executive management. Under the new plan the activities of the Paper Industries Exchange have been discontinued and a committee appointed to bring about the change with the amicable resignation of the paper stock, wire cloth, felt and waxed paper groups.

The intention to resume open trading through the medium of the Waste Materials Exchange, Inc., was announced in the Chicago "Journal of Commerce" Dec. 6, which stated that it was a corporation not for profit, organized through the efforts of some of those who were active in the waste paper group of the Paper Industries Exchange. The item continued:

Francis Hughes, of the Francis Hughes Co., announced that a charter has been received from the Secretary of State and plans are now being completed to resume operations, possibly within a week.

It is planned to have open trading, not only in waste paper, but also in all the other staple items waste materials, including scrap iron, rubber, metals and rags. The membership of the new exchange is to be divided into groups of divisions, each division trading in some particular commodity. The headquarters of the new exchange have not as yet been selected, but it is announced that the plan is for the divisions to get together, possibly three times each week. The first meeting will be held for the purpose of organization. Officers will be elected and all other necessary plans completed.

The waste paper division intends to invite paper stock men from the different cities to become affiliated with the exchange, and those behind the project argue that it is only through open trading that the markets may be stabilized and conditions in the industry generally improved. A majority of the local waste paper packers were not in favor of the recent action taken by directors in abolishing the open trading feature of the Paper Industries Exchange.

The establishment of the Paper Industries Exchange in Chicago was announced in these columns Sept. 8, page 1086, and in our issue of Oct. 27, page 1831, we referred to the inauguration of the Paper Industries Exchange in New York.

Two-Year Agreement Granting Fifty-Cent Daily Wage Increase to Be Signed in New York Building Trades.

Negotiations which have been in progress since the recent demand of \$1 a day increase in wages in the New York building trades have practically been concluded on the basis of a compromise providing for a daily increase of 50 cents, and an agreement lasting for two years, affecting approximately 100,000 union men, is expected to be signed next week, according to current information. The negotiations between employers and union officials have been conducted by groups in the various branches of the building trades. The year of 1924, free from prospect of strike or lock-out, is expected to be the biggest building year in the city's history. The New York "Times" of Dec. 24 said:

This Christmas gift [the new agreement] of employers and workers appeared to be assured last night by an announcement from both sides that all wage difficulties had been ironed out in a new agreement likely to be adopted Jan. 1, and effective for two years. The signatories would be the Building Trades Employers' Association groups and the 100,000 members of the old Building Trades Council. The price of the peace was given as a 50-cent daily wage increase. The men had demanded \$1 in November.

The pact itself is not as yet actually signed, it was said. But John Halkett, leader of the carpenters' union, whose strength of 26,000 makes it the largest single labor factor in the city, and also President of the old Building Trades Council itself, gave assurance last night that "it was sure to go over." He said he had called a special meeting of the council for Thursday at the headquarters, 12 St. Mark's Place, and was optimistic that the delegates would go solidly for ratification.

Christian G. Norman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Building Trades Employers' Association, concurred in Mr. Halkett's cheerful prediction. He disclosed that as result of group negotiations between employers and men in the various trades since the council first moved for a wage rise, complete agreement had been reached by some of the most important branches. He named the carpenters, tile layers, sheet metal workers, glaziers and others constituting a majority of the industry. He said that a minority of the conferences still were pending, but that in his belief they were on the high road to accord. He saw no prospect of "die hards" altering the gratifying outlook.

At Least Eighteen Months of Peace.

All concerned in the building industry last night showed marked relief over the developments. It was pointed out that the wage treaty would insure peace in building construction for at least 18 months, even though the new contract itself would have another six months to run. This conservation limitation was adopted in view of the fact that the present two-year contract, which the bricklayers won after their strike, was dated to expire 18 months hence. With the masons the "key" industry, the future of building in the city was regarded as hinging upon this trade.

The present wage drive, which is expected to end with acceptance of the half-dollar increase, got under way in November with formal announcement that \$1 a day more was desired, the announcement coming from the Secretary of the Council, Roswell D. Tompkins. The men were getting a \$9 a day scale with an added bonus of \$1 a day, making the actual earnings a day, \$10. The object of the wage demand was to boost this rate another dollar, making a base pay of \$11, to last for two years.

With this announcement, which originated in formal action to that effect, taken by the Executive Committee of the Council, all the affiliated trade unions were authorized to begin negotiations with their respective employer groups at once. Negotiations followed forthwith, some promptly, some belatedly. The tardiness was traced to a group among the employers who stated flatly that a \$1 a day more for the 100,000 men would be ruinous, adding, they said, a full \$25,000,000 to the annual building bill of New York City.

Break in Employers' Ranks Mended.

The employers, it was understood, were favorably inclined toward incorporating the existing \$1 bonus into a permanent contract—that is, extending the prevailing scale of \$10 on a contractual basis for the period the men demanded. The employers broke ranks at this point when contractors gave in to striking marble workers and granted them 50 cents a day in excess of the so-called maximum figure.

At this a certain group in the Building Trades Employers' Association was thought to have put its foot down. Rumors were current that they had served notice on their associates in the other trades that they would go not a dollar beyond the \$10 mark. At the same time powers in the organization intimated that there was a majority sufficient to win them over to whatever action was taken by the body as a whole.

No comment was forthcoming last night as to details of the apparent "winning over." The disposition was to admit a "concession" had been made and let it go at that. Spokesmen preferred to stand on the fact that the scale would be \$10.50 a day for two years. They said if any "explaining" must be done one could say it "was not \$10" or "was not \$11," according to the necessity.

Neither employers nor officers of the trade council had any figures available to show dimensions of the "biggest year" expected in 1924. They said that with surveys about to be announced by engineers it would only be speculation at best. Suffice it to say, they concluded, that the year would be "tremendous."

The Building Trades Council on Dec. 27 authorized its unions, representing 112,000 building mechanics to accept a 50-cent-a-day increase from the employers on a two-year agreement. Seven of the 36 local unions have already, it is stated, entered into contracts with their employers on that basis. Twenty-nine other unions report progress in their negotiations while the steam fitters industry with 4,000 workers are deadlocked. There are provisions however, to break the deadlock through mediation and arbitration, if necessary, under an existing agreement between the Council and the Building Trades Employes' Association. The unions which have contracted on the now authorized basis are the Carpenters District Council, hoisting engineers, Machinists' District Lodge No. 15, Sheet Metal Workers, Local 28; Tile Layers' Union No. 52, art glass workers, plate and sheet glass glaziers. The other unions will report to the council as to their status on Jan. 8.

Master Builders Association of St. Louis Asks Cooperation of Banks and Trust Companies in Opposing Wage Increases.

Recent demands for wage increases in the building trades of St. Louis have met with considerable opposition among the employers; and the Master Builders' Association, representing the builders, has asked the assistance of banks and trust companies which make loans for the erection of buildings, in their efforts to combat wage advances, according to W. C. Mieher, President of the association. In discussing the building trades situation as it had developed since the demands for wage increases presented by the unions, the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" on Dec. 21 had the following to say:

Mieher said last night that the trust companies and banks had quietly been asked to help in opposing the wage increases, and he made it clear that the help desired is the withholding of loans on new structures to keep these projected buildings out of the market. The difficulty encountered, he said, is the amount of building which is financed in Chicago and in Eastern cities.

Asked as to the response of St. Louis financial institutions, Mieher said he knows the general sentiment locally, but he preferred that the banking institutions speak for themselves. The insurance companies which invest their funds in mortgages on real estate were also appealed to.

Increases Sought.

The members of the building crafts asking increased wages will be successful in their demands unless the contractors receive the aid of the public and those who supply the money, Mieher said.

A partial list of those unions in the building trades asking for increases, as given by Mieher, follows:

Painters, now receiving \$1.10 an hour, are asking \$1.50 an hour and a five-day week.

Iron workers, now receiving \$1.25, want \$1.50 an hour.

Hoisting engineers, who are paid \$1.25, are demanding \$1.50.

Lathers, receiving \$11 and \$12 a day, are asking a new scale of \$15 a day, the peak scale in St. Louis.

Building laborers, who receive from 67½ cents an hour, are asking a 20 cent increase, and those receiving \$1 are asking \$1.25.

Hodecarriers, paid \$1.08, are demanding \$1.25 an hour.

These wage scales will go into effect in the spring at the expiration of present contracts if the unions are successful.

In addition, the contractors are now paying plasterers and bricklayers \$1.75 an hour, and carpenters \$1.50, but under protest.

Inquiry as to the organization of all contractors to oppose these wage scales and to negotiate in regard to working rules was made as the result of reports that the organization had been effected. R. L. Murphy, executive secretary of the Master Builders' Association, when asked whether such an organization had been or is being formed, declared that any announcement now would be premature, and said his organization may have an important statement to make at a later date.

Mieher, president of the organization, denied that such an organization had got beyond the discussion stage. He also denied the statement of one general contractor that about one-third of the number of subcontractors' organizations had signified their willingness to co-operate.

Other general contractors and subcontractors who were asked for statements declined to affirm or deny the existence of an organization or plans for one. It was frequently pointed out by these men that anything they might know in this connection would be in the nature of a confidence.

At one trust company, where inquiry was made regarding plans for ceasing the making of loans, it was said that no such request had been made, but that the institution had curtailed its building loans because it considered the present price level too high to make the general run of loans as safe as desired.

Announcement of the plans of the buildings trades to increase the minimum wage from \$1.25 to \$1.50 an hour was made six weeks ago by Maurice J. Cassidy, secretary of the Building Trades Council. The building industry in St. Louis includes about 15,000 workmen, of which about 9,000 are directly affiliated with the Building Trades Council. According to Cassidy plans for buildings to be erected in 1924 insure continuous employment for the men during the coming year.

Up to November 30, the estimated value of buildings for which permits had been issued since the first of the year was \$37,979,185, as compared with a total of \$25,210,503 for the entire year of 1922. Estimated value of buildings for which permits were issued in November showed a gain of 100% over October and a substantial gain over November, 1922. The large volume in November was attributed partly to the result of the nullification of the zoning ordinance.

In the first seventeen days of this month new buildings, for which permits were issued, were of a total estimated value of \$824,300, as against \$1,226,540 for the corresponding period of last year.

Increase in November Sales of Life Insurance in the United States—Canadian Figures.

November sales of ordinary life insurance in the United States amounted to approximately the same figure as October sales, according to figures just published by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau of New York. The sales by companies doing approximately 80% of the ordinary legal reserve business amounted during November of this year to \$480,227,000 of insurance, as compared to \$403,682,000 of insurance in November of last year, an increase of 19%. The Bureau further says:

This increase or a greater one was shown by all sections of the country except the western, southwestern and Pacific sections. The southwestern section was the only one to show an actual decrease during November of this year from November of last.

Sales during the 11 months ending Nov. 30 amounted to \$5,242,950,000 of insurance as compared to \$4,402,085,000 during the same period last year. The increase of the 11 months of this year over last is 19%, the same as the increase of November of this year over November of last. The ordinary life insurance business in the country as a whole is running close to the records established early in the year.

During November, of the eight sections into which the country has been divided by the Research Bureau, three showed a greater increase than the average for the country as a whole over last year. These sections were New England, the central, and west central States. The middle Atlantic States showed the same increase. Three others, the southern, western, and Pacific sections all showed a less increase, and the southwestern section showed an actual decrease of 8% in November although for the first 11 months it is still 18% above the 11 months of last year.

The November sales of ordinary life insurance in Canada during November of this year were 26% greater than in November of last year according to figures just published by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau of New York which issues its reports on the basis of figures from companies doing about 85% of the ordinary legal reserve business in Canada. The actual amount of sales of these companies in November was \$34,165,000 of insurance. This is 16% greater than the average volume of sales during the first 11 months of the year.

The increase in life insurance sold this year over last was most marked in the central portion of the Dominion. Sales in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan amounted in each case to about one-third more than last year. British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland were the only provinces that did not show some increase over last year. Sales for the first 11 months of this year averaged for all of Canada 15% greater than in the corresponding period last year.

Current Events and Discussions

Federal Reserve Banking During 1923.

The condition of the Federal Reserve banks at the end of the year 1923 shows relatively little change from that prevailing at the end of the preceding year, says the Federal Reserve Board, in its weekly report issued after the close of business Dec. 27 and which deals with the results for the 12 Federal Reserve banks combined. Loan liquidation and the reduction in Federal Reserve note circulation, both of which began at the end of 1920, had practically ceased by the middle of 1922, says the Board, and since then changes in condition of Federal Reserve banks have not been very wide, in fact the past two years have been characterized, it is observed, by a condition of relative stability in Federal Reserve banking. The Federal Reserve Board then proceeds as follows:

Demand for credit accommodation during 1923, represented by the total of bills discounted, bills bought, and Government securities, averaged about \$1,150,000,000, though there has been considerable change in the composition of the total; Federal Reserve note circulation, except for the seasonal reduction in January, has fluctuated around \$2,250,000,000 throughout the year; cash reserves at the end of 1923 were \$3,138,000,000, differing little from the total reported a year earlier; while the reserve ratio during the greater part of the year stood at around 76%, though on the last report date of the year it dropped to 73.3%, mainly because of the increased demand for currency that manifests itself at the holiday season.

Considerable change has taken place in the composition of the earning assets of the Federal Reserve banks. On Dec. 27 of last year the banks held \$630,000,000 of bills discounted, \$246,000,000 of bills bought in open market, and \$458,000,000 of U. S. Government securities. At the end of the present year, U. S. security holdings stood at \$104,000,000, the Federal Reserve banks having permitted their security holdings to run off at maturity, or when called for redemption by the Treasury Department, without replacing them by additional purchases in the open market. The failure of the Federal Reserve banks to replace their holdings of maturing securities made it necessary for member banks to increase their borrowings on discounted paper in order to retain the amount of Reserve bank credit required to meet the demands of commerce and business. Holdings of bills bought in open market declined during the early part of the year, reaching \$182,000,000 on Feb. 21. This was followed by a steady rise to \$282,000,000 on May 16, after which there was again a gradual reduction to \$171,000,000 on Sept. 19. Additional purchases since then have brought the total holdings up to \$336,000,000 on Dec. 26, the largest amount held during the year.

Holdings of bills discounted increased from \$630,000,000 on Dec. 27 of last year to \$857,000,000 at the end of the present year. The increase in discounts was almost continuous up to October. Since then, increased open market purchases of acceptances by the Federal Reserve banks have been accompanied with a decline in discount accommodation. The largest relative increases in discount accommodation for the year are shown by those Reserve banks that serve districts in which agriculture, particularly cotton growing, is of major importance. Discount holdings of the Atlanta Bank, for example, increased from \$30,000,000 to \$69,000,000 between Dec. 27 1922 and Dec. 26 1923, those of St. Louis from \$30,000,000 to \$62,000,000, and of Kansas City from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000. Net imports of gold during the 11 months ending Nov. 30, amounting to approximately \$262,000,000, enabled the banks of the country as a whole to finance the larger loan requirements of their customers without an increase in the total volume of Reserve bank credit in use.

Federal Reserve note circulation, after the seasonal decline in January amounting to about \$200,000,000, remained at a fairly stable level the balance of the year until December, when the usual holiday demands brought the total up to \$2,340,000,000. The low point in Federal Reserve note circulation was reached this year on Aug. 1, a week later than the low point of total earning assets, the circulation of Federal Reserve notes on the date mentioned being \$2,188,000,000. An increase of over \$300,000,000 in the amount of gold and silver certificates in circulation between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1 was more than sufficient to meet the additional currency

requirements of the country, with the result that the amount of Federal Reserve notes in circulation is now somewhat less than it was a year ago. Some of the Federal Reserve banks, however, show relatively large changes in their note circulation during the year, notably Atlanta and Dallas with increases of \$19,000,000 and \$16,000,000, respectively, and New York with a reduction of \$170,000,000.

While there has been little change in cash reserves of the System as a whole, considerable inter-district shifting of reserves has taken place, the largest relative reductions being shown for Atlanta, whose total reserves at the end of this year were \$121,000,000 as compared with \$141,000,000 a year earlier, and New York with a decline from \$1,056,000,000 to \$885,000,000.

The statement in full, in comparison with the preceding week and with the corresponding date last year, will be found on subsequent pages, namely pages 2867 and 2868.

The Week With the Member Banks of the Federal Reserve System.

Aggregate increases of \$99,000,000 in loans and investments and of \$162,000,000 in Government deposits, as against reductions of \$149,000,000 in net demand deposits and of \$69,000,000 in reserve balances with the Federal Reserve banks, are shown in the weekly consolidated statement of condition on Dec. 19 of 764 member banks in leading cities. It should be noted that the figures for these *member banks* are always a week behind those for the Reserve banks themselves. Loans and discounts increased by \$38,000,000, increases of \$62,000,000 in loans on corporate stocks and bonds and of \$1,000,000 in loans on U. S. Government securities, being offset in part by a reduction of \$25,000,000 in all other, largely commercial, loans and discounts. Investments of all reporting members increased by \$61,000,000, certificates of indebtedness showing an increase of \$48,000,000 and corporate bonds, stocks and securities an increase of \$17,000,000, while holdings of U. S. bonds and Treasury notes show a reduction of \$4,000,000. Further comment regarding the changes shown by these *member banks* is as follows:

Loans and discounts of reporting banks in New York City show an increase of \$38,000,000, loans secured by corporate stocks and bonds an increase of \$56,000,000, loans secured by U. S. Government obligations an increase of \$2,000,000, and all other, largely commercial, loans and discounts a decrease of \$20,000,000. Investments of the New York City banks increased by \$15,000,000, U. S. Government securities by \$3,000,000 and other bonds, stocks and securities by \$12,000,000.

Net demand deposits of all reporting institutions show a reduction of \$149,000,000, of which \$35,000,000 is shown for the New York district, \$29,000,000 for the Chicago district, \$21,000,000 for the Cleveland district and \$16,000,000 for the Philadelphia district. Time deposits of all reporting banks decreased by \$1,000,000. Government deposits, on account of Treasury operations, including the payment of income and profits taxes and the issue and redemption of Treasury certificates show a net increase of \$162,000,000 for all reporting banks, the New York City banks reporting an increase of \$47,000,000.

Reserve balances of all reporting banks at the Federal Reserve banks declined by \$69,000,000, while cash in vault increased \$14,000,000. Member banks in New York City report reductions of \$46,000,000 in reserve balances and of \$4,000,000 in cash.

Borrowings of all reporting institutions from the Federal Reserve banks declined from \$488,000,000 to \$470,000,000, or from 3 to 2.9% of their total loans and investments. Borrowings of the New York City members decreased from \$74,000,000 to \$54,000,000, or from 1.5 to 1.1% of their total loans and investments.

On a subsequent page—that is, on page 2868—we give the figures in full contained in this latest weekly return of the member banks of the Reserve System. In the following is furnished a summary of the changes in the principal items of assets and liabilities as compared with a week and a year ago.

	Increase (+) or Decrease (—)	
	Since	Since
	Dec. 12 1923.	Dec. 20 1922.
Loans and discounts, total.....	+\$38,000,000	+\$674,000,000
Secured by U. S. Government obligations.....	+1,000,000	—62,000,000
Secured by stocks and bonds.....	+62,000,000	+115,000,000
All other.....	—25,000,000	+621,000,000
Investments, total.....	+61,000,000	—303,000,000
U. S. bonds.....	—3,000,000	—122,000,000
U. S. Treasury notes.....	—1,000,000	+5,000,000
U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness.....	+48,000,000	—108,000,000
Other bonds, stocks and securities.....	+17,000,000	—78,000,000
Reserve balances with F. R. banks.....	—69,000,000	—30,000,000
Cash in vault.....	+14,000,000	—9,000,000
Government deposits.....	+162,000,000	—316,000,000
Net demand deposits.....	—149,000,000	—83,000,000
Time deposits.....	—1,000,000	+371,000,000
Total accommodation at F. R. banks.....	—18,000,000	+120,000,000

American and British Chosen to Serve With Committees Inquiry into Germany's Financial Affairs
—C. G. Dawes, Chairman.

Gen. Charles G. Dawes, formerly Director of the U. S. Budget, and Owen D. Young, a New York lawyer and banker, who were chosen by the Allied Reparations Commission to be the unofficial representatives of the United States on the committee which is to inquire into Germany's financial position, were in conference with President Coolidge and Secretary of State Hughes on Dec. 27. Messrs. Dawes and Young are to sail for Paris from New York on the steamer America to-day (Dec. 29). They will be accompanied by Rufus C. Dawes of Chicago, who will serve as Secretary to his brother, Gen. Dawes, and Stuart M. Crocker, who will serve as Mr. Young's assistant. The Philadelphia "Ledger" of yesterday (Dec. 28) said:

Mr. Hughes placed at the disposal of General Dawes and Mr. Young all the data possessed by the State Department relating to the reparations question. He defined this Government's attitude toward that problem and placed himself at the service of the American experts. The Government's help will be available to them at every point of the investigation.

The action and judgment of the experts, however, will be wholly free, and they will find their conclusions from the facts they discover. They do not officially represent the American Government and will pay their own expenses. The Reparations Committee may defray the expenses of the technical and clerical assistance.

The fact, however, that the American experts were appointed with the approval of this Government is taken as an assurance that Washington's hopes in regard to the results of the inquiries are the aims of the experts. It is the wish of the Government that the inquiries may lead to a settlement of the reparations question, which is held here to be the root-cause of the postponement of Europe's economic rehabilitation.

All Governments concerned are expected to "keep hands off" and let the experts accomplish their tasks without interference, but it is recognized that the experts of each country will necessarily have to draw upon their own Governments for information.

The report of the principal committee to examine Germany's budgetary and currency conditions will constitute the basis of consideration by the principal allied Governments, and possibly by the American Government, of the entire reparations problem. The committee itself will consider the capacity of Germany to pay, as this is necessarily involved in the problem of Germany's budget, which cannot be balanced except by a settlement of that question.

The decision of the Reparations Commission to invite General Dawes and Mr. Young to serve as unofficial observers with the expert committee which is to investigate Germany's capacity to pay was made known on Dec. 15, a communique issued by the Commission on that day stating:

After taking cognizance of various information received from the United States all the delegates of the Powers represented on the Reparations Commission individually advised Col. James A. Logan (American unofficial observer with the Commission) that it is their intention to invite, in the course of the next plenary session, Brig.-Gen. Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young to participate as experts in the work of the committees entrusted with the task of studying the German budget and stabilization of currency in Germany.

On Dec. 21 cablegrams from Paris announced that the Commission had decided to offer to General Dawes the Chairmanship of the committee which is to examine into Germany's finances. As we indicated in our issue of Dec. 15, page 2601, in reporting that the United States had signified its willingness to participate in the Allies' inquiry into Germany's affairs, a double inquiry is proposed—one committee investigating Germany's financial situation, while the second is to report on German capital invested abroad. On Dec. 24 the Reparations Commission selected Henry M. Robinson of Los Angeles as the American who is to serve on the expert committee which is to estimate the amount of German capital abroad. Mr. Robinson, who is President of the First National Bank of Los Angeles and prominently identified with other financial institutions, was a member of the Supreme Economic Council at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. He also represented the United States at the first

International Labor Conference. He was created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1920. Paris Associated Press cablegrams Dec. 26 said:

The first committee, that on budget, will meet here on Jan. 14, and the second, which will consider German capital abroad, on Jan. 21, so as to give Mr. Robinson time to get here.

It was stated on Dec. 27 that Mr. Robinson will pursue the same course as General Dawes and Mr. Young in the matter of conferring with Secretary Hughes before leaving for France. On Dec. 20 it was stated in Associated Press cablegrams from Paris that the British members would be Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England; Sir Josiah Stamp, economic and statistical authority, and Reginald McKenna, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer. A change in the British nominations was announced on Dec. 26—Sir Robert Kindersley, a director of the Bank of England, replacing Mr. Norman. Sir Robert and Sir Josiah, it is understood, will serve on the committee on stabilization of the German budget, while Mr. McKenna will be one of the experts to investigate the extent of German capital abroad.

Announcement was made on the 18th inst. that it was understood that the French members of the expert committee inquiring into Germany's resources will be Jean V. Parmentier, formerly an official of the Ministry of Finance and now one of the managers of the Credit Foncier de France; M. Athalin, director of the Banque Paris et Pays Bas, and M. Alix, professor of law, on the faculty of the University of Paris.

A copyright cablegram from Paris to the New York "Times" Dec. 26 said:

When Sir John Bradbury compiled his list in consultation with Premier Baldwin and with the assent of the other British political leaders he obtained the consent of Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, to approval by the Bank. The Bank has not seen its way to give this consent, the reason, it is stated, being that Mr. Norman's services cannot just now be spared in London. Sir John Bradbury, with the approval of the commission, has therefore asked Sir Robert Kindersley, a director of the Bank, to serve. Sir Robert was the first British representative on the Bankers' Commission on which the United States was represented by J. P. Morgan.

Though the first meeting of the two committees will be held in Paris, it is expected that later they will find it convenient to work in Berlin. Sir John Bradbury and Louis Barthou are in agreement that the fullest liberty shall be granted them to meet where they wish and when they wish, to discuss the situation from every angle with complete freedom and to report their findings irrespective of any political considerations.

Among the members of the Reparation Commission responsible for the creation of these two committees and the nomination of their members there is a fairly optimistic spirit, for it is realized that under the chairmanship of Colonel Charles G. Dawes and with such members as Reginald McKenna the two committees will prove themselves "strong." It is no secret that much is hoped from the driving force of the American delegation and from its detachment from the circumstances which have recently so much hindered the work of the Reparation Commission and caused a practical deadlock.

Berlin Government to Co-operate.

There is ground for hope, too, in the fact that the German Government appears to consider very favorably the work of the committees and is ready to give all the help it can both in supplying full information on the actual and potential situation of German finance and in helping Committee No. 2 to estimate and identify exported capital.

The Belgian and Italian representatives who were nominated to-day have been like the American, British and French, selected because of their technical knowledge of the questions to be examined and not because of political prominence.

According to the New York "Times" of Dec. 23, the exact wording of the resolution of the Reparation Commission regarding the committee to investigate Germany's capacity is as follows:

In order to consider, in accordance with the provisions of Article 234 of the Treaty of Versailles, the resources and capacity of Germany and, after giving her representatives a just opportunity to be heard, the Reparation Commission decided to create two committees of experts belonging to the allied and associated countries. One of these committees would be entrusted with considering the means of balancing the budget and the measures to be taken to stabilize the currency. The other would consider the means of estimating the amount of exported capital and of bringing it back to Germany.

Allied Reparations Commission Refers to Committees Germany's Request for Food Loan of \$70,000,000.

A request by the German Government for authority to pledge the resources of the Reich as a guarantee for a loan of from \$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000 with which to buy grain and fats abroad, was formally presented to the Allied Reparations Commission on Dec. 17. The request was taken up on Dec. 21 by the Commission, which, says a copyright cablegram to the New York "Times" from Paris, somewhat sidetracked it by referring one part of the request to the Allied Governments and the second part to the Committee on Guarantees. These copyright advices state:

The original German request was made under Article 251 of the Treaty of Versailles. As the point was made in Paris that this article refers to exceptions to the reparations rules which may be made by the Allied and Associated Governments, Berlin sent yesterday a supplementary note asking that action be taken under Article 248, which says about the same thing as Article 251, but refers to exceptions which may be made by the Reparations Commission.

The Commission decided as follows:

"First. To refer the German Government's request to the Allied Governments in conformity with Article 251 of the Treaty of Versailles.

"Second. To request the Committee on Guarantees, with a view to facilitating the decision to be taken either by the Governments or by the Reparations Commission, to draw up with as little delay as possible a report on the situation in Germany with regard to bread cereals and edible fats."

This means officially that what was apparent from the first, namely that the decision will be made by the Allied Governments and will have to be unanimous. The French and Belgians have firmly decided not to give Germany clear permission to float a loan which shall come ahead of reparations in repayment.

The French, of course, do not wish to take the stand that the Germans may starve for all they will do, but, as a portion of the treaty with Germany provides expressly for giving aid to Germany to enable her to meet her reparations obligations, the French would seek to get in return for food help German commitments on reparations.

The reparations collection effort of the French being centered in the Ruhr, that means that the French will try to make food credits the price for German assistance in exploiting the Ruhr. This will be the Paris program if the issue goes that far. Before it does the French will try to show first that Germany's need for cereals is not as great as Berlin makes out, because Germany has excellent crops this year, and, secondly, that the Germans possess sufficient wealth abroad to pay for the food they need, as they paid in America for copper and cotton bought this year to the extent of \$50,000,000.

Reference to the fact that the German Government was planning to seek permission from the Reparations Commission to float a loan of approximately \$70,000,000 for the purchase of foodstuffs was made in our issue of Dec. 15 page 2602.

New German Discount Rate Ten Per Cent.

The following cablegram from Berlin Dec. 22 to the New York News Bureau from the "Central News," was announced by "Daily Financial America":

With the stabilization of the currency by the issuance of the rentenmark, the new discount rate established is 10%.

The previous discount rate of the Bank of Germany was 108% discount on paper mark loans to which figure it was raised from 90% established on Sept. 15.

Referring to the adoption of the new rate the New York "Times" Dec. 23 said:

Germany has undertaken to re-establish some sort of currency by means of the new rentenmark, and this experiment is being watched closely by bankers and others who regard the entire thing as an interesting innovation. Whether the method will prove satisfactory is difficult of judging, reports of large issuance of new rentenmarks and a growing demand for more causing concern as to the new currency's future. The fact, however, that the Government banking institution has established a 10% discount rate is generally accepted as an indication of some optimism on the part of German authorities at least, this new rate contrasting with the Reichsbank rate of 90% on better-class transactions and of 108% on paper mark loans.

Berlin Bourse Resumes Gold Quotations.

Associated Press advices from Berlin Dec. 17 stated:

To-day marked the official birth of gold mark figures on the Bourse quotations list, but it made little practical difference so far as the previous quotations have been understood in the trillions. The tradesmen for some days have been eliminating the cumbersome rows of ciphers from the price lists and the sight of the old-fashioned marks and pfennigs has stimulated a more cheerful feeling. It came as a sort of revelation, however, to find that under the new dispensation certain of the smaller fry among the shares were quoted only in pfennigs instead of in billions of marks.

A law to compel the traders to keep their books and balance sheets in gold marks from January 1 will be enacted before the new year under the Government's emergency powers. Private companies henceforth must have capital of not less than 5,000 gold marks and shares not below 500, while the minimum for limited liability companies are 500 and 10 respectively.

Renten Bank Attempts to Protect New Money.

From the Brooklyn "Eagle" we take the following from Berlin Dec. 21:

The first attack on the stability of the rentenmark, which, since its appearance not long ago, has considerably improved general economic conditions throughout Germany, was made yesterday by Minister of Finance Ruther, who requested the board of directors of the Rentenbank to grant the Government a credit in addition to that of 1,200,000,000 rentenmarks already at its disposal.

Although Dr. Luther said it was only a question of a short-term credit which would have no effect of inflation, the board rejected the request, making its decision after it has heard several speakers who expressed fear that the Minister's proposed credits to the Government would undermine faith in the rentenmark.

In the face of this refusal Dr. Luther is resorting to another method of obtaining money, and will issue exchequer bills in rentenmarks to banks and agricultural concerns. These bills will be in amounts of from 5,000 to 10,000 rentenmarks each and will become due in terms ranging between two weeks and three months.

Germany Planning to Restore a Rent Tax—"Gold Rents" to be Re-established, Then to be Taxed at Fifty Per Cent.

A cablegram from Berlin Dec. 16 (copyrighted by the New York "Times") stated:

In the interest exclusively of the State, the "free rents system" is to be abandoned. The plan now is to restore practically the whole of the pre-war rate in gold for rents, thus vastly increasing the present payments. The Government will take 50% of the new gross rents as a tax, which is expected ultimately to yield 3,000,000,000 gold marks. To the landlord 50% would be left for administration, taxes and repairs of apartment houses.

This rent tax is made possible by the fact that virtually all mortgages on such properties have already been paid off in the old currency for an infinitesimal

fraction of their original value. On the other hand, owing to the ruinous state of repair which prevails among the houses, landlords under the new system will be no better off than under the old. For that reason, prices of houses have not risen. The average price of a five-story apartment house, containing sixty or seventy rooms, is in gold value \$5,000.

The Government has refused to restore mortgages in the interest of mortgagees, but has proposed to tax away gains made through repayment of gold mark mortgages and gold mark industrial bonds in paper marks.

Acceptance of Ten-Hour Day by Ruhr Workers.

According to a cablegram from Duesseldorf Dec. 21 a referendum among the trade union members in the Ruhr on Dec. 20 resulted in 42,900 votes in favor of accepting the ten-hour day recently arranged between the Government and the unions at Berlin and 539 against the proposition, while 69,000 members abstained from voting. It is stated that the heavy abstention is interpreted by the French authorities here as supporting their information that many workers are seeking jobs regardless of the usual union regulation of hours.

Allies Get Ruhr Products—4,470 Cars of Coal, Coke and Steel and Iron Articles Shipped Out.

A Duesseldorf (Germany) cablegram Dec. 22 appeared as follows in the New York "Times":

It was announced to-day that 9,807 loaded ten-ton freight cars were shipped from the occupied Ruhr territory on Thursday, of which 3,848 contained coal and coke for the reparation account; 622 carried steel and iron articles for the devastated regions, and 5,437 had loads for other destinations and local needs.

On the same date 13,178 tons of coal, 8,480 tons of lignite, 2,470 briquettes and 5,928 tons of coke were turned out by the mines and coke plants working under the direct management of the occupation authorities.

The following from Duesseldorf, Germany, Dec. 27 appeared in the New York "Evening Post":

The coal production of the Ruhr for the week of Dec. 10-15 reached 966,000 tons, or 56% of the output for the same period in 1922, according to French official sources. The coke production was 125,000 tons, or 30% of normal.

It was further declared that 55,394 German railroad workers had returned to their duties permanently.

Italy Warns France on Occupied Areas—Would Not Recognize an Independent Rhineland Nor Any Annexation Agreement.

Under date of Dec. 18 a wireless message from Rome (copyright) to the New York "Times" said:

It is understood that the Foreign Ministry has taken steps in Paris to let the Quai d'Orsay know that Italy will not recognize any agreement which may result from the negotiations between France and Germany which in any matter will change the present political status of the Ruhr and Rhineland. This means that Italy would look with ill favor upon the establishment of an independent Rhineland republic or upon annexation to France of the occupied territories, either of which steps, it is feared here, may be the outcome of the negotiations.

The Italian view is that, neither of these two eventualities being contemplated by the Treaty of Versailles, France would be violating the treaty if she attempted to bring them about. In that case, it is intimated, Italy probably would complete revision of the Treaty of Versailles.

This step is indicative of the apprehensions which are assailing Italian politicians. They fear that France may permanently settle down in the rich coal producing Ruhr district and that such action coupled with the reserves of iron actually in her possession would place her in the position to become a dangerous rival of all other European industrial nations and especially of Italy, which possesses neither iron nor coal. Italy will therefore strenuously resist any settlement which would place France in permanent possession of the Ruhr coal mines.

The promises with which Premier Poincare has answered Germany's proposal to negotiate is here ascribed entirely to the result of the British election. As Italy sees the situation France wishes to come to a definite settlement of the Ruhr problem with Germany before a Labor or Liberal Government is established in England, either of which, it is believed, would be likely to be less favorable to France than the Baldwin Cabinet has been.

Another section of public opinion, however, considers that a great step toward a definite solution has been taken by inducing France and Germany to enter upon negotiations, whatever chance these may have of being successful. These hopeful ones, however, see a long and rocky road before France and Germany can come to a durable agreement and think that even the two chiefly interested powers will soon come to the conclusion that revision of the Treaty of Versailles by all the signatories is the only way out of the impasse.

Extension of Agreement by Bankers' Committee Formed to Protect Holders of Russian Government Credit of \$50,000,000.

The bankers' committee formed to protect the interests of participants in the \$50,000,000 Imperial Russian Government 6½% three-year credit of 1916, which has long been in default, announced on Dec. 17 its intention of extending the protective agreement for another period of eighteen months from Jan. 1 1924. The committee, of which Charles E. Mitchell, President of the National City Bank of New York, is Chairman, consists of the following other bankers: Thomas Cochran, of J. P. Morgan & Co.; Harold Stanley, of the Guaranty Company of New York; Lloyd W. Smith, of Harris, Forbes & Co.; Charles S. Sargent, Jr., of Kidder, Peabody & Co.; Frederic W. Allen, of Lee, Higginson & Co.; and Albert H. Wiggin, of the Chase National Bank and

Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Securities Committee of the Investment Bankers Association of America.

The statement of the committee, issued to holders of participation certificates and holders of certificates of deposit for participation certificates in the Russian credit, says:

This committee filed with the Department of State at Washington on June 26 1922 information regarding the holdings of depositor. Under the protective agreement dated July 1 1919 for use when an opportunity occurs for the Government of the United States to lend its assistance.

It is, therefore, essential that the protective agreement be extended for another period of 18 months from Jan. 1 1924 in order that the committee may have full authority to continue to act through the Department, and to take such steps as may be necessary for the protection of the certificate holders and the promotion of their interests, as it is believed that any adjustment of this debt can probably be made to the best advantage through the department and the committee.

It is probable that our Government in formally recognizing a Government in Russia will insist that provision be made for the payment of American claims which are on file with the State Department. The President, in his message to Congress, Dec. 6 1923, said: "Our Government does not propose, however, to enter into relations with another regime which refuses to recognize the sanctity of international obligations."

This committee already represents \$39,898,000 of the above \$50,000,000 but the committee has no authority to act on behalf of holders who do not deposit. Therefore, it has been decided to extend the opportunity to those who have not deposited their participation certificates to make such deposit now under the terms of the original agreement.

The holders of participation certificates who do not file information with the State Department at Washington may be seriously prejudiced by their failure to do so. To file proofs separately will subject the holders to needless expense and inconvenience, and it is obviously to their interest to avail themselves of the opportunity to co-operate with the other certificate holders under the protective agreement.

Deposits may be made by sending certificates to one of the depositaries, either the National City Bank of New York, 55 Wall St., New York City or the Old Colony Trust Co., 17 Court St., Boston, Mass. Certificates must be endorsed in blank by the registered holders and the signature guaranteed by a bank with a correspondent in New York City, or by a member of the New York or Boston Stock Exchange, or acknowledged before a Notary Public with a County Clerk's certificate attached, showing the authority of the Notary.

As the committee has heretofore announced, the members are serving without compensation and the total expenses of the committee to date are nominal. The formal consent to the extension of the agreement will be mailed to all depositors who are requested to sign and return it without delay to the secretary of the committee.

Wants Russian Bonds Paid—Deputy Asks Franc to Reimburse Her Own Nationals Holding Them.

A copyright cablegram as follows from Paris, Dec. 8, appeared in the New York "Times":

In view of the French Government's failure to obtain recognition by the Soviet Government of its debts to this country, three Deputies have just presented a bill to the Chamber asking aid for the small holders of Russian bonds.

The bill invites the Government to study the situation and project a law tending to put to the account of the French State the payment of Russian coupons to all holders of Russian bonds over 60 years of age and whose general income does not exceed 10,000 francs.

Russia Announces Big Sales of Oil.

The New York "Journal of Commerce" announced the following from Moscow, Dec. 19:

The Russian Oil Syndicate announces the completion of one deal for its products and the negotiation of a number of others by foreign firms. An Italian syndicate, it says, has contracted for a total of 85,000 tons of oil, while two offers have been received from France and one offer from a Bosphorus company for 90,000 tons. A French and Belgian syndicate offered to purchase 145,000 tons if given a three years' monopoly for the sale of the syndicate's oil in England.

Honduras to Pay Twenty Cents on Dollar.

From Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Dec. 26, the New York "Journal of Commerce" reported the following:

The Honduran Government has signed an agreement for the payment of the Honduran debt. The agreement provides that for each \$100,000 face value it shall pay only \$20,000 to holders of bonds issued in 1868 and 1870.

Commenting on the above, the paper quoted said:

In 1867, 1869, and 1870 Honduras borrowed £5,398,570 in Great Britain to build a transoceanic railway. The scheme ended in a complete failure. No interest has been paid on the debt since 1872. The arrears of interest to Jan. 1 1921, amounted to £22,326,112.

Albania Is Facing Financial Disaster.

A Paris cablegram, Dec. 18, appearing in the New York "Journal of Commerce," says:

Albania is heading directly for financial disaster, according to J. D. Hunger, financial adviser to the Albanian Government, who reported to the Council of the League of Nations to-night that he estimates the deficit in the country's 1924 budget at 7,000,000 gold francs, or 30% of the budget. Mr. Hunger recommends the abolition of the Albanian army, the discharge of one-fifth of the State officials and ruthless economies everywhere.

The league's financial committee, commenting on the report, says it has followed the economic and financial disorganization in various parts of Europe and fears that the causes of the chaos elsewhere are producing the same results in Albania.

Republic of Cuba Bonds in Definitive Form Ready January 2.

J. P. Morgan & Co. announce that they will be prepared on and after Jan. 2 1924 deliver Republic of Cuba exter-

nal loan thirty-year sinking fund 5½% gold bonds, dated Jan. 15 1923, in definitive form against delivery of interim receipts now outstanding.

Finland Borrows Again.

According to information received by the foreign department of Moody's Investors Service, and made public by it Dec. 14, the Republic of Finland has practically concluded negotiations with a Swedish banking syndicate for a loan of 15,850,000 Kronor, equivalent to \$4,247,800 at par of exchange. The loan is to carry interest at the rate of 6% per annum and will mature in forty years. It is stated that, unlike the recently floated American issue of \$10,000,000 and the British issue of £1,000,000, the Swedish issue is to be secured on "Finnish Government obligations which are held on deposit in Sweden."

Payment of Hu-Kuang Railways Bond Interest—Bonds Called.

From the New York "Times" of Dec. 15 we take the following:

Chinese bonds yesterday partly recovered from the Thursday's break on the New York Stock Exchange. The drop was caused by the belated appearance of money for payment of the semiannual interest coupon due today on the Imperial Chinese Government 5% Hu-Kuang Railway's loan of 1911. Notice of deposit of funds in Peking to cover this interest disbursement—which affects bondholders of four countries—should, under terms of the loan contract, be given on or before Dec. 3 of each year. Such notice was not given until one o'clock yesterday afternoon and with the approach of the Dec. 15 interest date, without word as to whether the money had been deposited, bondholders became nervous.

This nervousness was reflected in a 5-point break in the bonds listed on the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday. Yesterday the same bonds opened fractionally below yesterday's close, then ran up to 43¼, or 4¼ points above yesterday's closing price, and closed the day at 42½. The advance was the result of definite announcement that J. P. Morgan & Co. had received the American share of the interest amount. Similar announcement was made in London and Paris. The Chinese railway loan was floated in 1911 and amounted to £6,000,000, or about \$30,000,000.

It was announced yesterday (Dec. 28) that J. P. Morgan & Co. had sent out a notice of drawings of £99,580 5% Hu-Kuang Railways sinking fund gold loan of 1911 of the Imperial Chinese Government. The bonds called are redeemable on June 15, with the exception of those of the German issue, which are regarded by the Chinese Government as invalid.

The issue amounts to £6,000,000, and after redemption of bonds set forth the amount of the loan outstanding will be \$5,715,340.

Rumania to Pay Interest—1924 Budget First Since War to Provide for Foreign Debt.

The following from Bucharest, Dec. 17, appeared in the New York "Times":

The Rumanian budget for 1924, announced by the Minister of Finance, will include for the first time since the war some provision for interest on the foreign debt. A total of one and one-third billion lei is estimated for interest on internal and external loans, the latter including Treasury bonds, of which about \$10,000,000 are payable in dollars, being held in the United States.

The budget, which is the largest in the history of the country, about 24,000,000,000 lei, provides for an increase of about 500,000,000 lei in military appropriations. It is expected to show a surplus.

Persian Minister to United States Hussein Alai, on Recently Authorized Loans of \$40,000,000—Proposed New Government Bank.

The Persian Minister to the United States, Hussein Alai, in an address, Dec. 8, before the Bankers' Forum, New York Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, in undertaking to present a sketch of the present situation in Persia, stated that since 1921 Persia's political horizon has become brighter. Reference to the fact that the Persian Parliament has recently sanctioned negotiations for loans not exceeding \$40,000,000, and to the stipulation in the law "that the loan must be placed with American bankers" was made by Mr. Alai, who likewise alluded to the proposed organization of the Banke Iran—the new Government bank of Persia, and the purpose of the Government to employ an American in the position of Director of the bank. Mr. Alai, following his address, indicated, it is said, that Romaine A. Philpot, of Philpot & Cannon, Inc., had been suggested for the post. In part Mr. Alai's remarks were as follows:

Since 1921 Persia's political horizon has become brighter. Direct foreign interference, as a result of a new spirit in international relations introduced by the United States, and of the awakening of the East, has ceased, and I may here say that the East is wide awake but not in hostility toward the West, rather in resentment against certain Powers of Europe, and in the full determination to insist upon respect of the independence and sovereignty of its component parts. Being at last, after centuries of coercion, given a chance to put our house in order, we lost no time in organizing a small but efficient homogeneous military force in place of the heterogeneous forces imposed upon us. This army, under the leadership of a strong and patriotic

Minister of War—Reza Khan—has re-established order throughout the land, repressing agitation and unrest largely encouraged by foreign interference and intrigue, and restoring in the province the authority of the central Government which had been impaired by the presence of foreign troops. The Persian Parliament, or Madjliss, as we call it, met again in June 1921. Its first care was to vote measures tending toward the rehabilitation of the country after its terrible experiences and sufferings during the war. America's helpful policy towards China, her advocacy of the open door and equality of opportunity, her great achievement at the Washington Conference for the Limitation of Armament inspired Persia with such confidence in her altruistic motives that we naturally turned to you for the technical and financial assistance required to rebuild Persia after her terrible sufferings. Among other steps was the employment by Persia of a group of American financial advisers under the able leadership of Dr. A. C. Millsbaugh, formerly Economic Adviser to the Department of State. For nearly a year now the finances of the Persian Government have been under the control of these American administrators. The powers of the American group are derived ultimately from the Persian Parliament, whose comprehensive grants of authority give the American Administrator and his assistants adequate powers and immunity from political vicissitudes. The efforts of Dr. Millsbaugh have already borne fruit in a steady improvement of the nation's financial condition, and, in his opinion, the Persian Government is now in a position to contract one or more foreign loans. Accordingly, the Parliament has recently sanctioned negotiations for loans not exceeding \$40,000,000 in the aggregate, destined in large part for public utilities and industrial development to be carried out by American firms. Evidence of the confidence of the Persian people in the American mission and in the United States in general was furnished by a stipulation in the law that the loan must be placed with American bankers.

Since the change of regime in Russia, the Banque D'Escompte—a Russian institution to which I referred earlier in my remarks—has been transferred to the Persian Government and a national bank, the Banke Iran, is being organized in its place. Dr. E. L. Bogart, Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois, accompanied Dr. Millsbaugh to Persia as adviser on banking and currency on a one-year contract. He studied the banking situation and has now returned to this country. When a number of friends and myself had the pleasure of entertaining him at dinner last October in this city he gave a very interesting and favorable account of his experiences in Persia and expressed the conviction that real progress was being made. It is the purpose of the Government to employ an American in the position of Director of the Banke Iran; just as soon as a loan for productive works is floated in this country a considerable sum will be earmarked for the setting up of this national institution on a firm basis.

With the exception of the southern oil fields, one of the world's richest producing areas, the great natural resources of Persia have scarcely been touched. Under the general direction of the American advisers later to be appointed for the Ministry of Public Works, it is expected that American capital will find lucrative employment in road, railway and bridge building; irrigation construction; mineral and oil exploitation, and other means of developing Persia industrially and economically. The budget for the fiscal year 1923-1924 has, under the supervision of the American advisers, been balanced. As compared with almost any other country, the debt of Persia, both gross and per capita is practically negligible. The result is a national burden phenomenally small as compared with the potential and even the present wealth of the nation. There is and there has been no inflation whatever in Persian currency. Persia is one of the few countries to-day whose currency is not debased nor depreciated. I repeat that Persia is in a state of domestic peace. Her roads were never more safe for commerce. Her provinces are loyal to the central Government. Tranquillity throughout the country is assured by a strong, regularly paid gendarmerie, which is entirely free from foreign intrigue or influence. This force acts as a national constabulary and gives its constant support to the work of the American financial administrators. I have already said that the political situation has completely changed. Soviet influences do not touch the masses of the people, who are economically, religiously and temperamentally unfitted for Communist propaganda. The dominance of Moscow is in no way likely to be felt in Persia. On the other hand, Great Britain has withdrawn all of her forces from the country and definitely abandoned any attempt to control Persia politically. In short, Persia is ready to take the place to which her brilliant history entitles her among enlightened and progressive nations.

Forthcoming Offering of Argentine Bonds.

Indications that there would shortly be offered in this city a large issue of Argentine bonds have figured in news items from Buenos Aires. Yesterday (Dec. 28) the New York "Journal of Commerce" printed the following from the Argentine city:

The uncertainty which appears to prevail in New York as to the nature of the forthcoming Argentine bond issue is not shared here, as it is declared in financial quarters the securities must be the \$60,000,000 33-year 6% bonds which the Kuhn, Loeb & Co.—Chase Securities Corporation—Blair & Co. syndicate agreed last September to take from the Argentine Government at any time prior to March 1 1924.

According to the contract, which was described here in the official decree, the proceeds of these bonds will be applied to pay off the \$55,000,000 six months' loan dated Sept. 1, which the same bankers advanced to the Government to meet an equal amount of Argentine obligations which fell due in New York on Oct. 1. The contract stipulated that the bankers take the \$60,000,000 in bonds at 92 and that the first six months' interest coupon would be payable March 1. The bonds bear amortization of 1% annually.

Co-operative Bank Legislation Drafted—Senator Brookhart's Proposal.

The national committee for co-operative banks, recently formed in New York, has sent to members of the Progressive groups in both houses of Congress, for their consideration the draft of an amendment to the National Banking Act to authorize the establishment of co-operative banks of a commercial type, according to a Washington dispatch to the New York "Journal of Commerce" Dec. 16, which added:

In our issue of Nov. 24, page 2280, we referred to Senator Brookhart's proposal for the establishment of the Farmers and Laborers' Co-operative National Reserve Bank and Marketing System. In a statement issued on Dec. 9 relative to his measure, Senator Brookhart said:

The proposed amendment is based in part upon principles laid down by Richard Boeckel in his new book, "Labor's Money," which has created some interest in banking circles.

The proposed amendment would decline co-operative banks as follows: A co-operative bank within the meaning of this act shall be a bank in which the following principles are adopted and used:

1. Each shareholder only one vote.
2. Proxy voting prohibited.
3. Annual rate of dividends on stock not to exceed 8%.
4. Profits in excess of one-fourth of net earnings distributable to depositors in proportion to their patronage, after surplus and dividend requirements are met.

"The co-operative idea has grown so rapidly in the United States that it now attracts universal attention. No one is more alert about this progress than the big financial interests, especially the big banking interests. Alarmed at its world-wide power, they have decided to check its growth in the United States by joining it and directing its activities in lines which they control. Knowing that the control of credit is the foundation of successful co-operative marketing, or any—ther co-operative enterprise, they have decided to organize farmers' 'producers' co-operatives without any co-operative credit support.

"They shrewdly argue that Rochdale Co-operation is 'consumers' co-operation, and therefore different from the needs of the farmers of the United States, who are producers. They always neglect to recite the facts of the great industrial and also agricultural production of the Rochdale Societies. They mention commodity co-operatives in Denmark, and then neglect to say that they are sustained by the finest co-operative banking system in the world. They tell the farmers of the United States that all they need for a credit system is a warehouse receipt. The present banking system will take care of them.

"The principal agents of this Wall Street philosophy are Eugene Meyer, Bernard Baruch and Aaron Sapiro. They have succeeded in organizing many co-operatives upon this plan, and they hope to organize so many more that they can prevent the farmers from organizing a co-operative banking system. This puts the farmers in a double danger. If this Wall Street credit support is withdrawn they must fail, and if not they must become slaves to it. It is of the greatest importance to the farmers of the United States that each one and both of these purposes be defeated.

"The government wheat corporation now has in the treasury of the United States a profit of \$58,000,000 which rightfully belongs to the farmers. The Federal Reserve system has a surplus of \$218,000,000, a large part of which also rightfully belongs to the farmers. There is, perhaps, a large profit in the War Finance Corporation charged to interest which should also belong to the farmers. These sums amount to probably over \$200,000,000, which would be more than enough to start a co-operative credit system that would insure the success not only of the Sapiro co-operatives but of all the other co-operatives. But Sapiro himself has always opposed such a plan because it would end the power of Wall Street in the co-operative field.

"The farmers of the country must be aroused to this situation and organized for the support of a co-operative banking system of their own and under their own control. In this city they can count upon the loyal assistance of labor, which is already wide awake to the importance of co-operative banking. In fact, if the farmers become a little more deeply enmeshed in the nets of Wall Street finance they will have to call upon labor for their reserve. This is true notwithstanding the fact that, as a whole, the farmers deposit far more money in the banks than they borrow back for use in agriculture.

The New York Journal of Commerce in an editorial article in its issue of Dec. 15, discusses the movement as follows:

Co-operative banking is apparently becoming somewhat of an obsession with Senator Brookhart, for he now plainly asserts that those who have been counted as among the best friends of the farmer and of the co-operative banking idea are trying to "smother" the movement. Among those who are thus guilty, according to this Senator, are Messrs. Baruch, Eugene Meyer and several others who have been well known for the sympathetic attitude they have taken toward farm problems.

Mr. Brookhart lets the cat out of the bag when he admits that what he wants is not a co-operative banking system but such a system "backed by the Government," or, in other words, not a co-operative system at all. Co-operation is in its nature and purpose the antithesis of Government operation and ownership, the very idea which underlies it precluding the notion of public assistance or support. In fact, what the extremists of the farm bloc always have wanted, if they would only admit it, has been Government participation and aid in their various undertakings. They now come forward with a franker demand for this kind of public subsidies than has ever before been offered.

The question how far they will get what they seek depends entirely upon the way in which the matter is made to appear to the public. It is an old legislative trick to charge conspiracy and allege that Wall Street interests are endeavoring to smother or destroy some project which otherwise would make its way with success.

Oklahoma Bankers Concerned Over Fate of Securities Placed with State Banking Board During Period of Guaranty System.

Discussion of the banking situation in Oklahoma figured in the deliberations of the Oklahoma State Bankers Association in convention at Oklahoma City, Dec. 10-12. Preliminary to the convention the Executive Council of the association at a meeting on the 10th inst., at which M. J. Shannon, a member of the State Banking Board, was present, considered plans whereby the assets of failed banks in which depositors have been paid in full, can be liquidated. The discussion hinged on the fate of \$1,000,000 worth of securities placed with the Banking Board before the State guaranty law ceased to operate. President J. P. Gibson of the Association is quoted in the "Oklahoma" as saying:

It has been reported that we are inclined to criticize or to investigate conditions. Such a move is farthest from our minds. We do not intend to serve as a disturbing element. We are only seeking to find an equitable solution to an unprecedented situation in the State.

It is learned from the same paper that little hope that money and securities deposited with the State Banking Board when the guaranty law was in effect could be re-

turned in the near future was held out by Mr. Shannon in addressing the convention on the 11th inst. In stating this the "Oklahoman" added:

Federal injunctions against paying out any of the money because of Indian funds involved make it impossible for a return without some legal authority, Shannon declared.

A friendly suit to test the question and establish a precedent will be instituted soon by bankers, they intimated after Shannon's address. They will discuss the matter further Wednesday morning.

Changes in Law Sought.

Governor Trapp, addressing the bankers, declared that an attempt to make drastic changes in the State banking laws providing for the depositors of failed banks to be their own liquidating agents to cut the high fees paid liquidators will be made at an early date. The Governor cited several instances where liquidators were paid exorbitant fees, and characterized the liquidating system as "diabolical."

Another change in the laws to provide for the appointment of a Bank Commissioner who is interested in some bank will be attempted, he declared. William Mee, President of the Security National Bank of Oklahoma City, is slated for the position, Trapp said.

Scrambled and Mixed.

The State banking system, like other State departments, is so scrambled and mixed that none of the officers know their duties or assume responsibilities, the Governor said. He will have a thorough check made of the Department and also make public soon the actual amount of the assets and liabilities of failed State banks, he said.

Failures of the majority of the defunct State banks were due to almost "criminal negligence of the men at the head," Trapp declared.

Because the United States has produced more and spent less, financial conditions have changed from the depression of 1920 and 1921 to a normal basis and the outlook for the future is bright, Clarence Ousley, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, told the bankers Wednesday afternoon.

No Frozen Loans Now.

"Three years ago we were in the depths of deflation, congealed with frozen loans and apparently drifting into a sea of insolvency, and the granting of a loan was not a question of security or profit upon the transaction, but of throwing out a life belt to save a customer from drowning and carrying the creditor down with him," Ousley said. "To-day liquidation is complete, money is abundant, credit is easy for every legitimate enterprise and we are in the enjoyment of comparative prosperity."

"We have recovered because we have produced more or we have consumed or spent less than we produced or earned. We have simply worked and saved. That is the one unyielding and inviolable law of prosperity and they who despise or forget it or try to substitute any other process for it are economic fools."

President Gibson, speaking at the session on the 11th, stated that the repeal of the State guaranty law with its known defects and dangers, has given State bankers the same relation with depositors and stockholders as in national banks." He added:

Our contention is that our liabilities were to the guaranty fund and not to depositors and amounted to one-fifth of 1% average daily deposits and no more, and when the 1923 assessment is paid we have met every legal and moral obligation that can be made upon us and are therefore entitled to our securities held by the Banking Department.

Oklahoma Bankers Association Opposed to Branch Banking.

The movement looking to the establishment of branch banks in Oklahoma is disapproved in a resolution adopted by the Oklahoma State Bankers Association on Dec. 12. According to the "Oklahoman," the bankers oppose the movement on the grounds that it removes all profit from the locality where it is made and destroys the "personality" of the small bank. A copy of the resolution will be mailed to the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington.

Tacoma, Washington, No Longer a Reserve City.

The December number of the Bulletin issued by the Federal Reserve Board announces that the latter on Oct. 25 approved the termination of the designation of Tacoma, Wash., as a Reserve city, effective Nov. 1.

Federal Reserve Board to Consider Bids for Buildings of Reserve Bank Branches at Salt Lake City and Little Rock.

From the Federal Reserve Bulletin for December we take the following:

The Federal Reserve Board has notified the San Francisco and St. Louis Reserve Banks that it will consider the approval of bids for buildings at Salt Lake City, Utah, and Little Rock, Ark., respectively. Prior to this building operations of the Reserve System had been suspended for nearly a year.

Senate Confirms Nomination of Robert J. Grant as Director of United States Mint.

The United States Senate on Dec. 18 confirmed the nomination of Robert J. Grant of Denver, Colo., to be Director of the Mint, in place of F. E. Scobey, resigned. The nomination had been sent to the Senate by President Coolidge on Dec. 10. Mr. Grant had been serving under a temporary commission issued during the recess of the Senate. His appointment was referred to in these columns Nov. 17, page 2170.

Nomination of Frank B. Shepard as Superintendent of Denver Mint Confirmed by Senate.

The nomination of Frank E. Shepard of Denver, Colo., to be Superintendent of the Mint of the United States at Denver, Colo., was confirmed by the U. S. Senate on Dec. 18. Mr. Shepard, who succeeds Robert J. Grant in the post at Denver, had been serving under a recess appointment. The nomination had been sent to the Senate by President Coolidge on Dec. 10.

Nominations by President Coolidge to Inter-State Commerce Commission.

On Dec. 10 the names of the following as members of the Inter-State Commerce Commission were sent to the Senate by President Coolidge.

Nominations by President Coolidge to United States Railroad Labor Board.

On Dec. 10 President Coolidge sent to the Senate the nominations of the following to be members of the U. S. Railroad Labor Board:

Frank McManamy of the District of Columbia, for a term of seven years from Jan. 1 1924. (A reappointment.)

Mark W. Potter of New York, for a term of seven years from Jan. 1 1924. (A reappointment.)

Horace Baker of Ohio (management group), for a term of five years, a reappointment, his term having expired April 15 1923.

E. F. Grable of Michigan (labor group), for a term of five years, vice Albert Phillips, term expired April 15 1923.

(Mr. Baker and Mr. Grable are now serving under recess appointments.)
Edwin P. Morrow of Kentucky (public group), for term of five years, vice R. M. Barton, whose term expired April 1 1923, now serving under a recess commission, and who has resigned to be effective upon the qualification of his successor.

Chicago Board of Trade Refuses to Limit Wire Activity.

According to a dispatch from Chicago Dec. 27, published in the New York "Journal of Commerce," proposals to change the rules of the Chicago Board of Trade so as to restrict private wire operations were defeated on Dec. 27 by a vote of 671 to 154.

Creditors of M. S. Wolfe & Co. Receive an Initial Payment of 75% of Their Claims.

The New York "Times," in its issue of Dec. 23, stated that the receiver for the brokerage firm of M. S. Wolfe & Co. of this city, which failed last June, was mailing checks to creditors covering 75% of their claims against the firm. This is the first payment made by the receiver, and it is expected that all claims will be paid in full in the new year. The failure of the firm, which was a member of the New York Curb Market Association, was noted in the "Chronicle" of June 16, pages 2716 and 2717.

Brokerage Firm of Richards, Hutchinson & Co., New York, Suspended by Curb Exchange.

On Wednesday of this week (Dec. 26) the brokerage house of Richards, Hutchinson & Co. at 42 Broadway, this city, members of the New York Curb Market Association, was suspended by that Exchange because of their failure to meet obligations. The firm, it is understood, refused payment for about 50,000 shares of Southern States Oil Corporation stock which they had bought on Dec. 24 for the account of former Governor C. N. Haskell of Oklahoma, Chairman of the board of the Middle States Oil Corporation, and other clients. On the same day (Dec. 26) the Governors of the New York Curb Market suspended from trading the shares of the Southern States Oil Corporation, following which both the Curb and the New York Stock Exchange began an inquiry, it is said, into the recent heavy buying of this stock and the failure to pay for 78,000 shares on Monday. The suspension caused a drop in the price from 33 $\frac{5}{8}$, reached on Monday, to an offering price, it is said, of 11 and a bid price of 5 on the afternoon of Wednesday on over-the-counter transactions.

Following the suspension of the stock, ex-Governor Haskell, intimating that certain brokers had used unfair tactics, authorized the issuance of the following statement:

Southern States Oil has nothing whatever to do with the trading of stock of its issue on the New York Curb or elsewhere. It is in first-class condition, and, as shown by recent appraisal by disinterested experts, shows a book value of about \$40 a share, as I am shown the report with which I had nothing whatever to do—but is the appraisal of disinterested experts. The trading in stock has been purely personal by myself and many other people in no way connected with Southern States company, and who trade in Southern States stock as the multitudes do in other stocks for their own account.

For some days past the trading has been aggressively carried on by both bulls and bears. If intrinsic value prevails, the bears will get the worst of it; if desperate tactics prevail, intrinsic values might temporarily be lost sight of. With a little more record information, which I am endeavoring to obtain, I may be able to show desperate methods of the opposition which honest public opinion will not approve. Temporary suspension in trading, however, of this stock I believe was wise and proper on the part of the Curb management, to the end that a brief time absolutely necessary to gauge the condition could be had.

The New York Stock Exchange made this announcement:

The Committee on Business Conduct of the New York Stock Exchange is investigating transactions of Stock Exchange houses in stock of the Southern States Oil Corporation, trading in which was suspended to-day Dec. 26 by the Curb market.

A report that the firm of Richards, Hutchinson & Co. could not meet its obligations was declared by members of the firm, it is said, to be without foundation.

Horton Securities Corporation, New York, in Bankruptcy.

An involuntary petition in bankruptcy has been filed in the Federal District Court against the Horton Securities Corporation, stock brokers and dealers in investment securities, at Broad Street. The petitioning creditors are Charles Worem, H. W. Fairfax and Fisher-Stevens Service, with claims aggregating \$1,218. Assets and liabilities were not given in the petition. The attorneys are Kelly & Blinn.

Redraft of Revenue Act Under Consideration by House Committee—Income Tax Features—Board of Tax Appeal.

The sub-committee of the House Ways and Means Committee to which has been turned over the task of reviewing the redraft of the Revenue Act submitted on Dec. 16 to Chairman Green of the House Committee by Secretary Mellon, suspended its sessions on Dec. 27 until Jan. 3, its action, it is stated, being due to the agitation over secrecy which has been maintained with respect to the text of the bill. An account of the criticism which this has prompted appeared as follows in the Philadelphia "Record" of yesterday (Dec. 28):

A meeting of the subcommittee to-day was enlivened by charges from Representative Garner of Texas, ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, and other minority members, that the Republicans were deliberately keeping details of the bill from the public so as to promote "the propaganda that is being carried on in its favor."

Mr. Garner declared that inasmuch as the essential features of the measure had been made public by Secretary Mellon in two communications to Chairman Green and in a summary of the bill prepared by the Treasury, there was nothing to be gained by withholding the bill itself from the public.

The Republican members of the subcommittee, which include Mr. Green, declined, however, to release committee members from their pledge of keeping details of the bill a secret. They contended that such had been the practice in the past during committee consideration of a measure submitted by the Treasury.

Mr. Garner insisted that if the taxpayers were familiar with all details in the bill some of them would not be so active in the measure's behalf. He declared that it was for this reason that the Republicans on the committee were so persistent in maintaining the secrecy rule, although aware that copies of the bill had "leaked" into the possession of certain individuals interested in its provisions.

"I do not think it is fair to the people," said Mr. Garner, "to consider in secret provisions of the bill proposed by the Administration. The country is entitled to know what is under discussion, and to express its opinion before the stage of discussion has passed and the bill put into final shape for passage by the House."

Members of the committee have insisted that in all its features the bill closely follows the summary made public by the Treasury. Democrats, admitting there are no "jokers" in the measure, however, criticize Mr. Mellon for not disclosing certain features.

Yesterday (Dec. 28) Chairman Green made public the full text of the bill as submitted by Secretary Mellon.

On Dec. 27 the provisions in the bill creating a Board of Tax Appeals to consist of 28 members whose terms would be for a ten-year period, at a salary of \$10,000 a year each, were printed in the New York "Times", which said:

Secretary Mellon is in favor of the creation of such a board because he feels confident that an independent administrative tribunal should be organized by the Government to sit on appeals from decisions of the Internal Revenue Bureau, and whose decisions would be as binding on that bureau as on the Federal taxpayer. There would be recourse by the taxpayer to the courts against any decisions of the proposed new board.

Regarding this feature the New York "Journal of Commerce" had the following to say in Washington advices Dec. 27:

Members of Congress to-day poured cold water on the scheme outlined by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon for establishing a board of tax appeals with twenty-eight members, employed at a salary of \$10,000 a year each. Among these were Ways and Means committeemen, who pointed out that there could not be any such legislation when every move was for economy on the part of the Government and curtailment of all expenses.

Democrats claimed it to be a political move, with 28 plums being dangled before the eyes of adherents of the Administration just before election. If contained in the bill when reported to the House by the committee it will, above all else, give rise to considerable discussion from that angle.

Exception is being taken to the attitude of the Treasury in trying to force its views upon Congress. It is charged that Secretary Mellon has permitted statements to go out to the people that would have the effect of compelling Congress to accept the Mellon plan "as is."

These statements give the impression, it is claimed, that the bill is highly desirable from a business standpoint, while details that have a direct bearing on the tax provisions are not made known.

It is not charged specifically that there are jokers in the measure, but it is claimed that if given full publicity it would bring forth views from tax experts and others. It is this that the Republican members are desirous of preventing.

The Republican members of the committee do not take kindly to the coupling of administrative and tax reduction features in a single bill. In fact, they were not anxious to have an Administration measure sent them for consideration, preferring merely an outline of Treasury suggestions, leaving them free to draw up their own bill.

Chairman Green some weeks ago declared that it would be a committee bill that would come from the committee, but to date it is understood that the provisions have been adopted substantially as written in the department, with the exception of one change forced upon the committee by Representative Garner of Texas, dealing with capital assets.

When the sub-committee working on the revenue measure adjourned to-day it was working on matters pertaining to the taxing of stock dividends. The question as brought up by Mr. Garner was whether Congress shall again declare stock dividends subject to taxation and "let the Supreme Court guess once more." Discussion over the "leak" whereby portions of the bill were made public was responsible for failure to act on Mr. Garner's proposal.

The New York "Commercial" printed as follows yesterday (Dec. 28) the text of the income tax provisions of the newly drafted bill:

The text of the section proposing a special reduction of 25% on earned income reveals the exact manner in which the Treasury plans to limit this preference.

Status of Small Farmer.

The small farmer and the small store keeper who do not work on a salary basis will not receive any benefits from the section as it stands. An effort will be made, it is expected, to broaden its scope so as to take care of the farmer. Farmers or storekeepers operating on a large scale and crediting themselves with salaries for their personal services will be able to obtain the benefit of the provision.

Restrictions included in the earned income section are designed to prevent a person receiving compensation from a corporation from including as part of his salary a distribution of earnings or profits.

The earned income section is entirely new inasmuch as nothing of the sort is contained in the present Act. Under the Mellon plan it is proposed to give the special reduction of 25% on earned income in addition to the reduction proposed in all normal tax rates and surtaxes.

Earned Income Section Now.

The entirely new section relating to earned income follows:

"Section 209 (a) For the purpose of this section—

"(1) The term 'earned income' means wages, salaries and professional fees, but does not include that part of the compensation derived by the taxpayer for personal services rendered by him to a corporation which represents a distribution of earnings or profits rather than reasonable allowance as compensation for the personal services actually rendered.

"(2) The term 'earned income deductions' means such deductions as are allowed by Section 214 for the purpose of computing net income, and are properly allocable or chargeable against earned income.

"(3) The term 'earned net income' means the excess of the amount of the earned income over the sum of the earned income deductions.

"(b) In the case of an individual who is taxed under the provisions of Section 210 or 211, the tax shall, in addition to the credits provided in Section 222, be credited with 25 per centum of an amount which bears the same relation to the total amount of the tax as the amount of the earned net income bears to the total amount of the net income; but in no case shall the credit allowed under this subdivisions exceed 25 per centum of the amount of the tax.

"(c) In the case of an individual who is taxed under the provisions of Section 208, the tax shall, in addition to the credits provided in Section 222, be credited with 25% of an amount which bears the same relation to the amount of the tax on the ordinary net income, computed under Sections 210 and 211, as the amount of the earned net income bears to the total amount of the ordinary net income; but in no case shall the credit allowed under this subdivision exceed 25% of the amount of the tax on the ordinary net income, computed under Sections 210 and 211.

In Case of Partnerships.

"(d) In the case of a partnership the proper part of the share of the net income which consists of earned income shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Secretary and shall be separately shown in the return of the partnership and shall be taxed to the member as provided in Section 218."

The normal tax sections, which in the main follow the language of the present law except for the reductions in rates from 4 to 3% and from 8 to 6%, are as follows:

"Section 210. (a) In lieu of the tax imposed by Section 210 of the Revenue Act of 1921, there shall be levied, collected and paid for each taxable year upon the net income of every individual (except as provided in subdivision (b) of this section) a normal tax of 6% of the amount of the net income in excess of the credits provided in Section 216, except that in the case of a citizen or resident of the United States the rate upon the first \$4,000 of such excess amount shall be 3%;

"(b) In lieu of the tax imposed by subdivision (a), there shall be levied, collected and paid for each year upon the net income of every non-resident alien individual, a resident of a contiguous country, a normal tax equal to the sum of the following:

"(1) Three per centum of the amount of the net income attributable to wages, salaries, or professional fees for labor or personal services performed in the United States in excess of the credits provided in subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 216; but the amount taxable at such 3% shall not exceed \$4,000; and

"(2) Six per centum of the amount of the net income in excess of the sum of (A) the amount taxed under paragraph (1) plus (B) the credits provided under Section 216."

Provision for Surtaxes.

The section of the bill containing the proposed new scale of surtaxes, extending to a maximum of 25% instead of 50% as at present, follows:

"Section 211 (a) In lieu of the tax imposed by Section 211 of the Revenue Act of 1921, but in addition to the normal tax imposed by Section 210 of this act, there shall be levied, collected, and paid for each taxable year upon the net income of every individual a surtax equal to the sum of the following:

"1% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$10,000 and does not exceed \$12,000;

"2% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$12,000 and does not exceed \$14,000;

- "3% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$14,000 and does not exceed \$16,000;
- "4% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$16,000 and does not exceed \$18,000;
- "5% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$18,000 and does not exceed \$20,000;
- "6% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$20,000 and does not exceed \$22,000;
- "7% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$22,000 and does not exceed \$24,000;
- "8% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$24,000 and does not exceed \$26,000;
- 9% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$26,000 and does not exceed \$28,000;
- 10% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$28,000 and does not exceed \$30,000;

Incomes Over \$30,000

- 11% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$30,000 and does not exceed \$32,000;
- 12% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$32,000 and does not exceed \$34,000;
- 13% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$34,000 and does not exceed \$36,000;
- 14% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$36,000 and does not exceed \$40,000;
- 15% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$40,000 and does not exceed \$46,000;
- 16% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$46,000 and does not exceed \$52,000;
- 17% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$52,000 and does not exceed \$58,000;
- 18% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$58,000 and does not exceed \$64,000;
- 19% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$64,000 and does not exceed \$70,000;
- 20% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$70,000 and does not exceed \$76,000;
- 21% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$76,000 and does not exceed \$82,000;
- 22% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$82,000 and does not exceed \$88,000;
- 23% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$88,000 and does not exceed \$94,000;
- 24% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$94,000 and does not exceed \$100,000;
- 25% of the amount by which the net income exceeds \$100,000;

Repeals Nuisance Taxes.

As already made known the bill repeals the taxes on telegraph, telephone and radio messages and the tax on admissions.

The 5% jewelry tax in the present law is amended in the Treasury Bill by adding the following paragraph:

"The tax imposed by subdivision (a) shall not apply to (1) surgical instruments, eyeglasses, spectacles, or silver-plated flat silverware; (2) pencils or fountain pens sold for an amount not in excess of \$1; or (3) clocks or watches sold for an amount not in excess of \$5."

Surgical instruments, eyeglasses and spectacles are exempted from the tax under the present law but the other items are not.

The community property clause, which will be one of the points of controversy because of laws in certain States, follows:

"Income received by any marital community shall be included in the gross income of the spouse having the management and control of the community property, and shall be taxed as the income of such spouse."

It is learned from a special dispatch from Washington to the New York "Herald" Dec. 27 that Joseph S. McCoy, the Government Actuary, has informed Chairman Green of the House Ways and Means Committee that surtax rates higher than those recommended by Secretary Mellon in the tax reduction bill now under consideration will not appreciably increase revenue from that source as compared with the Mellon proposal. The "Herald" dispatch continues in part:

Mr. McCoy's letter is a reply on behalf of the Treasury Department to demands made on the Ways and Means Committee by the radical group in the House for higher surtaxes instead of the lower surtaxes recommended by Mr. Mellon.

Members of the Ways and Means Committee are considering concessions to the radical demands on surtax rates that either would compromise or largely surrender the recommendations of Secretary Mellon, which are supported by President Coolidge.

Under the present law surtaxes start at 1% on incomes above \$6,000 and scale up to 50% on the higher incomes. Secretary Mellon proposes to start the surtaxes on incomes above \$10,000 and scale them up to 25%. Members of the Ways and Means Committee are considering a plan by which surtaxes would start on incomes above \$6,000 and scale up to 25% on the higher incomes.

Government Actuary's Reply.

Chairman Green asked Mr. McCoy for information on the effect of the compromise proposal on Government revenues. The reply of the Government Actuary is as follows:

"Dear Mr. Green"—In answer to your telephone inquiry of Saturday as to the effect of a scheme of surtax rates beginning by taxing net incomes in excess of \$6,000 and not in excess of \$10,000 at a rate of 1% and increasing this rate 1% for each \$2,000 additional income until incomes of \$60,000 are reached, then increasing 1% for each \$4,000 additional income until \$80,000 net income is reached, then increasing 1% for each \$5,000 additional income until \$100,000 is reached, all incomes in excess of \$100,000 being taxed at 35% upon the revenue from this source, I have to say as follows:

These rates as applied to the estimated net income for the present calendar year as compared with the revenue that would result from the application of the scales of the present law would show a loss of revenue due to the reduced surtax rates of about \$89,160,000 as shown in the following table. Of course the stimulating effect upon business would be much less with this maximum surtax rate of 35% than it would be if the maximum was reduced to 25%.

"Loss in tax upon basis of estimated net income for the calendar year 1923. A surtax upon incomes in excess of \$6,000 with rates from 1% to a maximum of 35 upon net incomes in excess of \$100,000:

Income tax brackets.	Loss in revenue.	Income tax brackets.	Loss in revenue.
\$6,000	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
10,000	20,000	300,000	500,000
20,000	50,000	500,000	1,000,000
50,000	100,000	Over \$1,000,000	9,000,000
100,000	150,000		
150,000	200,000	Total	\$89,159,880

Respectfully,
JOSEPH S. MCCOY, Government Actuary."

These figures show that the proposal under consideration by the committee would make a net reduction in income from surtaxes of \$89,160,000, as compared with the present law, while the full cut recommended by Mr. Mellon would mean a reduction of income of \$100,000,000, or only 10% more.

Expects More from Surtaxes.

In addition Secretary Mellon, supported by the Government Actuary and other experts, believes that his proposal would result in an ultimate increase in the amount collected from surtaxes. For comparison, his recommendations to the committee, as given in his letter to Chairman Green, are as follows:

Reduce the surtax rates by commencing their application at \$10,000, instead of \$6,000, and scaling them progressively upward to 25% at \$100,000. This will readjust the surtax rates all along the line, and the Treasury recommends the readjustment not in order to reduce the revenues but as a means of saving the productivity of the surtaxes. In the long run it will mean higher rather than lower revenues from the surtaxes. At the outset it may involve a temporary loss in revenue, but the Government Actuary estimates that even during the first year, if the revision is made early enough, the net loss in revenue from all the changes in the surtaxes would be only about \$100,000,000, and that in all probability the revenue from the reduced rates will soon equal or exceed what would accrue at the present rates, because of the encouragement which the changes will give to productive business.

The readjustment of the surtaxes, moreover, is not in any sense a partisan measure. It has been recommended on substantially this basis by every Secretary of the Treasury since the end of the war irrespective of party. The present system is a failure. It was an emergency measure, adopted under the pressure of war necessity and not to be counted upon as a permanent part of our revenue structure. For a short period the surtaxes yielded much revenue, but their productivity has been constantly shrinking and the Treasury's experience shows that the high rates now in effect are progressively becoming less productive of revenue.

The high rates put pressure on taxpayers to reduce their taxable income, tend to destroy individual initiative and enterprise and seriously impede the development of productive business. Taxpayers subject to the higher rates cannot afford, for example, to invest in American railroads or industries or embark upon new enterprises in the face of taxes that will take 50% or more of any return that may be realized. These taxpayers are withdrawing their capital from productive business and investing it instead in tax-exempt securities and adopting other lawful methods of avoiding the realization of taxable income.

The result is to stop business transactions that would normally go through and to discourage men of wealth from taking the risks which are incidental to the development of new business. Ways will always be found to avoid taxes so destructive in their nature, and the only way to save the situation is to put the taxes on a reasonable basis that will permit business to go on and industry to develop. This, I believe, the readjustment herein recommended will accomplish, and it will not only produce larger revenues but at the same time establish industry and trade on a healthier basis throughout the country. The alternative is a gradual breakdown in the system and a perversion of industry that stifles our progress as a nation.

In its advices from Washington Dec. 27 the New York "Journal of Commerce" stated that Secretary Mellon in his draft revision of the revenue law has prepared a smashing blow to be dealt holding corporations formed to enable stockholders to evade the imposition of surtaxes. The paper quoted stated further:

The text of the Treasury draft is being held confidential by both the department and the House Ways and Means Committee to which it has been submitted, but it is understood that one of the most drastic changes in the present law suggested by Mr. Mellon is aimed at holding corporations.

The proposal of Mr. Mellon is understood to be designed to enable the collection of millions of dollars of taxable income which yearly escapes from the revenues of the Government. He proposes to tax the dividends received by holding corporations from constituent companies. As this suggestion comes under the administrative changes in the law proposed by the Treasury, it is believed that it will escape the opposition expected to be manifested against some of the recommendations for direct rate reduction.

Would Amend Section.

Mr. Mellon's proposals to make the income tax laws effective against holding corporations would provide for the amendment of Section 220 of the Revenue Act. This section provides that if any corporation is availed of for the purpose of preventing the imposition of surtaxes upon its stockholders through the medium of permitting its gains and profits to accumulate, instead of being distributed, there shall be a penalty of 25% of the yearly income imposed in addition to the normal tax of 12 1/2%.

However, in the calculation of net income for the purposes of taxation the law permits corporations to deduct the amount received as dividends from domestic corporations. It is the proposal of the Treasury to include in corporation net income such dividends of domestic corporations received by holding corporations when such net income is subject to the 25% penalty provided by Section 220.

Adoption of the proposed amendment, it is believed, would not only close the door to one of the avenues of vanishing Federal revenue, but would provide in collections an appreciable offset to some of the suggested reductions in rates. Experience has shown the Government that under Section 220 as it now stands there is no recourse against the organization of corporations frankly and openly for the purpose of permitting their stockholders to evade the imposition of surtaxes. A penalty for such a practice is provided, but the deductions from net income permitted by the Act nullify the application of the penalty to the corporations the law seeks to penalize.

Working of Law.

What has occurred under the present law works out something after this fashion. A corporation is organized to receive the dividends of a number of domestic corporations. The charge is made by the revenue authorities that the corporation has been fraudulently organized to allow its stockholders to avoid the imposition of surtaxes. The charge is admitted by the holding corporation and the Government is challenged to assess the 25% penalty.

But when the Government attempts to compute the net income of the holding corporation for the purpose of imposing the penalty it is found that the bulk if not all of the corporation's income is in the form of dividends from other domestic corporations, which is deductible under the law. In other words, 25% of the holding corporation's net income for the purpose of surtaxes is 25% of nothing.

The numbers of these holding corporations formed for the single purpose of escaping the surtaxes are said to be almost countless. As the law now stands there is nothing illegal in their organization. But, if

Congress adopts the Treasury's proposal it is believed that their ranks will be considerably thinned as the Government would collect its taxes just as though the dividends of the other domestic corporations were paid directly to the stockholders.

As we indicate in another item it was decided on Dec. 21 by Republican members of the House to confer on Jan. 10 to consider the question of reporting a soldier bonus bill out of Committee. This week Senator Royal S. Copeland, of New York, in a letter to constituents indicated himself in agreement with the contention that "reduction of taxes is a matter of great importance to the country," and added:

I trust that some measure will be presented to Congress which will meet with sufficient favor to insure its passage.

I have carefully studied Secretary Mellon's proposals and believe it possible to carry out every detail in his plan and yet pass a reasonable bonus, which I also heartily favor.

Secretary Mellon's Letter to A. Piatt Andrew Showing Cost of Soldier Bonus.

It was announced on Dec. 21 that Republican members of the House of Representatives have decided to consider, at a conference on Jan. 10, the question of reporting out of Committee a soldier bonus bill. As we noted a week ago (page 2715), the cost to the Government of a bonus bill was the subject of a letter addressed by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to Representative A. Piatt Andrew, and in part we gave the communication in our issue of last week. Since then the letter in full, as well as a table in which it is shown that the total direct cost of the bonus to the Government would be \$5,085,833,687, has been made available. We give the letter in full herewith:

Dec. 18 1923.

My dear Congressman:—I have your letter of Dec. 10 1923, in which you submit as the cost of a bonus three tables which appeared in the report of April 20 1922, from Senator McCumber, of the Committee on Finance of the Senate. A fair representation should, of course, include the fourth year, when the Government is required to take over its burden which under the bill is placed for three years upon the banks of the country. These figures are not estimates of the Treasury Department. The Government actuary, at the request of Senator McCumber, did the mechanical work of calculating the cost based upon the assumptions given him for that purpose by Senator McCumber. The bill in the form submitted never passed the Congress, and, therefore, no necessity for correction of or comment upon the tables arose. The figures you quote from the veto message of President Harding were made by the Government actuary based upon the same assumptions as those given him by Senator McCumber applied to the bill in the form it was submitted to the President. In his message President Harding said:

"The Treasury estimates, based on what seems the most likely exercise of the options, figures the direct cost at approximately \$145,000,000 for 1923; \$225,000,000 for 1924; \$114,000,000 for 1925 and \$312,000,000 for 1926, making a total of \$795,000,000 for the first four years of its operation and a total cost in excess of \$4,000,000,000. No estimate of the large indirect cost ever has been made. The certificate plan sets up no reserve against the ultimate liability. The plan avoids any considerable direct outlay by the Government during the earlier years of the bill's proposed operations, but the loans on the certificates would be floated on the credit of the nation. This is borrowing on the nation's credit just as truly as though the loans were made by direct Government borrowing, and involves a dangerous abuse of public credit. Moreover, the certificate plan of payment is little less than certified inability of the Government to pay, and invites a practice in sacrificial barter which I cannot sanction.

It is worth remembering that the public credit is founded on the popular belief in the defensibility of public expenditure as well as the Government's ability to pay. Loans come from every rank in life and our heavy tax burdens reach, directly or indirectly, every element in our citizenship. To add one-sixth of the total sum of our public debt for distribution among less than 5,000,000 out of 110,000,000 whether inspired by grateful sentiment or political expediency, would undermine the confidence on which our credit builded and establish the precedent of distributing public funds whenever the proposal and the numbers affected make it seem politically appealing to do so."

In order that I may answer your question, the Treasury Department has considered the soldiers' bonus bill in the form in which it was vetoed by President Harding. Taking up each of the three options, the total direct cost, if 100% of those entitled to the benefits of the bonus accept farm and home aid, would be \$2,068,662,903, and the average cost for the first four years would be \$475,000,000 a year. If 100% should take the vocational training aid the total cost would be \$2,318,022,451, of which \$1,300,000,000 would be in the first year and \$1,000,000,000 in the second year. If 100% should choose the certificate plan the total direct cost (including an estimate of \$23,000,000 a year for the first twenty years for administration) would be \$5,400,526,444, and the average for the first four years would be about \$225,000,000 a year. Senator McCumber assumed that 75% would take the certificate plan, 22½% the farm loan and home aid plan and 2½% the vocational training plan. He also assumed that a certain amount would be borrowed on the certificates. With the passage of almost two years since the original assumptions were made, it is believed that a more probable estimate now is that there would be 90% who should choose the certificate plan, 9% the farm loan and home aid plan and 1% vocational training. Since the obvious purpose of the bill is to permit borrowing, it is clear that greater recourse would be had by the certificate holders to this privilege. Account has also been taken of the savings to the Government by probable failure on the part of at least 100,000 men to receive or redeem their certificates. Based on these estimates the total direct cost of the bonus would be \$5,085,833,687 and an average for the first four years of over \$250,000,000 a year. A table is attached showing the amounts to be paid each year.

It has been the policy of the United States to make preparation to meet large principal payments coming due at a period in the future by use of a sinking fund, and no other policy is sound. The twentieth year of the bonus would see requirements of nearly \$3,000,000,000. If this sound policy be continued, it is estimated that with some borrowing by the Government during the fourth and fifth years, twenty-one payments of \$211,476,357 each from 1924 to 1944, both inclusive, if paid annually, would meet

the cost of the bonus up to 1944, leaving a balance of about \$650,000,000 coming due in the later years to be met by new legislation.

Your letter of Dec. 10 1923 calls attention to a statement appearing in my letter of Nov. 10 to Mr. Green to the effect that 'a soldiers' bonus would postpone tax reduction, not for one, but for many years to come. It would mean an increase rather than a decrease in taxes.' This is well justified. You must add to the direct cost of \$250,000,000 a year for the first four years of the bonus and the average of \$211,000,000 per year for the first twenty years the enormous indirect cost to the Government. The bill gives the right in the first three years to borrow from the banks of the country and that this right would be exercised by the great majority of the certificate holders none denies. The consequent demand for credit would raise the interest rates which the Government as well as the general public will have to pay on borrowed money. At the same time the mere passage of the bill would depress the price of Government bonds and increase their basis of return. In such a money market the Government would have to take care of the \$8,000,000,000 of its securities which mature within the next five years, and to do so would, of course, have to meet the higher rate of interest. The continuing cost of an increase in interest rates on such a volume of refunding would be very large. The Government, like every other person in the United States, would also have to conduct its business at greatly increased expense, due to the higher price level generally which would inevitably follow the credit expansion and decreased production brought on by the bonus law. Soon the disturbance to business by this and other factors would reduce the income of the people and thus the Government's revenue, so that any estimated surplus would no longer exist and recourse would have to be had to additional taxes.

It must be obvious to any impartial mind that a new obligation of the United States made in time of peace to pay over \$5,000,000,000, of which \$1,000,000,000 comes in the first four years, and an average drain on the Treasury for twenty years of \$211,000,000 a year, which is one-fifth of the total pre-war cost of Government, cannot be undertaken without serious economic consequences. If such a commitment is made, any reduction of Federal taxes upon a comprehensive plan will probably not be seen in this generation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) A. W. MELLON, Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. A. Piatt Andrew, House of Representatives.

The table which is based on Mr. Mellon's assumption that 90% of the war veterans would choose the certificate plan, 9% the farm and home aid plan and 1% the vocational training plan, follows:

Year—	Certificate Plan.	Farm and Home Aid.	Vocational Training.	Total.
1924	\$65,229,002	\$67,500,000	\$13,000,000	*\$161,729,002
1925	56,336,378	45,000,000	10,000,000	111,336,378
1926	56,495,781	36,000,000	180,224	92,676,005
1927	639,045,183	22,500,000	-----	661,545,183
1928	124,312,372	9,000,000	-----	133,312,372
1929	34,580,297	6,179,661	-----	40,759,918
1930	120,342,607	-----	-----	120,342,607
1931	84,714,548	-----	-----	84,714,548
1932	58,085,381	-----	-----	58,085,381
1933	58,563,589	-----	-----	58,563,589
1934	50,042,904	-----	-----	50,042,904
1935	50,621,846	-----	-----	50,621,846
1936	42,260,565	-----	-----	42,260,565
1937	43,056,472	-----	-----	43,056,472
1938	52,904,407	-----	-----	52,904,407
1939	26,965,985	-----	-----	26,965,985
1940	10,129,404	-----	-----	10,129,404
1941	a24,491,319	-----	-----	a24,491,319
1942	a67,846,370	-----	-----	a67,846,370
1943	a151,492,206	-----	-----	a151,492,206
1944	2,885,786,816	-----	-----	2,885,786,816
Total to 1945	\$4,215,643,602	\$186,179,661	\$23,180,224	*\$4,441,003,487
1945 to 1966	644,830,200	-----	-----	644,830,200
Total to 1966	\$4,860,473,802	\$186,179,661	\$23,180,224	*\$5,085,833,687

* Includes \$16,000,000 paid in cash to veterans whose bonus is \$50 or less.
 a Excess of receipts over payments.
 No allowance is made for cost of administering farm and home or vocational training plans, which would be \$3,000,000 a year as a minimum for some six years.

President Coolidge Directs That Federal Aid in Highway Building in Arkansas Be Suspended—Statement by Secretary Wallace.

A statement was made by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace on Dec. 22 to the effect that "neither the Federal-Aid Road Act nor its administration is responsible for the troubles of the Arkansas people in their road-building. On the contrary, the administration of the Federal Aid Act has been helpful and has resulted in bringing about many much-needed reforms in that State."

The statement of Secretary Wallace followed an announcement on Dec. 18 that President Coolidge had directed the Secretary to withhold Federal aid in the building of Arkansas roads pending an investigation into the Arkansas road tax law to determine whether the carrying out of the project would work a hardship upon property owners along the highway. According to advices from Washington, Dec. 18, appearing in the New York "Times," President Coolidge acted upon complaint of the National Farmers' Union. The "Times" said:

The memorandum submitted to him by C. H. Barrett, President of the union, alleged that thousands of farmers in Arkansas are threatened with confiscation of their homes as the result of the mountain-high road taxes levied in that State. The principal of that debt, which draws interest at the average rate of 5%, already is in excess of \$63,000,000. In scores of instances farms are now in the hands of Federal receivers because of inability of their owners to meet the road taxes.

The speed with which President Coolidge acts in matters such as this Arkansas road business is illustrated in this instance. The memorandum of the National Farmers' Union was placed before him early in the afternoon of Dec. 11. Two hours later the President had acted and the Secretary of Agriculture had been ordered to stop all Federal aid payments until the charges made by the National Union were cleared up.

The letter to Secretary Wallace read:

The White House, Washington, Dec. 11 1923.

My dear Mr. Secretary:—Enclosed is a communication about Federal roads in Arkansas. The situation is such that I consider it unwise to allot any more money to the State of Arkansas until these charges are cleared up. I do not understand how any land there could be in the hands of Federal receivers, except through voluntary bankruptcy, but, in so far as I have authority to give you any directions, they are to the effect that no money be allotted to Arkansas until these charges are cleared up.

Very truly yours,

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

Hon. Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Barrett acted in response to a resolution passed by the recent National Convention of the Farmers' Union, held at Omaha. The memorandum which he presented to the President said:

"First—Investigation will disclose the fact that hundreds, if not thousands, of farms, in most instances the lands of poor people, are now in the hands of Federal receivers as a result of the inability of those farmers to meet the highway taxes.

"Second—Right or wrong, the opinion is general in the farming communities that the Bureau of Highways of the Department of Agriculture in giving its approval to the so-called Harrelson law, recently enacted and which perpetuates the existing Arkansas road district system for years to come, has by this approval made it possible for the Arkansas road machine to add additional millions in taxes to the staggering burden of these farmers, thousands of whom are facing the confiscation of their properties.

Highway Commissioner Accused.

"Third—The Chairman of the new State Highway Commission authorized by the Harrelson law is Herbert R. Wilson, the State Highway Commissioner, against whom serious charges involving the sale of Federal-aid money on a 10% basis are now on file in the Bureau of Highways. Robert Lee Wilson of Wilson, Ark., ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois and L. C. Yingling, the District Attorney at Helena, Ark., I am informed, are familiar with the facts in certain of these alleged Federal-aid sale propositions.

"Fourth—The Little Rock Gazette, the principal paper of Arkansas, has stated within the last week that Federal Bureau officials have been in conference with Wilson and are understood to be ready to restore Federal aid to the State in a total sum, I am informed, in excess of \$2,000,000.

"Fifth—The evidence is conclusive that the only thing that has operated to relieve, in a very small way, the overburdened farmer taxpayers was the withdrawal in January of this year of Federal aid, its restoration, it was stated by the Secretary of Agriculture, depending on a reform of the law and a lessening of the tax load on the land owners.

"Sixth—Under the new law the people were promised State relief in the amount of \$3,000,000 annually. Already the relief, which, according to well-informed citizens, is largely 'mythical' and intended solely to perpetuate the regime now in power, has been reduced to \$2,000,000. Even the road administration makes no claim that the relief will be substantial, as the cold facts are that in no instance will the relief, if it is realized, touch the principal of the road bond debt, every cent of which is levied against the land, in most instances farm lands. As a matter of fact, which the facts in the case will disclose, in no instance does the promised relief care for as much as 50% of the interest charge in 85% of the counties.

"Seventh—Federal aid in Arkansas has been used as a bait in saddling this outrageous burden on the farmers of the State. Its restoration now means the endorsement by this Government of a situation with few parallels in the history of this country, a situation as cruel as it is indefensible."

On Dec. 21 it was stated that President Coolidge had indicated it as his belief that each project to be undertaken in Arkansas should be decided upon its merits in order that the Federal Government through its financial aid can work in co-operation with those living along the proposed highways and also in order that Arkansas may receive the full share of the Federal appropriations. Charges that the Department of Agriculture was responsible for the chaotic highway situation in Arkansas were made on Dec. 19 in the United States Senate by Senators Robinson and Caraway of Arkansas. From a Washington dispatch to the New York "Times" we quote the following:

Mr. Caraway, who frankly admitted that many Arkansas land owners have been ruined by the road taxes, declared that he had "every reason to believe that any crooked deal that ever was started in Arkansas had sympathetic co-operation here in Washington."

Senator Caraway said that he personally made the above charge to Secretary Wallace, and that at his instance evidence had been placed at the disposal of the Department involving one of the Federal road engineers in Arkansas, it being alleged that this engineer had given certain road officials in Arkansas to understand that the Federal engineers "were not working for the salaries the Government paid."

Congressional Inquiry May Result.

For some weeks certain Senators have been quietly looking into this Federal highway business. One of these Senators, a friend and supporter of the President, is a member of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads and when the time comes he is going to ask some very pointed questions on the administration of the whole road program. The investigation now about to start will, in the opinion of some Senators, be extended to include other States besides Arkansas. It is possible that a Congressional inquiry, which would be independent of the President's inquiry, may be proposed in a joint resolution.

Senator Caraway took the floor as soon as the Senate convened to-day. He declared he had never approved the Arkansas highway laws passed in the Brough Administration, laws which levied the entire road cost against the land, as a result of which, he declared, "many injustices were perpetrated and many people were practically ruined by these taxes."

"I have protested as vigorously as I could," he continued. "I have known of injustices. I might say, although I am not complaining of my own particular situation, I have suffered myself. I know that the present way of building highways in Arkansas, with the demands of the Federal Government, makes it absolutely impossible to continue a system that will result in very many miles of highways being built. It makes the cost prohibitory, lends itself to inefficiency, and certainly, in many cases, to dishonesty."

Secretary Wallace's statement of Dec. 22, in which he said that "neither the Federal-aid Road Act nor its administration is responsible for the troubles of the Arkansas people in their road building," also had the following to say:

It is estimated that road improvement districts in Arkansas have issued bonds to the amount of about \$63,000,000. Of this only \$11,000,000, about 17% in round numbers, has been used in connection with Federal aid. The remainder has been used altogether on district projects with which Federal aid has had nothing to do. The total expenditure from local funds for roads built in connection with Federal aid and completed and paid for is \$6,120,553. Federal aid paid in connection with these roads amounts to \$3,957,307. There are in process of construction roads for which the Arkansas district funds are obligated to the amount of \$4,780,560, and these call for Federal aid to the amount of \$2,317,141.

Most of the Arkansas road districts in connection with which there have been serious abuses and gross unfairness to the land-owning farmers were created before Federal aid amounted to anything. Many of them had practically exhausted local funds before Federal aid was called for.

Because of the peculiar road district system adopted in Arkansas Federal aid administration has been exceedingly difficult. In April 1921 it was discovered that great injustices were practiced in these road districts, of which at that time there were more than 500, but in only 110 of which Federal aid had been granted. An engineer of the Department of Agriculture was sent into the State to make a careful investigation to secure information needed to administer Federal aid funds. He found many cases of bad management, careless handling and improper payments of local funds, excessive assessments on land owners, unbalanced and discriminatory assessments, uneconomic laying out of districts, and a general laxity in the organization to maintain the roads once they were built. None of these conditions affected Federal funds, nor could they be remedied by Federal authority. This investigation was made for the information and guidance of the Department of Agriculture in administering the Federal aid and for no other purpose, but a report was made to the Governor calling attention to these conditions.

Many complaints were received from taxpayers in different parts of the State. Some of these came from districts in which Federal aid was being used. Most of them came from districts in which no Federal funds were being used and which, therefore, could not receive attention at the hands of the department. The conditions revealed, however, were such as to lead me to notify the Governor in January 1923 that no further Federal aid allotments would be made to Arkansas until these conditions were corrected.

In the spring and summer of 1923 representatives of the Department of Agriculture held many conferences with the Governor of Arkansas, members of the Legislature and others in positions of responsibility in the effort to help them reorganize their State Highway Department and their methods of administration and draft a new bill which would remove cause for criticism.

The Governor called a special session of the Legislature to convene Sept. 24. I received many letters from members of the Legislature and others, among them one from Senator P. R. Barnes, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee of the Arkansas Senate, in which he said that "the same interests that plunged our State into this trouble are now moving heaven and earth to fasten this district system on our farmers for a long period of years," and asking me to make a statement. In reply I wrote Mr. Barnes on Sept. 26 and said that while under the law I had no authority to prescribe the manner in which the States should raise revenue for road purposes, nevertheless I regarded the district system adopted and then in force in that State as an "unjust, inequitable and wrong system, throwing a grossly unfair burden upon the farm property adjacent to the highway. In so far as I may have the power to withhold Federal funds for the construction of roads under this system I shall exercise that power without hesitation."

The Legislature passed an Act known as the Harrelson Law. It is better than the old law. Under it no new improvement district can be created except by a majority vote of the people within the district, and the assessment which may be levied on adjacent land is limited.

President Coolidge is in thorough sympathy with the course the Department of Agriculture has followed in withholding Federal funds as is shown by his letter to me under date of Dec. 11. He is determined that every power of the Federal Government be used to correct abuses and injustices under which Arkansas farmers have suffered.

All roads on which Federal aid has been used must be properly maintained by the State. Old road projects which can not be completed without Federal aid must be cleaned up before Federal aid will be granted to new projects. New projects under the new law must be established by a majority vote of the property owners in the district before they will receive consideration. Old projects not included under the new law will be considered on their individual merits. Methods of financing will be thoroughly investigated and if unjust or discriminatory assessments are being made on farm property such projects will not be approved until these are corrected. Every evidence of graft, unfair practices, or mismanagement will be fully investigated in so far as it comes within the jurisdiction of this Department, and such action as may be necessary will be taken under the law.

The Department has no intention of making any further investigation in Arkansas except as it may be necessary to administer Federal aid funds justly and efficiently. Abuses due to State laws or State administration should be corrected by State authorities. To secure Federal aid the law makes certain requirements, and it remains for the State to meet these.

It is the purpose of the Department to be helpful in administering Federal aid. Under no circumstances will Federal aid be permitted to be used to work injustice. It has not in the past, and it will not in the future.

If there are any who think they have reason to believe any member of the staff of this Department has been guilty of negligence or improper actions they should make their reasons known to me.

Proposal to Increase Cotton Crop Reports to Two A Month—Other Recommendations.

A recommendation that the present cotton reports be increased to two a month was made at a two-day conference in Washington last week between Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and the Advisory Committee on Cotton Crop Reports, representing planters, cotton exchanges, associations of producers, spinners and the farm press of the cotton States. Various other important recommendations were made at the conference, which was concluded on Dec. 22; the recommendations propose that the mid month report cover cotton conditions as of about the tenth of each month from July to November, inclusive. It is further recommended that the date of reports and the time of issuance be arranged to coincide with the dates of the ginners' reports and with the time ginners' reports are issued after ginners' reports commence, and that they be issued as a combined

report, if that be found practicable. It is likewise proposed that the present practice of issuing reports before the close of the American exchanges be continued, but that the reports be issued later than at present so that adequate time may be given to consideration of the additional crop data by the Crop Reporting Service. Because of the increasing importance to American cotton producers of the competition of foreign production it was recommended that the Department of Agriculture make provision to collect information which will permit the making of regular reports on production of cotton in foreign countries. The recommendations were prepared by a committee composed of the following:

J. D. Eldridge, Little Rock, Ark.; W. A. Pierce, Welden, N. C.; John D. Rogers, Navasota, Tex.; George Gilmore, Sandersville, Ga.; B. L. Moss, Soso, Miss., and Walter Colbert, Ardmore, Okla., all cotton planters; C. A. Cobb, Atlanta, Ga., the "Southern Ruralist"; F. M. Inman, Atlanta, Ga., president of the Atlantic Cotton Association; R. C. Dickerson, Waco, Tex., of the Texas Cotton Association; Thomas Hale, New York City, of the New York Cotton Exchange; Dr. Tait Butler, Memphis, Tenn., the "Progressive Farmer", and N. F. Ayer, Boston, Mass., of the National Association Cotton Manufacturers.

The recommendations of the committee are as follows:

Number and Frequency of Reports.

The committee recommends that the present cotton reports be increased to two per month; that the mid-month reports cover cotton conditions as of about the tenth of each month from July to November, inclusive. These reports shall cover such factors of crop growth and condition as shall be found necessary and practicable by the Crop Reporting Service.

Increase in Field Force.

In order that the recommendation to increase the number of reports may be carried out, it is recommended that the field forces of the cotton States be sufficiently increased so as to carry out the work as provided, and that such appointees shall have had experience in cotton farming as one of the prerequisites for appointment. It is the sense of the committee that the work of estimating cotton and all other crops in Texas is too great a task for the force allotted to that State.

Separate Lists of Cotton Reporters.

The committee further recommends that the division of crop and live stock estimates and field statisticians maintain separate lists of cotton reporters.

Three Regional Statisticians.

That three regional or supervisory statisticians be appointed, one for the southeast, one for the south central and one for the southwest; that each be made a member of the Crop Reporting board and that such supervisors shall have had as one of the prerequisites for appointment at least five years experience in growing cotton and in addition thereto shall have been adequately trained in statistical methods.

Further Use of Rural Mail Carriers.

It is recommended that the department further develop its use of the reports of rural mail carriers in the work.

Field Statisticians Centrally Located.

It is recommended that the field statistician in each State have his headquarters as near the centre of agricultural production as practicable.

Date of Reports and Time of Issuance.

It is recommended that the date of report and time of issuance be arranged to coincide with the dates of the ginners' reports and with the time ginners' reports are issued after ginners' reports commence, and that they be issued as a combined report, if this be found practicable.

The Hour of Release.

In order that the confusion arising from the issuance of two government reports on cotton within short intervals of one another may be avoided, the committee recommends that the present practice of issuing the report before the close of American exchanges be continued, but that the report be issued later than at present so that adequate time may be given to consideration of the additional crop data by the Crop Reporting Board.

Intention to Plant.

The committee favorably recommends the intention to plant schedule with the further recommendation that if issued it be made public not later than about March 15.

That this report should show the per cent of intended change in acreage from the preceding year as stated by reporters on the basis of their actual acreage for the preceding year and their intended acreage for the present year, subject to the uncertainties of the planting season, supply of labor and other affecting elements. Coupled with this report should be published available supplemental information concerning probable supplies of labor, fertilizer, arsenate and other matters having a bearing on the problem not only of acreage but of yield.

That other available basic data necessary for understanding the national and world cotton situation be included in the same report.

That additional intermediate information be secured between the time of issuing of the intention report and the regular July crop schedule as to the readjustment of intentions which has taken place.

Schedule of Reports.

That a schedule of the season's crop reports be issued in advance with a fixed summary of procedure and that no variations be made from the schedule of procedure announced, except in case of extreme emergency and after ample notice.

Price Reporting Service on Cotton Seed.

The committee further recommends that the department take such steps as may be found necessary looking to the establishment of a more frequent and complete price reporting service on cottonseed.

More Foreign Cotton Production Statistics.

Because of the increasing importance to American cotton producers of the competition of foreign production, it is recommended that the Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Agricultural Economics, provide adequate representation in other countries, whose duty it will be to collect information that will permit the Bureau to make regular reports on production of cotton in foreign countries.

Advisory Board.

The committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture appoint a committee to be known as an Advisory Board composed of producers, manu-

facturers and representatives of the cotton trade, said committee or board to advise with the Crop Reporting Board as to scope and method of the crop reporting work at such times as it may be called upon by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Reports Safeguarded.

The committee is thoroughly convinced that there is no possibility of a leak in cotton estimates, that it is a physical impossibility for any information to get out of the crop reporting room until it is officially released by the Secretary of Agriculture or Acting Secretary. Not only are the windows and shades sealed, telephones disconnected and United States marshals stationed outside the locked doors, but the Board itself cannot know what the report will be until a few minutes before it is scheduled for release.

Crop Reporting Service Commended.

In view of the fact that there has been considerable criticism of the cotton reports of the Crop Reporting Board, which tend to destroy the confidence in these reports, made by those unfamiliar with the magnitude and difficulties of the work and its highly technical nature, or by those having a selfish interest to serve, this committee feels that a word of appreciation of the work now being done is due.

It is the sense of the committee that the Department of Agriculture be commended for the manner in which its crop reporting work has been developed and is now being done. The committee feels that the production forecasts have been as accurate as could have been expected in view of the rapidly changing and unfavorable conditions that have prevailed since the extension of boll-weevil infestation over practically the entire cotton belt.

Adequate Support Recommended.

Needed increases in the number of reports and improvements in equipment and methods which will insure fuller information and greater accuracy in these reports can only come with more adequate funds for doing the work expected. It is felt that fuller co-operation from the manufacturers and producers and from the public generally should be given the crop reporting service.

In a Washington dispatch on Dec. 21 referring to the opening of the conference, the New York "Journal of Commerce" stated:

New legislation affecting the Government's crop reporting methods is expected to be an outgrowth of the conference. Members of Congress from cotton-producing States took part in the proceedings to-day and it is anticipated that several bills will be introduced to revise the law to make whatever changes the Committee may find necessary. Secretary Wallace and Agriculture Department officials are said to be ready to adopt any constructive suggestions which the committee may put forward in so far as the latitude allowed the Department by law will permit, and it is understood that the Department looks for recommendations which will permit a number of changes in the present system and which will not require new legislation.

Discuss Government Methods.

The conference was called by Mr. Wallace to discuss the scope and methods of collecting and distributing reports relating to cotton. There has been a pronounced sentiment growing, which has lately manifested itself among members of Congress, for a radical change in the present system. Efforts were made to-day to explain the present procedure thoroughly to the advisory committee and the members of Congress attending the conference, in order that they might be familiar with all the details of the present system before drafting recommendations for new methods.

Opinions differed, it is understood, as to the necessity for reports of intention to plant as well as the time when a report should be issued. There was also argument on both sides of the question of the advisability of acreage reports at an early date and different suggestions were made as to the proper time for the issuance of the first bale report on cotton.

Question of Time.

The question of the time when Government cotton reports should be made public is understood to have opened up a very wide field of debate. The argument is made that the Government reports should not be made public until after the exchanges have closed for the day, so that sudden fluctuations in the market as a result of the official forecasts may be eliminated and speculative activities lessened. On the other hand, it is contended that if the Government holds up its reports until after the markets in this country are closed the forecasts would be available to the British traders before the American cotton interests had an opportunity to adjust their operations to the official findings and the British interests would have a trading start of some six hours or so on this country, which might in the end react against the cotton growers.

The above conference was preceded by the discussion of the collection of information and compiling of estimates of the cotton crops by the Government, together with the question of their publication at a conference at the Capitol on Dec. 18, participated in by Dr. William A. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture; members of the Crop Reporting Board, and the committee of the "cotton bloc" on the readjustment of crop estimates and crop reports, consisting of Representatives J. E. Rankin, of Mississippi, Chairman; William B. Oliver, of Alabama; F. B. Swank, of Oklahoma; Otis Wingo, of Arkansas, and A. L. Bulwinkle of North Carolina and Senator Harris of Georgia. This is learned from the New York "Journal of Commerce," which stated:

It was agreed by all present that the reports of condition of the cotton crop should be made at more frequent intervals during the critical time of crop development and while the crop is being gathered and put on the market.

Attention was called to the fact that the daily market reports made by the government cover almost every product of American industry except cotton seed, and it was declared that as a result the cotton growers of the South are losing hundreds of millions of dollars annually because of the instability of seed prices and the farmers' lack of information on their market value at all times. Dr. Taylor admitted this to be a very serious question and one which would have the department's immediate attention. He expressed the opinion that it would only be a matter of time before cotton seed would be quoted in daily market reports, together with the other agricultural products.

The same paper had the following to say in its accounts from Washington Dec. 25:

Members of the cotton bloc, it is understood, are preparing to press in Congress after the holiday recess measures to permit the Agriculture Department to carry out the recommendations of the advisory committee on cotton crop reports for the expansion of the government's system of cotton crop reporting.

Recommendations made by the committee calling for a greater frequency of reports and an enlargement in the personnel of the crop reporting service will necessitate additional appropriations before they can be adopted. Other of the committee's suggestions, however, are capable of adoption by the Agriculture Department without any further steps by Congress.

Calls Cotton Crop Figures Too High—J. S. Wannamaker Makes Total 9,650,000 Bales.

The following from St. Matthews, S. C., Dec. 19, appeared in the New York "Journal of Commerce":

Actual yield of cotton this year, in the opinion of J. S. Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, will be from 300,000 to 400,000 bales lower than was indicated in the final estimate of the Government crop reporting bureau.

"The Government estimates," said Mr. Wannamaker to-day, "have uniformly been far away from the actual crop. Last year it showed an excess of 200,000 bales; the year before of nearly 400,000. This year, as is now pretty generally admitted, the Government's acreage estimate was far larger than the area actually planted. In such circumstances, when other facts at my disposal are given due consideration, I have no hesitancy in saying that in my judgment the crop of 1923 will not exceed 9,650,000 bales.

"Information at my disposal shows that the average bale this year will scarcely weigh more than 482 pounds. This is owing to the rapidity with which gathering and ginning have been done, adverse seasonal conditions, premature opening and boll weevil conditions, which have caused cotton to lint out unusually light. A shortage in weight of 18 pounds per bale in a crop of 10,000,000 would mean a reduction of something over 300,000 bales on the usual 500 pound bale basis.

"I have in my possession letters that show the Department of Agriculture and the crop reporting board did not take into consideration the weight of bales in this year's final estimate. The harvesting and ginning of the present crop will be completed even at an earlier date than was the case with the crop last year. It will soon be evident to the trade at large that the Government has again overestimated the crop by from 300,000 to 400,000 bales.

At an outside figure, in my opinion, the present crop will be 9,650,000, and it may, when all things are considered, yet fall as low as 9,500,000, of actual 500-pound bales. Nor do I believe that the South can materially increase its acreage next year."

May Revise Cotton Crop Calculations—Census Bureau Investigating Light Weight Reports.

The following advice from St. Matthews, S. C., under date of Dec. 7, appeared in the New York "Journal of Commerce" of Dec. 8:

As a result of information collected by the American Cotton Association, indicating that this season's cotton crop is being put up in light-weight bales which may necessitate revision of crop estimates, it is stated that an investigation by the Department of Commerce is now in progress, the results of which will be made public early in January. Information received by J. S. Wannamaker, head of the association, is to the effect that owing to adverse weather conditions and boll-weevil infestation cotton is linting out extremely short of seed and many farmers are harvesting only enough to gin extremely small packages. Correspondence between Mr. Wannamaker and W. M. Stewart, Director of the Census Bureau, on this subject has brought the following reply from the latter:

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th ult. advising that this year's cotton is being put up in extra light bales and that the statistics in running bales would, therefore, be misleading as to the total amount of cotton available for spinning and suggesting that the actual gin weights be presented with the next report on cotton ginning.

"The reports secured by this office for bale weights are obtained in two installments, the first on Nov. 1 of cotton marketed prior to that date and the other on Jan. 1 of sales subsequent to Nov. 1, the purpose being to have the weights represent the varying conditions throughout the season, and thus make them of greater accuracy than would be the case if they covered only the first part of the season.

"The first installments of the weights have been received and are now being carefully examined. Those to be received in January will be given immediate attention so that a reliable average may be computed for the entire crop. It is, of course, important that this matter be given careful attention and in cases where the weights returned appear out of line correspondence is had in connection with them. The figures will be published as quickly as they can be assembled."

Arkansas Bankers, Business Men and Farmers Adopt "More Cotton and Less Acres Program"—Thirty-Cent Cotton Plan Opposed.

"More cotton and less acres" was adopted as the slogan of bankers, business men and farmers, who met at Little Rock, Ark., on Dec. 12 at the instance of the Agricultural Committee of the Arkansas Bankers' Association. The meeting, according to the "Arkansas Gazette," resulted in the adoption of a program "to intensify production of cotton, make every farm and plantation self-supporting and to build up poor acreage." The same paper states:

The keynote of the program is greater production of cotton per acre, through means of better seed, fertilization, use of weevil remedy and more care, supplemented by home production of food and feed stuff and advancement, according to training, in dairy and poultry.

The program was elaborated in the address of E. J. Bodman, chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the bankers' association in which the main points, briefly stated were as follows:

- More whole-hearted support from the business men;
- Avoidance, commercially, of crops in which the grower is not experienced;
- Curtailment of acreage to a ratio of 10-12 acres per mule;
- Constant cultivation; well bred seed; fertilizing; use of calcium arsenate; avoidance of substitutes;
- Cotton and corn only on acreage which will produce half a bale of cotton or 20 bushels of corn with good seed and substitution of cow peas, soy beans or legumes on poorer land;

Home grown seed, if possible, or choice seed from the outside, if necessary; Furrowing early in the winter for drainage and early warming of the soil; Thorough dissemination of reliable information on fertilization and use of poison;

Use of modern implements; A flock of hens and a few good grade cows on each farm. Explaining the suggestions Mr. Bodman said they embodied little that is new but are fundamental principles which are overlooked through the influence of rising price for cotton. He considers the bankers and business men mostly responsible for the present condition, affirming that the supply men and bankers indicate the policy in most instances. He deplored the fact that too few appreciate the need.

\$100,000,000 to Buy Feed. The total proceeds of the 1923 cotton crop of Arkansas are not sufficient to pay for the food and feed needed to raise the 1924 crop, he said. He estimates that more than \$100,000,000, will go out of the State during the next year for feed alone.

Use of modern implements will be forced by the shortage of labor, according to Mr. Bodman. He advocated purchase of selected grade dairy cows raised in the State as a start for beginners, declaring high bred animals, under inexperienced care, deteriorated to poorer milkers.

George H. Bell, President of the Planters' Bank & Trust Co. of Nashville, Howard County, made one of the most pertinent talks and several of the ideas he had placed into practice in the last four years were adopted as part of the program. His latest innovation, which was looked upon with favor, is the extension of credit on crop contracts. It is an advancement of the credit statement which most bankers require from their farm patrons. In addition to rendering a statement of production and the future plans upon which the loan is to be based, he says an agreement to plant certain crops on specified acreage and through enforcement by the banker it will result in natural diversification, according to Mr. Bell. He said the patron who did not live up to his agreement would have to look elsewhere for credit the next year.

Harvey County, Mr. Bell said, is one of the five leaders in the State ginning report. He said this was partly responsible to fertilizer and poison use and partly to increased acreage. He pointed out the evil of the latter in the present situation in his county. Cotton has been increased 15 to 25% at the expense of corn acreage. So far this fall his car had purchased from Kansas six carloads of corn, as a result and more would be needed.

Suggests Spread of Labor.

Dean Dan Gray of the College of Agriculture University of Arkansas, in a letter to the chairman, advocated a diversification by which 60% of the income should be derived from crops and 40% from live stock. He advocates self-supporting farms and plantations, and suggests a rotation which will permit spread of labor nearly the year around. He considers expert supervision is vital to any gain.

Loy E. Rast, manager of the Wilson plantation, comprising 50,000 acres gave detailed figures of the results obtained on the plantation. Addition of fertilizer, costing \$6 an acre to the production cost of \$50, produced 1,700 pounds of seed cotton, compared with 900 pounds without fertilizer. Use of good seed raised production to 1,100 pounds an acre, compared with 500 pounds through use of ordinary seed, he said. Good seed, fertilizer, and use of poison, are investment features which the farmers cannot afford to overlook, he said.

J. E. Pridmore, agronomist of the Southern Soil Improvement Association, declared that 30% cotton is creating a tendency toward more extensive planting, which will result in a financial situation far worse than the present, if allowed to proceed unchecked. Cotton is the big crop of the State and should be, he said, but increased yield per acre is the important factor. The State has reached a point where production costs are equal to the returns.

Among other speakers were: T. Roy Reid of the Extension Division of the University of Arkansas; John Stinson, St. Louis, agricultural agent of the Missouri Pacific; Martin Nelson, director, University of Arkansas; E. H. Abbingtion, Beebe; Charles Metcalf, Batesville.

It is stated that suggestions at the meeting were received from many and the program was evolved from these suggestions by a special committee composed of the following:

George H. Bell, R. J. Dougan, C. W. Pellinger, John Stinson, Loy E. Rast, J. E. Pridmore, T. Roy Reid, H. M. Cottrell, Martin Nelson, V. C. Kays, J. F. Sumers and Fred Heiskell. The following were appointed as a committee to assist in the campaign in February planned by the Agricultural Extension Department: Mr. Pridmore, Mr. Rast, Mr. Bell, Conoway Scott, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Heiskell. Visitors were guests at a luncheon given by the association.

Commenting on the meeting and its results, the "Gazette" says:

Crop Plans for 1924.

Arkansas bankers who met here last Wednesday to discuss the State's agricultural problems and next year's crops, very wisely decided to fight only for fundamentals. Those basic agricultural principles that have been proved sound by years of experience are incorporated into the farm plan urged by the bankers and they are not complicated by a multiplicity of innovations, suggestions and theories. Billed down, the bankers of Arkansas advocate more cotton on fewer acres, with sufficient feedstuffs for every farm's need and those foodstuffs that may be grown easily and cheaply in Arkansas.

Many of the men who gathered here for the conference are farmers as well as bankers. All have an intimate knowledge of agriculture in Arkansas, for a majority of their customers are farmers. The bankers know the problems of these farmers and know their financial condition. The Bankers' Association of Arkansas is one of the most progressive and virile organizations in the State. Its agricultural committee is carefully selected and works with energy and intelligence. When an agricultural emergency arises farmers come to the bankers for advice as well as for financial help.

More cotton on fewer acres is easily possible in this State and the plan includes the only safe method of cotton farming. To beat the boll weevil, a crop must be set early and this can be done only by proper fertilization, intensive cultivation and the prompt use of poisons when poisons are necessary. The farmer who holds his acreage to a point where he will be able, with the labor on hand, to meet any emergency is the farmer who will make money next year. The farmer who overcrops himself will take a desperate gamble, with every chance against his winning.

The bankers made it very plain that they consider cotton the chief money crop of Arkansas. They want Arkansas farmers to raise as much cotton as possible, but they do not want Arkansas to overplant and to lose money through overplanting. They want Arkansas to pick every acre of cotton it plants and they want every acre planted to be a paying acre. For this reason they urge fertilization. Farmers should remember that as the per acre production increases the cost of production decreases.

In order to give the cotton crop the intensive cultivation it requires under present conditions acreage must be reduced. The surplus acres should be planted to feedstuffs, but the bankers warn against planting corn on poor or worn-out land. They urge the planting of cowpeas, soy beans or legumes on land that will not produce a half bale of cotton or 20 bushels of corn to the acre.

The plan outlined by the bankers is one that will appeal to every careful farmer in the State, and it is one that should be followed. The first big thing in the plan is good seed. Arkansas will need every pound of cotton it can make next year and not a pound of bad seed or untested seed should be planted. The farmer who plants poor seed has saddled himself with failure before his crop sprouts.

Wheat Subsidy Through Tax on Wheat Exports Proposed by Oregon Farmers—Opposition by Merchants Exchange of Portland.

Opposition has been expressed by the Merchants Exchange of Portland, Oregon, to a plan for the marketing and control of the United States wheat crop, proposed at a meeting in Portland, Oregon, Dec. 7, participated in by the Wheat Committee of the Oregon Bankers Association and representatives of State, co-operative and agricultural organizations. On Dec. 19 a resolution was adopted by the Exchange seeking delay on the plan, the resolution stating that "we expect to be able to present facts that will be convincing that the plan proposed would be detrimental not only to the business interests of the country but to the farmer as well." On the following day the Exchange made known in detail its arguments against the plan, and these we give further below. In reporting the resolution of the Exchange the Portland "Oregonian" of Dec. 20 said:

The grain dealers and exporters of Portland, through the Merchants' Exchange association, have asked the Chamber of Commerce to take no action in approval of the proposed export wheat subsidy plan until they have had an opportunity to present their views on the subject.

At a special meeting of the association at noon yesterday the following petition to the directors of the Chamber of Commerce was approved:

Resolution Is Adopted.

"We, the undersigned Merchants' Exchange of Portland, individual grain merchants and exporters, respectfully petition your honorable body not to take any action in indorsement of the plan submitted by the special committee of the Oregon State Bankers for the marketing and control of the entire wheat crop of the United States until we have had the opportunity of appearing before your body and presenting to your agricultural committee a brief on the subject.

"The plan has for its purpose the handling of export and domestic grain through a governmental agency. This is so foreign to the present world methods of marketing wheat that action should not be taken without a thorough understanding of its far-reaching effects. We do not believe that up to this time the plan has been given sufficient consideration to enable the Chamber of Commerce to act intelligently on the subject. It is our desire to present certain facts to your agricultural committee that we believe will have a vital bearing upon your decision.

Plan Is Opposed.

"We expect to be able to present facts that will be convincing that the plan proposed would be detrimental not only to the business interests of the country, but to the farmer as well."

The views of the grain trade on the subject are being drawn up in a brief which they expect to present to the chamber to-day.

In its issue of Dec. 8 the "Oregonian" stated:

The plan embraces the taxation of all wheat which leaves the farms in order to raise a premium which would be applied to the exported surplus of this commodity. Domestic prices are at present controlled by the price which is received for the exported wheat in the world market. Through the subsidy the price of export wheat would be raised and would in turn raise the price of the domestic commodity and give the farmer the desired return.

The plan is virtually that of the American Wheat Growers' Association, Inc., which was formulated at their meeting in Denver about a month ago. It was unanimously approved by the group representing banks, co-operatives, farm organizations and business interests.

The arguments of the grain trade in opposition to the proposal are furnished in the "Oregonian" of Dec. 21, and we quote therefrom as follows:

The brief of the grain trade of Portland against the so-called American Wheat Growers' associated plan for an export subsidy to relieve the grain situation was presented yesterday to the agricultural and legislative committees of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The committees, which are considering indorsement of the plan, will take a full week to make a study of the objections. The program was originally presented to them by a special committee of the Oregon Bankers' Association.

Briefly, what the plan proposes is the creation of a Government export corporation, empowered to tax all wheat in order to create a fund to be applied as a bonus upon that portion of the wheat which, as a surplus, is exported. This, with adequate tariff protection, would raise the price of domestic wheat sufficiently to provide the farmer with an adequate return for his grain, it is contended.

Representing the grain trade, through the Merchants' Exchange, the brief was presented over the signatures of Frank Shull, W. H. Wilson, I. C. Stanford, A. M. Choystale and N. A. Leach.

Arguments Are Given.

The arguments against the export subsidy program are discussed under two headings. They are:

"First, Under this plan is it possible to guarantee the producer of wheat a price for his goods which will assure a profit?"

"Second, Can marketing through co-operative associations be more beneficial to the farmer than the present competitive system, and should co-operative marketing be extended?"

Discussing the first question, the brief declares that "this proposal is nothing more nor less than price-fixing. This statement has been, and will be, most strenuously denied by the advocates of the plan. The sixth section of the proposed plan reads as follows: 'The tax and the premium to be subject to revision by the commission from year to year, depending upon the probable amount of the surplus, always so fixed that the price of wheat to the farmer will be maintained at a point equal in purchasing power to the pre-war value of the commodity.'

Price to Be Regulated.

"The purchasing power of the pre-war value of the commodity is presumably a known, fixed quantity. The price is to be regulated from year to year to equal this known, fixed quantity. The American Wheat Growers' Association, Inc., state that this is not price-fixing. They call it 'the reverse application of the tariff principle.' But the effect is the same. They propose to maintain the price at a fixed value, call it by any name that is desired.

"It is hardly necessary here to repeat the well-known arguments against price-fixing. Such must have been obvious to the advocates of the plan, for indirectly they admit such arguments and the impossibility of securing sufficient support to pass this measure if recognized as price-fixing. This they have done by their unwillingness to permit the proposal to be known under that name."

The argument continues to point out that even if the plan could be made to operate, it would be "objectionable for the following reasons:

Unsound, It Is Said.

"The plan is economically unsound. It is an artificial means of stimulating an industry in which there is already overproduction.

"The effect of such a measure would be cumulative. The burden to be artificially borne due to over-production would become greater and greater each year, and unless this plan was permanently adopted, all would end in economic disaster.

"The plan proposes class legislation. It contemplates an indirect tax upon the public at large of 23 cents per bushel upon each bushel of wheat produced through an increase in price to the domestic consumer. This amounts to a subsidy for the benefit of the people producing less than 12% of the total value of the country's principal farm crops (from the final estimates of the United States department of agriculture, Dec. 17 1923).

Grain Dealers Would Go.

"The plan will result in the practical confiscation of private property. It has been proven in the past few years that the co-operative marketing associations cannot hope to displace the private exporter or grain dealer in fair and open competition. However, this plan proposes to legislate the private exporter and grain merchant out of business. It is stated in support of the proposed plan that 'it will greatly assist the growth of co-operative marketing associations.' It is also stated 'it will leave to the co-operative marketing associations the problem of controlling orderly distribution of the domestic consumption.'

"It is a further entry of the federal government into private business. The present administration is pledged to stand aloof from the conduct of private business enterprises except for the correction of abusive tactics and illegal practices. There has been no claim made that such conditions exist in private and competitive handling of grain."

Discussing the second question relative to co-operative marketing, the brief says: "Co-operative marketing has never been able to displace the private and competitive system of grain handling in open competition.

Legislation Would Be Unfair.

"To force the extension of co-operative marketing through legislation is not only eminently unfair, but should certainly not be accomplished until the co-operative associations assume the burden of proof and show beyond a reasonable doubt that they can operate for as low a cost per bushel handled as the private dealer who handles an equal quantity of grain. The human race is so constituted that men have always worked and accomplished more for their own private gain than in the service of the public.

"Since the days of the corn laws in England, there have been many periodic attempts by legislation and otherwise to eliminate the private and competitive system of handling agricultural products. Such attempts have always been ended in expense, inefficient handling, and graft; and eventually the field has been opened once more to private and competitive handling. This is at least some evidence that in the long course of human affairs the problem can better be handled for the producer by private and competitive individuals under a small margin of profit.

Overhead Is Small.

"There is little or no room for the reduction of expense in the handling of grain. It is handled at present by private dealers at so low an overhead cost that even were all this overhead eliminated it would not appreciably help the farmer.

"Co-operative marketing, if extended, would open the door to still further class legislation and class evasion of monopolistic combinations prohibited by the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The proposed plan deals exclusively with wheat. Many farmers grow other crops such as corn, oats, rye, barley, flax and fruit. One farmer may raise but one crop and this of some commodity other than wheat. Every cereal mentioned is selling at a low price. It would not be long before we would be requested to fix the price for rye, corn, barley, oats, fruit and other commodities. When we have done this there are many branches of the milling business whose mills, idle since the war, may want a living price fixed for that commodity."

Included in the argument are a number of references to the part of the exporters in building up the port and the regulations which insure their efficient operation and prevent them from making exorbitant profits.

At a convention, in Eugene, Oregon, on December 20 of the Educational and Co-operative Farmers Union of Oregon the proposal to impose a tax on wheat in order to create a subsidy for the exported surplus was endorsed in a resolution introduced by the Committee on Marketing, headed by A. R. Shumway, ex-State President of the Union. It is stated that the Committee also urged grading and standardization of all products, and supported co-operative marketing associations of all kinds. The Union went on record as favoring a national co-operative marketing Act by Congress which would create crop pools and make warehouse receipts legal tender. Lower freight rates on farm products and machinery, as advocated by President Coolidge, were incorporated in the resolutions adopted.

In detailing the wheat subsidy plans approved at the Portland meeting Dec. 7, the "Oregonian" said:

As outlined by A. R. Shumway, President of the Oregon Grain Growers Co-operative Association, the Federal Government would assess a tax of 7 cents a bushel on all American-grown wheat which leaves the farms. This fund, which on approximately 700,000,000 bushels would amount to \$49,000,000, would be applied as a premium to the exportable wheat surplus, which is approximately 170,000,000 bushels, when billed for export. This would add approximately 30 cents a bushel to the price received for export

wheat, the amount thus added to the export price acting so as to place the domestic price 30 cents above the world price. The enhanced world price would be met by those desiring to purchase domestic wheat.

Creation of a United States export commission to handle the fund collected through railway and mail certified channels, would be created, together with the adjustment of the tariff wall to fit the new conditions. This would result in virtual application of the tariff principle to the product after the farmer sells as well as that which he buys, it is pointed out.

Tax Subject to Adjustment.

The amount of the tax would be subject to adjustment by the export commission, having the effect of reacting automatically toward the adjustment of the wheat acreage, because the larger the surplus the heavier the tax per bushel would necessarily become.

A proposal to set up a Government export commission, charged with the duty of disposing of the wheat or flour surplus was one of the proposals advanced in the annual report of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace; reference thereto was made in our issue of Dec. 15, page 2612.

American Wheat Growers Association Advocates Tax on Wheat.

Legislation designed to raise the price of American wheat 22½ cents a bushel by taxing domestic wheat 7½ cents a bushel and granting 30 cents a bushel premium on all wheat exported was proposed by the American Wheat Growers' Association in a letter addressed on Dec. 5 to Minnesota Congressmen by G. C. Jewett, General Manager. The press dispatches from Minneapolis said:

Under the plan proposed by Jewett, the wheat producers would pay a tax of 7½ cents on each bushel produced, creating a fund of \$52,500,000 on the present production of approximately 700,000,000 bushels.

This fund would be used by a Government commission to be created to pay the agency shipping wheat abroad a premium of 30 cents for each bushel exported, thus giving the farmer a net increase over the world price of 22½ cents a bushel.

It is Jewett's theory that this would tend to encourage exportation of wheat, as against domestic sale, and ultimately would force domestic consumers to meet the 30 cents export premium, thus giving wheat producers of this country a net price of 22½ cents over the Liverpool or world price.

Under Jewett's proposal the present tariff must be increased from 30 cents to 60 cents a bushel.

Bill Creating Wheat Stabilization Corporation With Capital of \$300,000,000 Introduced in Congress.

The creation of a wheat stabilization corporation with a capital stock of \$300,000,000 is proposed in a bill introduced on Dec. 6 by Senator Gooding (Republican) of Idaho. The corporation would be empowered to establish a minimum basic price of \$1.50 a bushel for No. 1 Northern spring wheat, which, it is figured, would stabilize the price of other wheat. For the purposes of the corporation there would be authorized expenditures out of the Federal Treasury not to exceed \$5,000,000 annually.

\$50,000,000 Live Stock Loan in Behalf of Wheat Farmers to be Sought in Congressional Legislation.

A Congressional appropriation of \$50,000,000 to be loaned to wheat growers of the Northwest to be used in the purchase of live stock will be advocated in the Senate and House as a result of a series of conferences participated in by the North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming Congressional delegations with agriculturists and business men from those States. According to Washington advices to the New York "Journal of Commerce" Dec. 19, the item says:

The general situation in the wheat country was discussed. It was declared that the generally adverse conditions are due in large part to the stimulation in wheat production fostered during the war by the Government. This is one of the grounds on which a claim for Government aid will be made, it is understood.

A committee consisting of one Representative and one Senator from each of these States was appointed to draft suitable legislation for presentation to Congress. The plan is to encourage diversification on the farms of the Northwest, substituting cattle, hogs and sheep in part for wheat.

Organization of Co-Operative Wheat Marketing Association in Kansas Approved.

Plans for the merger of the Farmers' Union Wheat Marketing Association and the Kansas Wheat Growers' Association, the two largest wheat co-operative marketing associations in Kansas, into a new organization to be known as the Kansas Co-operative Wheat Marketing Association were brought under way at a meeting in Topeka on Dec. 12, when plans for the formation of the new association were ratified by the organization committee. The Topeka "Capital" says:

Executives of the Farmers' Union and the Kansas Wheat Growers' co-operative associations have agreed to liquidate and merge with the new organization by May 24—if the new organization can sign up 32 million bushels of wheat by that time. That amount, added to what now is controlled by the two big co-operatives, would make 44 million bushels under the control of the new organization.

Aaron Sapiro of Chicago addressed the meeting, and is quoted in the "Capital" as saying:

The wheat problem of America depends on Kansas. Kansas is the key State. With Kansas unorganized nothing can be accomplished in the other States. With Kansas organized the fight is half won.

Upon your attitude here to-day depends to a larger degree the future of the wheat grower in America.

Through co-operative marketing you endeavor to raise the general price level of wheat. The merchant will tell you the price of any commodity is determined by supply and demand. If you press him further he will add the two factors: time and place. In other words the price of a given commodity is determined by the supply and demand of that commodity plus the place the specific article is located and the time it is disposed of.

Commodity Basis Needed.

Co-operative wheat marketing will not succeed except upon the commodity basis. We must think in terms of the State's and the nation's supply.

That supply must be released systematically so the market will not be flooded. There must not be a surplus on the market, because a surplus beats down the price. The present method permits the surplus to be held in the hands of grain manipulators. Under the commodity system of co-operative marketing an even flow of the grain is maintained. There is no surplus for the grain dealers, for the farmer holds the surplus; the association will not sell enough at any one time to create a surplus. Orderly marketing solves the problem.

This has been the case in the fruit and tobacco industries. It will work in wheat.

Each State must organize itself, and we are starting in Kansas. When each State has organized then it will be possible to co-ordinate with the national organization and thus control the marketing of the entire crop in the United States.

If Kansas cannot sign 44 million bushels by May 24 1924, it means the project will not go over this year. But Kansas can sign one-third of its production in that time, Alberta, a province in Canada, signed up 25,000 growers, representing 45% of the entire crop, in only three weeks this fall. They were not so well prepared for co-operative marketing as Kansas.

Harmony, Not Leaders, Lacking.

Kansas never has lacked leaders. It has lacked harmony. This is critical day. If Kansas does not want to market its wheat co-operatively, then the matter will be dropped. If it takes more raps than the Kansas farmers have got the past two years to make them want a change, they probably can have more of it.

The same paper says:

At the conclusion of Sapiro's address Andrew Shearer, of Marshall County formerly a member of the State legislature, moved the adoption of Sapiro's plan. This carried unanimously.

Officers were elected and the executive committee then adopted the form of contract presented by Sapiro.

Sapiro's plan was submitted to the organization committee of the tentative association in Memorial hall yesterday morning. It includes all the main factors of the co-operative wheat contracts now in use by the two leading organizations in Kansas.

These five main points in the new contract were agreed to, outside of which it follows closely the well known forms:

- (1) Wichita will be the headquarters of the new association.
- (2) Membership is \$10 a person.
- (3) It will be necessary to sign up 44 millions bushels of wheat before the contracts are binding.
- (4) That amount of wheat must be secured by May 24 1924.
- (5) The association will have 21 directors, 20 of whom will be elected by members of the association which will be divided into 20 districts, and one appointed by the governor of Kansas.

Lansdon Elected Chairman.

W. C. Lansdon of Saline County was elected chairman of the executive committee. Sen. E. E. Frizell of Pawnee County is vice chairman, and B. E. Corporon of Sedgwick County is secretary-treasurer.

The executive committee of five includes: Forrest Luther of Gray County, Walter H. Cappel of Neosho County, Simon Fishman of Greeley County, W. P. Lambertson of Brown County and C. J. Cox of Sedgwick County.

The factional fight existing among the various farm organizations of the State did not make its appearance at the meeting yesterday. Practically every farm organization in Kansas is represented on the executive committee. Every farm organization in Kansas is represented on the organization committee.

Diversification and Co-Operative Marketing Only Sound Basis for Agricultural Prosperity, According to Commissioner Cooper of Federal Farm Loan Board.

The belief that "diversification and co-operative marketing furnish the only sound basis for agricultural prosperity" is expressed by the Federal Farm Loan Board in a statement issued on Dec. 19 in behalf of the Board by Federal Farm Loan Commissioner Cooper. The views of the Board were based on data supplied by the twelve Federal Land Bank Presidents, following the conclusion of their winter conference in Washington. The statement of Commissioner Cooper said:

Agricultural conditions on the whole continue to improve, although there are sections which, on account of partial crop failure, the low price of the principal crop or scarcity of labor, are not prosperous. These, of course, include only a fractional part of the total farming area. The fruit growers and cattle raisers appear to be the most unfortunate. The wheat farmer, on the whole, has not had a prosperous year. Federal Intermediate Credit banks have been able to help many co-operative associations, and are taking on a considerable volume of discounts for agricultural credit corporations as well as banking institutions. Farm Loan Board is gratified at the showing which the different banks have made. Reports, on the whole, indicate steady improvement in agricultural conditions. There is every reason to believe that this improvement will continue. The most encouraging part of the report to the Board is the tendency throughout the United States to diversified farming. It is our belief that diversification and co-operative marketing furnish the only sound basis for agricultural prosperity.

Collections, it is stated, were described as most satisfactory in almost all sections, and this was accepted as indicating that the farmers are getting on their feet financially.

Conditions outlook by districts are summarized as follows, according to the "Wall Street Journal":

New England, New York and New Jersey: General improvement, but high wages in industries cause shortage of farm labor. Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania: General conditions favorable, farm products have advanced. Growers Co-operative Association has been granted loans of \$5,500,000.

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida: Agricultural conditions better than for three years. Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee: Conditions have materially improved, though cost of farm labor in industrial sections still present a program. Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama: Conditions better than a year ago, though cotton has suffered severely from boll weevil and unfavorable weather. Sugar and rice situation more favorable. No serious shortage of farm labor, with diversification noticeable.

Diversification Encouraging.

Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas: General conditions slightly improved over last year. Tendency toward diversification every encouraging.

Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin: Agricultural and economic conditions satisfactory except in northwest Minnesota, and in North Dakota, where wheat, the principal crop, was seriously injured by black rust. In North Dakota diversification and good prices indicate improved conditions.

Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming: Conditions generally satisfactory except in northern South Dakota, where the wheat crop is of poor quality. Prices for livestock, poultry and dairy products satisfactory. Cattle ranchmen are slowly recovering from losses sustained from 1919 to 1922. Collections good.

Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma: Agricultural conditions have materially improved over last year. Texas: General conditions better than a year ago. Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah: Conditions, as a whole, not so good as last year. Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington: Agricultural conditions better than last year.

National Farm Labor Union Would Have Congress Inquire into Loans of Intermediate Credit Banks— Favors Crop Insurance Legislation.

At a meeting in Texarkana (Texas), Dec. 19, the National Farm Labor Union adopted resolutions requesting the House Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate rates of interest charged for short term loans and the extent to which the Intermediate Credit banks are meeting the needs of farmers for this kind of credit. Other resolutions adopted at the convention are indicated as follows in the "Arkansas Gazette" of Little Rock:

The resolutions also endorse the Norris-Sinclair Federal market bill now pending in Congress, a system of crop insurance against crop losses not within control of the farmer, to be provided and operated a cost through the Federal Government; opposing official or unofficial participation by the Government of the United States in the internal affairs of any foreign country, or any alliance by which the nation might be required to furnish troops, naval aid or financial credits in any way, but favoring co-operation with other Governments to secure the free interchange of agricultural and manufactured products; demanding the repeal of the Esch-Cummins Transportation Act and operation of the railroads "for unified public service instead of private and speculative profit," demanding the removal of administration of the Packer and Stock Yards Act of 1920 from the Department of Agriculture and its future administration by the Federal Trade Commission; demanding "the early exemption from taxes for State and local purposes of improvements in and on farm lands, such as houses, buildings, silos, crops, &c., and taxing unused lands at the same rate as used land of the same sort to prevent land speculation and to facilitate and encourage farm home ownership.

Cyrus H. K. Curtis Acquires Ownership of New York "Evening Post."

Announcement that negotiations had been concluded whereby the ownership of the New York "Evening Post" is acquired by Cyrus H. K. Curtis of Philadelphia was made on Dec. 21 by E. F. Gay, President of the New York Evening Post, Inc., in the following statement:

Edwin F. Gay, President of the New York Evening Post, Inc., announced that at a meeting of the stockholders of the corporation, held this afternoon, the offer of Mr. Cyrus H. K. Curtis of Philadelphia to purchase the New York "Evening Post" was accepted. A statement by Mr. Curtis will be published on the editorial page of the "Evening Post" to-morrow, Saturday, Dec. 22.

Mr. Curtis, who is the owner of the Philadelphia "Public Ledger," the "Saturday Evening Post," the "Ladies Home Journal" and other publications, announced as follows in the New York "Evening Post" of Dec. 22 his acquisition of ownership of that paper:

NOTICE TO READERS.

By arrangement just completed with the present owners, I shall assume the sole ownership and direction of the New York "Evening Post" on and after Jan. 1 1924.

I know and respect the great traditions of the "Post" reaching back nearly a century and a quarter, and I wish to preserve and if possible strengthen them. I believe that there is room in this community for an evening newspaper which will devote itself exclusively to the business of telling the daily news promptly, accurately, intelligently, and readably without prejudice and without fear of the truth.

To accomplish this purpose the "Post" will have the ablest obtainable local, domestic, and foreign news and editorial staffs, with staff cable and wireless correspondents in all the principal news centres of the world.

CYRUS H. K. CURTIS.

New York, Dec. 22 1923.

It was just about two years ago—in January 1922—that a change in the ownership of the "New York Evening Post" occurred, Thomas W. Lamont (as reported in our issue of

Jan. 14 1922, page 162) having then disposed of his stock interests in the paper (acquired in 1918), to a group of citizens. The management at the time Mr. Lamont relinquished his interest was continued unchanged under Mr. Gay. In its account of Mr. Curtis' purchase, the New York "Times" of Dec. 22, said:

The purchase price was not made public. A report was current that Mr. Curtis would pay \$600,000 cash and \$1,000,000 in notes to Thomas W. Lamont, but no confirmation of this could be obtained from any source. A little less than two years ago Mr. Lamont, who is a partner of J. P. Morgan & Co., sold "The Evening Post" to a syndicate, disposing of the stock but retaining bonds of the corporation. So far as could be learned, the members of the syndicate will receive little return in the present sale for money which they invested to carry on the newspaper.

Mr. Lamont declined to discuss the sale of the newspaper. Mr. Gay also declined to discuss the sale outside of his formal statement. Mr. Curtis, who was in the city earlier in the day, was said to have returned to Philadelphia. It was said at "The Evening Post" office that he would take over the paper just as soon as the necessary papers could be executed.

Mr. Lamont purchased "The Evening Post" from Oswald Garrison Villard and other stockholders on Aug. 1 1918, for \$1,000,000. He is understood to have spent a great deal of money in developing the property.

On Dec. 26, incorporation papers of "The New York Evening Post" were filed with County Clerk James A. Donegan. The company will have 20,000 shares of preferred stock at \$100 a share and 10,000 shares of common stock without par value. The incorporators are Cyrus H. K. Curtis, John C. Martin, both of 600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, who subscribed for ten shares, and Hugh Burke of 266 Madison Avenue, who subscribed for the same amount. In addition to Mr. Curtis, Mr. Martin and Mr. Burke, the names of the directors until the first annual meeting are David L. Smiley and Charles A. Tyler, whose addresses are also given as 600 Chestnut, Philadelphia.

The history of the paper is outlined as follows in the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" of Dec. 22.

The "Evening Post" was founded in November 1801 by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and other leaders of the Federalist Party to counteract the political disasters which their party had suffered the previous year. It is the oldest newspaper in New York City. Originally conceived as a party organ, it gradually underwent the changes of time and expansion until it became one of the most independent papers in the United States.

Its first Editor was William Coleman, a native of Massachusetts and prominent New York attorney. He created a standard of literary excellence that was strengthened in successive years by the efforts of William Cullen Bryant, John Bigelow, Carl Schurz, George P. Morris, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Joseph Rodman Drake, Edwin Lawrence Godkin, Henry Villard and his son, Oswald Garrison Villard. It was the "Post" that served in 1809 as the medium of Washington Irving's ingenious advertisements of his forthcoming "History by Diedrich Knickerbocker." And it was the same paper that first published Drake's patriotic poem, "The American Flag," ten years later.

Hamilton's Early Work.

Although Coleman, who was a personal friend and political adherent of Hamilton, was Editor, Hamilton not only controlled the policy of the paper on all political matters, but was the author of many of its most notable editorials. Some of these were written by his own hand, and whatever time he could spare from his professional duties was given over to the newspaper.

He had daily councils with Coleman, generally at his own home, but sometimes in the "Evening Post" office. After Hamilton's untimely death in July 1804 at the hands of Aaron Burr, Coleman continued to edit the paper. His ability was literary rather than political, and the paper reflected his tastes. Many contributors were attracted during these years and questions of national and State interest were discussed in the columns. Gradually the paper became the favorite journal of the literary classes.

History Under Bryant.

In 1826 William Cullen Bryant became one of its editors, and in the following year a proprietor with Coleman and Michael Burnham, who had been the publisher from the beginning.

Soon afterward the paper began to agitate the question of free trade. It was at that time the only journal north of the Potomac that opposed a protective tariff. In contending against the policy of protection, it gradually fell into a position of hostility to the Administration of John Quincy Adams, and in the election of 1828 it supported Andrew Jackson, who had declared himself in favor of a "judicious" tariff, by which his friends understood him to mean a mitigation of the existing duties.

Bryant became editor-in-chief in 1829, following the death of Coleman. William Liggett, who had earned a wide reputation as a writer through his weekly journal, the "Critic," was engaged as assistant editor. He retired in 1836, and Parke Godwin, who later became Bryant's son-in-law, began his long association with the paper.

When the anti-Abolition riots occurred in 1834, the "Post" advocated free speech and the right of assembling, and, as the lawlessness increased, took bolder ground and insisted that the evils of slavery were so great that the Abolitionists were worthy of praise in striving for its extinction. It was quite natural, therefore, that the "Post" should support the Republican Party when it was organized in 1856.

The "Post" vigorously detested the war for the Union, and incidentally regained thereby much of the advertising it had lost by its stand on the question of slavery, a loss directly traceable to the fear entertained by many New York merchants that they would offend their Southern customers if they advertised their goods in a paper opposed to slavery.

Early in the war John Bigelow, an associate editor and part proprietor since 1849, sold his interest to Godwin, who retired from active connection with the paper in 1865. Upon the death of Bryant, in 1878, the poet's son-in-law returned as editor.

After the war the paper supported a policy of reconciliation as essential to a stable reconstruction of the States lately in rebellion, and it severely condemned some high-handed acts of the Grant Administration, such as the use of Federal troops to suppress political troubles in Louisiana. It also advocated the resumption of specie payments.

In 1881 the "Post" was reorganized by the late Henry Villard, who purchased the paper from Godwin (then controlling the Bryant interest as well as his own) and Isaac Henderson, for many years the publisher. In accordance with Villard's plan from his conception of the project, Carl Schurz became editor, with E. L. Godkin and Horace White as assistants.

At the same time the "Nation," of which Godkin had been the editor was consolidated with the Post, as its weekly edition.

In the autumn of 1883 Schurz retired from the editorship and was succeeded by Godkin, whose falling health compelled him to sever his connection with the "Post" in 1899. Godkin was succeeded by White, who resigned on Jan. 1 1903, and was succeeded by Rollo Ogden.

One of the most notable events in the history of the "Evening Post" under the new management was its opposition to the candidacy of James G. Blaine for the Presidency. It opened the anti-Blaine campaign by an editorial article as early as April 1884, and it contributed largely to the election in the following autumn of Grover Cleveland, whom it supported also in 1888 and 1892. On the financial issue raised by the nomination of Bryan for the Presidency, in 1896, it supported McKinley. It had opposed the McKinley Tariff and the Sherman Silver Bill.

On Aug. 2 1918 it was announced that Oswald Garrison Villard, son of the former publisher, who had inherited the "Evening Post" on his father's death, had sold the paper to Thomas W. Lamont, of the banking firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., whose brother, Hammond Lamont, had been its managing editor. The control of the stock Mr. Lamont placed in the hands of a board of three trustees, Theodore N. Vail, President of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.; Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; and Ellery Sedgwick, editor of the "Atlantic Monthly."

On Jan. 13 1922 Mr. Lamont announced that he had sold the paper to a group of thirty-four persons. Edwin F. Gay was head of the syndicate, which included Harold Phelps Stokes, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marshall Field, Finley J. Shepard, George W. Wickersham and Paul M. Warburg.

The "Evening Post" has occupied its present home at 20 Vesey Street opposite old St. Paul's Church in lower Broadway since 1907, when it was moved from the corner of Fulton and Broadway, half a block away.

Death of Frank I. Cobb, Editor of the New York "World."

Frank Irving Cobb, Editor of the New York "World" for the past 12 years, died at his home in this city on Dec. 21 following a long illness. A paragraph in the notice regarding Mr. Cobb's death, appearing in the "World" last Saturday, said:

A leading spirit in the "World's" editorial council for nearly 20 years, Mr. Cobb became editor of this newspaper about 12 years ago, succeeding to the position following the death of its founder, Joseph Pulitzer. Described by the late Henry Watterson as the "strongest writer of the New York press since Horace Greeley," Mr. Cobb came to the "World" when a very young man, quickly attaining distinction.

In addition to the article, Ralph Pulitzer paid the following tribute to his late associate:

In Frank I. Cobb I have lost a tender and devoted friend. Journalism has lost an editor of sheer genius and the nation an American who will leave an emptiness where he stood.

He gave the "World" his love and his life. He gave it his work in a spirit of worship. In the days of his health he spent his magnificent strength without stint in its service. In later days of tired suffering, as long as his ebbing strength could still carry him to his desk, it was his work alone that he found forgetfulness of his pain.

He had a giant body and a giant brain, and the simple directness of a little child. He spent his life fighting wrong and he fought it simply and fiercely, but all the wounds he left healed clean. Everything he handled became simple in his handling of it. Sometimes he would simplify a bewildering situation or a tangled thought with one easy touch of intuitive analysis. Sometimes he would labor with his might on some cunningly elusive subtlety, and in the end his directness would simplify it into surrender.

He thought simply and hated sophistry. He wrote simply and hated florid phrases. He lived simply and hated fuss and feathers. He succeeded simply and became a power and a personality in the United States, writing editorials he did not sign in a paper he did not own.

The simplicity of his mind, the modesty of his heart, the integrity of his spirit lived with him. But they will not die with him. They are already preserved as a bright tradition among those of us who had the honor of working with him and for those who will come after us.

RALPH PULITZER.

Messages, not alone from newspaper men, but from President Coolidge and others prominent in various walks of life, were received by Mrs. Cobb deploring the death of her husband; that of President Coolidge said:

The White House, Washington.

Mrs. Frank Irving Cobb:—

The news of your distinguished husband's death has just reached me. I want you to know of the high esteem in which I have long held him and his work. His death removes one of the great journalists of his time and one of the real powers in shaping American public opinion. My condolences and profoundest sympathy go out to you in your time of great sorrow.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

Former President Wilson sent the following message:

It gives me the deepest grief to learn of the death of your gifted husband. I had learned both to admire and to love him. Pray accept my heartfelt sympathy.

WOODROW WILSON.

Governor Alfred E. Smith and former Governor Nathan L. Miller were among the honorary pallbearers. Mr. Cobb was born in Shawnee County, Kansas, Aug. 6 1869.

Inter-State Commerce Commission's Order Authorizing Extension of Virginian Railway—Former Order Reversed.

The recent action of the Inter-State Commerce Commission reversing a former ruling of a committee of the Commission under which the Virginian Railway had been denied permission to construct an extension of its line in Wyoming County, West Virginia, is commented upon at length in the "Manufacturers Record," which has the following to say in the matter:

The full Board of the Inter-State Commerce Commission has reversed the former ruling made by a committee of that Board which forbade the building by the Virginian Railway of a short spur track to a coal property which the owners proposed to develop. When the ruling was announced last spring, based on the alleged fact that there were already too many coal mines in operation in this country with inadequate car equipment for handling the coal of existing mines, the "Manufacturers Record" took the ground very emphatically that this decision undertook to make null and void the Constitution of the United States in that it sought by its power to prevent the development of a coal property and thus practically for the time being destroyed its value.

We said then that notwithstanding the technicality of the law under which the committee acted, the broad principles which should guide the Inter-State Commerce Commission should not permit them to refuse a railroad authority to build a short line in order to reach property to be developed, and that it was not the province of the Inter-State Commerce Commission to decide whether there were too many coal mines in operation or not.

The excuse has been made that the committee in reaching its decision took the ground that the Virginian Railway had made merely a formal request and had presented no argument to show why the privilege of this extension should be granted. In reply to that the "Manufacturers Record" said that as the Virginian Railway had spent \$40,000 several years ago and only desired to spend \$20,000 more to complete this short track, no one for a moment could imagine that any argument was necessary to secure the approval of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, and the application was regarded purely, we presume, as a formal matter merely because the law so required.

At that time we urged the Virginian Railway in the interest of the country as well as for its individual interest to protest against the ruling, and to apply to the full Board of the Inter-State Commerce Commission. This was done, and the full Board has now reversed the decision of last spring and granted that road permission to complete the short spur track.

It is stated that in reaching this decision the Commission declared that evidence had been produced showing conclusively that the railroad would be able to increase its coal tonnage extensively by reason of additional facilities acquired and anticipated, and that present and future public convenience and necessity required the new construction involved, and the railroad was authorized to proceed.

While having the highest opinion for the good judgment in most cases, and the unquestionable integrity of the members of the committee that decided adversely last spring, we have never been able to see any fundamental reason whatever in behalf of the position then taken. The arguments which they have advanced are not to our mind correct in any particular. We do not believe that the law ever intended or that the law as it exists gives any right to the Commission to say that a railroad shall not make an extension of this kind, when in the judgment of its officers a new field for traffic can thereby be developed and an enlarged coal output secured at a lower cost.

If there are too many coal mines in existence as members of the committee have claimed, many of them being unable to mine coal except at a high price, then the economic way in which to change this situation is to permit low cost mines to be opened and in this way gradually eliminate the high cost mines. Any arbitrary attempt to do this by the regulation of railroad building is, we believe, contrary to good judgment, if not contrary to the Constitution itself.

In the detailed report of the Inter-State Commerce Commission explaining the reason for reversing its decision information is given as submitted by the railway company as to the reasons why the road had been hampered in the handling of coal by the railroad strike and the conditions arising therefrom. It is also shown that the company is now building a new coal pier at Sewall's Point, Norfolk, at a cost of \$3,250,000, which will more than double the railroad's coal handling capacity at deep water, and that a contract has been made to electrify the line from Mullins, W. Va., to Roanoke, a distance of 134 miles, at a cost of \$13,000,000. These are given as the reasons for reversing the decision. There is not a single fact, however, in this statement by the Inter-State Commerce Commission which that Commission could not have learned at the time of the former application if it had been seeking reasons for granting this permission instead of seeking reasons to prevent giving the railroad the authority to build.

The plea of the Inter-State Commerce Commission committee that none of these facts were presented to it at that time but that merely a formal application was presented without any argument in favor thereof, it seems to us, is a plea of extreme weakness.

If this committee had been eager to get at all facts it could have easily asked the railroad for all of the information that it now quotes as reason for its reversed decision. Or if it had read the "Manufacturers Record" it would have found all of this information as to electrification of the Virginian's lines and the enlargement of its coal shipping facilities at Norfolk, and of its own knowledge it should have fully appreciated the difficulties under which the road had operated during the railroad strikes. Instead of doing this, however, the committee without investigation, without seeking any argument from the Virginian Railway, without using any of the facts in regard to the conditions which it now mentions and which existed then just as they do now, acted upon preconceived notions that there were too many coal mines in operation and that it had the power to prevent the building of new railroads for the opening of new coal mines.

That position we regarded as extremely inimical to the welfare of the country, and esteeming as personal friends members of the committee who rendered that decision, we regret the necessity of saying that in our opinion they acted without due judgment or consideration for the welfare of the public.

Brief reference to the action of the Commission in authorizing on Dec. 10 "an extension of its Guyandot River branch from its present terminus, 1.25 miles from Elmore, in a westerly direction down Guyandot River, a distance of 1.19 miles, all in Wyoming County, W. Va.," appeared in our issue of Saturday last, page 2772. Noting that the order denying the application had been issued June 25 1923, the Commission in its report of the 10th inst. says:

The applicant filed a petition for rehearing and asked that the case be reopened for the introduction of evidence. The Pocahontas Fuel Co., Inc., asked leave to intervene and for a rehearing. The proceeding was reopened, the Pocahontas Fuel Co. was given leave to intervene, and a further hearing was held. The former record, supplemented by additional evidence introduced at the further hearing, is now before us for consideration. In our previous report we said:

"The applicant is not now, nor has it in the past been, able to furnish the number of cars ordered by the mines already opened and dependent upon it in whole or in part for car supply. During the weekly periods from July 22 1922 to June 9 1923 it in no instance furnished cars in excess of 74% of those required, and during only six weeks was the average percentage in excess of 70%. For 28 weeks of the above period the cars furnished the mines were less than 50% of the requirements. The opening of new mines would not, therefore, increase the coal supply; in fact, it

would reduce it unless the applicant's car supply were greatly increased. There are at present more mines in the country than are consistent with the most efficient use of carriers' equipment, and their aggregate capacity exceeds greatly the country's demand. With the applicant not now in a position to adequately serve the mines already dependent upon it for cars, the opening of new mines would necessarily mean that the already inadequate car supply would be made more inadequate because of the necessity of placing cars at the new mines. This makes more difficult the process of distribution, as the cars in service can not be handled as efficiently, not can as much coal be transported in the aggregate, as if fewer mines were demanding service."

The applicant admits that it was unable to furnish an adequate car supply during the period covered by our former report. It claims that this inability was due to abnormal conditions; that the deficiency in its service was less than indicated; and that under normal conditions it would have been able to furnish an adequate car supply. The evidence shows that from early in April to Sept. 1 1922 the strike of bituminous coal miners in union fields caused an extraordinary demand for coal from mines on the applicant's line, which were generally worked by non-union labor. This not only increased the demand for cars, but resulted in sending an unusually large percentage of the applicant's cars to foreign lines for movement over exceptionally long distances, thus slowing down the return of the empties. About 86% of the coal hauled by the applicant is usually moved to tidewater over its own line. It appears that normally the applicant should have about 700 coal cars off its line, but that this number was largely exceeded during the period under consideration. From August 1922 to February 1923, inclusive, the average number of the applicant's coal cars off its line was 1,842, and the average number of foreign coal cars on its rails was 154. From March to June 1923, inclusive, the figures were, respectively, 1,294 and 134.

On July 1 1922 the strike of the federated shop crafts began, and 96% of the applicant's forces employed in maintaining equipment quit work. It is represented that normal working conditions in the shops were not restored until March 25 1923 and that during the strike it was impossible to maintain equipment properly. Just east of the coal fields there is a 2.07% grade 14 miles long ascending east. Freight trains are operated over this grade with the help of heavy locomotives, whose maintenance requires great mechanical skill. The applicant owns 10 such locomotives. While the strike was in progress it directed its best efforts toward keeping them in serviceable condition, but found it impossible to do so, and its ability to furnish cars to the mines was limited by its ability to move the loaded cars.

In 1922-1923 the applicant owned 1,000 coal cars of 120 tons capacity, designed and used solely to transport coal to tidewater. During this period it became necessary to withdraw from service 490 of these cars for heavy repairs. The repairs proved insufficient and the cars were again withdrawn long enough to mark them with a line limiting loading to 80 tons. For some time these cars were operated at two-thirds of original capacity, but they were later restored to full capacity by fitting them with new trucks. The withdrawal of these cars from service and their operation at reduced capacity is estimated to have cost 123,767 car days between April 1922 and September 1923. It appears that the applicant owned 3,500 drop-bottom cars, of which 2,134 required extraordinary repairs in the year ending June 30 1923. The applicant estimates that these two classes of extraordinary car repairs diminished the annual carrying capacity of its coal cars 20.4%.

It is contended that until Mar. 19 1923 the demands for coal cars were based on inflated mine ratings made under the car service rules contained in C. S. 31, Revised, being the rules adopted under the United States Railroad Administration, and that consequently the percentage of car supply was shown much lower than it should have been. The applicant claims that the total daily rating of mines on its line, under this system of mine ratings was sometimes as high as 1,820 cars, while the greatest number of cars ever loaded in one day did not exceed 1,050. The normal daily loading, with good conditions as to markets and car supply on both the applicant's line and the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, is about 750 cars. The record apparently warrants the conclusion that the demand for cars generally exceeds the needs of shippers. More than one-half of the mines on the applicant's line, with much more than one-half of the total output, are served by more than one railroad. The other railroad, except in the case of one mine, is the Chesapeake & Ohio. The joint mines are rated at full capacity by each railroad, but their tonnage is normally divided about equally between the two. The probable requirement of cars from the applicant at any time is therefore less than 75% of its total mine ratings. The applicant claims that its car supply has been reasonably adequate except for the period covered by our former report.

The amount of coal loaded at West Virginia mines on the applicant's lines increased from 2,598,338 tons in 1911 to 7,612,309 tons in 1920. The tonnage for 1923 is estimated at 8,500,000 tons. The tractive power of locomotives owned on Jan. 1 1922 has been increased 16.4% by the purchase of 15 Mallet locomotives, which were delivered between July 1 and Sept. 1 1923. On April 18 1923 the applicant ordered 1,000 steel coal cars of 120 tons capacity and 500 of 70 tons capacity, and it is represented that these cars will add 30% to its coal car capacity. A new coal pier is under construction at Sewall's Point, which will more than double the applicant's dumping capacity at deep water. This pier will cost \$3,250,000 and is expected to be ready for operation by June 1 1924. A contract has been made to electrify the line from Mullens, W. Va., to Roanoke, Va., a distance of 134 miles, which includes the 14 miles of 2.07% adverse grade. This project will cost approximately \$13,000,000. The electrification will probably be completed early in 1925, and it is predicted that it will immediately increase the carrying capacity about 60%. The record contains further testimony tending to show a progressive policy in providing facilities for a large increase in coal traffic.

The applicant represents that its railroad was designed primarily to transport coal, and was constructed at heavy cost across a territory affording but a light general traffic; that coal constitutes about 90% of its traffic, and much of the rest is dependent upon the coal mining industry. In its opinion the future prosperity of its property requires it to develop the resources of the coal fields.

The line which the applicant desires to complete is a part of its Guyandot River branch, which was planned to extend from Elmore, a point on its main line, down Guyandot River to Gilbert, W. Va., a distance of 42.6 miles. This line was located in 1902-1903. About 90% of the right-of-way has been acquired, the deeds thereto bearing dates from June 1903 to June 1908. On May 11 1917 the applicant made a contract with the Pocahontas Consolidated Collieries Co., Inc., now known as the Pocahontas Fuel Co., Inc., hereinafter called the coal company, by which it agreed to build an extension or branch from its main line at or near Elmore down Guyandot River to the coal operations of the coal company. The applicant undertook to begin construction about June 1 1917 and to complete it as soon as practicable. The purpose of the proposed construction was to exploit the coal underlying about 6,000 acres of land leased to the coal company. Under this contract the applicant constructed the roadbed of its Guyandot River branch for a distance of 2.55 miles from Elmore, but laid the main track a distance of 1.26 miles only. This, with the necessary sidings, was found sufficient to serve the development of the coal company as then carried out under temporary plans designed to speed production. The present application is for

authority to extend this track 1.19 miles along the roadbed heretofore constructed. It is shown that the economical exploitation of the coal company's property requires that about one-half of it shall be mined from a new tippie; and that the coal company, in the early development of its property, built two villages and made other expenditures in accordance with a plan for the development of its whole property, with two or more tipples. It appears that the coal company cannot continue economically its present method of developing its properties, and it desires to erect a new tippie at a site fixed in its original plans, to be served by the proposed extension. It did considerable grading at this site in 1917, and in February 1923 let a contract for the construction of a bridge across Guyandot River to carry mine cars from one of its tracts to the proposed tippie. Apparently the coal company, if deprived of the opportunity to work its properties from the proposed new tippie, would lose the value of large expenditures it has made, and would probably lose the value of some of its leases.

The coal company mines only what is known as Pocahontas smokeless coal, which has certain special properties. Many of the mines in the Pocahontas field were opened before 1900. It is stated that their production is declining and that new mines are not being opened rapidly enough to supply the deficiency. The coal company represents that it has expended large sums in building up a market for its coal, including a very considerable foreign demand, and that it can hold the position it has acquired only by having the capacity to supply the demands of its markets. It leases about 30,000 acres of coal-bearing lands and operates 15 mines. From 1913 to 1922, inclusive, the average annual output of all of its mines was 2,947,645 tons. It asserts that it is necessary to open new mines to maintain its normal tonnage and to permit a reasonable increase, or at least some elasticity of production, to care for varying market demands. The company's producing mines reached comparatively full development in 1917, and it is not expected that their output will be materially increased.

The construction cost is estimated by the applicant at \$63,012, of which \$40,312 has been expended for work done in 1917 and 1918. Gross system revenues to be derived from traffic created by the proposed construction are estimated by the applicant at \$226,000 for the first year, increasing to \$1,130,000 the fifth year. After the first five years the minimum annual revenues are expected to equal those of the fifth year. The increase in system net railway operating income is estimated at \$77,309 the first year, and \$393,234 the fifth year. The construction cost will be financed temporarily with treasury funds, but it is contemplated that the treasury will be reimbursed later by the issue of bonds under the applicant's first mortgage to an amount equal to the construction cost, but not exceeding \$50,000 a mile. It is proposed to begin construction as soon as authority therefor is received, and to complete the line within one month thereafter.

Upon the facts presented we find that the present and future public convenience and necessity require the construction by the applicant of the extension of its line of railroad described in the application. A certificate to that effect will be issued.

Train Service Men to Continue Efforts for Wage Increase.

The brotherhoods of locomotive engineers, firemen and trainmen, which recently presented demands to the railroads for a wage increase of 12%, announced on Dec. 26 that negotiations begun several weeks ago will be carried to a conclusion. This announcement was said to have been occasioned by reports that the settlement reached by engineers on the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific with that carrier, on the basis of last year's pay, might be misconstrued as indicating the attitude or probable course of negotiations by the brotherhoods with other roads. The brotherhoods also declared emphatically that there was no foundation for widely circulated reports that the train service men were preparing to strike. In confirming the announcement of the Rock Island management several days ago that its engineers had signed a contract for another year at last year's wages, Warren S. Stone, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, explained that no increase had been asked for by the engineers on that system. The settlement applied only to the engineers, he said. "That will have no bearing on our negotiations with the New York Central Lines or any other road," Mr. Stone said, "but the railroad managements are trying to use it. We will return to New York Jan. 3 to resume conferences with the New York Central Lines for wage increases where they were adjourned for the Christmas holidays. "The Engineers' Brotherhood this year made no concerted wage demands and allowed the organization of each road to handle their wage question."

D. B. Robertson, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, who is handling the wage demands of his men jointly with Mr. Stone and the engineers, said, according to the daily papers, that the firemen on the Rock Island had not agreed on a settlement. Demands for increases on that line have been filed, he continued, and "the Rock Island firemen do not intend to settle for the old wage." The trainmen and conductors, who are handling their wage negotiations with the various railroads together, will go back into conference with the New York Central system in New York shortly after the first of the year, according to W. G. Lee, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

The attitude of the railroads on the wage situation was indicated in the following from the New York "Times" on Dec. 28:

The opinion among railway officials here yesterday as to the possibility of a general wage settlement with the Big Four Brotherhoods on the basis of that made by the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific was in direct contrast to that expressed by Warren S. Stone, President of the Brotherhood of

Locomotive Engineers at Cleveland, Wednesday. Mr. Stone declared that he did not consider that the settlement with the Rock Island on a basis of last year's wages would have any effect on the rest of the roads. The executives, however, pointed out that the New York Central had practically effected a settlement along lines very much similar to those of the Rock Island contract. This will be based on the old wage scale, with either side permitted to call for a cancellation of the contract on thirty days' notice.

Four or five other railroads, one executive in close touch with the labor matters reported yesterday, have practically reached similar settlements with their men. In each case the men said that last year's wage scale was satisfactory provided it was approved by the national officers.

Railroad Brotherhood's Suit Seeking Recognition from Pennsylvania RR. Dismissed by the United States District Court—No Authority to Enforce Labor Board's Orders, Says Judge Dickinson—Decision Appealed.

The suit of the Brotherhood of Clerks, Freight Handlers and Station Employees of the Pennsylvania RR. to compel the road officials to recognize their delegates in conferences on wages and conditions was dismissed by the Federal Court at Philadelphia on Dec. 21. The Brotherhood charges the railroad and its officials were participants in an unlawful conspiracy to obstruct the orders of the United States Railroad Labor Board, which called upon the company to recognize the Brotherhood in disputes over wages and conditions. In dismissing the suit Judge Dickinson declared the Federal Court had no authority to enforce the Board's orders. The decision of Judge Dickinson upholds the company in its refusal to recognize the Brotherhood as a union of the men. With regard to the decision of the Court Associated Press dispatches had the following to say:

In dismissing the action of the Railroad Brotherhood against the Pennsylvania RR. to-day Federal Judge Dickinson held that the courts had no authority to enforce the Labor Board's orders and that the only way the Board's mandates could be carried out was in the "court of public opinion." The Board itself, Judge Dickinson declared, had no power to execute its own orders, "and no power has been delegated to the courts to have the decrees carried out."

In conclusion the opinion said: "The judgment it (the Labor Board) may render may be acceptable to neither party, but each has the legal right to accept it or refuse to follow it. If the parties refuse acquiescence all that the Board can then do is to give publicity to its ruling, leaving the parties to their willingness to adjust the dispute under the guidance and perhaps the stress of public opinion, influenced, or it may be aroused, by the opinion of the Board."

The Brotherhood of Clerks, Freight Handlers and Station Employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad filed notice on Dec. 22 of an appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals from the decision of Federal District Judge Dickinson dismissing the brotherhood's suit to compel the railroad and its officials to recognize the organization as the qualified representative of the men in negotiating wages and working conditions.

Call for National Conference on Transportation.

A call for a national conference on transportation, to be held in Washington, January 9, 10 and 11, was issued on December 25, by Julius H. Barnes, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. It is announced that 200 leaders in agricultural, commercial, educational, financial and industrial fields have been invited to take part in its deliberations and in the discussion of problems involved in the development of an adequate national transportation system. It is expected that every state will be represented at the conference. The personnel will include spokesmen for national farm and labor organizations, public officials, editors and publishers, heads of large commercial and industrial corporations, bankers and insurance company officials, and executives of railway systems, steamship and motor transport companies. In calling the conference Mr. Barnes said:

Congress embarked upon a constructive policy for the development of transportation by the enactment of the Transportation Act of 1920 but there is much more to be done if this policy is to be made effective.

The expanding transportation needs of America can be easily visualized and must be resolved so that national wealth and individual production may be marketed into consumption. All production, agricultural and industrial, is dependent on adequate and ready distribution.

National income, earned only through transportation and distribution, rises thus:

1890.....	\$12,000,000,000	1920.....	\$60,000,000,000
1900.....	18,000,000,000	1930.....	What?
1910.....	32,000,000,000	1940.....	What?

Representative of all sections of our people are asked to this conference to express their sober judgment on questions raised by the past eight months' preliminary studies of the Special Committees working under the auspices of the National Chamber of Commerce.

What is the probable future of transportation growth?
 What principles of regulation, federal and State, protect the public interest and yet encourage expansion?

What policies promise to attract the necessary capital and credit?
 What principles of rate-making hold most fairly the scale of relative rates?
 Where does highway and motor transport promise its highest service?
 How can water highways contribute their fullest service?

Within what formula can all transportation develop best the stimulant of private initiative and enterprise in the very interest of expanding service and the utmost economy of operation?

The idea of a conference which would consider the problem of transportation from the national viewpoint was first suggested at an informal meeting, last January, of representatives of various transportation and business interests, attended also in an unofficial capacity by Secretary Hoover. In accordance with a resolution adopted at this meeting the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States appointed six composite committees to undertake the study of as many phases of the transportation problem with the aid, so far as available, of the agencies of the Government and of private organizations. The reports of these committees have been completed and made public. They deal with:

- (1) Government Relations to Railroad Transportation;
- (2) Railroad Consolidation;
- (3) Readjustment of Relative Freight Rates;
- (4) Relation of Highway and Motor Transport to Other Transportation Agencies;
- (5) Development of Waterways and Co-ordination of Rail and Waterway Service;
- (6) Taxation of Transportation Agencies.

Each committee submitted a number of findings and recommendations which will serve as the basis of discussion at the forthcoming conference from the point of view of the various sections represented and of the various interests directly concerned in transportation.

New Issue of Stock of The Finance Co. of America.

The unsold portion of an issue of \$500,000 8% cumulative convertible sinking fund preferred stock of The Finance Company of America at Baltimore is offered by Westheimer & Co. of Baltimore at \$26 50, with adjustment of dividend, yielding over 7.50%. The stock, par value \$25, is redeemable at \$27 50. The dividends, which are payable quarterly, Jan. 15, April 15, July 15 and Oct. 15, are exempt from normal Federal income tax. The following is the capitalization of The Finance Company:

	Authorized.	To Be Presently Outstanding.
7% Cumulative Sinking Fund Preferred Stock.....	\$250,000	\$250,000
8% Cumulative Sinking Fund Convertible Preferred Stock (this issue).....	500,000	500,000
Common Stock, Class "A" (held for conversion of 8% Convertible Preferred Stock).....	250,000	
Common Stock, Class "B".....	250,000	250,000

The following information is credit to Louis Eliasberg, President of the Company:

Convertible Preferred.—This stock, which is subject only to the 7% preferred stock, has preference both as to assets and dividends over the common stock. The holders of this stock are entitled to a fixed cumulative dividend at the rate of 8% per annum.

Convertibility.—Convertible any time before redemption at the holder's option into one share of Class "A" common stock for each two shares of 8% convertible preferred surrendered, with appropriate changes in the conversion basis in the event of the increase of the Class "B" common stock, to insure the maintenance of the proper ratio.

Earnings.—The company's net earnings for the eleven months ending Nov. 30 1923, after deduction of preferred dividend, were at the rate of more than twice the dividend requirements of the convertible preferred stock to be outstanding. However, after giving effect to the sale of the convertible preferred stock, the company should immediately save in interest, approximately \$35,000 a year plus present earnings, which should equal more than 24% on the entire amount of 8% convertible preferred stock to be outstanding, and does not take into consideration any additional earnings by reason of the introduction of increased working capital and normal growth of the company's business.

Issuance of New Stock of Commercial Credit Co. of Baltimore.

Announcement was made on Dec. 20 by A. E. Duncan, Chairman of the Board, that a special meeting of the stockholders of the Commercial Credit Co. of Baltimore has been called for Jan. 3 1924 to pass upon certain resolutions of the board of directors at a special meeting on Dec. 19 respecting the issuance of new stock. Stockholders have been requested to endorse an amendment of the charter of the company whereby the present authorized common capital stock of 160,000 shares, par value \$25 (\$4,000,000 present par value) shall be increased to 480,000 shares of no par value, providing, however, that at all times the book value of said common shares shall continue as at present in being equal to at least the aggregate par value of either issue of preferred stock then outstanding, and that dividends in excess of 80 cents per share in any year may not be paid on the new no par value common stock unless after the payment thereof the book value of the no par value common stock be at least 150% of the par value of the Class "B" preferred stock then outstanding. The announcement of Mr. Duncan also says:

Subject to such approval and ratification, the board of directors have sold to Robert Garrett & Sons, Baltimore; Spencer Trask & Co., New York and

Boston, and Marshall Field, Gloré, Ward & Co., Chicago and New York 40,000 shares (\$1,000,000 par value) preferred 7%; and to Robert Garrett & Sons 40,000 shares (\$1,000,000 par value) Class B preferred 8%; and 42,000 shares of new no par value common stock, upon 14,000 shares of which the company retains a limited option for future corporate use. The company is withholding and will offer the remaining 6,000 shares of no par value common stock to its employees and to those of its affiliations at \$22 50 flat per share.

To properly protect the present equity of common stock now outstanding in adjustment with the additional no par value common stock about to be sold, the directors, at a special meeting on Dec. 19 1923 declared a 20% dividend in common stock, payable on or before Jan. 21 1924, to common stockholders of record Dec. 21 1923.

Should stockholders approve the plan, each share of common stock of the present par value of \$25 will be exchanged by the company for three shares of the new no par value common stock, and from Jan. 1 1924 the present dividend of 16% per annum on the common stock, par value \$25, will be changed to \$1 50 per share per annum on the new no par value stock.

Subject to approval by stockholders, the new stock will shortly be offered to stockholders with the right to take one share of preferred 7% stock at \$25 per share plus accrued dividend, and one share of Class B 8% preferred stock at \$26 per share plus accrued dividend, for each nine shares of all issues of stock of record Dec. 21 1923.

Stockholders shall also have the option to take one share of no par value common stock at \$22 50 flat per share for each three shares taken of preferred and Class "B" preferred combined. The terms and conditions upon which the stock will be offered to the public will be announced later.

In announcing on Dec. 27 the offering of the new stock on Dec. 28, Robert Garrett & Sons said:

We have purchased, with Spencer Trask & Co., New York, and Marshall Field, Gloré, Ward & Co., New York and Chicago, \$1,000,000 (40,000 shares, \$25 par value) Commercial Credit Co. 7% cumulative preferred stock, and independent of these two associates we have purchased \$1,000,000 (40,000 shares, \$25 par value) 8% class "B" preferred stock and 48,000 shares no-par-value common stock of this company.

We and our associates in the first-mentioned issue have to-day syndicated the \$1,000,000 7% preferred with dealers in New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and independent of that syndicate we have syndicated with dealers in Baltimore and other cities the \$1,000,000 8% preferred. These issues will be publicly offered on Friday the 28th inst. for subscription, subject to allotment, and to the prior rights of stockholders, the price on the 7% preferred being \$25 and accrued dividend per share, and on the 8% preferred \$26 and accrued dividend per share. Subscribers to either or both of these issues are offered the opportunity to purchase common stock at \$22 50 per share in the ratio of one share of Common for each three shares of either preferred allotted against their subscription.

Renewed Purchase of United States Securities by Federal Reserve Banks Expected.

Renewed purchasing of Government securities in the open market by the Federal Reserve banks on a considerable scale was expected on Dec. 3 to result from the meeting of the Federal Reserve Board with its special committee on open market operations, said special advices from Washington to the "Journal of Commerce" that day, which added:

The Reserve system's holdings of Government securities were found to be almost at a minimum.

The open market committee, which includes in its membership Governor Strong of the New York Reserve Bank and Governor Harding, of the Boston Reserve Bank, the former Governor of the Board, met today with the Board and was understood to have gone over the Government security holdings of the various Reserve banks in the light of the probable extent of future purchases under the system's uniform open market policy.

May Obviate Rate Change.

Open market operations of the Reserve system are particularly important in that their effect holds the possibility of producing results which obviate a necessity for a change in rediscount rates.

According to the Board's latest reports, as of Nov. 30, the entire holdings of Government securities of the twelve Reserve banks is only about \$84,000,000, which is very near the low point for these assets, as compared with about \$300,000,000 on approximately the same date last year. Moreover, probably as much as \$50,000,000 of the present holdings of Government securities represent bonds which the banks would be virtually unable to sell except at a loss, as bonds taken to secure circulation are included in the total holdings.

Hence the shelves of the Reserve banks are getting bars of marketable Government securities and it is expected that the banks will shortly resume purchasing to replenish their stocks. Purchases probably will be devoted in the main to Treasury certificates of indebtedness.

Holdings of Acceptances.

Holdings of bankers' acceptances by the Reserve banks aggregate the respectable figure of \$289,000,000, as compared with \$259,000,000 a year ago, but sales of these bills on any appreciable scale would probably involve a change in the rate, so that if the Reserve banks are to continue the free use of the uniform market policy it will be necessary to stock up on open Government securities.

Despite the failure of the Federal Reserve Council at its recent conference with the Reserve Board to discuss the rediscount rate levels, there is a feeling in some quarters that a reduction of rates is in order. However, a resumption of purchasing in the open market by the Reserve banks would result in more money being put out on the market, or, in other words, the extension of credit facilities by the Reserve banks in the nature of an equivalent to a reduction in rates.

Commenting on the expected resumption of purchases of Government securities by the Federal Reserve banks, the "Journal of Commerce" had the following to say editorially in its issue of Dec. 5:

Reserve Bank Policies.

Unofficial announcement is now made that our Federal Reserve system will resume the purchasing of Government securities in the open market. Its holdings of this class of investments have been considerably reduced within recent months, during the so-called crop moving period. Now that period is drawing to a close, and it is evidently intended to use the funds which are released through the payment of paper in buying Government bonds and Treasury notes. This is the same plan that has been followed

in former years, and there is no difference in principle between what is now said to be planned and what has been done at other times.

The question whether the policy so continued is or is not wise still remains open for decision, perhaps more subject to doubt than ever before. Open market operations are usually undertaken by foreign central banks for the purpose of affecting or controlling discount and interest rates. They are, as a rule, made to bear upon the commercial paper current in the market, including bankers' acceptances and other forms of quick and unmistakably liquid obligations. Thus the central bank enters the discount market and becomes a factor therein, either pushing funds into current use by buying paper or withdrawing them by selling such paper or refusing to renew it when it reaches maturity. The method has been found in normal times effective and satisfactory for its purpose.

The apparent plan of the Federal Reserve system is that of letting its open market operations deal chiefly with Government securities, which it buys from holders or sells to them as circumstances and its own necessities require. It wants, among other motives, to earn enough to pay the heavy overhead charges which were developed through the salary and building program of the war and post-war years. According to some careful observers this means that about \$1,000,000,000 per annum must be kept steadily at work in order to provide the necessary income. Last spring the system was fairly well burdened with Government bonds and notes, whereupon the Federal Reserve Board announced an open market policy. Circumstances have apparently shown that this policy consisted in getting rid of the bonds and notes referred to, just as the reported plan at the present time is to take them back again. Obviously this is a very different proceeding, and one which is actuated by a theory of banking quite different, from that of the foreign central institutions.

When the Reserve banks buy or sell Government bonds they do in a certain sense take funds out of, or put them into, immediate use. Their effect, however, is quite different from that produced by the foreign banks, because they carry on these operations with bond holders rather than with makers or owners of commercial obligations. They furnish money for speculation or investment, or they withdraw it from those objects, but they do not supply it to or withdraw it from those who are using it in actual business, except, of course, indirectly. Such an open market policy, whether it be undertaken in order to earn expenses or simply to keep current funds actively at work, may produce business results quite different from those contemplated by bankers who in the past have developed the open market policy. They are far more likely to be influential in advancing or depressing securities than in enlarging or reducing the funds at the service of business. To be sure, many foreign banks have fallen into the practice of using their spare cash in thus operating in the bonds and notes of their respective governments. But the practice is recognized as a bad result of the war, rather than as a method to be maintained or even defended.

Unquestionably the time is not far distant when we shall have to decide whether the Reserve banks are authorized, or can be so managed, as to engage in real open market transactions with the design of facilitating actual commercial business. As things stand the typical Reserve bank is—so far as its larger members permit—being more and more operated like any ordinary bank, with a view to making money and to keeping its funds "safe." Both are worthy and desirable objects, but they are not those for which a Reserve or central bank exists, nor is it true that in the effort to cover expenses the Reserve banks do wisely in simply going into and out of the bond market. How unfortunate is such an attitude as that which is to be adopted may be inferred from the suggestion that the so-called open market policy now in view is to be a sufficient cause for avoiding any changes in rates. If it be true that this policy will, in fact, avoid proposed reductions in rates at this moment the outcome may well give ground for satisfaction just now. The general objection to the use of this Government bond plan to avoid those changes in rates which ought to be made remains as positive as ever.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative Trust Company to Begin Business in New York To-day.

Announcement that a new labor banking institution, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative Trust Co., will begin business to-day (Dec. 29), was made on Dec. 16 by Warren S. Stone, Grand Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The new institution will be located in a new building at Seventh Ave. and 33d St. In announcing its forthcoming opening Mr. Stone said:

The opening of the bank will be of especial interest to the small depositor, because it is a step in profit sharing that it destined to work a considerable change in the savings habits of the people.

We will distribute the bank's profits among the depositors after operating expenses, a limited dividend and a substantial surplus are laid aside.

The new institution is the first trust company to be established by organized labor in New York. Its creation it is stated, will not affect the affiliation which has existed for some time between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Empire Trust Co. Mr. Stone is President of the new trust company, which has a capital of \$500,000 and surplus of \$250,000.

Another labor bank—the Bank of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will open for business, on Jan. 5 at Fifth Ave. and 21st St.

H. J. Haas Made Chairman of Legislative Committee, National Bank Division, A. B. A.

Harry J. Haas, Vice-President of the First National Bank, Philadelphia, has been appointed Chairman of the Federal Legislation Committee of the National Bank Division of the American Bankers Association. Mr. Haas succeeds Waldo Newcomer, who resigned, owing to the National Exchange Bank of Baltimore having merged with the Atlantic Trust Co. under the title of Atlantic Exchange Bank & Trust Co., and thus having gone out of the National bank system. This, it is pointed out, is one more defection from the Na-

tional bank system, evidencing the need of legislation which will permit a national bank to continue its national charter and be in a position to compete with State banks.

Rumania Restores Limited Freedom of Petroleum Trade.

A Rumania cablegram (Associated Press), Dec. 18, said: The Cabinet has approved a decree restoring limited freedom of trade in the petroleum industry under governmental supervision so as to insure priority for domestic users. The exportation of crude oil is still prohibited, but refined products may be shipped abroad under an export tax of 80 lei for 100 kilograms. Domestic prices must not exceed those on the world market.

France to Make Loans to Poland and Jugoslavia.

The French Senate on Dec. 17 adopted the measures authorizing advances of 400,000,000 francs to Poland and 300,000,000 to Jugoslavia, says a press cablegram from Paris, which states that the measures were previously approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

Paris Fixes Steamer Rates in Dollars—French Lines Make This Exclusive Standard—British Companies Follow.

The New York "Evening Post" announced the following from Paris, Dec. 3:

The American dollar has been established as the exclusive standard for fixing steamship rates from French ports to the United States by all the trans-Atlantic liners having offices in Paris, including the Government-subsidized French line, the Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique, which refuses to quote passenger tariffs in francs even to French nationals. The British companies with offices here are also quoting rates in dollars, to the exclusion of sterling. The arrangement came into effect December 1.

ITEMS ABOUT BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, ETC.

The New York Stock Exchange membership of Charles A. Owens was reported sold this week to Charles Everett Tandy for a consideration stated as \$82,000 and that of Emanuel J. Heilner to Herman S. Schwabacher also for \$82,000, and unchanged figure from the last preceding transaction.

Charles Cason, Assistant Vice-President of the Chemical National Bank of New York, and Senator Selden P. Spencer of Missouri were the speakers at the closing meeting at Montreal, Dec. 27, of the 79th Annual Convention of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity which was attended by graduates and undergraduates from more than forty American Universities. St. Louis was selected as the next convention city.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York announces the appointment of J. P. Huber as an Assistant Secretary, Foreign Department, and of Ernest L. Colegrove as an Assistant Trust Officer, Fifth Avenue office.

John Moody, President of Moody's Investors Service, addressed the Foreign Trade Forum of the National Association of Credit Men at its meeting on Dec. 21 on the subject of the "Adjustment of Government Debts." Mr. Moody referred to the subject as one of the most important, if not the most important, factor in the economic situation of European nations. In 1921 he published an authoritative book on "The Remaking of Europe." The National Foreign Trade Council, the Export Managers' Club of New York, International Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce of the U. S. A. and the Merchants' Association of New York were invited to participate in the meeting, which was held at the Aldine Club, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Plans to increase the capital of the Ironbound Trust Co. of Newark, N. J., from \$300,000 to \$500,000 will be acted upon by the stockholders of the institution at a special meeting to be held Jan. 8. It is proposed to offer the \$200,000 of new stock to existing holders at par, \$100. Besides the present capital of \$300,000 the institution has \$300,000 surplus and \$725,000 undivided profits. With its increased capital the company will have a surplus of \$500,000, making the combined capital and surplus \$1,000,000. We are advised that it has not been decided definitely when subscription rights will be sent to the stockholders but it will presumably be within a few days after the special meeting of the stockholders, provided, of course, that favorable action is taken at that meeting.

The controlling stock interest in the Red Bank Trust Co. of Red Bank, N. J., has been purchased by Charles Allen Jr., George Hance Patterson, Frank McMahon, Benjamin J. Parker, Sigmund Eisner and John Enright, directors of the Second National Bank of Red Bank. It is expected that the

two institutions will be merged into one bank under a national charter, with a title comprising to some extent the present names of both. It is announced that there will be no material change in policy or personnel.

Announcement was made in Buffalo on Wednesday, Dec. 26, by officials of the Lafayette National Bank and the Buffalo Trust Co. of a proposed union of the institutions. The consolidation will give the Buffalo Trust Co. resources of \$40,000,000. It is expected the Lafayette National Bank will be operated as branch of the enlarged trust company.

Jules DeWaele, Jr., was appointed a director of the Drovers & Merchants National Bank of Philadelphia on Dec. 18, succeeding Fred Hasenfus, Jr., who resigned. On Dec. 11 C. Albert Kuehnle was appointed a director of the bank, succeeding Jacob Rollick, resigned.

Resolutions recording their sense of loss suffered in the death of Edward R. McKee, Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Chillicothe, Ohio, were adopted by the directors of the bank on Dec. 19. Mr. McKee, whose death occurred on Dec. 14, had been in the service of the bank for more than 60 years. He was appointed to his first official post in the institution on Jan. 1 1878, when he was elected Assistant Cashier; on May 21 1883 he was promoted to the Cashiership; on Aug. 1 1905 he was chosen a director and made Vice-President; he held the latter position until Mar. 6 1923, when he was selected Chairman of the Board, in which position he served at the time of his death.

A special press dispatch from Barnesville, Ohio, on Dec. 13 to the Pittsburgh "Gazette" reported that the shortage in the accounts of the defunct National Bank of Barnesville was swelled to \$850,000 on that day (Dec. 13) when it was revealed that more than \$100,000 in bonds were missing from the safety deposit boxes. The boxes were opened and examined, it was said, by W. T. Hastings of Toledo, Assistant State Comptroller. Mention of the bank's failure following the death of O. P. Norris, its Cashier, was made in these columns in our issues of Nov. 17 and Dec. 1.

Special meetings of the shareholders of the National City Bank of Chicago and the National Bank of the Republic of that city will be held on Jan. 22 1924 to ratify the proposed amalgamation of the institutions under the title of the latter. Mention was made of the proposed consolidation in these columns in the Dec. 15 "Chronicle."

Frederick W. Stevens, of Ann Arbor, Mich., who represented in China the American Group in the International Consortium for about three years, and who was formerly on the staff of J. P. Morgan & Co., has been elected President of the Michigan Trust Company located at Grand Rapids.

The First National Bank of Fergus County at Lewistown, Mont., on Dec. 10 failed to open. The following special press dispatch from Lewistown on that date to the Helena, Mont., "Record-Herald" reported the failure as follows:

The First National Bank of Fergus County failed to open its doors for business this morning. Over-extension of credits and a decrease in deposits are said to be the immediate causes of the closing. The institution's liabilities are approximately \$4,600,000.

The First National of Fergus was formed last spring by the consolidation of the First National Bank of Lewistown and the Bank of Fergus County. Its capital was \$800,000 and its last statement showed a surplus of \$100,000. W. J. Johnson is President of the closed institution, and Oliver W. Belden, Chairman of the board of directors.

No official statement regarding the closing has been issued. At the time of the merger it was announced that both banks were in a healthy financial condition and the move was made for reasons of economy only.

The First State Bank of Shelby, Mont., one of the institutions which closed their doors in July last following the Dempsey-Gibbons fight, will re-open to-day (Dec. 29) according to recent newspaper advices from that place. The failure of the bank was noted in these columns in our issue of July 21.

Louis E. Dehlendorf, Cashier of the Cass Avenue Bank and formerly President of the Associated Bankers, will be President of the new Twelfth Street National Bank, which has been formed in St. Louis with a capital of \$300,000 (instead of \$250,000, as originally planned) and a surplus of \$60,000. The organization of the bank has been undertaken by interests identified with the Lafayette South Side Bank. The new institution expects to begin business about Jan. 15, in temporary quarters adjoining the site of its permanent location at the northwest corner of Twelfth Street and Chou-

teau Avenue. The directors of the Twelfth Street National will be: Richard H. Blanke, Secretary and Treasurer of the C. F. Blanke Tea & Coffee Co. and the St. Louis Tin & Sheet Metal Working Co.; C. E. M. Champ, President of the Champ Spring Co.; Louis E. Dehlendorf, President of the bank; Henry W. Gildehaus of H. W. Gildehaus & Co.; C. W. Johnson, President of the St. Louis Basket & Box Co.; A. C. F. Meyer, President of the Lafayette-South Side Bank; P. J. Pauley, President of the Pauley Jail Building Co., and Hugo F. Urbauer, President of the Urbauer-Atwood Co. and of the Midwest Piping & Supply Co. The proposed slate for the election of officers, which will take place next month and which, it is expected, will be carried through, is as follows: A. C. F. Meyer, Chairman of the Board; Louis E. Dehlendorf, President; A. C. F. Meyer, 1st Vice-President; H. W. Krieger, Cashier.

Discovery of alleged irregularities of Joseph S. Carr, Cashier of the Chippewa Bank of St. Louis, caused the closing of the institution by State Finance Commissioner Millsbaugh on Dec. 21. In a statement issued at that time Gottlieb Eyermann, Jr., the President of the bank, stated that the accused Cashier had admitted he was short in his accounts and had returned \$34,000, but that the exact shortage had not been ascertained. According to the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of Dec. 22, the Cashier's irregularities probably amount to more than \$200,000. It was stated in that issue that Mr. Carr denies a shortage exists in fact, and on the night of Dec. 21 "pledged assets valued by him at more than \$1,000,000 to protect the depositors." Thomas R. Harlan, attorney for the accused Cashier, was reported by the "Globe-Democrat" as saying:

Carr is admitting no shortage exists. There may have been some irregularities which attracted the attention of the bank examiners and resulted in an order for a closing down of business, but so far as I know there has been no willful manipulation of funds by Carr to the detriment of the bank. It is quite natural, of course, that suspicion is directed his way, and for that reason he has dumped everything he has into the hopper in an effort to afford every protection possible. He proposes to give full assurance to the authorities that he will be available at any time they wish to question him, and for that reason I am willing to surrender him to-day on a common law bond if Mr. Sidener (Circuit Attorney) so directs. Carr is accepting the full responsibility and is taking it standing up.

The Chippewa Bank has a combined capital and surplus of \$300,000. And, it is said, according to a statement issued Sept. 14 under the call of the St. Louis Clearing House, of which it was an associate member, its deposits were \$2,483,132.

A small Missouri institution, the Park Bank of Parkville, with total resources of about \$447,711, has been closed by its board of directors on account of "frozen loans."

The Washington County National Bank of Johnson City, Tenn., for which a charter was recently issued by the Comptroller of the Currency, began business on Dec. 7. The new bank, which has a capital of \$100,000, is a conversion of the City Savings & Trust Co. W. F. Carter is President and F. L. Wallace, Cashier.

In addition to paying its employees the regular quarter bonus dividend on their annual salaries, the board of directors of the Hibernia Bank & Trust Co. of New Orleans surprised four of its officers and employees by announcing their promotions. Benjamin Roach, heretofore head Discount Teller, and Irving S. Edell, heretofore Chief Clerk of the bank, were both elected Assistant Cashiers. Robert F. Schwaner, former Manager of the Transit Department, was made Chief Clerk to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Mr. Edell, and W. Wilbur Pope was appointed Manager of the Credit Department. Each of these changes represents, it is stated, a distinct promotion given in recognition of long service and good work faithfully and consistently performed.

The 1924 annual meeting of the California Bankers Association will be held in the Yosemite Valley. The dates are June 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the headquarters will be Yosemite Lodge. This was decided at the mid-year meeting of the Association's Executive Council, which met in San Francisco Dec. 15. For many years it has been the expressed desire of numbers of delegates to hold a convention in the Yosemite some year. The Yosemite National Park, while open all winter, does not get into full swing as regards summer accommodations for its huge rush of visitors until about June 1. Then the valley is at its best, with everything green and the mountain streams and waterfalls at flood from the Sierra snows. Hence, the convention next year comes one week later than usual—the Association for sev-

eral years past having met the last week in May. The first day of the convention, June 4, will be devoted to the annual meeting of the Trust Company Section of the C. B. A. and a meeting of the Executive Council. The regular business sessions of the convention begin on Thursday, June 5. In the report of Secretary F. H. Colburn to the Council the present membership of the Association was shown as 1,046.

The Bank of Italy at San Francisco announces the receipt by it of telegraphic advices from the Federal Reserve Board at Washington authorizing the establishment of additional branch offices. The specific permits include, it is stated, the conversion of the Bank of Watsonville and the Watsonville Savings Bank at Watsonville, the Golden State Bank and the American Savings Bank at Long Beach. Steps will be taken to incorporate these new units in the Bank of Italy's organization immediately, it was announced by A. P. Giannini. The addition of these banks will give the Bank of Italy, we are informed, 73 banking offices in 50 cities throughout the State.

The Standard Bank (head office Toronto) announces a year-end distribution to officers and employees based upon the length of service commencing with 2% of the annual salary at the close of the year, and adding 1% for each year of service.

The 59th annual statement of the Union Bank of Canada (head office Toronto) for the fiscal year ended Nov. 30 1923 showed net profits for the period, after deducting expenses of management, interest due depositors, reserving for interest and exchange, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, of \$1,033,432. To this amount the sum of \$151,265 was added (representing balance to credit of profit and loss after the transfer on June 19 last of \$331,911 to the contingent reserve fund of the bank, making \$1,184,697 available for appropriation, which was distributed as follows: \$720,000 to pay four quarterly dividends at the rate of 9% per annum; \$10,000 contributed to officers' pension fund and \$137,622 to pay Dominion Government and other taxes, leaving \$317,075 to be carried forward to next year's profit and loss account. Total assets as of Nov. 30, the report showed, were \$128,299,679, of which \$57,877,689 were liquid resources, while total deposits stood at \$95,621,251. The bank is capitalized at \$8,000,000 with a rest account of \$1,750,000. W. R. Allan is President of the institution and J. W. Hamilton, General Manager.

Commencing Dec. 22, a dividend of 25% is being paid to depositors of the defunct Home Bank of Canada through the chartered banks of Toronto, according to the Toronto "Globe" of Dec. 19. Announcement of the completion of arrangements for the payment was made at a general meeting of the creditors of the institution held at Massey Hall, Toronto, on the night of Dec. 18. The dividend, it was stated, would be paid to all who had proved their claims with the permanent liquidators of the institution, G. T. Clarkson and I. E. Weldon. According to a press dispatch from Toronto on Dec. 20, which appeared in the "Evening Post" of this city of that date, trial before a court without a jury was granted on that day to the ten officers and directors of the Home Bank of Canada. Justice Middleton, it was stated, ordered the transfer to a county court from the Assizes on petition of the prisoners, who await trial on charges of filing false reports of the bank's condition.

We are in receipt of the annual statement of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd. (head office Edinburgh) covering the twelve months ended Oct. 31 1923. The report, which was presented to the proprietors of the bank at their annual general meeting on Dec. 17, shows net profits, after the usual deductions, of £347,217. To this sum is added £55,132, representing the balance to profit and loss brought forward from the preceding year, making together £402,349. Out of this amount, the report shows, there was applied in July in payment of the half year's dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 16% and 10%, respectively, £94,254 (under deduction of income tax £30,746), leaving a balance of £308,095, which the directors recommended be appropriated as follows: £96,875 to pay the 2d semi-annual dividends on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 16% and 10% per annum, respectively (under deduction of income tax £28,125); £100,000 to be added to reserve fund; £25,000 to be credited to officers' retiring fund, and £30,000 to be applied in reduction of the cost of bank's properties, leaving a balance of £56,220 to be carried forward to next year's profit and loss

account. Total assets of the bank as of Oct. 31 1923 were £44,106,029, while total deposits on the same date were £35,822,541. The bank's paid-up capital is £1,750,000, with a reserve fund of £1,700,000.

The 4th annual report of the British Overseas Bank, Ltd. (head office London), covering the fiscal year ended Oct. 31 1923 was presented to the shareholders at their annual general meeting on Dec. 14. The statement shows net profits for the period, after allowing for rebate of interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, income tax and other taxation for the year, of £100,968, which when added to £57,814, representing balance available from last account, made together £158,782. From this amount £30,000 was deducted to pay an interim dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6% per annum for the half year ending April 30 1923, together with income tax thereon, leaving the sum of £128,782 available for distribution, which was appropriated as follows: £30,000 to pay the 2d semi-annual dividend at the rate of 6% per annum, together with income tax thereon; £15,000 to reserve fund against shareholding interests in foreign banks; £10,000 to reduction of premises account and £5,000 to furniture account, leaving a net balance of £68,782 to be carried forward to next year's profit and loss account. Total assets were shown in the report as £5,907,805, of which £339,326 represented cash in hand and t bankers. The bank has a paid-in capital of £2,000,000. The Right Hon. Viscount Churchill, G.C.V.O., is Governor of the bank and A. C. D. Gairdner, Esq., Chairman of the board of directors.

Three Years of Progress in City Government in New York State.

The following statement regarding the three years of progress in city government in New York State is a very encouraging survey of the situation, and it points the way for further improvement in many lines, financial and otherwise, to the cities of the State. It is taken in abridged form from the Fourth Report of the Special Tax Committee, Frederick M. Davenport, Chairman, which was dated Feb. 1 1923. (See "Chronicle" of Dec. 22, pages 2731 to 2735.

In 1919-1920 this Committee made an extensive study of governmental organization and of business methods in the cities of the State. (Legislative Document of 1920 No. 80). All of the major bills which we have submitted to carry our recommendations into effect have already been enacted into law, with the exception of a single constitutional amendment. In addition to these recommendations for legislation, we offered many suggestions which can be put into operation only by the cities themselves.

The present summary of three years' progress in city government is based on the hearings held by the committee in various central cities to which representatives of the surrounding cities were invited and upon information gathered at the request of the committee by the Bureau of Municipal Information of the State Conference of Mayors and Other City Officials.

A—Governmental Organization

Progress of Sound Ideas—Three Charters Completely Revised.

The most important advance that has been made in the last two years in the cities has been the development of sound ideas with regard to the question of governmental organization. As a result of this change, those cities which have approached the problem of remodeling their governments during the last three years have worked out highly commendable charters.

The suggestions of the committee that charters should set up more simplified governments with concentration of power and responsibility have been followed. Notable examples are the complete revision of the charters of Rome, Mount Vernon and Hudson, all of which used the committee's report as a basis for their study. Several other cities have amended their charters so as to eliminate boards and commissions and to combine bureaus, offices and functions.

Unpaid Boards of Health Superseded by Health Departments in Seven Cities.

The abolition of unpaid administrative boards was recommended by the committee. The following cities have abolished their boards of health under the law drafted by this committee and established departments of health with a single appointive head: Amsterdam, Cohoes, Mount Vernon, Olean, Salamanca, Syracuse and Yonkers.

Greatly Improved Methods for Assessment of Property in Ten Cities.

As a result of the law suggested by the committee authorizing municipalities to abolish their elective boards of assessors and to establish a department of assessment and taxation with a single appointed head, the following cities have adopted such a system in the last two years: Binghamton, Gloversville, Jamestown, Little Falls, Rensselaer, Rome, Salamanca, Mount Vernon, Watertown and Yonkers. Several other cities contemplate making similar changes within the next year.

Relation of Education to City Government in Unsatisfactory State.

This committee has consistently urged that educational administration should be intimately correlated with city administration. If this is not done the proper balance between community expenditures for education and for other municipal services cannot be maintained. Great economies are also to be effected by combining education and other city administration under a single directing authority. We feel sure that this can be done without sacrificing educational standards.

The extremely unsatisfactory condition which we pointed out in 1920 has not been altered substantially. The Court of Appeals handed down a decision to the effect that appropriations for education are municipal funds and must be included within the 2% constitutional taxing limit.

The only change in the relation of boards of education to city administrations has been the adoption by a few cities of the plan of segregating the tax levy for education purposes and collecting the school tax separately from the general city tax.

In the city of Buffalo a referendum was held on the question "Shall the Buffalo Board of Education be permitted to determine the amount of school tax which shall be levied, and the amount of school bonds which shall be issued, without limitation or adoption by the city government?" The vote on this referendum stood 12,355 for independence of the board of education in financial matters and 70,174 against it.

B—Better Business Methods

Central Purchasing in 22 Cities—Pensions, &c.

In many directions the cities have improved their business methods since 1920. This is evident not only in the facts and figures which they are able to present, but also in their method of presenting information to the Committee. The cities make a more businesslike impression than they did three years ago.

Twenty-two cities now have central purchasing, the following since the Committee's report: Albany, Amsterdam, Hornell, Mount Vernon, Rome, Salamanca, Schenectady, Troy, Watervliet and Yonkers.

Marked economy in the cost of elections in cities has been effected under the revised Election Law of 1921.

The State in 1921 provided a way for cities to adopt a sound pension system for municipal employees other than those who at that time were being pensioned under systems created by special law. So far the following cities have elected to come under the State system: Newburgh, New Rochelle, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Watervliet and Yonkers.

Tax Collections Now Made in Advance by 26 Cities.

Twenty-six cities now collect their taxes in advance and thirty others have to borrow money in anticipation of their tax collection to run their government. The remaining three have to borrow "occasionally." There has been only slight improvement in this municipal activity in the last two years. Several cities, however, have under advisement proposed charter changes which will enable them eventually to collect their taxes in advance.

Thirty-one cities were borrowing money in anticipation of tax collection in 1920 and twenty-eight cities were collecting in advance or borrowing only occasionally.

Sound Bonding Policies Practiced by Most of the Cities.

Sound bonding policies are being practiced by most of the cities in the State, although there is nothing to prevent any one of them from returning to the extravagant and vicious practices of the past. Cities are generally issuing bonds for a period not longer than the usefulness of the improvements to be financed and all bonds are being issued serially. There is need of a revision of the laws dealing with the subject of municipal indebtedness.

Interest Payments and Receipts on Balances More Satisfactory in Several Cities.

A study of the rates of interest received by cities on their daily, monthly and quarterly bank balances and their inactive accounts, also of the protection cities require from depositories, shows that improvement has been made by several cities within the last two years.

Since 1920, 30% of the cities of the State have slightly increased the rate of interest they received on their daily bank balances. Two cities which in 1920 were drawing nothing on their bank balances are now receiving interest. There are seven cities in the State which are still receiving nothing. Nine cities have reduced the rate of interest they are paying on temporary loans.

These conditions have been due in part to the general fluctuations of interest rates.

C—Financial Administration

Increasing Municipal Tax Levies Checked—Levies Reduced in 30% of Cities.

An analysis of the net budgets of the cities for 1916, 1921 and 1922 shows that the increasing municipal tax levies have been checked and that approximately 30% of the cities have actually reduced their levies for 1922.

The increase in the total tax levies for city purposes in 1922 was very much less than it has been in any year since 1915. The total tax levy for municipal purposes in all cities was only 6% greater in 1922 than that of 1921. The average annual increase for the five years previous was 12%. The 59 cities in 1922 levied a tax of \$332,822,764 for municipal purposes. In 1921 the total levy was \$315,415,893, and in 1916 it amounted to \$194,877,396.

From 1916 to and including 1921 the net budget or municipal tax levy of every city in the State, with the exception of Hornell, was increased. The smallest increase was 8% and the largest 157%.

Fourteen cities last year decreased their net budget or tax levy over that for 1921. These decreases range from 1% to 22%. Forty-five cities increased their tax levy anywhere from 1% to 45%. The levies of the remaining four were about the same for both years.

The tax levy for all municipal departments and activities excepting schools in New York State cities is on the decline. The total tax levy, exclusive of public schools and the payment of debt, decreased during 1922 for the first time in several years and was 3% less than in 1921. We eliminate from the tax levy the appropriations for education and debt service as present administrations have practically no control over these outlays. The tax levy for all city purposes, except schools and debt service, was less in 18 cities last year than it was in 1921. In seven others the levies for both years were practically the same.

Reports from all cities show that the total tax levy for municipal purpose was \$114,054,866 in 1922 after deducting the levy for schools and debts. In 1921 it was \$117,742,271 and in 1916 the amount was \$66,511,970, an increase for those earlier years of 77%.

Levies for Debt Service and Education Practically Outside of City Control.

There was a small increase of 1.47% in the levy for debt service in 1922. The levy for education, however, in 36 cities increased 28%. In the other cities the cost of education is not included in the city tax levy.

Twenty-three cities levied less last year for debt service than they did in 1921. Only 7 of the 36 cities reporting education appropriations reduced their levy for public schools.

Increased Cost of Police Service in 1922 Due to Automobile.

The 1922 increase in appropriations for all city police departments in New York State was less than that for any year since 1916. The average yearly increase from 1916 to 1921, inclusive, was 12%, while the total appropriations for the police department in all cities were only 7% greater in 1922 than that in 1921.

A total of \$37,148,844 was appropriated by the 59 cities for police protection in 1922; in 1921 it was \$2,356,518 less. In 1916 the cities appropriated \$21,464,617.

An analysis of the causes for the 1922 increase shows that it can be directly chargeable to the automobile.

Thirteen cities reduced the cost of their police departments last year. These decreases ranged from 1% to 23%. In 8 other cities the appropriations for 1922 and the year previous were practically the same. The increases in the other cities ranged from 1% to 134%. Sixteen cities increased the number of their patrolmen last year. Most of these report increased traffic work as the reason. Practically all of the other cities will be forced to make increases within the next two years for the same reason.

Cost of Fire Departments Practically the Same in 1922 as 1921.

The cost of fire fighting in New York State cities is practically the same in 1922 as in 1921, being the first time in many years that there was not a substantial increase. In 1916 the 59 cities appropriated \$13,100,983 for fire fighting purposes. This increased 83% during the next 5 years, so that in 1921 the total appropriation amounted to \$24,010,109.

Analysis of the reports received from all cities shows very conclusively the cost of fire fighting has reached its peak in New York State and that we are beginning to go the other way. Twenty-nine cities report that their fire department appropriations were less for 1922 than for the previous year. The purchase of motor apparatus to replace horse-drawn apparatus, which will eventually reduce expenses, was responsible in 1922 for increases in 6 of the 17 cities whose fire appropriations were larger than in 1921.

Public Health Expenditures Decreased 3%, Against Increase of 73% for Five-Year Period 1916-21.

The appropriations of public health work decreased 3% in 1922 over 1921. There, however, was an increase of 73% between 1916 and 1921, inclusive, in all the cities in the State. The total amount appropriated in 1922 by all cities for public health work was \$7,041,840 85. In 1921 it was \$7,271,021 37, and in 1916 \$4,207,252 55. The death rate in all New York State cities decreased 14% from 1916 to and including 1921.

Funded Debt Increased But Little Compared With Borrowing Capacity.
The total funded debt chargeable against the 10% constitutional debt limit of all New York State cities increased 8% from 1916 to and including 1921. In 1922 there was an increase of 5% over 1921.

The total assessed valuation of real property subject to taxation in all New York State cities increased 14% between 1916 and 1921, inclusive. There was a further increase of 13.5% from 1921 to and including 1922.

The total borrowing capacity of all cities in New York State in excess of the net funded debt increased 90% between 1916 and 1921, inclusive, and 89% in 1922. It is significant that the funded debt of the cities increased very little in proportion to the increase in their borrowing capacity during these years.

The per capita funded debt of all cities was \$110 47 in 1916, \$107 11 in 1921 and \$112 27 in 1922.

The per capita assessed valuation of all cities in New York State was \$1,347 72 in 1916, \$1,378 86 in 1921 and \$1,565 60 in 1922.

Tax Limitations—Important Changes—Five Cities Have Had Limitations Removed.

A study of the appropriating and taxing powers of cities from Jan. 1 1912 to date shows that the State Legislature has been called upon to make very many changes during this ten-year period. Of the 36 cities whose taxing powers were limited in 1912, changes have been made in 26, either increasing or reducing the amount they could appropriate or raise by tax, or eliminating their restrictions. In all 82 changes have been made.

Five cities have removed their limitations entirely, these being North Tonawanda, Auburn, Norwich, Lockport and Mount Vernon. Three of these limitations have been made since 1920. No city whose taxing or appropriating powers were not limited in 1912 has since placed any restriction on its power.

The following cities have changed from a system of limiting departmental or total appropriations to specified sums to one of limiting the total appropriations to a percentage of assessed valuation of real estate: Corning, Elmira, Dunkirk and Hudson.

It is clear that constitutional or charter tax limitations do not stop an increase in the cost of city government. The total of the net budgets or tax levies of the 35 cities in New York State, whose taxing powers are limited either by the constitution or by charter provisions, was \$26,299,317 in 1916, \$41,567,510 in 1921, and \$45,548,687 in 1922. The total net budget or tax levy of the cities in New York State whose taxing power is not limited was \$14,695,425 in 1916, \$23,604,267 in 1921, and \$25,615,544 in 1922. The percentage of increase was as follows:

Total Tax Levy—	1921 over 1916.	1922 over 1921.
Cities whose taxing powers are limited	58%	10%
Cities whose taxing powers are not limited.	61%	8%

The above shows that from 1916 to 1921 the total tax levy of the cities whose taxing powers is not limited was only 3% greater than the increase in the tax levy of those cities whose taxing powers are limited. However, from 1921 to 1922, the total tax levy of the cities whose taxing powers are limited increased 2% more than the total levy of those cities whose taxing powers are not limited.

Budget Systems—Distinct Improvement Effected.

There has been a very distinct improvement in budget systems during the past two years. A number of cities have adopted budget systems and others have so improved their methods as to deserve comment. No city has made more progress in its budget methods than Syracuse.

D—New Municipal Laws

Since the last report of the Committee on Municipal Finance, a number of extremely important laws, based upon the committee's recommendations, have been enacted. These are:

1. A law permitting cities to abolish elective boards of assessors and to establish departments of assessment and taxation with a single appointive head. (1921 N. Y. LL. Ch. 300.)
2. A law permitting all cities to establish central purchasing agencies or departments. (1921 N. Y. LL. Ch. 230.)
3. A law permitting cities to abolish boards of health and to establish departments of health with a single appointive head. (1921 N. Y. LL. Ch. 299.)
4. A law permitting the State Comptroller to examine the accounts of school authorities. (1920 N. Y. LL. Ch. 838.)
5. A law permitting the cities to pension municipal employees under the State retirement system. (1922 N. Y. LL. Ch. 591.)

In addition to this group of laws, the constitutional home rule amendment should be mentioned, though it has passed but one legislature thus far.

E—Next Steps

On the strength of the advances made during the past three years, it is safe to say that the cities of New York State are on the right track. This is a vindication of the committee's conclusion arrived at in 1919, that our cities are qualified to exercise complete home rule in local matters.

The State Conference of Mayors and Other City Officials, with its Bureau of Information, is an organization supported and directed by the cities themselves. There is no single force for good city government in this State whose influence is to be compared with it.

The next step in municipal reform under present conditions is, therefore, the granting of full home rule to the cities. Following this, the next steps of reform will be primarily in the hands of the cities. Among these there is none of greater importance than the question of the selection, appointment, pay rates, promotion, and discharge of public employees. This is generally referred to as the employment or personnel problem (which the committee treats of in a special chapter).

THE CURB MARKET.

Oil stocks continue to absorb the attention in Curb Market trading and, except for some unsettlement caused by the suspension from trading of Southern States Oil shares, the market has been active and prices as a rule firm. As stated above, Southern States Oil was suspended from trading on Wednesday, thus causing a bad break in Gulf States Oil & Ref. from 8½ to 1 and in Turman Oil from 10½ to 7. The close to-day was at 2¾ for the former and 8¼ for the latter. United Oil Producing 8% bonds were also affected, these selling down from 85 to 60, with a final recovery to 76. Standard Oil issues show pronounced improvement. Eureka Pipe Line after loss of a point to 98 advanced to 100. Humble Oil & Ref. moved up from 36½ to 38¾ and closed yesterday at 38½. Magnolia Petroleum was conspicuous for a rise of 17 points, to 160, the final figure being 156. Ohio Oil advanced from 68½ to 70½ and finished at 70¼. Prairie Oil & Gas after early weakness from 225 to 222½ rose to 240 ex-dividend. Prairie Pipe Line gained 2½ points to 104½ and sold finally at 103, ex-dividend. South Penn Oil ran up from 143 to 158 and closed yesterday at 157. Standard Oil of Indiana from 63½ reached 66¼ and ends the week at 66½. Vacuum Oil improved from 54⅞ to 57⅞. Internat. Petroleum advanced from 18⅞ to 22⅞ and reacted to 21¼. Movements in Industrials were with few exceptions uninteresting. Stutz Motor was pressed for sale and broke from 9½ to 6½, recovering finally to 8½. Del. Lack. & West Coal sold up from 93½ to 97⅞, and at 97 finally. Durant Motors gained over 2 points to 30½, and ends the week at 30½. Gold Dust Corp. was strong, advancing from 28 to 31¼, the close to-day being at 31.

A complete record of Curb Market transactions for the week will be found on page 2881.

COURSE OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Returns of bank clearings the present week point to a small decrease in the grand aggregate as compared with a year ago. Preliminary figures compiled by us, based upon telegraphic advices from the chief cities of the country, indicate that for the week ending to-day (Saturday, Dec. 29) aggregate bank clearings for all the cities of the United States from which it is possible to obtain weekly returns will show a decrease of 0.9% as compared with the corresponding week last year. The total stands at \$6,781,104,786, against \$6,845,656,427 for the same week in 1922. At this centre there is a loss of 2.7%. Our comparative summary for the week is as follows:

Clearings—Returns by Telegraph. Week ending Dec. 29.	1923.	1922.	Per Cent.
New York	\$2,810,000,000	\$2,887,517,920	-2.7
Chicago	419,921,041	440,190,868	-4.6
Philadelphia	360,000,000	361,000,000	-0.3
Boston	238,000,000	239,000,000	-0.4
Kansas City	96,303,701	103,207,937	-6.7
St. Louis	a	a	a
San Francisco	108,700,000	103,309,000	+5.2
Los Angeles	103,616,000	86,797,000	+19.4
Pittsburgh	115,232,761	111,792,120	+3.1
Detroit	91,956,458	94,158,044	-2.3
Cleveland	70,803,282	72,129,705	-1.8
Baltimore	66,706,248	60,741,344	+9.8
New Orleans	56,981,578	44,452,297	+28.2
Twelve cities, 4 days	\$4,538,221,069	\$4,604,287,235	-1.4
Other cities, 4 days	886,662,760	832,237,907	+4.0
Total all cities, 4 days	\$5,424,883,829	\$5,476,525,142	-0.9
All cities, 1 day	\$1,356,220,957	\$1,369,131,285	-0.9
Total all cities for week	\$6,781,104,786	\$6,845,656,427	-0.9

a Will not report clearings.

Complete and exact details for the week covered by the foregoing will appear in our issue of next week. We cannot furnish them to-day, inasmuch as the week ends to-day (Saturday), and the Saturday figures will not be available until noon to-day. Accordingly, in the above the last day of the week has in all cases had to be estimated.

In the elaborate detailed statement, however, which we present further below, we are able to give final and complete results for the week previous—the week ended Dec. 22. For that week there is an increase of 8.9%, the 1923 aggregate of the clearings being \$8,703,676,448 and the 1922 aggregate \$7,995,941,393. Outside of this city, the increase is 9.1%; at this centre there is a gain of 8.7%. We group the cities now according to the Federal Reserve districts in which they are located, and from this it appears that in the Boston Reserve District there is an improvement of 26.1%, in the New York Reserve District (including this city) of 8.8%.

but in the Philadelphia Reserve District of only 0.1%. In the Cleveland Reserve District the totals are larger by 4.6% in the Richmond Reserve District by 8.7% and in the Atlanta Reserve District by 20.1%. The Chicago Reserve District has a gain of 6.8%, the St. Louis Reserve District of 0.1% and the Dallas Reserve District of 17.3%. In the Minneapolis Reserve District there is a loss of 5.0% and in the Kansas City Reserve District of 2.2%. The San Francisco Reserve District enjoys a gain of 19.2%.

In the following we furnish a summary by Federal Reserve districts:

SUMMARY OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Table with columns: Week ended Dec. 22 1923., 1923., 1922., Inc. or Dec., 1921., 1920. Rows include Federal Reserve Districts (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco), Grand total, and Outside New York City.

We now add our detailed statement, showing last week's figures for each city separately, for the four years:

Large table with columns: Clearings at—, 1923., 1922., Inc. or Dec., 1921., 1920. Rows are organized by Federal Reserve Districts (First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth) and include various cities like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco, etc.

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1923., 1922., Inc. or Dec., 1921., 1920. Rows include various cities like Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ind.—Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, South Bend, Terre Haute, Wis.—Milwaukee, Ia.—Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Sioux City, Waterloo, Chicago, Danville, Deatur, Peoria, Rockford, Springfield, Total (19 cities), Eighth Federal Reserve District—St. Louis, Mo.—St. Louis, Owensboro, Tenn.—Memphis, Ark.—Little Rock, Ill.—Jacksonville, Quincy, Total (7 cities), Ninth Federal Reserve District—Minneapolis, Minn.—Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, N. D.—Fargo, S. D.—Aberdeen, Mont.—Billings, Helena, Total (7 cities), Tenth Federal Reserve District—Kansas City, Neb.—Fremont, Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, Kan.—Topeka, Wichita, Mo.—Kan. City, St. Joseph, Okla.—Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Col.—Col. Spgs., Denver, Pueblo, Total (11 cities), Eleventh Federal Reserve District—Dallas, Texas—Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, La.—Shreveport, Total (5 cities), Twelfth Federal Reserve District—San Francisco, Wash.—Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Yakima, Ore.—Portland, Utah—Salt Lake City, Nevada—Reno, Ariz.—Phoenix, Calif.—Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Stockton, Total (16 cities), Grand total (122 cities), Outside N. Y.

a No longer report clearings. b Do not respond to requests for figures. c Week ending Dec. 20. d Week ending Dec. 21. * Estimated.

THE WEEK ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Except for one or two brief periods of irregularity the stock market has improved materially in tone during the present week. The usual pre-holiday conditions prevailed on Saturday and Monday and trading fell off somewhat in volume. Indeed, several times during the two days the tickers were almost at a standstill. While it was generally expected that Wednesday would also be a light day, quite the contrary proved to be the case, as the trading on that day was the heaviest in several weeks. Oil and steel shares continued to be the centre of interest, each of these groups showing substantial gains during the week's trading. In the abbreviated session on Saturday, price movements were irregular, the net changes at the close being largely fractional. The tone was strong as the session opened on Monday, but there was comparatively little activity during the greater part of the day. In the last hour many leading issues closed with substantial advances over the early quotations. This was particularly true of United States Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry shares which advanced 2 1/2 to a new high for the year, and Continental Can which moved up 2 1/2 points to 57 1/4. On Tuesday the New York Stock Exchange, and all other exchanges were closed in observance of Christmas. Renewed activity, accompanied by strong buying, was the unexpected feature of the market on Wednesday. Advances of from one to four points in a number of leading issues were registered during the day's trading. United States Steel common was the leader of the forward movement with an advance of three points and the oil shares led by Marland Oil recorded a general advance for the group. Many other stocks in the general list participated in the upward movement and closed the day with substantial advances to their credit. The final tone was particularly strong after one of the most active last hours in several weeks. The brisk upswing that developed on Wednesday was again in evidence on Thursday and carried some of the active issues to new high records for the year. Oil shares were again prominent in the day's trading. United States Steel common touched 98 in the early part of the session, but fell off to 97 in the closing hour. The movement of prices was somewhat irregular in the opening hour on Friday. Oil stocks were in strong demand and steadily advanced. United States Steel common was conspicuous in the afternoon trading, going over 99, its highest level in the present advance. In the general list recessions and advances were about evenly divided. The tone was strong, however, as the market closed.

THE ENGLISH GOLD AND SILVER MARKETS.

We reprint the following from the weekly circular of Samuel Montagu & Co. of London, written under date of Dec. 12 1923:

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 5th inst. was £126,044,760, as compared with £125,943,270 on the previous Wednesday. Fairly substantial supplies of gold came on offer this week, the bulk of which will be absorbed by the United States of America, as Indian and Continental requirements were only moderate. Gold valued at \$2,700,000 has arrived in New York from London. We hear from Bombay that the bullion market there was very excited over the announcement of the Government sales of gold, and that there was strong opposition on the part of the Indian Chamber and the Bullion Merchants' Associations to the conversion of gold to sterling securities, notwithstanding the cogent reasons which actuate the action of the Government. The Transvaal gold output for November 1923 amounted to 780,639 fine ounces, as compared with 793,842 fine ounces for October 1923 and 764,476 fine ounces for November 1922.

SILVER.

Again the market has remained fairly steady. The clearance of supplies involved by the large shipment last week to the East naturally rendered it rather difficult to cover "bear" transactions falling due, even though orders from India have not been much in evidence. Yesterday's sharp rise was an indication of a market depleted to a large extent of available stocks. Silver shipments are still being made on a large scale from San Francisco, whence consignments have left for China and are still on the way—amounting to 7,500,000 ounces—in addition to the very heavy shipments which have been dispatched to Shanghai during the last month or so. In present conditions any marked improvement in the value of the pound sterling is bound to be reflected in a lower London price for silver. The "Capital" of Calcutta thus refers to the proposed combination of silver mining interests in the Americas: "It is, perhaps, not generally known that the first move in this direction of controlling the price of silver was made in Mexico, now the largest silver producing country in the world. In view of the continued fall in the price of silver, the Government of that country wanted to help the producers by forming a silver commission, the aim of which was clearly expressed by the following terms: 'It will be the object of this commission to help the silver producers, freeing them from the control of New York buyers, who through its loans, it is declared, are able to force them to sell their silver under its market value. Besides granting loans to producers, the commission, which will be capitalized at 5,000,000 pesos, will encourage silver producers and attempt to stabilize the market. It will be composed of two bankers, two miners, and two representatives of the Ministry of Finance.' Recently the Financial Department of the Mexican Government suggested also to the banks that their reserves should consist of coins, specially of silver. This attitude of the Mexican Government encouraged the United

States producers, the second largest in the world, to develop the plan of a silver export association, and in conference at Reno, practically all the American producers combined to make a common cause."

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

Table with columns: (In Lacs of Rupees)—, Nov. 22, Nov. 30, Dec. 7. Rows include Notes in circulation, Silver coin and bullion in India, Silver coin and bullion out of India, Gold coin and bullion in India, Gold coin and bullion out of India, Securities (Indian Government), Securities (British Government).

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 8th inst. consisted of about 21,800,000 ounces in sycee, 29,000,000 dollars, and 820 silver bars, as compared with about 20,900,000 ounces in sycee, 29,000,000 dollars, and 3,430 silver bars on the 1st inst.

Table with columns: Quotations—, Bar Silver per Oz. Std., Bar Gold per Oz. Fine. Rows include December 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, Average.

The silver quotations to-day for cash and forward delivery are respectively 3-16d. above and the same as those fixed a week ago.

ENGLISH FINANCIAL MARKETS—PER CABLE.

The daily closing quotations for securities, &c., at London, as reported by cable, have been as follows the past week:

Table with columns: London, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. Rows include Week ending Dec. 28, Silver, per oz., Gold, per fine ounce, Consols, 2 1/2 per cents, British, 5 per cents, British, 4 1/2 per cents, French Rentes (in Paris), French War Loan (in Paris).

The price of silver in New York on the same day has been:

Table with columns: Silver in N. Y., per oz. (cts.): Foreign. Values: 64 1/2, 64 1/2, Holiday, 64 1/2, 64 1/2, 64 1/2.

Commercial and Miscellaneous News

Foreign Exchange.—Sterling exchange has moved within narrow limits with the trend towards slightly lower levels. Trading was restricted by the Christmas holidays. The Continental currencies were also dull, with the exception of French francs, which were sensationally weak and showed considerable nervous activity.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for sterling exchange were 4 31 9-16 @ 4 32 1/2 for sixty days, 4 33 13-16 @ 4 35 1/2 for checks and 4 34 1-16 @ 4 35 3/4 for cables. Commercial on banks, sight, 4 33 11-16 @ 4 35; sixty days, 4 31 3-16 @ 4 32 1/2; ninety days, 4 29 15-16 @ 4 31 1/2, and documents for payment (sixty days), 4 31 7-16 @ 4 32 1/2. Cotton for payment, 4 33 11-16 @ 4 35, and grain for payment, 4 33 11-16 @ 4 35.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for Paris bankers' francs were 5 03 1/4 @ 5 12 1/2 for long and 5 08 1/2 @ 5 18 for short. Germany bankers' marks are not yet quoted for long and short bills. Amsterdam bankers' guilders were 37.56 @ 37.62 for long and 37.92 @ 37.98 for short.

Exchange at Paris on London, 84.25 fr.; week's range, 84.25 fr. high and 86.75 fr. low.

The range for foreign exchange for the week follows:

Table with columns: Sterling Actual, Sixty Days, Checks, Cables. Rows include High for the week, Low for the week, Paris Bankers' Francs, Germany Bankers' Marks, Amsterdam Bankers' Guilders.

Domestic Exchange.—Chicago, par. St. Louis, 15 @ 25c. per \$1,000 discount. Boston, par. San Francisco, par. Montreal, \$24.375 per \$1,000 discount. Cincinnati, par.

Quotations for U. S. Treas. Cfts. of Indebtedness, &c.

Table with columns: Maturity, Int. Rate, Btd., Asked., Maturity, Int. Rate, Btd., Asked. Rows include June 15 1924, Sept. 15 1924, Mar. 15 1925, Mar. 15 1926, Dec. 15 1925, Sept. 15 1926, June 15 1925.

New York City Banks and Trust Companies.

All prices dollars per share.

Table with columns: Banks—N.Y., Amer Exch, Bowery, Broadway Cen, Bronx Boro, Bronx Nat, Bryant Park, Butch & Drov, Cent Mercan, Chase, Chat & Phen, Chelsea Exch, Chemical, Coal & Iron, Colonial, Commerce, Corn'wealth, Continental, Corn Exch, Cosmo'tan, East River, Fifth Avenue, Fifth, First, Garfield, Gotham, Greenwich, Hanover, Banks, Harriman, Manhattan, Mech & Met, Mutual, Nat American, National City, New Neth, Pacific, Park, Port Morris, Public, Seaboard, Seventh Ave, Standard, State, Tradesmen's, 23d Ward, United States, Wash'n Hts, Yorkville, Trust Co's, New York, American, Bank of N.Y. & Trust Co, Bankers Trust, Central Union, Commercial, Equitable Tr, Farm L & Tr, Fidelity Inter, Fulton, Guaranty Tr, Hudson, Irving Bank, Columbia Tr, Law Tr & Tr, Metropolitan, Mutual (Westchester), N.Y. Trust, Title Gu & Tr, U.S. Mtg & Tr, United States, Westches Tr, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Tr, Kings County, Manufacturer, People's.

* Banks marked with (*) are State banks. (z) Ex-dividend.

New York City Realty and Surety Companies.

All prices dollars per share.

Table with columns: Alliance R'ty, Amer Surety, Bond & M G., City Investing, Preferred, Lawyers Mtge, Mtge Bond., Nat Surety, N Y Title & Mortgage, U S Casualty, U S Title Guar, Realty Assoc (Bklyn) com, 1st pref., 2d pref., Westchester Title & Tr.

FOREIGN TRADE OF NEW YORK—MONTHLY STATEMENT.

Table with columns: Month, Merchandise Movement at New York (Imports, Exports), Customs Receipts at New York (Imports, Exports), 1923, 1922.

Movement of gold and silver for the ten months:

Table with columns: Month, Gold Movement at New York (Imports, Exports), Silver—New York (Imports, Exports), 1923, 1922.

CURRENT NOTICE.

—A new Stock Exchange firm, under the name of Manowitch Bros. & Filer, has been formed with offices at 25 Broad St. The new firm will be composed of Albert Manowitch, a member of M. J. Meehan & Co., and Leo J. Filer, who will be the board member.

—Clark, Dodge & Co. have prepared for distribution a comprehensive study of the position of the Shell Union Oil Corp., one of the largest and most important units in the oil industry of this country.

—Dominick & Dominick have prepared a special circular on "Recommended Preferred Stocks," giving a list of leading railroad, industrial and public utility preferred issues, together with a chart showing the stability of this type of security.

—Louis Ranger, for many years associated with J. & W. Seligman & Co., becomes a general partner in the New York Stock Exchange firm of Lansburgh Brothers as of Jan. 1 next.

—Gerald Clokey and Wisner Miller, formerly with G'ert Elliott & Co., announce the formation of the copartnership of Clokey & Miller with offices at 52 Broadway, to specialize in bank and insurance stocks.

—W. H. Newbold's Son & Co., Philadelphia, announce that Orville H. Bullitt has been appointed manager of their bond department to take effect Jan. 1 1924.

—A. M. Lamport & Co., Inc., announce that Frank Jones has joined their sales organization.

—Meyer Willet has been admitted to the firm of Bristol & Bauer as of Jan. 1 1924.

DIVIDENDS.

Dividends are grouped in two separate tables. In the first we bring together all the dividends announced the current week. Then we follow with a second table, in which we show the dividends previously announced, but which have not yet been paid.

The dividends announced this week are:

Table with columns: Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive. Includes Railroads (Steam), Public Utilities, and various other companies.

Large table with columns: Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive. Includes Public Utilities (Concluded), Banks, Fire Insurance, and Miscellaneous companies.

Main table with columns: Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive, Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive. Includes sections for Public Utilities (Concluded), Banks (Concluded), Trust Companies, Fire Insurance, and Miscellaneous.

National Banks.—The following information regarding national banks is from the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury Department:

APPLICATION TO ORGANIZE RECEIVED.

- Dec. 20—The Farmers & Miners National Bank of Pennington Gap, Va. Capital. \$25,000
Correspondent, G. W. Blankenship, Pennington Gap, Va.
APPLICATIONS TO ORGANIZE APPROVED.
Dec. 20—The First National Bank of Cosmopolis, Wash. \$25,000
Correspondent, C. W. Bridgham, McCleary, Wash.
Dec. 22—The Twelfth Street National Bank of St. Louis, Mo. \$250,000
Correspondent, A. G. F. Meyer, 1725 S. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

APPLICATION TO CONVERT APPROVED.

- Dec. 20—The Commercial National Bank of Hattiesburg, Miss. \$100,000
Conversion of the Bank of Hattiesburg & Trust Co., Hattiesburg, Miss.

CHARTERS ISSUED.

- Dec. 18—12474—The Reed City National Bank, Reed City, Mich. \$25,000
Conversion of the Commercial Savings Bank of Reed City, Mich. President, O. W. Clark; Cashier, R. S. Wurm.
Dec. 20—12475—The United States National Bank of Galveston, Texas. \$1,000,000
Succeeds the Texas Bank & Trust Co. of Galveston, Tex. President, L. H. Kempner; Cashier, R. Lee Kempner.

VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATIONS.

- Dec. 18—7965—The First National Bank of Lindsay, Calif. \$75,000
Effective Nov. 24 1923. Liquidating agent, S. A. Warson, Lindsay, Calif. Absorbed by Pacific South-west Trust & Savings Bank of Los Angeles, Calif.
Dec. 19—189—The First National Bank of Franklin, Pa. \$200,000
Effective Dec. 15 1923. Liquidating agents, Wayne W. Bleakley and F. W. Officer, Franklin, Pa. Absorbed by the Franklin Trust Co. of Franklin, Pa.
Dec. 21—9184—The National City Bank of Memphis, Tenn. \$300,000
Effective Dec. 8 1923. Liquidating Agent, Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. of Memphis, Tenn. Absorbed by the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. of Memphis.
Dec. 21—11030—The First National Bank of Brady, Mont. \$25,000
Effective Dec. 15 1923. Liquidating agent, S. H. Severson, Brady, Mont. Absorbed by the Farmers State Bank, Brady, Mont.
Dec. 21—12310—The First National Bank of Castle, Okla. \$25,000
Effective Dec. 14 1923. Liquidating agent, E. L. Elliott, Castle, Okla. To be succeeded by a State bank organized for that purpose.
Dec. 21—12312—The State National Bank of Paden, Okla. \$25,000
Effective Dec. 14 1923. Liquidating agent, A. R. Novotny, Paden, Okla. To be succeeded by a State bank organized for that purpose.

AUCTION SALES FOR THE WEEK.

Among other securities, the following, not actually dealt in at the Stock Exchange, were recently sold at auction in New York, Boston and Philadelphia:

By Messrs. Adrian H. Muller & Sons, New York:

Table with 2 columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Lists various securities such as 34 United Equities Corp., 12 United Equities Corp., 1,550 Gaston & Co., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Lists various securities such as 12,500 Morington Mining, 1,800 Moa Bay Iron, 100 Atlantic Lobos Oil, etc.

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 2,500 Argonaut Salvage, 92 Bethlehem Motors, 10,625 Republic Match, 75 Seller Rose, Inc., etc.

Table with columns: Bonds, Price. Includes entries like \$5,500 Shasta Zinc & Cop. Ss., \$25 \$110 lot, \$1,000 Delta Chi Realty 5s, 1933-\$40 lot, etc.

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 30 Rloridon Co., Ltd., 1st prefer'ce., 15 Wickvery Spencer Steel Corp., etc.

By Messrs. R. L. Day & Co., Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 15 First National Bank, Boston, ex-dividend, 10 National Shawmut Bank, Boston, etc.

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 2,000 Homa Oil Co., par \$1, 1,000 Utah Metal & Tunnel, par \$1.30, etc.

Table with columns: Bonds, Price. Includes entries like \$2,000 Cascade Silver Mines & Mills 1st Mtg. 6s., \$7,500 The Selas Co. 6% notes, etc.

By Messrs. R. L. Day & Co., Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 1,000 General Exploration, \$1 ea. \$10 lot, 500 General Exploration, \$1 each \$5 lot, etc.

By Messrs. Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 14 Commonwealth-Atlantic Nat. Bank, ex-div. 208, 25 Fidelity Trust, 2 lot, etc.

By Messrs. Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 100 Internat. Mercantile Marine, pf 25, 200 White Lunch Co., pref., par \$10, etc.

By Messrs. Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 1,125 Choraleco Zinc & Lead Mining Co., \$10 each, 100 Crown Crest Zinc & Lead Mining Co., \$25 each, etc.

By Messrs. Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table with columns: Shares, Stocks, Price. Includes entries like 100 Tex-Lag-Homa Oil Corp., com., 100 Tex-Lag-Homa Oil Corp., com., 100 Tex-Lag-Homa Oil Corp., com., etc.

Table of Shares and Stocks with columns for Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 175 E. Howard Watch & Clock Co., 100 Denholm & McKay, etc.

Table of Bonds with columns for Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like \$7,000 Russian Govt. 6 1/2s, June 18 1919, etc.

By Messrs. Barnes & Lofland, Philadelphia:

Table of Shares and Stocks by Messrs. Barnes & Lofland. Includes items like 148 St. Charles Hotel Co., 1 St. Charles Hotel Co., etc.

Table of Bonds by Messrs. Barnes & Lofland. Includes items like \$7,000 N. Y. Queens Co. Ry. 4s, 1946, etc.

Weekly Returns of New York City Clearing House Banks and Trust Companies.

The following shows the condition of the New York City Clearing House members for the week ending Dec. 22. The figures for the separate banks are the averages of the daily results. In the case of the grand totals, we also show the actual figures of condition at the end of the week.

NEW YORK WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS. (Stated in thousands of dollars—that is, three ciphers [000] omitted.)

Main table showing weekly returns for Dec 22 1923. Columns include Week ending, Members of Fed Bank of N Y & Tr Co., Res., Bank, Average, Loans, Reserve, Net Demand Deposits, Time Deposits, and Bank Circulation.

Note.—U. S. deposits deducted from net demand deposits in the general totals above were as follows: Average total Dec. 22, \$45,728,000; actual totals Dec. 22, \$46,518,000; Dec. 15, \$6,315,000; Dec. 8, \$6,314,000; Dec. 1, \$9,283,000; Nov. 24, \$10,318,000.

The reserve position of the different groups of institutions on the basis of both the averages for the week and the actual condition at the end of the week is shown in the following two tables:

STATEMENT OF RESERVE POSITION OF CLEARING HOUSE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES.

Table showing reserve position with columns for Members Federal Reserve banks, Reserve banks, State banks, Trust companies, and Averages (Cash Reserve, Reserve in Depositories, Total Reserve, Reserve Required, Surplus Reserve).

* Not members of Federal Reserve Bank. This is the reserve required on net demand deposits in the case of State banks and trust companies, but in the case of members of the Federal Reserve Bank includes also amount in reserve required on net time deposits, which was as follows: Dec. 22, \$12,007,410; Dec. 15, \$12,105,150; Dec. 8, \$11,988,270; Dec. 1, \$11,740,470.

Table with columns: Actual Figures, Cash Reserve in Vault, Reserve in Depositories, Total Reserve, b Reserve Required, Surplus Reserve. Rows include Members Federal, Reserve banks, State banks, Trust companies, and various dates from Dec. 1 to Dec. 22.

* Not members of Federal Reserve banks. b This is the reserve required on net demand deposits in the case of State banks and trust companies, but in the case of members of the Federal Reserve Bank includes also amount of reserve required on net time deposits, which was as follows: Dec. 22, \$11,995,260; Dec. 15, \$12,100,410; Dec. 8, \$11,943,540; Dec. 1, \$11,858,910.

State Banks and Trust Companies Not in Clearing House.—The State Banking Department reports weekly figures showing the condition of State banks and trust companies in New York City not in the Clearing House as follows:

SUMMARY OF STATE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES IN GREATER NEW YORK, NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARING HOUSE STATEMENT.

Table showing summary of state banks and trust companies with columns for Dec. 22 and differences from previous week. Includes items like Loans and investments, Gold, Currency and bank notes, Deposits with Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Total deposits, etc.

Table titled RESERVE showing State Banks and Trust Companies percentages of reserve. Includes columns for Cash in vault, Deposits in banks and trust cos., and Total.

* Include deposits with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which for the State banks and trust companies combined on Dec. 22 was \$72,879,200.

Banks and Trust Companies in New York City.—The averages of the New York City Clearing House banks and trust companies combined with those for the State banks and trust companies in Greater New York City outside of the Clearing House are as follows:

COMBINED RESULTS OF BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES IN GREATER NEW YORK.

Table showing combined results of banks and trust companies with columns for Week ended, Loans and Investments, Demand Deposits, Total Cash in Vaults, Reserve in Depositories. Rows list weekly data from Sept. 1 to Dec. 22.

New York City Non-Member Banks and Trust Companies.—The following are the returns to the Clearing House by clearing non-member institutions and which are not included in the "Clearing House Returns" in the foregoing:

RETURN OF NON-MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF NEW YORK CLEARING HOUSE.

(Stated in thousands of dollars—that is, three ciphers [000] omitted.)

Table with multiple columns for CLEARING NON-MEMBERS: Capital, Profits, Loans Dis-counts, Cash in Vault, Reserve with Legal Depositories, Net Demand Deposits, Net Time Deposits, Nat'l Bank Circulation. Rows include Members of Fed'l Res'v Bank, W. R. Grace & Co., Total State Banks Not Members of Fed'l Res'v Bank, Bank of Wash. Hts., Colonial Bank, Total Trust Company Not Member of Fed'l Res'v Bank, Mech. Tr., Bayonne, Grand aggregate, and Comparison with previous week.

United States deposits deducted, \$106,000. Bills payable, rediscounts, acceptances and other liabilities, \$149,000. Excess reserve, \$164,480 decrease.

Boston Clearing House Weekly Returns.—In the following we furnish a summary of all the items in the Boston Clearing House weekly statement for a series of weeks:

BOSTON CLEARING HOUSE MEMBERS.

Table with columns: Dec. 26 1923, Changes from previous week, Dec. 19 1923, Dec. 12 1923. Rows include Capital, Surplus and profits, Loans, disct's & Investments, Individual deposits, Inc. U. S., Due to banks, Time deposits, United States deposits, Exchanges for Clearing House, Due from other banks, Reserve in Fed. Res. Bank, Cash in bank and F. R. Bank, Reserve excess in bank and Federal Reserve Bank.

Philadelphia Banks.—The Philadelphia Clearing House return for the week ending Dec. 22, with comparative figures for the two weeks preceding, is given below. Reserve requirements for members of the Federal Reserve System are 10% on demand deposits and 3% on time deposits, all to be kept with the Federal Reserve Bank. "Cash in vaults" is not a part of legal reserve. For trust companies not members of the Federal Reserve System the reserve required is 10% on demand deposits and includes "Reserve with legal depositaries" and "Cash in vaults."

Table with columns: Two Ciphers (00) omitted, Week ending Dec. 22 1923, Dec. 15 1923, Dec. 8 1923. Rows include Capital, Surplus and profits, Loans, disct's & Investments, Exchanges for Clear. House, Due from banks, Bank deposits, Individual deposits, Time deposits, Total deposits, U. S. deposits (not incl.), Res'v with legal deposit's, Reserve with F. R. Bank, Cash in vault, Total reserve and cash held, Reserve required, Excess res. & cash in vault.

* Cash in vault not counted as reserve for Federal Reserve members.

Condition of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The following shows the condition of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the close of business Dec. 26 1923 in comparison with the previous week and the corresponding date last year:

Table with columns: Resources, Dec. 26 1923, Dec. 19 1923, Dec. 27 1922. Rows include Resources (Gold and gold certificates, Gold settlement fund, Total gold held by bank, Gold with Federal Reserve Agent, Gold redemption fund, Total gold reserves, Reserves other than gold, Total reserves, Non-reserve cash, Bills discounted, Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations, All other, Bills bought in open market, Total bills on hand, U. S. bonds and notes, U. S. certificates of indebtedness, One-year certificates (Pittman Act), Total earning assets, Bank premises, 5% redemp. fund agst. F. R. bank notes, Uncollected items, All other resources, Total resources, Liabilities (Capital paid in, Surplus, Deposits, Government, Member banks, All other), Total, F. R. notes in actual circulation, F. R. bank notes in circ'n—net liability, Deferred availability items, All other liabilities, Total liabilities, Ratio of total reserves to deposit and F. R. note liabilities combined, Contingent liability on bills purchased for foreign correspondents).

* Not shown separately prior to January 1923.

CURRENT NOTICES.

The Trust Department of the Guaranty Trust Co. of N. Y., 140 Broadway, N. Y. City, is now prepared to deliver definitive Series "A," "B" and "C" 6% Serial Gold bonds issued under International Securities Trust of America Agreement dated June 1 1923, in exchange for the outstanding temporary bonds.

Dominick & Dominick have prepared a special analysis of the New York Title & Mortgage Co., which shows that present earnings of the company are at the rate of more than 30% on the capital stock, and net profits for the first eleven months of 1923 were 54% ahead of the corresponding period of 1922. The stock of the company has just been placed on a 12% annual dividend basis.

Weekly Return of the Federal Reserve Board.

The following is the return issued by the Federal Reserve Board Thursday afternoon, Dec. 27, and showing the condition of the twelve Reserve Banks at the close of business on Wednesday. In the first table we present the results for the system as a whole in comparison with the figures for the seven preceding weeks and with those of the corresponding week last year. The second table shows the resources and liabilities separately for each of the twelve banks. The Federal Reserve Agents' Accounts (third table following) gives details regarding transactions in Federal Reserve notes between the Comptroller and Reserve Agents and between the latter and Federal Reserve banks. The Reserve Board's comment upon the returns for the latest week appears on page 2832, being the first item in our department of "Current Events and Discussions."

COMBINED RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DEC. 26 1923.

Main table showing combined resources and liabilities of the Federal Reserve Banks at the close of business Dec. 26 1923. Columns represent dates from Dec. 26 1923 to Dec. 27 1922. Rows include RESOURCES (Gold and gold certificates, Total gold reserves, Total resources) and LIABILITIES (Capital paid in, Deposits, Total liabilities). Includes a distribution by maturities section and Federal Reserve Notes section.

* Not shown separately prior to Jan. 1923.

WEEKLY STATEMENT OF RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF EACH OF THE 12 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS DEC 26 1923.

Table showing the weekly statement of resources and liabilities of each of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks at the close of business Dec 26 1923. Columns represent banks: Boston, New York, Phila., Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kan. City, Dallas, San Fran., Total. Rows include RESOURCES (Gold and gold certificates, Total gold reserves) and LIABILITIES (Total bills on hand).

Bankers' Gazette

Wall Street, Friday Night, Dec. 28 1923.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The review of the Stock Market is given this week on page 2856.

The following are sales made at the Stock Exchange this week of shares not represented in our detailed list on the pages which follow:

Table with columns: STOCKS, Sales for Week, Range for Week (Lowest, Highest), Range since Jan. 1. (Lowest, Highest). Lists various stocks like Railroads, Am Cotton Oil, etc.

STOCKS. Week ending Dec. 28. Sales for Week. Range for Week (Lowest, Highest). Range since Jan. 1. (Lowest, Highest). Includes Indus. & Miscell. Par. and U S Realty & Imp full pd.

* No par value. c Ex 300% dividend in stock.

The Curb Market.—The review of the Curb Market is given this week on page 2854. A complete record of Curb Market transactions for the week will be found on page 2881.

TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE DAILY, WEEKLY AND YEARLY. Table with columns: Week Ending Dec. 28, Stocks, Shares, Railroad & Bonds, State, Municipal & Foreign Bds., United States Bonds.

Sales at New York Stock Exchange. Table with columns: Week ending Dec. 28, Jan. 1 to Dec. 28, 1923, 1922, 1923, 1922. Includes Stocks—No. shares, Government bonds, etc.

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK CURB MARKET. Table with columns: Week Ending December 28, STOCKS (No. Shares), BONDS (Par Value). Includes Ind. & Mts., Oil, Mining, Domestic, For'n Govt.

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE EXCHANGES. Table with columns: Week ending Dec. 28 1923, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore. Includes Shares, Bond Sales.

Daily Record of U. S. Bond Prices. Table with columns: Dec. 22, Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Dec. 28. Lists various bond series like First Liberty Loan, Second Liberty Loan, etc.

Note.—The above table includes only sales of coupon bonds. Transactions in registered bonds were: 12 1st 3 1/8s, 22 1st 4 1/8s, 11 2d 4 1/8s. Quotations for U. S. Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness, &c.—See page 2856. Foreign Exchange.—See page 2856.

New York Stock Exchange—Stock Record, Daily, Weekly and Yearly

OCCUPYING FOUR PAGES

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see preceding page

Main table with columns: HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT. (Saturday to Friday), Sales for the Week, STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE (Railroads, Industrial & Miscellaneous), PER SHARE Range since Jan. 1 1923, PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1922.

* Bid and asked prices # Ex-dividend.

New York Stock Record—Continued—Page 2

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For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see second page preceding

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for dates (Saturday to Friday), stock names, and price ranges. Includes sub-sections for 'Stock Exchange' and 'Closed—Christmas Day'. Lists various companies like American Locomotive, American Smelting, and others.

*Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. c Ex. 300% in s. z Ex dividend.

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see third page preceding.

Main table with columns: HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.; STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE; PER SHARE Range since Jan. 1 1923; PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1922. Includes sub-sections for Stock Exchange and Christmas Day.

* Bid and asked prices; no sales this day. * Ex-dividend.

New York Stock Record—Concluded—Page 4

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see fourth page preceding.

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HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 22 to Friday Dec. 28) and 'per share' values for various stock categories.

Main table titled 'STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE' listing various companies (e.g., Indus. & Miscell., Pacific Oil, Packard Motor Car) and their share prices.

* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. # Ex-dividend. # After distribution of dividend in shares of United Cigar Store at the rate of 38.8 shares for 100 shares of United Retail Stores.

Jan. 1 1909 the Exchange method of quoting bonds was changed and prices are now "and interest"—except for income and defaulted bonds

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Bond Name, Price, Week's Range, and Range Since. Includes sections for U.S. Government, State and City Securities, Foreign Government, and Railroad.

*No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. d Due April. e Due May. g Due June. h Due July. k Due Aug. l Due Oct. p Due Nov. q Due Dec. s Option sale.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE, Interest Period, Price Friday, Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1, and various bond descriptions.

* No price Friday; latest bid and asked this week. a Due Jan. b Due Feb. c Due June. d Due July. e Due Sept. f Option sale.

Table with columns for Bonds N. Y. Stock Exchange, Price Friday Dec. 28, Week's Range or Last Sale, Range Since Jan. 1, and Bonds Sold. Includes various bond entries such as M & E 1st gu 3 3/8s, U.S. Treasury, and Corporate bonds.

* No price Friday; latest bid and asked this week. a Due Jan. b Due Feb. c Due June. d Due Aug. e Due Oct. f Due Nov. g Due Dec. h Option sale.

Table with columns for Bond Description, Interest Period, Price (Friday Dec. 28), Week's Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1, and N.Y. Stock Exchange Week ending Dec. 28. The table is split into two main sections for 'N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE' and 'BONDS'.

*No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. b Due April. c Due March. d Due May. e Due June. f Due July. g Due Aug. h Due Oct. i Due Dec. j Option sale.

New York Bond Record—Concluded—Page 5

Quotations of Sundry Securities

All bond prices are "and interest" except where marked "f"

Table of New York Stock Exchange bonds, including columns for Bond, Price, Week of Last Sale, Range Since Jan. 1, and various market indicators.

Table of Sundry Securities, including Standard Oil Stocks, Railroad Equipments, Public Utilities, and Sugar Stocks, with columns for Bid, Ask, and various market indicators.

*No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. d Due Apr. e Due Mar. f Due May. g Due June. Due July. h Due Aug. i Due Oct. j Due Dec. k Option sale. l New stock. m Flat price. n Last sale. o Nominal. p Ex-dividend. q Ex-rights. r Ex stock dividend. s Sale price. t Canadian quotation.

Outside Stock Exchanges

Boston Bond Record.—Transactions in bonds at Boston Stock Exchange Dec. 22 to Dec. 22, both inclusive:

Table with columns: Bonds—, Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Lists various bonds like Alaska Deb 6s, Amer Tel & Tel 4s, etc.

Philadelphia Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Philadelphia Stock Exchange Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Lists various stocks like American Elec Pow Co, American Gas of N J, etc.

St. Louis Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at St. Louis Stock Exchange Dec. 28 to Dec. 22, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Lists various stocks like Boatmen's Bank, Nat Bank of Commerce, etc.

Baltimore Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Baltimore Stock Exchange Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, both inclusive, compiled from official lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Lists various stocks like Alabama Co, Amer Wholesale, Armst-Cator 8% pref., etc.

Chicago Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Chicago Stock Exchange Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Lists various stocks like Amer Pub Serv, Amer Shipbuilding, Am Steel Found, etc.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Middle West Util, com. 100, Preferred, Prior lien preferred, etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Centrifugal Cast Iron Pipe, Preferred, Chequer Cab Mfg Class A, etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

Pittsburgh Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Pittsburgh Stock Exchange Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock prices for various companies including Am Wind Glass Mach., Preferred, Arkansas Nat Gas, com. 10, Bank of Pittsburgh, etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Reading Coal, Preferred, Reo Motor Car, Repett, Inc., etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

New York Curb Market.—Below is a record of the transactions in the New York Curb Market from Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, both inclusive, as compiled from the official lists. As noted in our issue of July 2 1921, the New York Curb Market Association on June 27 1921 transferred its activities from the Broad Street curb to its new building on Trinity Place, and the Association is now issuing an official sheet which forms the basis of the compilations below.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Acme Packing, Allied Packers, Amalgamated Leather, Preferred, Amer Cotton Fabric pf. 100, etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Pan-Amer Pet & Trans., Reading Coal w l., etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Anglo-American Oil, Buckeye Pipe Line, Chesapeake Mfg., Continental Oil, etc. Columns include Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range since Jan. 1.

* No par value.

* No par value.

Table with multiple columns: Other Oil Stocks, Mining Stocks (Concluded), Bonds, Foreign Government and Municipalities. Columns include stock names, prices, weekly ranges, and dates. Includes sub-sections like 'Mining Stocks' and 'Bonds'.

* No par value. † Correction. ‡ Dollars per 1,000 lire flat. / Listed on the Stock Exchange this week, where additional transactions will be found. e New stock. s Option sale. w When issued. x Ex-dividend. y Ex-rights. z Ex-stock dividend. n Ex-stock dividend of 40%.

RAILROAD GROSS EARNINGS

The following table shows the gross earnings of various STEAM roads from which regular weekly or monthly returns can be obtained. The first two columns of figures give the gross earnings for the latest week or month, and the last two columns the earnings for the period from Jan. 1 to and including the latest week or month. The returns of electric railways are brought together separately on a subsequent page.

Table with columns: ROADS, Latest Gross Earnings (Current Year, Previous Year), Jan 1 to Latest Date (Current Year, Previous Year). Rows list various railroads like Akron Canton & Y., Ala & Vicksburg, etc., with their respective earnings figures.

AGGREGATE OF GROSS EARNINGS—Weekly and Monthly.

Table with columns: Weekly Summaries (Current Year, Previous Year, Increase or Decrease, %), Monthly Summaries (Current Year, Previous Year, Increase or Decrease, %). Rows show aggregate earnings for 2d week Oct, 3d week Oct, etc., and for months like January, February, etc.

Note.—Grand Rapids & Indiana and Pitts. Oln. Chic. & St. Louis included in Pennsylvania RR. Lake Erie & Western included in New York Central. Toledo St. Louis & Western included in New York Chicago & St. Louis.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY AND PUBLIC UTILITY CO'S.

Table with columns: Name of Road or Company, Latest Gross Earnings (Current Year, Previous Year), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (Current Year, Previous Year). Lists various utility companies and their financial performance.

Table with columns: Name of Road or Company, Latest Gross Earnings (Month, Current Year, Previous Year), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (Current Year, Previous Year). Continues the list of utility companies with monthly breakdowns.

* After allowing for other income. z Net after expenses, taxes included in charges.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Annual, &c., Reports.—The following is an index to all annual and other reports of steam railroads, street railways and miscellaneous companies published since and including Nov. 24 1923.

This index, which is given monthly, does not include reports in to-day's "Chronicle."

Bold face figures indicate reports published at length.

Table listing Steam Roads and Industrial (Concluded) companies with their respective page numbers.

Table listing Electric Railways companies with their respective page numbers.

Table listing Industrial companies with their respective page numbers.

The Cudahy Packing Company.

(Annual Report—Fiscal Year ending Oct. 27 1923.)

President E. A. Cudahy, Chicago, Dec. 20, reports in substance:

Results.—Profits from operations were \$2,010,198. When compared with the results of the past few years this result is decidedly encouraging.

There has been reserved from surplus a sum sufficient to pay the dividends on Preferred stocks deferred in 1921. When this payment is made, the back dividends on Preferred stocks will have been paid in full.

Sales.—Every effort has been made by the company to maintain and where possible, improve the high standard of its products and to increase the efficiency of its organization.

Expenditures.—To produce merchandise of the highest grade and distribute in increased quantity has necessitated heavy expenditures for plant improvements and up-to-date equipment.

Statement Regarding Demand of Secretary of Agriculture to Have Right to Examine Books.—It may be of interest to you to have a brief statement and explanation given of the position taken by this company in connection with the demand of the Secretary of Agriculture, dated Nov. 17 1923, for the right to have his duly authorized agents given constant access to, and the right to examine and copy, our books of accounts, records and memoranda.

While we regret to have any controversy with the Government, and while we are fully satisfied that the business of the company has been conducted with entire legality, we have felt that the company has Constitutional rights as against an unreasonable search and undue Government intervention in its business, and have therefore felt that we should refuse to concede the demand. Therefore in due course, if the Secretary persists in the demand, there will undoubtedly be a legal proceeding in which the merits of the respective positions can be determined.

We certainly hope and feel quite confident that the decision of the Court will be (to quote the words of the Supreme Court of the United States) that "if real competition is to continue, the right of the individual to exercise reasonable discretion in respect of his own business method must be preserved."

Outlook.—We are entering the coming year under very favorable conditions, with modern plants, ample distributing facilities, a high quality of product, a competent organization, relatively small inventories and a comfortable margin of liquid assets. I feel confident, therefore, that with a continuation of the present prosperous industrial conditions—and the indications are for even further improvement in this direction—the year 1924 should be a remunerative one, not only to the company but to the stockholders.

RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDED—

Table showing Results for Fiscal Years Ended from Oct. 27 1922 to Oct. 29 1921, including Total sales, Net profits, and Common dividend.

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET.

Table showing Comparative Balance Sheet for Oct. 27 '23, Oct. 28 '22, and Oct. 27 '23, Oct. 28 '22, comparing Assets and Liabilities.

Interborough Rapid Transit Co.

(Annual Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30 1923.)

Frank Hedley, Pres. & Gen. Mgr., reports in substance:

Results.—Gross operating revenue for the year ended June 30 1923 was \$55,559,436, as compared with \$53,540,859 last year, a gain of \$2,018,577, or 3.77%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of \$1,701,418, or 4.91%, and a gain on the Manhattan Ry. division of \$317,159, or 1.68%.

Operating Expenses.—Operating expenses were \$34,392,509 as compared with \$32,272,509, an increase of \$2,119,999, or 6.57%, of which \$1,590,715, or 7.81%, was on the Subway division and \$529,285, or 4.44%, on the Manhattan division, the increase being due substantially to cost of additional train service and an increase in the cost of coal, reduced by the savings in labor by use of multiple unit door control on Subway cars and of automatic turnstiles on stations.

Of the increase of \$2,119,999 in operating expenses there was an increase of \$333,643 in maintenance of way, structures and equipment, \$1,483,292 in traffic and transportation expenses, and \$303,064 in general expenses. Of the increase in transportation and traffic expenses the sum of \$1,343,622 was in the item of "fuel for power," reflecting the high cost of fuel during the year as well as the additional coal required to operate the increased car mileage and to supply an increased amount of power sold to outside companies and the variation in the quality of coal from the standard quality usually furnished to the company's power stations.

Net Operating Revenue.—The net operating revenue was \$21,166,927 as compared with \$21,268,350 last year, a decrease of \$101,423, or 0.47%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of \$110,703, or 0.77%, and a loss on the Manhattan Ry. division of \$212,126, or 3.03%.

Taxes.—The total amount of taxes was \$2,662,310, as compared with \$2,802,824 last year, a decrease of \$140,513, or 5.01%; Subway division shows an increase of \$3,716, or 0.83%, while the Manhattan Ry. division shows a decrease of \$144,229, or 6.12%.

Income from Operation.—Income from operation was \$18,504,617, as compared with \$18,465,527 last year, or an increase of \$39,090, or 0.21%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of \$106,987, or 0.77%, and a loss on the Manhattan Ry. division of \$67,897, or 1.46%.

Gross Income.—Gross income was \$19,078,467, as compared with \$19,118,402 last year, a decrease of \$39,935, or 0.21%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of \$18,278, or 0.12%, and a loss on the Manhattan Ry. division of \$58,213, or 1.24%.

Income Deductions.—Income deductions were \$19,210,263 as compared with \$21,885,199 last year, a decrease of \$2,674,936, or 12.22%.

Traffic.—The number of passengers carried was 1,025,175,131 compared with 993,492,690 last year, an increase of 31,682,441, or 3.19%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of 31,674,957, or 4.91%, and a gain on the Manhattan Ry. division of 7,484.

Maintenance.—Additions and betterments were \$9,305,846 as compared with \$9,305,846 as compared with \$19,078,467, as compared with \$19,118,402 last year, a decrease of \$39,935, or 0.21%, the result of a gain on the Subway division of \$106,987, or 0.77%, and a loss on the Manhattan Ry. division of \$67,897, or 1.46%.

Expenditures for maintenance and improvements during the past year were unusually large. Considerable replacing and reinforcing work, together with other miscellaneous repairs and improvements, was performed on the Elevated structure, always keeping it up to the standard required for safe and economical operation.

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elevators and new entrance on west side of Broadway as a means of increasing the convenience to passengers and its capacity, and escalators are being installed at Park Place and Borough Hall stations of the Broadway-Seventh Ave. line for the same purpose.

Other Additions, &c.—The increase in service which has been added to the company's schedule during the year made necessary large improvements and additions to our power house equipment.

Important improvements in the art of turbine design have shown that a much higher degree of safety of operation would be assured if certain of the wheels of the three 30,000 k. w. turbines at the 59th St. power station were replaced by wheels of improved design.

At the 74th St. power station an extensive overhauling of the 60,000 k. w. three element turbine unit is being undertaken to assure the continuity of the operation of this unit.

The greater part of the work of dismantling, trucking and reinstalling six 1,500 k. w. and three 4,000 k. w. rotary converters and their complementary transformers from certain Manhattan and Subway substations to other Subway substations has been completed.

New Cars.—The 100 new Subway trailer cars have been received; 18 have been equipped and placed in operation and the remainder will be placed in operation for the fall service.

Multiple Unit Car Door Control.—The installation of multiple unit car door control has been extended to include an additional 414 Subway cars, which work was completed June 30, thus making a total of 1,396 Subway cars operating with this new type of safety device.

Coin-Operated Safety Gates.—The Subway and Elevated stations are now equipped with coin-operated safety gates, and this novel type of apparatus has exceeded expectations, for it has pleased the public from the very beginning, which is somewhat unusual in the operation of new devices.

Improved Elevated Service.—In the early part of the spring the matter of improving the service on the Manhattan Elevated lines was taken up with a view to making it more convenient and attractive as a means of securing increased traffic on these lines and relieving so far as possible the congestion in the subways.

As a further means of making this improved service attractive to the public new schedules were put into effect calling for an increase of 428 trains per day, distributed between local and express service, thus giving a more frequent service on all divisions and adding greatly to the convenience of the traveling public.

Elimination of Outside Connections.—Chairman Grayson M.-P. Murphy, in detailing what was accomplished under the readjustment plan, stated that it was the aim of the new board of directors to give the best service it possibly could and to do all in its power to co-operate with and assist the authorities to provide adequate rapid transit facilities for New York City.

Growth of Traffic.—This is part of the preparation which the company is making to place its finances and organization in shape to take care of the regular increase in travel by reason of the growth in population. The total number of passengers carried by city lines in 1872 was 138,722,196, while in 1922 the number had increased to 2,596,100,410.

Officials Always Ready to Co-operate with City Authorities.—The company appreciates keenly the discomforts of present traveling and is doing everything it can to overcome them. New equipment is being installed and large expenditures are being made for signals and other safeguards in an effort to shorten the headway of trains.

Our contracts with the city establish a relation intended to create co-operation in the solution of rapid transit problems. There is a joint responsibility which can only be fulfilled to the best advantage by the active and friendly action of both parties.

This company stands in the position of a trustee of the city's property, operating it in the interest of its citizens. As such trustee it is also charged with the duty of making such constructive suggestions as its experience leads it to believe will, in the most economical manner, add to the facilities at its command to handle the ever-increasing tide of travel.

Table with 12 columns: Year (1912-1923), NO. PASS. CARRIED BY INTERBORO. R.T. CO. (IN ROUND MILLIONS). Rows include Elevated, Subway, and Total.

* Includes 155,786 (2 1/2%) passengers-school children, carried during New York City Jubilee, June 4-22, 1923.

The usual comparative income and surplus account, together with the results by divisions, for the year ended June 30 1923 was published in V. 117, p. 2765.

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEARS ENDING JUNE 30.

Table with 5 columns: Year (1922-23, 1921-22, 1920-21, 1919-20). Rows include Miles of road, Passengers carried, Gross operating revenue, Operating expenses, Taxes, Operating income, Other income, Gross income, Int. & s. f. on city bonds, Int. on Co. 1st & Ref. 5s, S. F. on Co. 1st & Ref. 5s, Int. on Man. Ry. Cons. 4s, Div. rental Man. Ry. stk., Other interest, &c., Total deductions, Net deficit.

DIVIDEND ACCOUNT, INCLUDING ACCRUALS.

Table with 4 columns: Year (1922-23, 1921-22, 1920-21, 1919-20). Rows include Net deficit, Accruals (see footnote *), Total, Dividends I. R. T., Balance, surplus.

* Accruals under the provision of contract No. 3 and related certificates are the amounts which, under the agreements with the city, are payable from further earnings.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30.

Table with 4 columns: Year (1923, 1922). Rows include Assets (Fixed capital, Investments, B. T. Co. trust, Int. on coll. ind, I. R. T. 1st & Ref. 5%, 5% bds. reacq, Due from assoc'd companies, Cash, U. S. cts. of ind., Pur. of scrip cts. for arrears of div. rentals on M. Ry. Co. stk, Acc'ts receivable, Bills receivable, Int. & div. rec., Materials & supp, Special deposits, Accruals, contr't No. 3 & cts. payable, Const. & eq. fds., N. Y. Tr. Co., trustee (equip. trust Ser. "A"), Prepayments, Sec. in trust for vol. relief fund, Deferred charges, Profit & loss def.) and Liabilities (Capital stock, 1st & ref. M. 5s, 3-year secured conv. 7% notes, 10-yr. 6% notes, Equip. trust cts., Series "A", 1st & ref. M. 5s, pledged as coll. to 3 & 10-year 7% notes, 1st & ref. M. 5s, released by B. T. Co., Man. Ry. lease account, Loan from R. T. Sub. Constr. Co. acct. Sara. award, Interest due, Dividend rentals, Div. on M. Ry. Co. stock, Scrip cts. for arrears of dividend rentals, Int. and rentals not due, Coupons due not presented, Due for wages, Sub. constr. cash lab. for adv. from gen. fund, Acc'ts payable, Taxes accrued, Sinking fund on 5% bonds, Reserves, Items awaiting distribution, Deferred profit & loss credits).

A Several of the items included above in "Investments" and "Due from Associated Cos." are in course of liquidation and will probably realize a comparatively small sum. When their value shall be definitely ascertained and items of a similar character shall have been re-valued in accordance with existing conditions, the balance sheet will be re-cast and there will be entered upon the books the full asset value of Contract No. 3, the Subway lease, including the appraised present worth of the Subway preferentials when earned.

Canadian Car & Foundry Co., Ltd. (14th Annual Report—Year ended Sept. 30 1923.) President W. W. Butler reports in substance:

The report covers the operations of the company and its subsidiaries, the Canadian Steel Foundries, Ltd., and the Pratt & Letchworth Co., Ltd. The total output of all plants for the year amounted to \$20,689,639, being considerably in excess of the preceding year, and after charging against operations the cost of plant maintenance and depreciation, interest on outstanding bonds and negotiable scrip, and after providing for all contingencies, including Government income tax, the net profit amounted to \$1,427,574, as compared with a loss for the preceding year of \$586,632.

The directors consider this result satisfactory, more especially in view of the fact that the trade depression continued well into the fiscal period under review.

The balance sheet discloses an improved liquid condition, the surplus of current assets in excess of liabilities amounting to \$6,834,201, after providing for dividends declared payable Oct. 10 1923 and Jan. 10 1924, and after making allowance for accrued interest on outstanding bonds and scrip.

Bond sinking funds to the amount of \$377,503 have been provided for during the year and a redemption fund has been set up to take care of the outstanding negotiable scrip which matures Dec. 24 1927. There are no bank loans outstanding, the company having been able to finance its entire year's program without banking accommodation, while on the other hand, interest and discount earned amounted to \$129,529.

Public Service Corp., N. J.—Company Has Done Well in 1923.—Pres. Thomas N. McCarter, is quoted as follows: We have done very well in 1923. Notwithstanding losses caused by the strike on our street railway properties we already show 11 months earnings after all charges and preferred dividends of over \$3,000,000.

Sales of electricity and gas have shown large increases. In the first 11 months of 1923 sales of electricity totaled 603,000,000 kw. h. against 478,000,000 over the same period last year, an increase of 26%.

The first half of the new electric plant at Kearney, N. J., will be finished late in 1925. By the time this plant is completed we will need additional facilities if our territory continues to expand at its present rate of growth.

I think the customer-ownership policy is one of the saving graces of the utility industry. Largely through customer-ownership, we have been able to increase our stockholders from 2,500 a little over a year ago to 30,000 to-day.

Public Service Ry., N. J.—Would Sell Terminal.—The company has filed an application with the New Jersey P. U. Commission asking authority to sell the company's Newark terminal to the Public Service Corp., the holding company.

Reading Co.—Segregation Approved.—The U. S. District Court at Phila. Dec. 28 approved what the company has done so far to bring about the segregation of the railway and coal companies.

Rhode Island Suburban Ry.—Payment on Bonds.—Pursuant to the terms and provisions of an order of the Rhode Island Superior Court approving the third report and petition of Arthur A. Thomas, Special Master in Chancery, entered Nov. 20 1923, notice is given that on and after Jan. 1 1924 holders of (a) 1st Mtge. bonds of the Pawtuxet Valley Electric Street Ry. and coupons appertaining thereto due July 1 1919, and (b) 1st Mtge. bonds of the Rhode Island Suburban Ry. and coupons appertaining thereto due July 1 1919, may present the same to Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., Providence, R. I., and upon presentation and stamping thereof, as provided in the order, the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., as agent of the Master in Chancery, will pay:

St. Louis Rocky Mtn. & Pacific Co.—Omits Common.—The directors have voted to omit the payment of the quarterly dividend of 1% usually paid Dec. 31 on the outstanding \$10,000,000 Common stock, par \$100.

St. Louis-San Francisco Ry.—New Vice-Pres. &c.—J. E. Hutchinson, Gen. Mgr., has been elected to the new office of Vice-Pres. in charge of operations with offices in St. Louis.

Saginaw Transit Co.—Operations.—Earnings of the company for November, the first month of operation, showed gross earnings of \$29,646. After deduction of operating expenses and taxes of \$23,601, balance available for bond interest was \$6,044, as compared with monthly requirements of \$2,475.

San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Rys.—Plan.—The California Railroad Commission has approved the general reorganization plan of the "Key System," but with the stipulation that reorganization fees and expenses totaling about \$500,000 must be paid out of net profits or surplus and not be made a charge against the public.

St. Louis Rocky Mtn. & Pacific Co.—Omits Common.—The directors have voted to omit the payment of the quarterly dividend of 1% usually paid Dec. 31 on the outstanding \$10,000,000 Common stock, par \$100. Quarterly dividends of 1% were paid on this issue from March 1919 to September 1923 inclusive.

St. Louis-San Francisco Ry.—New Vice-Pres. &c.—J. E. Hutchinson, Gen. Mgr., has been elected to the new office of Vice-Pres. in charge of operations with offices in St. Louis. A. H. Jones has been appointed assistant to Mr. Hutchinson. J. H. Fraser, Asst. Gen. Mgr. in charge of the second district at Springfield, Mo., has been appointed Gen. Mgr. to succeed Mr. Hutchinson.

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The Key System Transit Co. will serve as the principal company and will own and operate the properties of the old San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Rys.

It is authorized to own and hold all the stock except qualifying directors' shares of the three subsidiary companies and shall lease and operate the properties of the two subsidiaries, which are to acquire operating railroad properties—the East Oakland Ry. and the Oakland & Hayward Ry.

Stewartstown RR.—Stock Application Dismissed.—The I.-S. C. Commission on Dec. 17 dismissed the application of the company for authority to issue \$100,000 capital stock.

Tennessee Electric Power Co.—Prof. Stock for Customers.—The company is offering locally to its employees and patrons an issue of 7.20% First Pref. stock. The stock is offered at par (\$100 per share) and may be paid for in full at time of subscription or in monthly installments of \$10 per share.

Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Ry.—New Director.—Anthony D. McTier has been elected a director to succeed the late Lord Shaughnessy.

Twin State Gas & Electric Co.—Stock Authorized.—The company has been authorized by the New Hampshire P. S. Commission to issue \$83,200 of 7% Prior Lien stock at not less than par to pay for construction work in 1922.

Union Pacific RR.—Listing, &c.—The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of \$20,000,000 additional 1st Lien & Ref. bonds due June 1 2008, bearing interest at the rate of 5%, on official notice of issuance in exchange for outstanding temporary certificates therefor or outstanding temporary bonds, making a total amount of \$85,902,000 1st Lien & Ref. Mtge. bonds applied for, the bonds heretofore applied for being \$65,902,000 4% bonds.

Income Account for Eight Months Ended Aug. 31 1923. Operating revenues, \$128,716,699; operating expenses, \$98,752,073; net revenues, \$29,964,626. Taxes, \$8,851,086; uncollectible ry. revs., \$13,677; total, \$8,864,763. Railway operating income, \$21,099,863. Rents from use of joint tracks, yards and terminal facilities, \$25,562. Total income, \$21,925,425. Hire of equip., debit bal., \$1,775,357; rents for use of joint tracks, yards and terminal facilities, \$1,464,953; total, \$3,240,310. Net income from transportation operations, \$18,685,115. Income from inv. & sources other than transport. operations, 10,449,484. Total income, \$29,134,599. Int. on funded debt, \$11,139,391; misc. rents, \$37,115; misc. charges, \$262,156; total, 11,438,662. Net income from all sources, \$17,695,938.

Union Traction Co., Phila.—Appoints Committee.—The directors have appointed Joseph Giffillan and John J. Sullivan as a committee to represent the company in conferences to be held with a committee already appointed by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. and to be appointed by the Philadelphia Traction Co. relative to a Giffillan proposal for consolidation of street railway companies in Philadelphia.

United Traction & Electric Co., Providence, R. I.—Pursuant to the terms and provisions of an order of the Rhode Island Superior Court, approving the third report and petition of A. A. Thomas, Master in Chancery, entered Nov. 20 1923, notice is given that on and after Jan. 1 1924 holders of the 1st Mtge. bonds of the United Traction & Electric Co. and interest warrants of Mar. 1 1919 and Sept. 1 1919 appertaining thereto, may present the same to the Industrial Trust Co., Providence, R. I., and upon presentation and stamping thereof, as provided in the order, the trust company, as agent of the Master in Chancery, will pay upon each bond the sum of \$239.77, and upon each of the interest warrants due Mar. 1 1919 and Sept. 1 1919 the sum of \$5.95.

Virginia Railway & Power Co.—Dividend of 1 1/2%.—The directors have declared a dividend of 1 1/2% on the Pref. stock, payable Jan. 24 to holders of record Jan. 2. The company in 1923 paid two cash dividends of 3% each, one in January and the other in July.

Wellington Grey & Bruce Ry.—Bonds Called—Interest. Forty-seven (\$4,700) First Mtge. 7% bonds have been called for payment Jan. 1 at par and int. at the offices of the Canadian National Rys. in Montreal, Canada, and London, England. (See also Grand Trunk Ry. above.)

Western Pacific Ry.—Final Payment by Special Master.—Francis Krull, Special Master, gives notice that the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of California has, by an order filed Dec. 15 1923, directed that the Special Master pay out of the sum of \$11,150.96 now remaining unclaimed in his hands for the payment of principal and interest on bonds which have not heretofore been presented, the proportionate amount directed to be paid under the order of this Court of Oct. 11 1916 to the holders of said bonds, together with such portion of the interest fund hereinafter referred to and accumulated after Oct. 28 1916 as may be apportionable to said bonds, and has fixed Jan. 2 1924 as the date for making such payments.

INDUSTRIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. The following brief items touch the most important developments in the industrial world during the past week, together with a summary of similar news published in full detail in last week's "Chronicle."

Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Table with 4 columns: Asset/ Liability, Sept. 30 '23, Dec. 31 '22, Sept. 30 '23, Dec. 31 '22. Rows include Property & plant, Cash with trustee, Investments, Cash, U. S. Government securities, Notes and bills receivable, Accounts receivable, Materials & supplies, Prepaid accounts, Bond and note discount, Premium on investment securities, Liabilities, 6% cum. P. stk., Preferred scrip, Common stock, Common scrip, Pref. stks. of sub, Minority stockholders' int., Bonds of subs., Notes & bills pay, Acc'ts payable, Sundry curr. liab, Taxes accrued, Interest accrued, Divs. accrued, Sundry accr. liab, Deprec. reserve, Other reserves, Surplus, Total.

Appropriations are made by subsidiaries from earnings monthly to insure replacement of physical property, and credited to depreciation reserve, in accordance with the best principles of management and engineering practice.

New York Central Electric Corp.—Acquisition.—The New York P. S. Commission has authorized the company to purchase the properties and assets of the Perry Electric Light Co., Warsaw (N. Y.) Gas & Electric Co., Hornell Electric Co., the Dansville Gas & Electric Co., Yates Electric Light & Power Co. and Wayne Power Co.

North American Edison Co.—Capital Increased.—The capital stock of the company has been increased from 270,000 shares to 400,000 shares, no par value. The North American Co. owns the entire stock of the North American Edison Co.

Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.—Acquisition.—The citizens of Wewoka, Okla., on Dec. 12, voted to sell the municipal electric light plant to the Central Oklahoma Light & Power Co., part of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.'s organization.

Omega Steel Co.—Bonds to be Paid.—Holders of bonds of the above company, which bonds matured on May 1 1923, should present the bonds to the Middletown Trust Co. of Middletown, Conn., for payment on or before Jan. 1 1924.

Otis Steel Co.—Earnings.—Net earnings for the two months' period ended Nov. 30 1923 totalled \$275,000 after all deductions excepting depreciation and Federal taxes.

Overman Cushion Tire Co.—Larger Dividends.—The directors have declared a dividend of 1 1/2% on the Common and "X" Preferred stocks, both payable Jan. 20 to holders of record Dec. 31.

Parsons Pulp & Lumber Co.—Plan Operative—Bonds Called.—The reorganization committee has declared operative the plan of readjustment dated July 20 1923.

Peerless Truck & Motor Corp.—Resignations, etc.—The resignations of R. H. Collins as President and General Manager and of Wilbur H. Collins as Vice-President and director have been accepted.

Pelzer Manufacturing Co. of Mass.—Organized.—Articles of organization have been filed with the Massachusetts Commissioner of Corporations by Pelzer Mfg. Co. of Boston and South Carolina.

Penn Central Light & Power Co.—To Increase Capital and Debt—Listing.—The stockholders will vote Feb. 6 next on increasing the capital stock from 211,140 shares without par value to 250,000 shares without nominal or par value.

Pennsylvania Coal & Coke Co.—Earnings.—Results for November and the 11 Months Ended Nov. 30 1923. Table with 4 columns: 1923-Nov-1922, 1923-11 Mos-1922, Gross earnings, Net after taxes, Total income, Surplus after charges but before Federal taxes, Federal taxes for 11 months ended Nov. 30 1923 are estimated at \$71,500.

Philadelphia & Camden Ferry Co.—Special Dividend.—The directors have declared a special dividend of 10% in addition to a quarterly dividend of 6%, both payable Jan. 10 to holders of record Dec. 28.

Philadelphia Electric Co.—Listing—Wages.—The Philadelphia Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of \$146,550 additional Common stock, reported issued \$3,225, being part of an issue of 410,358 shares authorized to be issued by the directors April 12 1923.

Philadelphina & Reading Coal & Iron Corp.—Organized.—A certificate of incorporation of the Philadelphina & Reading Coal & Iron Corp. with a capitalization of 1,400,000 shares, was filed in Del. Dec. 20.

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(Albert) Pick & Co., Chicago.—Dividends.—The directors have declared a dividend of 40 cents a share on the Common stock, par \$10, payable Feb. 1 to holders of record Jan. 2, and a dividend of 13 cents a share on the new Common, to be issued Jan. 3, payable Feb. 1 to holders of record Jan. 3.

Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills Co., Ltd.—Bonds.—All of the outstanding 20-year 5% Mtge. Gold bonds, dated June 25 1909, have been called for redemption Feb. 8 1924 at the First Trust & Savings Bank, trustee, Chicago, Ill.

Portsmouth (N. H.) Power Co.—Bonds Offered.—Mer-rill, Oldham & Co., Boston, are offering at 97 1/2 and int. \$1,400,000 1st Mtge. Lien & Ref. Series A 6% Gold bonds.

Portsmouth (N. H.) Power Co.—Bonds Offered.—Mer-rill, Oldham & Co., Boston, are offering at 97 1/2 and int. \$1,400,000 1st Mtge. Lien & Ref. Series A 6% Gold bonds.

Data from Letter of President D. A. Belden, Boston, Dec. 24. Company.—Incorp. in 1900 as the Rockingham County Light & Power Co. in New Hampshire. Contemporaneously with present financing, company proposes to change its name to Portsmouth Power Co.

Capitalization Outstanding upon Completion of Present Financing. Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include Common stock, Preferred stock (7% cumulative), 1st Mtge. Lien & Ref. Series A 6s (this issue), Mortgage 5s (closed), due 1936.

Security.—Secured by a mortgage on the entire property now or hereafter owned, subject only to the mortgage (closed) 5% bonds. Of the total issue of \$1,000,000 5% bonds, \$800,000 are to be exchanged forthwith for an equal amount of First Mtge. Lien & Ref. Series A 6s.

Purpose.—\$1,000,000 bonds are for the equal exchange from time to time or the ultimate retirement at maturity of a like amount of mortgage 5s.

Sinking Fund.—A sinking fund will be provided towards the retirement of the bonds. The mortgage will provide for the purchase of bonds for their call by lot at such redemption price.

Earnings Years Ended Oct. 31.—Table with 3 columns: Description, 1922, 1923. Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses and taxes, Net earnings, Annual interest on \$1,400,000 6% bonds.

Balance for dividends, depreciation, &c. \$139,108

Potomac Edison Co.—Merger.—A merger of the Potomac Public Service Co. with the Potomac Edison Co. has been agreed upon. The properties to be consolidated comprise electric street car lines and gas and electric light plants, rolling stock and equipment.

Public Service Co. of Northern Illinois.—Bonds Offered.—Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., are offering at 92 and int., to yield about 6.05%, \$10,000,000 1st Lien & Ref. Mtge. 5 1/2% Gold Bonds, Series "A".

Data from Letter of Chairman Samuel Insull, Chicago, Dec. 20. Company.—Operates in 15 counties in the northeastern part of the State of Illinois, having a combined population (1920 Census) of 1,156,877, excluding the city of Chicago.

Capitalization Outstanding in Hands of Public After This Financing. Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include Preferred stock, Common stock, 1st Lien & Ref. M. 5 1/2% Gold bonds, ser. "A" (incl. this issue), First & Refunding Mtge. 5% Gold bonds, due 1956, Underlying Divisional bonds.

Purpose.—Proceeds will be used to redeem the 10-Year 8% Collateral Gold notes (see below) to acquire new property, to reimburse the company for new property heretofore acquired or underlying divisional bonds discharged, and for other corporate purposes.

Valuation.—Acquisition—Notes Called.—The Illinois Commerce Commission has set \$90,759,000 as the valuation of the company's properties for rate making purposes.

The company's history. Gross and net earnings will show an approximate increase over those for 1922 of from 14% to 17%. The annual interest on the entire funded debt of the company in the hands of the public, including the present issue of 1st Lien & Ref. Mtge. bonds, will require \$2,593,110.

The Commercial Markets and the Crops

COTTON—SUGAR—COFFEE—GRAIN—PROVISIONS
PETROLEUM—RUBBER—HIDES—METALS—DRY GOODS—WOOL—ETC.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME

[The introductory remarks formerly appearing here will now be found in an earlier part of the paper immediately following the editorial matter, in a department headed "INDICATIONS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY."]

Friday Night, Dec. 28 1923.

COFFEE.—Spot was quiet to-day and largely nominal. It has been irregular with the fluctuations in Brazilian exchange. Firm offers at times have been scarce. To-day here nominal prices were Rio No. 7, 10½¢ to 10¾¢; Victoria, 7-8, 10½¢; Santos No. 4, 15 to 15¾¢. Fair to good Cucuta, 16 to 16½¢; Medellins, 20½ to 21½¢. Futures showed a downward turn early in the week on scattered liquidation, with no bracing news from Brazil. Issuers of notices—importers in some cases—were buying December to a certain extent, while they sold March at a difference of 85 points. At times the trading was limited mostly to July and November. Stirring features were lacking. Futures have fluctuated within very narrow limits. Trading has been light. December notices amounted to 109 on the 26th, and for a time December was weak, but it rallied later. March and September touched a new high on this crop season. Brazilian money exchange advanced on Thursday. Rio exchange on London was 5 13-16d., an advance of 9-32d. over Wednesday's closing. The dollar rate fell 280 reis. The improvement was attributed to the suspension of martial law in Brazil. Covering here caused a rise. Some take the ground that while Santos coffee is well above the New York parity, Rio is about on a level with New York spot Rio prices. This is taken to mean in some quarters that a process of slow readjustment of prices is under way. Meanwhile, however, owing to the discounts on distant positions, selling is naturally rather cautious. To-day futures declined 12 to 13 points, closing, however, 6 to 8 points higher for the week. No. 7 Rio is ½¢. lower than a year ago.

Spot (unofficial) 10½¢. | May-----c. 9.02 @ 9.03 | July-----c. 8.82 @ 8.84
March-----9.65 @ 9.67 | September-----8.63 @ ---

SUGAR.—The Cuban railroad strike has naturally been an outstanding factor. It was offset to all intents and purposes for a time by the quietness of trade and reports of an increased production. Besides, the strike was expected to be brief. Porto Rico for December shipment sold at one time at 7.28 c.i.f. delivered, and 20,000 bags Cuba also for December shipment at 5½s. c. & f., or 7.28c. duty paid. Messages from Havana last Saturday said that strike conditions were growing worse. The Northern Railway or Tarafa system, one account stated, would be tied up by a sympathetic strike and the trainmen on the Cuban Central road connecting with Santa Clara would also probably go out. Mills in the section most affected may have to shut down completely on account of lack of coal and oil if the strikes last long. The markets of the United Kingdom and France were closed from Friday night until Thursday morning.

Havana cabled Dec. 21: "The Cuba RR. announced that passenger trains were being operated by this road and that the sugar mills along the line were operating sugar trains with their own crews. The Government ordered all military commanders to furnish adequate protection." Havana, Cuba, cabled Dec. 23 that the Cuban Government had dispatched 300 soldiers from Camp Columbia to guard the property of the Cuba RR. on which a general strike is in progress. The mills were operating sugar trains with their own crews. The walkout of shopmen and wharf employees of the Northern Rys. of Cuba is declared to have caused comparatively little delay. Cables from Cuba on the 26th inst. reported no change in the strike conditions and no indications of any settlement. Forty-seven mills were grinding according to Guma. Raw here was quiet with small offerings of Cuban, first half January, at 5½¢., and second half January at 5¾¢. Refiners held aloof. Refined was very quiet. Some look to see the new crop to be the controlling influence in the market shortly. It was said, too, later, that there were actually 54 centrals grinding, against 50 at this date last year. London on the 27th was 3d. lower to 3d. higher and quiet.

H. A. Himely of Havana cabled his estimate of the Cuban crop as 3,813,000 tons, with normal weather conditions. This is 63,000 tons larger than Guma Mejer's, ten days ago.

H. A. Himely's estimate of the Cuban crop, 3,813,000 tons, must be compared with Willett & Gray's, of 3,700,000 tons,

Guma-Mejer's, of 3,750,285 tons, and last year's final outturn, of 3,602,910 tons.

Receipts of new sugar for the week at Cuban ports were 7,347 tons, against none last week, 29,676 in the same week last year and none two years ago; exports, none, against none last week, but 14,388 in the same week last year and none two years ago; stocks, 7,347 tons, against none last week, 28,919 in the same week last year, and none two years ago. Havana cabled: "Weather dry."

Cuban strike developments are being closely watched. It is conceded that the immediate future of the raw market depends upon the strike situation. Offerings of new crop are small, owing to the uncertainty as to getting the sugar to the ports for shipment. Receipts for the week at U. S. Atlantic ports were 13,504 tons, against 29,936 last week, 26,939 last year and 25,882 two years ago; meltings were 33,000 tons, against 32,000 last week, 33,000 last year and 41,000 two years ago; stock, 24,146 tons, against 43,642 last week, 28,836 last year and 35,131 two years ago. The number of centrals working in Cuba was stated at 52, against 47 a year ago.

It is said that Western beet refineries have sold 33 1-3% of their output and Eastern beet manufacturers 75%. If the output is 760,000 tons of beet it would appear that nearly half, or 300,000 tons, had been disposed of. If that is so it is reasoned that the offerings of beet sugar in the early part of 1924 can hardly be more than moderate if indeed they are not actually small, in the territory east of Chicago. The effect of the railroad strike in Cuba has been to cause a withdrawal of offerings of raw sugar for January shipment from Cuba. Yet the market was very quiet here. No advance occurred. Evidently buyers as well as holders were inclined to await events. Buyers of refined are purchasing only from hand to mouth, in spite of the recent decline in prices, due to the competition of domestic beet sugar in Eastern cane territory. It is said there has been less business in beet sugar east of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo line. This is only natural, however, towards the close of the year. A San Juan, Porto Rico, dispatch says the South Porto Rico Sugar Co.'s central Guanica, the largest on the island, began grinding new crop cane on Wednesday. A preliminary estimate for sugar outturn of the island is 360,000 long tons, against 338,456 tons last year. Havana cabled on the 27th inst. that the Cuban Secretary of Agriculture had been endeavoring throughout the day to bring about a settlement of the strike without success. Conferences with mill owners and labor leaders were fruitless. Mill owners rejected arbitration.

To-day it was said that 63 centrals were working, as against 50 a year ago. It was also said in some Cuban dispatches that the backbone of the railroad strike had been broken, that the men were returning to work and that some sugar was being shipped to the ports. Futures declined to-day with better strike news and the steady increase in the number of mills grinding. There were larger quantities for first half January shipments, including some early January at 5 5-16 to 5¾¢. Second half January, 5¼¢., and February at 5c. These are nominal prices. Trade is dull. Refined quiet at 8.80 to 8.90c. The Department of Agriculture now estimates the Louisiana cane crop at 150,568 tons, compared with its previous estimate of 210,000 tons and the last crop of 263,478 tons. A cargo of Cubas was reported sold to Clyde refiners at 24s. 9d. c.i.f., or 4.50c. f.o.b. Cuba. Here prices ended 14 points lower on futures for the week. Granulated is 1.80c. higher than a year ago when it was 7c. The Coffee and Sugar Exchange will be open on Monday Dec. 31.

Spot (unofficial) 5 7-16c. | March-----c. 4.53 @ 4.54 | May-----c. 4.58 @ 4.60
January-----5.19 @ 5.20 | July-----4.66 @ 4.68

LARD on the spot was steady but quiet; prime Western, 13.40c.; refined Continent, 14.25c.; South American, 14.50c.; Brazilian, 15.50c. Hog receipts are large. Futures felt the effects of large hog receipts, lower hog prices, dulness of trade and selling by the smaller packers. The Illinois pig crop is said to be smaller than that of last fall. Liverpool early in the week was higher and hogs steady. The trouble was the menace of continued large receipts of hogs. That discouraged speculative buying. Exports, however, were large. Smaller packers have been steadily selling large and ribs. At this holiday season foreign demand is expected to be light. On Wednesday prices fell. Firm hog prices with lighter hog receipts and good weekly exports were counterbalanced by free offerings and dulness of speculation. Lard exports last week were 19,267,000, against 14,195,000 last year. Exports of bacon were 16,406,000 lbs., against 12,699,000. To-day Liverpool at noon was 3d. to 1s. lower. To-day prices advanced with corn higher. The closing is unchanged to 8 points higher since last Friday. They are 105 to 120 points higher than a year ago.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF LARD FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
January delivery.....cts.	12.07	12.20	Holl.	12.17	11.95	12.05
March delivery.....	12.05	12.15	day.	12.12	12.02	12.07
May delivery.....	12.10	12.22		12.20	12.05	12.15

PORK weaker; mess \$25.50; \$26; family \$30; short clears \$29 to \$33. Beef steady; mess \$16 to \$17; packet \$17 to \$18; family \$21 to \$23; extra India mess \$33 nominal; No. 1 canned corned beef, \$2.35; No. 2, \$4; 6 pounds \$15; pickled tongues \$55 to \$65 nominal per barrel. Cut meats quiet; pickled hams 10 to 24 pounds 12 to 16 3/4c.; pickled bellies 6 to 12 pounds, 11 1/2 to 12c. The consumption of meat in 1923 was the largest in the country's history according to the Institute of American Meat Packers, owing to low prices. The estimated production will exceed 1922 the previous record, by 1,500,000 pounds. Exports were 30% greater than 1922. Butter, creamery, seconds to high scoring, 44 to 56c. Cheese, flats, 20 1/2 to 26c. Eggs, fresh gathered trade to extras, 29 to 49c.

OILS.—Linseed as a rule has been steady but quiet. However, large painting interests are reported to be inquiring for spring and summer delivery. So, too, are linoleum interests. Spot, carloads, 92c.; tanks, 96c.; less than carloads, 95c.; less than 5 bbls., 98c.; boiled, tanks, 87c.; carloads, 94c.; 5-bbl. lots, 97c.; less than 5 bbls., \$1. Coconut oil, Ceylon bbls., 9 3/4c. Corn, crude, tanks, mills, 10@10 1/4c.; refined, 100-bbl. lots, 13 3/4@14. Olive, \$1 12. Cod, domestic, 66@68c.; Newfoundland, 69@72c. Lard, prime, 15 3/4c.; extra strained, 13 1/4c. Spirits of turpentine, 92 1/2c. Rosin, \$5 70@57 15. Cottonseed oil sales today, including switches, 10,500 P. Crude, S. E., 950. Prices closed as follows:

Spot.....	10.80@11.25	March.....	11.25@11.28	June.....	11.60@11.80
Jan.....	10.90@10.95	April.....	11.41@11.44	July.....	11.75@11.78
Feb.....	11.00@11.20	May.....	11.56@11.58	Aug.....	11.75@11.90

PETROLEUM.—Advices from Kansas City early in the week reported an advance of 1c. in the price of gasoline by all the leading refiners in that section. The Gulf market was firmer. Stocks are quite large, but export demand is better than expected. The demand for local consumption is also good, owing to the mild winter prevailing. The Texas Company on the 27th inst. advanced Oklahoma and Kansas crude oil prices 15 to 40c. a barrel. The same company advanced the price 15c. on many grades of crude oil in Arkansas and North Louisiana field. And Gulf Coast crude oil was advanced 25c. to \$1 25 a barrel. There has been a good business in kerosene, both domestic and foreign. However, stocks are dwindling and the lack of offerings tends to restriction of business in some directions. Bunker oil has been quiet at \$1 35 per barrel f. o. b. New York refinery. Six grades of Pennsylvania crude were advanced 25c. a barrel in the Pittsburgh district on Dec. 26. Pennsylvania grade in New York Transit Company lines and Bradford district oil in National Transit lines advanced to \$3 10. The new price on Pennsylvania grade oil in National Transit, Southwest Penn lines, Eureka and Buckeye pipe lines was \$2 85. Other grades remained unchanged. Later on the price of Pennsylvania crude was advanced 25c. a barrel by the Joseph Seep Purchasing Agency of Pittsburgh, Pa. This advance is said to have been met by some independent buyers of Pennsylvania crude oil.

Advices from Dallas, Texas, on the 27th inst. stated that increases of 10 to 25c. a barrel in the price of crude were announced by the Magnolia Co. to become effective to-day. New York prices: Gasoline, cases, cargo lots, 24.40.; U. S. Navy specifications, 10.50c.; naphtha, cargo lots, 12c.; 63-66 deg., 14c.; 66-68 deg., 15.50c.; kerosene in cargo lots, cases, 17.15c.; petroleum, refined, tank wagon to store, 15c.; motor gasoline, garages (steel barrels), 15 1/2c. At Tulsa, Okla., the completion is reported of a 500-barrel well by the J. A. Hull Co. in 12-14-6, Lincoln County, the second oil well in that area, at 4,909 feet in the Wilcox sand, and the finding of a 300-barrel well in Montgomery County, Kan., in the first break under the Miss. lime. Refined oils were reported strong there. Manufacturers report an inquiry for 64-66, 375 end point gasoline for January and February delivery. Casper, Wyo., wired that the Union Oil Co. gasser at Wellington, Colo., was shut in on Dec. 21 and was then under control. The well appeared to be going to oil and it is expected that an oil field will develop there. The Producers & Refiners Co. is expected to develop into one of the largest oil firms in this region and is now drilling more wildcat wells in search for new fields than any other company. Total production for the week is 149,200 barrels from all the fields of the Rocky Mountain region. The Midwest Refining Co. has struck a 1,300-barrel well in New Mexico. Los Angeles wired Dec. 26: "Through bringing in of the high gravity well on Rideout Heights, two miles northwest of Whittier and four miles north of Santa Fe Springs, was established a new gusher oil field in that part of Los Angeles County. It is said that this well is good for 5,000 barrels daily. The oil paraffin base is 36 gravity. With the December crude oil production in California estimated at 22,900,000 barrels, the total of 1923 is placed at 265,684,000, or 90% larger than 1922. Consumption during 11 months this year was 214,000,000 barrels. Fully one-third was shipped to Atlantic and Gulf port refineries. The London "Daily Mail" says that the Sinclair group has been granted a 50-year concession to exploit oil lands in four provinces in northern Persia, the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. receiving concessions in the fifth province.

Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas—	Mid-Continent—	
Under 28 Magnolia.....	40 and over.....	\$1.25
28-30.9.....	33-39.9 deg.....	1.00
31-32.9.....	Below 33 deg.....	0.75
33-35.9.....	Caddo.....	
39 and above.....	35-37.9 deg.....	1.15
Below 30 Humble.....	38 and over.....	1.25
30-32 deg.....	32-34.9 deg.....	1.05
33-35.9.....	Below 32 deg.....	.90
36-38.9.....		
39 and Above.....		

Pennsylvania.....	\$2 85	Ragland.....	\$0 75	Illinois.....	\$1 32
Corning.....	1 40	Corsicana, light ..	1 00	Crichton.....	0 90
Cabell.....	1 35	Lima.....	1 53	Plymouth.....	0 70
Somerset, light.....	1 30	Indiana.....	1 33	Mexia.....	1 25
Wyoming.....	95	Princeton.....	1 32	Calif., 35 & above.....	0 76
Smackover, 26 deg. 0 90		Canadian.....	1 93	Gulf Coastal.....	1 25
		Bull-Bayou 32-34.9 75			

RUBBER quiet but steady. There was some inquiry from out-of-town manufacturers, but actual business was generally very small. There was a fair business in Para grades, and South American grades at one time advanced 1/4c. per pound. Stocks of rubber in Colombo are reported to have decreased 1,000 tons during the period Nov. 1 1922 to Nov. 1 1923. Exports from British Malaya are stated at 186,000 tons, considered a small total as compared with the average before the restrictions were put into effect. First latex, crepe, spot, 27 1/4c.; Jan. 26 1/4c.; Jan.-Mar., 27 1/2c.; Apr.-June, 28 1/4c. Ribber smoked sheets, spot, 27.; Jan., 26 3/4c.; Jan.-Mar., 27 1/4c.; April-June, 28c. London stocks dropped 126 tons last week, to 59,672 tons against 59,957 a month ago, and 71,852 a year ago. London advanced 1/4d. on the 27th inst.; spot, 14 3/4d.; Jan., 14 1/2d. to 14 5/8d.; Singapore steady but quiet; spot, 13 3/4d.

HIDES.—Common dry hides were steady but quiet. Bogota, 17 to 18c.; Orinoco, 15 to 16c. City packer hides steady. December salting native and branded steers sold, it is said, at one time at 13 1/2c. for natives, 10 1/2c. for Colorado and 11 1/2c. for butt brands. Country hides were steady but quiet at 10 to 11c. for steers 60 or over and 8c. for cows 45 or over. River Plate frigorificos were firm. Sales to European tanners included 2,000 Swift Montevideo steers at \$42 50 for 25 kilos average and 4,000 Armour La Plata steers at \$41, or 14 9-16c. c.&f. A large percentage of the recent purchases in the River Plate section were for Russia. In Chicago last week packer hides were in moderate demand; 4,000 spready native steers sold at 17c., or 1/2c. advance. Colorado steers sold to the extent of a couple of thousand at 11c. Packers were closely sold up and the market was strong. Small packer hides were quiet with all sold. The bulk of the business was at 9 1/2 to 10c. on all weight native cows and steers, but the market later was about 7c. River Plate reports state that a large European tanner has bought 1,000 Sansinena steers at \$41, or 14 1/4c. c.&f. United States tanners have done little in frigorifico hides. Common dry hides in New York have latterly been dull and unchanged. City packer hides have been steady with New York packers asking 1/2 below the prices prevailing in Chicago. In Chicago on Dec. 26 big packer hides were quiet but firm, with sellers at 12 1/2c. on heavy Texas and butt branded steers and 11 1/2c. on light Texas and Colorado steers, or 1/2c. higher than recently. Packers report bids of 10 3/4c. on ght native cows with 11c. asked. Skins also were firm with one packer offering a few cars of calf at 18 1/2c., or 1/2c. advance. City collectors quoted 17 1/2c. on Chicago City calfskins, but buyers held off. Country hides were firm in Chicago with sales at 10 1/2c. for free of grub extremes.

OCEAN FREIGHTS have been generally steady and unchanged. A good inquiry has been reported at times from grain and oil trades. Lumber has been quiet. Later on business was quiet with rates generally unchanged and steady. President Coolidge may, it is said, extend coastwise ship laws to Philippines by proclamation, which would mean only vessels of American registry could ply in trade between Philippines and the United States. The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 provides for such extension. Senator Jones, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and author of the act will present to President Coolidge, a memorandum setting forth the reasons for this step.

CHARTERS included grain from North Pacific to United Kingdom-Bordeaux-Hamburg range, 36s.3d., option Antwerp or Rotterdam, 35s.; option Mediterranean and or Scandinavian, Feb. 10-Mar. 10 cancelling; lumber from North Pacific to Japan, \$15 50, January-February; lumber from North Pacific to Japan (two ports), lump sum, or about \$15, January-February; ore from Algiers to Philadelphia, 7s., December; oilcake from Black Sea to Denmark, 16s. 6d., one port, January-February; grain from Atlantic range to West Italy, 3s. 7 1/2d., January; grain from Vancouver to Antwerp, 37s., January; grain from Atlantic range to Antwerp, 2s. 11 1/2d., January; sugar from Cuba to Hong Kong, 30s., January; lubricating oil from California to United Kingdom-Continent, 37s. 6d., December-January; clean products from U. S. Gulf to Copenhagen, 26s., January; coal from Atlantic range to Antwerp, \$3, December; gasoline from California to Philadelphia, 67 1/2c. a barrel, prompt loading; grain from North Pacific to two ports Far East, \$6 75, January; petroleum from California United Kingdom-Continent, 37s., December; grain from Vancouver to the Orient, \$6 50, December; coal from Atlantic range to Rio de Janeiro, \$3 35, ton; coal from Atlantic range to West Italy, \$5 10, January; nitrate from Chile to Galveston, \$5 70 ton, January; California crude oil from San Pedro to Hamburg, 35c. ton, prompt loading; grain from North Pacific to China, \$6 50, option Japan, \$6, January; grain from North Pacific to China, \$6 50, option Japan, \$5, January; linseed from Rosario to New York, \$5 25 per ton; from River Plate to New York, \$5 50, option Montreal, \$6, March-April loading; grain from Vancouver to United Kingdom-Continent, 34s. 6d., two ports discharge ls. extra, Feb. 23-March 15 cancelling; grain from North Pacific to Japan, \$6 50, January; coal from Atlantic range to Rio de Janeiro, \$3 65, December; lumber from North Pacific to Japan, \$15, December.

COAL has been in only moderate demand as usual at the holidays. Soft coal No. 1, Navy standard, \$3 to \$3 25, mines, and \$5 75 to \$6, piers. Anthracite independent per gross ton early in the week: broken, \$11 to \$12; egg, \$9 50 to \$11; stove, \$9 50 to \$12; Chestnut, \$9 50 to 12; pea, \$6

to \$6 75; 1 buck, \$3 to \$4; 2 rice, \$2 25 to \$3; 3 barley, \$1 40 to \$2; birdseye, \$1 50 to \$1 75. London cabled that the output of British collieries for the week ended Dec. 15 was 5,948,000 tons, according to provisional figures, against 5,729,000 tons in the week ended Dec. 8. This is the highest total on record. Independent anthracite prices are slowly declining.

TOBACCO.—Of late there has been the usual routine business characteristic of the closing days of the year. That is to say, there has been only a moderate trade. But prices have been in the main steady and there is a very general belief that trade conditions will show a noteworthy improvement during the coming year.

COPPER has been quiet at 13 to 13 1/4c. for electrolytic. Business was not expected to be very active this week, owing to the holidays, and the absence of a Liverpool market, where the Yuletide season was observed until Thursday. Moreover, the end of the month usually brings out some distress copper on which concessions are made as a rule. Casting copper is meeting with a fair demand from the Orient, with prices ranging from 12 3/4 to 12 7/8c. refinery. Belgian Congo copper is now said by the Bank of Commerce here to be a potential factor in the business. The Katanga region, it appears, has a capacity of 150,000,000 lbs. a year.

TIN, early in the week was quiet with the exchanges at London and here closed. The local exchange re-opened on the 26th instant but very little business was done. Spot quoted at 47 1/4c.

LEAD during the week was the most active metal and prices were firmer; spot New York 7.40 @ 8.12 1/2c.; East St. Louis 7.50 @ 7.75c.

ZINC has advanced slightly, but business is by no means active. There has been some export business, but this is not believed to have been large. Spot New York, 6.60 @ 6.65c.; East St. Louis, 6.25 @ 6.30c.

STEEL.—Builders and automobile makers are the principal buyers at the present time. Sheet business is said to be especially good. Prices are reported steady. Some even call them firm, not excepting those for semi-finished steel. It is said that \$40 has been paid for the first quarter for re-rolling billets, Pittsburgh. But it is hinted that prices of sheets were reduced somewhat in the big December business amounting to some 300,000 tons. On the other hand, it is stated that one automobile concern has bought about 100,000 tons of steel for the first quarter of 1924, and another something over 25,000 tons. A bridge company has taken 17,000 tons of structural steel within a short time. Fabricated structural steel is said to have sold recently, however, at \$85 to \$86 to New York builders. Some scrap prices have advanced 25 to 50 cents per ton, following an advance last week on other items of the list. Youngstown reports a steadily improving outlook for building and a better market for reinforcing bar and fireproof; also larger sales of merchant steel bars to the automobile industry. Business in nails has improved there, with production at 60% and expected to be larger next month. Connellsville coke at Pittsburgh was quoted at \$4 05 at ovens. Steel bars were 2.40c., Pittsburgh. Small billets at 1.90c., Pittsburgh or Youngstown, and black sheets, 3.75c. Taking the steel industry as a whole, the feeling is hopeful. Railroads are buying on a fair scale, and it is believed that 1924 may turn out to be a high record year not only as to building but in the matter of the automobile industry.

PIG IRON has been quiet as usual at this time of the year and rumors were afloat that Eastern seaboard iron was obtainable at as low as \$22 25 at Buffalo and \$21 50 at furnace. These reports are given for what they are worth. In the main prices are believed to be unchanged, whatever may have been the case in exceptional circumstances. Last week's sales, it is now said, amounted to 10,000 tons to consumers in New York and New Jersey. Shipments are said to be on a very fair scale. Some look forward to a better business early in 1924. New business in December, it is admitted, has not been large. There has been a steady trade but for the most part it has been in small lots for early shipment. But some maintain that prices are well sustained, whatever the reports now and then to the contrary. There were some rumors too of speculative inquiry for iron on the idea that prices are at about the bottom. Pittsburgh wired on Dec. 26 that No. 2 foundry pig iron in the Valley had advanced 25 cents, making it on the average \$22 50 at furnace. At Birmingham, Ala., several iron melting plants resumed operations on the 26th inst., and the price was reported firm at \$21 50 for No. 2 foundry.

WOOL has been quiet but firm here in response to the rising prices recently in foreign markets. Boston comment on recent events aside from the Australian and London firmness was that Montevideo cabled quotations of 51c. and 46c., respectively, for skirted and rewound 56s and 50s, the highest yet reported. At the sale in Dunedin, New Zealand, on Dec. 21 prices rose above those at the Christ Church sale. Good 50-56d cost around 90c. to 92c. clean basis, landed Boston in bond. Continental interests bought the most. The limits were generally above American bids. Shipments of wool from Australia to this country to date are 29,000 bales with an estimated shipment of 10,000 bales from New Zealand. In South American markets it is esti-

ated that America this season has bought only about 10,000 bales to date. Sixty per cent of the Australian clip or 830,000 bales, has been sold. At Dunedin, New Zealand, on Dec. 21 of 17,500 bales merinos and crossbreds offered 16,900 bales were sold. Selection representative. Demand good. Prices closed strong. Merinos were 28d. to 31 1/4d. and average merinos 23d. to 27 1/2d. Crossbreds sold as follows: 56-58s, 25d. to 29 1/2d.; 50-56s, 24d. to 27 1/2d.; 48-50s, 20 1/2d. to 24 1/2d.; 46-48s, 17d. to 19 1/2d.; 44-46s, 14d. to 17 1/2d., and 40-44s, 11 1/4d. to 15d.

COTTON

Friday Night, December 28 1923.

THE MOVEMENT OF THE CROP, as indicated by our telegrams from the South to-night, is given below. For the week ending this evening the total receipts have reached 199,767 bales, against 214,353 bales last week and 264,183 bales the previous week, making the total receipts since the 1st of August 1923 4,678,882 bales, against 3,962,869 bales for the same period of 1922, showing an increase since Aug. 1 1923 of 716,013 bales.

Table with columns: Receipts at—, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Total. Rows include Galveston, Texas City, Houston, New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, Norfolk, New York, Boston, Baltimore.

The following table shows the week's total receipts, the total since Aug. 1 1923 and stocks to-night, compared with last year.

Table with columns: Receipts to Dec. 28, 1923, 1922, Stock. Rows include Galveston, Texas City, Houston, Port Arthur, &c., New Orleans, Gulfport, Mobile, Pensacola, Jacksonville, Savannah, Brunswick, Charleston, Georgetown, Wilmington, Norfolk, N'port News, &c., New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia.

In order that comparison may be made with other years, we give below the totals at leading ports for six seasons:

Table with columns: Receipts at—, 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920, 1919, 1918. Rows include Galveston, Houston, &c., New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Brunswick, Charleston, Wilmington, Norfolk, N'port N., &c., All others.

The exports for the week ending this evening reach a total of 102,644 bales, of which 42,381 were to Great Britain, 5,236 to France and 55,027 to other destinations. Below are the exports for the week and since Aug. 1 1923.

Table with columns: Exports from—, Week ending Dec. 28 1923, From Aug. 1 1923 to Dec. 28 1923. Rows include Galveston, Houston, New Orleans, Mobile, Jacksonville, Pensacola, Savannah, Brunswick, Charleston, Wilmington, Norfolk, New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Fran, Seattle.

NOTE.—Exports to Canada.—It has never been our practice to include in the above table exports of cotton to Canada, the reason being that virtually all the

cotton destined to the Dominion comes overland and it is impossible to get returns concerning the same from week to week, while reports from the customs districts on the Canadian border are always very slow in coming to hand. In view, however, of the numerous inquiries we are receiving regarding the matter, we will say that for the month of November (no later returns are as yet available) the exports to the Dominion the present season have been 24,463 bales, of which 22,208 bales were to Quebec, and 2,255 bales to Maritime Provinces. In the corresponding month of the preceding season the exports were 25,288 bales.

For the four months ending Nov. 30 this year there were 54,339 bales exported as against 59,702 bales for the corresponding four months last year.

In addition to above exports, our telegrams to-night also give us the following amounts of cotton on shipboard, not cleared, at the ports named.

Dec. 28 at—	On Shipboard, Not Cleared for—					Total.	Leaving Stock.
	Great Britain.	France.	Germany.	Other Cont'nt.	Coast-wise.		
Galveston	36,316	19,046	8,000	22,121	9,600	94,483	261,027
New Orleans	27,749	5,856	6,472	20,193	663	60,933	235,394
Savannah	-----	-----	6,000	-----	600	6,600	71,220
Charleston	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	44,637
Mobile	2,471	400	-----	425	-----	3,296	10,640
Norfolk	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	94,827
Other ports *	10,800	-----	1,000	1,600	-----	13,400	199,116
Total 1923	77,336	25,302	21,472	44,339	10,263	178,712	916,861
Total 1922	37,433	18,670	21,520	59,406	16,585	153,614	909,164
Total 1921	25,650	1,918	29,410	19,201	5,910	82,089	1,277,193

* Estimated.

Speculation in cotton for future delivery has at times been active and on Wednesday there was a noticeable outburst of buying which sent prices upward some \$5 a bale. That happened when it was found that January notices which were supposed to have reached 132,500 bales were promptly stopped. Nothing could have surprised cotton people more. They had, it is true, estimated that these notices would amount to something like 100,000 bales. The predictions were that they would have a depressing effect. But January hardly budged. At first it declined less than a dozen points, then it turned and ran up 102 points from the early "low." The idea was that cotton issued on notices was stopped by people other than the issuers. One story was that a very strong Southern syndicate had stopped most of them, and that the cotton was to be shipped to Europe. Those who lost their cotton bought January heavily. It would take a big sum to finance 132,500 bales if the price were figured even at 36c. a pound, or \$180 a bale. But cotton is wanted now-a-days. It is badly wanted at home and abroad. Not only is the American cotton crop short and supplies are believed to be at about peak in this country, but it is said that stocks of foreign growths in the world are something like half a million bales smaller than a year ago. Certainly they are noticeably smaller at Alexandria and Bombay, to take no account of the supplies of foreign growths in Europe. And now comes the statement that the outlook for the East Indian crop is disappointing. The strange fact is that supplies are small all over the world, certainly a most regrettable coincidence. For many months England bought foreign growths on a larger scale than usual, to the partial exclusion of American cotton. But now it is confronted with small stocks, also, of cotton which has been competing with American. Spot markets have been strong. Buyers, according to some Texas accounts, will take almost anything in the way of cotton. Hagglng about grades and prices is not so general as in normal times. Not only Texas, but Tennessee, especially in the big Memphis district, and also Georgia, North Carolina and other parts of the belt have sent reports of an insistent demand; a demand which has been met with small offerings. Many holders have the idea that cotton is going to 40c. or higher. They are encouraged by such sensational occurrences as the big rise in New York on Wednesday in the teeth of an issuance of notices rarely seen in the history of the cotton trade of New York. In July 1922 there was something approaching this. But with this exception the notice day for January on Dec. 26 1923 will have a striking pre-eminence in the records of this market. Liverpool the next day made an emphatic response. It had been closed on the 26th inst., but reopened the next day, and under the spur of New York's performance and the big demand in its own market from new speculative sources it closed at a rise for the day of 88 to 146 American points. There was general buying there. Contracts were scarce. Bullish feeling was dominant. Manchester reported a better demand for cloths, and yarns were firmer.

On this side of the water Worth Street was more active and stronger. The stock market advanced. And although French francs got below 5c. on Wednesday, they advanced the next day. London bought March and May here on Thursday. Liverpool and New Orleans were buyers. So were trade interests. But after all, the business on the 27th inst. was hardly more than a shadow of what it was on the previous day, when the trading in January alone was variously estimate dat anywhere from 100,000 to 130,000 bales. Also, the discount on January under March, which at one time on the 26th inst., was 40 to 50 points and even, it was said, at as high as 56 points, ended at 35, after having, it was understood, touched 32. It costs 60 points to carry cotton to March. But if the issuers lost most of the cotton they tendered they were, as we have seen, large buyers of January. At least this was the common report. The West was a

large buyer after selling at first. And if Wall Street sold January it bought March and May. In fact, a good many people did that. Japanese interests were supposed to be buying on a large scale. And coincident with a rising stock market there were reports that the bonus bill could not be carried over the President's veto. Also, sentiment in favor of the Administration plan of reduced taxation in this country was said to be spreading through the South. This is not the place to discuss politics, but the feeling in business circles generally is in favor of a sharp reduction in the burdensome taxation under which the people are still staggering five years after the armistice. This is emphatically the sentiment, irrespective of political affiliations. That there seems to be a good prospect of such a program being carried out has a heartening effect in the business world generally. It is by no means confined to the cotton trade. Meanwhile many of the Carolina mills, especially in the Piedmont district are said to be running on full time. And that is the case in some parts of New England.

On the other hand, there was a decline on the 27th inst. of some 50 points from the early high, when it was found that the technical position had weakened. That was natural after the very heavy covering on the previous day, especially in January cotton, supposedly by large interests, some of which issued a good many of the notices. And the advance within a week had been some 140 points. A reaction was due. The rise during the month had been approximately 350 points. That emphasized the reasonableness of at least a temporary reaction. The stock market, moreover, declined. Chicago reported wheat prices lower. Wall Street and the West sold to some extent. So did local operators. And there was the usual incentive to sell on the approach of the New Year holiday. Prices therefore fell. Of course, too, it is recognized that sooner or later there must be a drastic reduction in the consumption by the mills. They have no other choice. Cotton will not be there. Furthermore, not a few houses recommended caution after so sharp an advance. Even some who are looking for higher prices advocated greater conservatism for the time being, following so great an advance.

To-day prices declined owing to further notices to the amount of 7,400 bales of January and reports of curtailment in Georgia. Also, there were rumors of further curtailment at New England mills, though they appear to have been without foundation. Vague reports were afloat to the effect that in North Carolina and Georgia some of the mills and banks were trying to resell. They are mentioned here merely for what they are worth. Most spot reports were cheerful. But large operators leaving for Florida were selling out long cotton. That counted for not a little. Also, there was a dribbling out of long cotton from scattered interests in a somewhat overbought market. Yet Liverpool acted well. So did New Orleans. And spot markets were generally reported brisk. In the afternoon a bullish statement on the stock market and general business situation by Jesse Livermore had some effect. A moderate rally occurred. The closing was easy. But compared with a week ago, prices are 33 to 54 points higher, January lagging behind the rest of the list. The increase in the world's visible supply was larger than was expected. In general the statistical position throughout the world is considered strong, however. Spot cotton here ended at 36.65c. for middling an advance for the week of 25 points. It is 10c. higher than a year ago.

The following averages of the differences between grades, as figured from the Dec. 27 quotations of the ten markets, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, are the differences from middling established for deliveries in the New York market on Jan. 4 1924.

Middling fair	1.85 on	*Middling "yellow" tinged	1.88 off
Strict good middling	1.52 on	Good mid. light yellow stained	.87 off
Good middling	1.22 on	*Strict mid. light yellow stained	1.45 off
Strict middling	.75 on	*Middling yellow stained	2.18 off
Strict low middling	1.23 off	Good middling "gray"	.30 off
Low middling	2.63 off	*Strict middling "gray"	.81 off
*Strict good ordinary	4.10 off	*Middling "gray"	1.49 off
*Good ordinary	5.50 off	Strict low mid. "yellow" tinged	3.12 off
Good middling spotted	.52 on	Low middling "yellow" tinged	4.42 off
Strict middling spotted	.05 off	Good middling "yellow" stained	1.43 off
Middling spotted	.90 off	*Strict mid. "yellow" stained	2.00 off
*Strict low middling spotted	2.09 off	*Middling "yellow" stained	2.70 off
*Low middling spotted	3.40 off	*Good middling "blue" stained	1.25 off
strict good mid. "yellow" tinged	.19 on	*Strict middling "blue" stained	1.76 off
Good middling "yellow" tinged	.22 off	*Middling "blue" stained	2.69 off
Strict middling "yellow" tinged	.76 off		

The official quotation for middling upland cotton in the New York market each day for the past week has been:

Dec. 22 to Dec. 28—	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Middling upland	36.30	36.35	Hol.	37.25	37.00	36.65

NEW YORK QUOTATIONS FOR 32 YEARS.

The quotations for middling upland at New York on Dec. 28 for each of the past 32 years have been as follows:

1923	36.65c.	1915	12.35c.	1907	11.80c.	1899	7.69c.
1922	26.70c.	1914	7.80c.	1906	10.65c.	1898	5.88c.
1921	19.05c.	1913	12.60c.	1905	11.90c.	1897	5.94c.
1920	14.50c.	1912	13.10c.	1904	7.00c.	1896	7.06c.
1919	39.25c.	1911	9.35c.	1903	14.10c.	1895	8.25c.
1918	33.00c.	1910	14.95c.	1902	8.75c.	1894	5.99c.
1917	31.65c.	1909	15.85c.	1901	8.50c.	1893	7.81c.
1916	17.40c.	1908	9.45c.	1900	10.31c.	1892	9.88c.

MARKET AND SALES AT NEW YORK.

The total sales of cotton on the spot each day during the week at New York are indicated in the following statement. For the convenience of the reader we also add columns which show at a glance how the market for spot and futures closed on same days.

Table with columns: Spot Market Closed, Futures Market Closed, SALES (Spot, Contr't, Total). Rows include Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Total.

FUTURES.—The highest, lowest and closing prices at New York for the past week have been as follows:

Table showing futures prices for various months (December to November) with columns for Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Week.

f 36c. l 35c. i 29c.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COTTON to-night, as made up by cable and telegraph, is as follows. Foreign stocks, as well as the afloat, are this week's returns, and consequently all foreign figures are brought down to Thursday evening.

But to make the total the complete figures for to-night (Friday), we add the item of exports from the United States, including in it the exports of Friday only.

Table showing cotton supply statistics: Stock at Liverpool, Stock at London, Stock at Manchester, Total Great Britain, Total Continental stocks, Total European stocks, etc.

Table showing American supply statistics: Liverpool stock, Manchester stock, Continental stock, American afloat for Europe, etc.

Table showing total visible supply and midsling statistics: Total visible supply, Midsling uplands, Midsling uplands, New York, etc.

Continental imports for past week have been 165,000 bales. The above figures for 1923 show an increase from last week of 58,705 bales, a loss of 710,864 from 1922, a decline of 1,711,964 bales from 1921, and a falling off of 1,941,369 bales from 1920

AT THE INTERIOR TOWNS the movement—that is, the receipts for the week and since Aug. 1, the shipments for the week and the stocks to-night, and the same items for the corresponding periods of the previous year—is set out in detail below:

Table showing movement to Dec. 28 1923 and Dec. 29 1922 for various towns. Columns include Receipts, Shipments, and Stocks for both periods.

Total, 40 towns 187,715.5, 534,345.200, 689,119.113, 170,256.5, 557,579.159, 265.139.182

The above total shows that the interior stocks have decreased during the week 13,804 bales and are to-night 272,759 bales less than at the same time last year. The receipts at all towns have been 17,459 bales more than the same week last year.

OVERLAND MOVEMENT FOR THE WEEK AND SINCE AUG. 1.—We give below a statement showing the overland movement for the week and since Aug. 1, as made up from telegraphic reports Friday night.

Table showing overland movement statistics: Dec. 28 Shipped, Via St. Louis, Via Mounds, &c., Via Rock Island, etc.

Total gross overland... 50,775 750,618 49,738 907,776. Deduct Shipments... 19,181 359,414 11,542 284,087. Leaving total net overland... 31,594 391,204 38,196 623,689.

* Including movement by rail to Canada. The foregoing shows the week's net overland movement this year has been 31,594 bales, against 38,196 bales for the week last year, and that for the season to date the aggregate net overland exhibits a decrease from a year ago of 232,485 bales.

Table showing in sight and spinners' takings: Receipts at ports to Dec. 28, Net overland to Dec. 28, Southern consumption to Dec. 28.

QUOTATIONS FOR MIDDLING COTTON AT OTHER MARKETS.—Below are the closing quotations for middling cotton at Southern and other principal cotton markets for each day of the week:

Table showing closing quotations for Middling Cotton on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday for various locations like Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, etc.

CENSUS REPORT ON COTTON SPINNING IN NOVEMBER.—This report, complete, will be found in an earlier part of our paper, in the department headed "Indications of Business Activity."

NEW ORLEANS CONTRACT MARKET.—The closing quotations for leading contracts in the New Orleans cotton market for the past week have been as follows:

Table with columns for dates (Saturday Dec. 22 to Friday Dec. 28) and rows for various cotton contracts (December, January, March, May, July, October) and market tones (Spot, Options).

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.—Reports to us by telegraph from the South this evening denote that the weather as a rule has been unseasonably mild with considerable rain. The Washington weather report states that cotton picking continues in California and that a small amount of cotton still remains in the fields in southern New Mexico.

Table titled 'Thermometer' showing weather data for various locations including Galveston, Texas; Abilene; Brownsville; Corpus Christi; Dallas; Del Rio; Palestine; San Antonio; New Orleans; Shreveport; Mobile, Ala.; Savannah, Ga.; Charleston, S. C.; and Charlotte, N. C.

The following statement we have also received by telegraph, showing the height of rivers at the points named at 8 a. m. of the dates given:

Table showing river heights for New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Shreveport, and Vicksburg, comparing Dec. 28 1923 and Dec. 29 1922.

RECEIPTS FROM THE PLANTATIONS.—The following table indicates the actual movement each week from the plantations. The figures do not include overland receipts nor Southern consumption; they are simply a statement of the weekly movement from the plantations of that part of the crop which finally reaches the market through the outports.

Table titled 'Receipts from Plantations' with columns for Week ending (Oct., Nov., Dec.), Receipts at Ports (1923, 1922, 1921), Stocks at Interior Towns (1923, 1922, 1921), and Receipts from Plantations (1923, 1922, 1921).

The above statement shows: (1) That the total receipts from the plantations since Aug. 1 1923 are 5,526,381 bales; in 1922 were 4,903,961 bales, and in 1921 were 3,949,268 bales. (2) That although the receipts at the outports the past week were 199,767 bales, the actual movement from plantations was 185,963 bales, stocks at interior towns having decreased 13,804 bales during the week. Last year receipts from the plantations for the week were 120,777 bales and for 1921 they were 135,312 bales.

WORLD'S SUPPLY AND TAKINGS OF COTTON.—The following brief but comprehensive statement indicates at a glance the world's supply of cotton for the week and since Aug. 1 for the last two seasons, from all sources from which statistics are obtainable; also the takings, or amounts gone out of sight, for the like period.

Table titled 'Cotton Takings, Week and Season' with columns for Week and Season (1923, 1922) and rows for Visible supply, American in sight, Bombay receipts, Other India shipments, Alexandria receipts, and Other supply.

* Embraces receipts in Europe from Brazil, Smyrna, West Indies, &c. a This total embraces since Aug. 1 the total estimated consumption by Southern mills—1,775,000 bales in 1923 and 1,797,000 bales in 1922—takings not being available—and the aggregate amounts taken by Northern and foreign spinners 5,194,593 bales in 1923 and 5,689,589 bales in 1922, of which 3,367,193 bales and 3,615,039 bales American. b Estimated.

INDIA COTTON MOVEMENT FROM ALL PORTS.—The receipts of India cotton at Bombay and the shipments from all India ports for the week and for the season from Aug. 1, as abled, for three years, have been as follows:

Table showing Bombay receipts and exports for 1923, 1922, and 1921, categorized by week and since August 1.

According to the foregoing, Bombay appears to show an increase compared with last year in the week's receipts of 4,000 bales. Exports from all India ports record an increase of 59,000 bales during the week, and since Aug. 1 show a decrease of 79,550 bales.

ALEXANDRIA RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS.—We now receive a weekly cable of the movements of cotton at Alexandria, Egypt. The following are the receipts and shipments for the past week and for the corresponding week of the previous two years.

Table showing Alexandria receipts and shipments for 1923, 1922, and 1921, including exports to Liverpool, Manchester, and America.

Note.—A cantar is 99 lbs. Egyptian bales weigh about 750 lbs. This statement shows that the receipts for the week ending Dec. 26 were 240,000 cantars and the foreign shipments 34,000 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.—Our report received by cable to-night from Manchester states that the market in both cloths and yarns is quiet on account of the holidays. We give prices to-day below and leave those for previous weeks of this and last year for comparison:

Table showing Manchester market prices for 1922-23 and 1921-22, listing various cotton grades and their prices.

SHIPPING NEWS.—As shown on a previous page, the exports of cotton from the United States the past week have reached 102,644 bales. The shipments in detail, as made up from mail and telegraphic returns, are as follows:

Table listing shipping news for various ports including New York, Galveston, Houston, and Norfolk, with details on destinations and quantities.

COTTON FREIGHTS.—Current rates for cotton from New York, as furnished by Lambert & Burrows, Inc., are as follows, quotations being in cents per pound:

Table with columns: High Density, Standard, and locations (Liverpool, Manchester, Antwerp, Ghent, Havre, Rotterdam, Genoa, Christiania, Stockholm, Trieste, Lisbon, Oporto, Barcelona, Japan, Shanghai, Bombay, Vladivostok, Gothenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Piraeus, Salenica).

LIVERPOOL.—By cable from Liverpool we have the following statement of the week's sales, stocks, &c., at that port:

Table with columns: Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28. Rows include Sales of the week, Of which American, Actual export, Forwarded, Total stock, Total imports, Amount afloat, and Of which American.

The tone of the Liverpool market for spots and futures each day of the past week and the daily closing prices of spot cotton have been as follows:

Table with columns: Spot, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Rows include Market (12:15 P.M.), Mid. Up'ds, Sales, Futures Market opened, and Market (4 P.M.).

Prices of futures at Liverpool for each day are given below:

Table with columns: Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. Rows list dates from December to November with corresponding price ranges.

BREADSTUFFS

Friday Night, Dec. 28 1923.

Flour, following a recent decline of 2c. in wheat, showed a certain amount of depression early in the week. Prices were 10c. under recent figures. The demand was poor. Mills were naturally rather anxious. Trade at the West was also unsatisfactory. Minneapolis and Kansas both weakened. Export demand was light, as usual at the holidays. High prices for bread is causing discontent in France and there is said to be an agitation in progress there for a reduction in the wheat duty. According to mail advices from a large German house, France has sold approximately 200,000 bbls. of low grade flour to southern Germany within the past month, on which she gets some sort of drawback on imported wheat in France. Minneapolis last week was dull and depressed. Kansas City was quiet. First spring clears were more freely offered here. They are plentiful on account of the dulness of export trade in American flour. Canadian mills are said to be well sold ahead for export. A good business in Canadian flour is reported with the Orient in 100% straights for shipment from the Pacific Coast. Business is smaller than a year ago. It seems to matter little that supplies are also smaller, that in this respect the fundamental situation is obviously stronger. Late in 1922 big buying meant big stocks at New York. And they were a clog on prices for many months. Buyers smarting under this experience are more cautious now. "Far and softly goes far."

Wheat fell early to nearly the season's "low," partly owing to big deliveries last week and partly to liquidation of December. Reported large importations from Canada hit Chicago prices. Such importations are reported at various American markets. Not only the Northwest but the Southwest sold. Winnipeg had deliveries on December in a single day of 727,000 bushels. Expectations of increasing stocks this week also had their effect. To some it seemed futile to combat increasing stocks, big deliveries and rising importations of duty paid Canadian wheat, as well as reports that Argentina had just shipped a cargo of new wheat to Belgium. That the Argentina shipments were not large counted for little. The point was that they had begun. They might easily increase in the near future. Cash markets at Minneapolis and other milling points gave way. That naturally hurt. Paris is grumbling at the high price of bread and is said to be agitating for a lower wheat tariff, but politicians may think twice before offending the French wheat grower. In any case, this matter of the French tariff had no perceptible

effect. And if Western banks are in some cases pressing corn farmers for the payment of notes may they not do the same with wheat debtors? Meanwhile from Chicago came dispatches saying that it was expected that Fort William and Port Arthur stocks would show an increase of around 10,000,000 bushels for the week with sufficient grain in sight to fill most of the available storage room. There was even talk at one time, it seems, of an embargo to prevent further shipments from the interior. True, the Department of Agriculture report on Kansas showed a widespread distribution of Hessian fly in that State, with much damage done during the fall. Also, there was covering of hedges by exporters on considerable Manitoba wheat—600,000 bushels in a single day—but these things mattered little as against the forces of depression. Yet there were rallies of 1c. when the price got down to within 1 3/4c. of the season's lowest price last Saturday. The entire wheat belt was reported without snow protection. The Chicago position for a time looked oversold. Liquidation had been drastic, especially in December, owing to the dulness of cash markets and the lack of export trade, not to mention the largeness of the supply. It is true that an unexpected decrease of 431,000 bushels in the domestic visible supply was offset by a gain of 7,382,000 bushels in the Canadian visible supply. Also, the American exports of wheat and flour as stated by the Department of Commerce attracted attention as peculiar and confirmed the general belief that domestic figures had included a large amount of bonded wheat and flour. At one time, with offerings smaller and with at least some decrease in the United States visible supply which had the element of unexpectedness in it, shorts became a little uneasy and covered. Broomhall says that belated advices from Argentina state that the recent wet weather lowered the quality of the new wheat and flax crops. Also, that the wheat situation in France was very firm, with prices advancing. The price of bread having been raised there is constant talk of the necessity of reducing the import duty, now 14 francs per 100 kilos. Chicago bears were recently afraid of possible Eastern buying, but they have latterly been less so. In Minneapolis at one time it was said weakness in our May wheat was not surprising. It had to come some time. The selling was by back-spreading hedging sales against cash wheat and stop-loss orders. The latter are pretty well cleaned up, but some believe there was more from \$1.07 down. It turned out to be so. Later prices sagged. B. W. Snow, with Bartlett-Frazier Co., said: "Weekly flour export figures given by the Department of Commerce have been misleading because they included a material quantity of flour made from Canadian wheat, and I am told by New York that rye flour exports have also been entered as wheat flour. Beginning with the past week the Department has discontinued its weekly flour reports. To correct these figures there are available the monthly reports of the various ports and a revision to Nov. 30 indicates exports of wheat flour from July 1 to Nov. 30 are actually about 1,100,000 bbls. less than reports." On the 27th inst. 150,000 bushels of Manitoba were taken for export; 30 loads in freight room were reported taken for France. The Northwest sold in Chicago. Foreign markets were barely steady. A high record wheat crop in Alberta, Can., is reported. One estimate is as high as 200,000,000 bushels. The Dominion Government put the yield of Alberta at 157,467,000 bushels, as against 64,973,000 bushels last year. This is 26.50 bushels to the acreage, as against 11.25 last year. Since the publication of the Government's figures, estimates of Alberta's wheat crop have risen. George Lane, one of the most extensive farmers in the province, who gave a preliminary estimate of 150,000,000 bushels, has now increased his figures to 200,000,000. John I. McFarland, President and General Manager of the Alberta Pacific Grain Co., estimates the total at between 175,000,000 and 200,000,000 bushels. Italy will, it is believed, put back a smaller duty on wheat and flour. Bad weather has damaged the Italian crop. Argentine seaboard stocks are beginning to increase. The Russian new winter wheat acreage is stated by the Russian Statistical Committee as 6,600,000 acres against 62,800,000 a year ago. Conditions fully up to the average. Deliveries in Chicago to-day were 195,000 bushels. To-day prices advanced somewhat, with the cables stronger. Liverpool advanced 1/4 to 1 1/2d., the latter on December. World's shipments fell off except from North America. India shipped only 16,000 bushels, Argentina 478,000 and Russia and the Danube 1,480,000; from Australia 648,000 bushels. This makes a rather slim showing. Foreign exchange advanced. Last prices show a decline for the week, however, of 7/8c. on December, though May is 1/4c. higher than last Friday and July 3/8c. higher. Compared with a year ago prices show a decline of 26c. on December, 16c. on May and 7c. on July.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW YORK.

Table with columns: No. 2 red, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. Values range from 120 to 121 1/4.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF WHEAT FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

Table with columns: December delivery in elevator, May delivery in elevator, July delivery in elevator. Values range from 101 1/2 to 106 3/4.

Indian corn declined with wheat, despite wet weather at the West and moderate receipts. A Chicago dispatch asserted that bankers in parts of Illinois were becoming tired of carrying farmers, some of whom have notes long overdue. The banks, it seems, in some cases are beginning to press for payment. It was added that in consequence a large

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Barley, bush.
Sioux City	235,000	194,000	631,000	18,000	11,000
St. Louis	1,777,000	244,000	675,000	23,000	5,000
Kansas City	13,003,000	636,000	1,478,000	164,000	533,000
St. Joseph, Mo.	1,101,000	183,000	200,000	6,000	5,000
Peoria	60,000	32,000	242,000	---	---
Indianapolis	670,000	247,000	272,000	5,000	---
Omaha	3,765,000	478,000	1,744,000	294,000	119,000
Total Dec. 22 1923	73,377,000	6,242,000	19,175,000	18,579,000	3,254,000
Total Dec. 15 1923	73,808,000	4,722,000	18,157,000	18,315,000	3,321,000
Total Dec. 23 1922	35,375,000	14,788,000	32,546,000	9,319,000	2,820,000
<i>Note.</i> —Bonded grain not included above: Oats, New York, 421,000 bushels; Boston, 195,000; Baltimore, 7,000; Buffalo, 629,000; Buffalo afloat, 1,184,000; Duluth, 2,000; total, 2,438,000 bushels, against 3,732,000 bushels in 1922. Barley, New York, 296,000 bushels; Baltimore, 40,000; Duluth, 17,000; total, 353,000 bushels, against 2,161,000 bushels in 1922. Wheat, New York, 3,525,000 bushels; Boston, 1,129,000; Philadelphia, 1,767,000; Baltimore, 1,761,000; Buffalo, 10,277,000; Buffalo afloat, 10,754,000; Duluth, 522,000; Toledo, 67,000; Toledo afloat, 3,554,000; On Lakes, 199,000; total, 33,555,000 bushels, against 38,288,000 bushels in 1922.					
Canadian—					
Montreal	1,428,000	29,000	1,230,000	214,000	266,000
Ft. William & Pt. Arthur	27,361,000	---	3,996,000	851,000	869,000
Other Canadian	8,178,000	---	4,347,000	535,000	890,000
Total Dec. 22 1923	36,967,000	29,000	9,573,000	1,600,000	2,025,000
Total Dec. 15 1923	37,808,000	24,000	8,739,000	1,439,000	1,844,000
Total Dec. 23 1922	27,182,000	509,000	2,921,000	350,000	2,893,000
Summary—					
American	73,377,000	6,242,000	19,175,000	18,579,000	3,254,000
Canadian	36,967,000	29,000	9,573,000	1,600,000	2,025,000
Total Dec. 22 1923	110,344,000	6,271,000	28,748,000	20,179,000	5,279,000
Total Dec. 15 1923	103,393,000	4,746,000	26,896,000	19,754,000	5,165,000
Total Dec. 23 1922	62,557,000	15,297,000	35,467,000	9,669,000	5,713,000

WEATHER BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 25.—The general summary of the weather bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture, indicating the influence of the weather for the week ending Dec. 29, is as follows:

The outstanding feature of the weather during the week ending Dec. 25 was a continuation of unseasonably high temperatures in practically all sections east of the Rocky Mountains. The Central and Northern States have experienced almost continuously warm weather for the season since early in November. Temperatures were especially high during the week just closed from the Lake region westward to Montana, where the week means ranged mostly from 15 deg. to 25 deg. above normal. On the other hand, the weather was cold in limited areas of the far Southwest, especially in eastern New Mexico, and also in some western Plateau localities, at some points of which the temperatures averaged 10 deg. or more below normal.

While the latter part of the week was considerably cooler in the Southeast, freezing temperatures did not extend farther south than extreme northern South Carolina, while no readings as low as 32 deg. were reported from the lower Ohio Valley nor in the Mississippi Valley south of east-central Missouri. In the west Gulf area somewhat below freezing was reported from west-central Texas, but along the immediate Gulf coast the lowest readings were only slightly below 50 deg. The lowest temperature reported for the week was 2 deg. below zero at Winnemucca, Nev., on the 23d.

There was much cloudy and rainy weather throughout the Southern States and also in central and northern districts from the Mississippi Valley eastward. Rainfall was heavy to excessive in the lower Ohio Valley and in the central Gulf States, but it was rather light in the Southeast, though there was much cloudy and misty weather. In most districts from the Plains States westward there was very little precipitation, except that rainfall was rather heavy along the north Pacific coast. Sunshine was markedly deficient from the lower Ohio and middle Mississippi valleys southward, where the week was almost continuously cloudy, while some stations in the west Gulf section reported no sunshine during the entire week. There was much clear weather, however, in the extreme northern Great Plains and in south Pacific coast districts.

Cloudy, rainy weather and wet fields interfered with farm work throughout the Southern States, in some sections of which rain fell on as many as five days of the week. The mild, moist weather was generally favorable for growing crops, although truck and fruit needed more sunshine in the west Gulf section. There was sufficient rain in Florida to improve conditions, but more rainfall was generally needed in that State, and the continued mild weather was rather unfavorable for hardy truck. The week was unfavorable for outdoor work also in the Ohio Valley and much of the Atlantic coast areas, because of frequent rains and wet fields, but was mostly favorable in the Lake region and extreme upper Mississippi Valley. The ground remained unfrozen in the interior of the country as far north as northern Iowa, where some plowing was done during the week, while plowing continued in the lower Lake region.

Another ideal week for outdoor work was experienced in the northern Great Plains States, although much of it was too wet in the extreme southern Plains. The week, on the whole, was favorable in the Rocky Mountain States, especially in the northern sections and also in the north Pacific area. Light rain in southern California was beneficial, but more moisture is still badly needed in that State. Unimproved roads were in bad condition nearly everywhere from the Mississippi Valley eastward.

Corn harvest was further delayed by too much moisture in the Ohio Valley States, with some corn overflowed in the Wabash River bottoms. Considerable corn is still standing in the fields in northern Ohio. Husking made splendid progress in the central and northern Great Plains where this work was almost completed. Picking cotton continued in California and a small amount of cotton was still in the fields in southern New Mexico.

SMALL GRAINS.—Under the influence of mild, moist weather, winter wheat made good progress throughout the principal producing areas. The crop was benefitted by rain in Ohio and was still growing and showing some improvement in Kentucky. There was some injury by flooding, however, in portions of Indiana. The crop did well in the lower Missouri Valley, and continued in satisfactory condition, with ample soil moisture, in Kansas. Wheat made little growth in the extreme southern Great Plains where some sunshine was needed, but conditions were generally favorable for grains in the Rocky Mountain area.

Wheat, oats and barley show some improvement in California since the recent light rains, but growth is still backward and plowing hindered, with more rain needed. Winter oats and other cereals did well in most of the Southern States, though it was too wet in the extreme lower Mississippi Valley, and cooler weather would be beneficial in the Southeast. Threshing of grain sorghums was delayed by wet weather in southwestern Kansas.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE

Friday Night, Dec. 28 1923.

Owing to the holidays, textile markets presented a very quiet appearance during the past week. Furthermore, merchants are spending much of their time these days in scanning the results of the year's business as inventories are beginning to show them, and in making preparations for new merchandising periods. Many merchants hold out little hope of any new trade worth mentioning during the remainder of the current year, and consequently are looking forward to what may come to hand in the first month or two of the new year. Prices generally are well maintained in sympathy with the strength of raw materials which continue to sell at high levels. Local jobbers and a number of

representatives of out-of-town jobbing houses who have been in the markets during the past few days talked of the satisfactory results foreshadowed in inventories completed thus far. Although stocks are said to be more or less irregular, it is the general impression that stock conditions are satisfactory. Linen and burlap markets have ruled inactive in sympathy with the quietness abroad, where holidays extend over the year-end. The rise in cotton during the week had a tendency to cause a firmer undertone in prices for the manufactured products, but gave rise to no new business. While there appear to be many uncertainties for the longer future, the immediate situation is devoid of any trace of anxiety. Distributors have not covered as freely for late delivery as they did a year ago, and consequently are expected to enter the market on a more liberal scale after the turn of the new year. Raw silk markets are stiffening steadily. They have remained stable for some time past, and have resisted any pressure to lower them.

DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS: Markets for domestic cottons ruled quiet during the past week. A holiday spirit prevailed throughout, and traders attempted little, though scattered odd lots were offered and sold. Sheetings held steady despite limited demand, but some heavy goods were offered at slight concessions for the purpose of stimulating sales. There was little disposition, however, to take up new business. In the absence of firm orders for the moment for either cloths or yarns, the markets were more or less inclined to drift idly, though the general undertone was firm, owing to the decided strength of raw materials. Sellers as a rule, with one or two exceptions, were not inclined to offer concessions, and there was a marked absence of pressure to sell on the part of second hands. An encouraging feature in the situation has been the reports of large retail holiday trade. These are proving to be very gratifying. Although many of the piece goods are not moving freely at the moment, it is believed that finances of the stores will be in such clean shape at the year-end that encouragement will be given to early purchases for next year, and will encourage retailers to take in the goods due on advance orders. Salesmen on the road are already securing business in knit goods, certain lines of wash fabrics, and in some instances re-orders on dress gingham. Prices hold steady, and constant advances are being named where merchandise is being valued on the basis of higher cotton when the time arrives for making provision against contract sales. So much merchandise has been sold at lower levels, however, that it is not surprising that jobbers in a number of directions are able to defer the placing of new business on a higher basis. Therefore the present dulness is not altogether due to the end of the year quiet. It is said to be owing in part to the steady rise in prices based upon the high cotton market, and to indecision on the part of buyers concerning normal contract commitments. Mills have been forced to curtail, and over the year-end many will shut down for a week or two, giving inventories as a cause rather than an excuse. Print cloths, 28-inch, 64 x 64's construction, are quoted at 8½c., and 27-inch, 64 x 60's, at 8c. Gray goods in the 39-inch, 68 x 72's, are quoted at 12½c. and 39-inch, 80 x 80's, at 15¼c.

WOOLEN GOODS: Markets for woollens and worsteds developed a steadier undertone during the week. While business has not been active, improvement has been noted in the demand for odd lots throughout the markets. The men's wear division has shared best in the activity. For some time past this division of the market marked time, while the rest of the various departments moved ahead. Any indication of renewed interest in this division would no doubt be felt throughout the industry. Leading factors claim that if buyers show the least inclination to make purchases on a more liberal scale after the turn of the new year, it will help considerably to set the whole industry in motion. It has been noticed that there has been a satisfactory movement of overcoatings through the distributing channels of the market during the past two months, and that the supply now in the hands of manufacturers is very small. While new buying in the women's wear division is of light volume, most mills are said to have sufficient orders on hand to insure their running until the new lines are shown.

FOREIGN DRY GOODS: Markets for linens have displayed a firm tone during the week, although business has not been particularly active. Handkerchief departments, as was generally expected, are running short of various patterns, and merchandise managers are advising buyers to dispose of their remaining stocks rather than replenish. Household linens have been moving in a liberal way, and stocks are being depleted. As a result of the holidays abroad, markets for burlaps have been devoid of activity. Prices, however, in the absence of pressure, have held steady. Light weights are quoted at 5.65c., and heavies at 7.95c.

State and City Department

State and City Section.

A new number of our "State and City Section," revised to date, appears to-day, and all readers of the paper who are subscribers should receive a copy of it.

ADDITIONAL BOND SALES FOR BACK MONTHS.

Last week, in giving the tabulation of the "Municipal Bond Sales in November," the following table, showing sales for preceding months not previously reported, was, through oversight, omitted. We therefore give it now.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Lists various municipal bond sales from Alexandria Sch. City to William Co. S. D. No. 41.

d Subject to call in and during the earlier year and to mature in the later year. r Refunding bonds. y And other considerations. * But may be redeemed after two years from date.

All of the above sales (except as indicated) are for October. These additional October issues will make the total (not including temporary loans, general fund bonds of New York City and bonds of U. S. Possessions) for that month \$83,154,277.

We add also the following table showing the November sales by Canadian municipalities, which was likewise omitted by mistake last week.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Lists Canadian municipal bond sales from Alberta (Province of) to Saskatchewan Sch. Dist.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Lists Ontario and Quebec municipal bond sales.

Total amount of debentures sold in Canada during November \$10,945,782 r Refunding bonds.

NEWS ITEMS

California (State of).—Irrigation District Tax for General Fund in Excess of 2% Invalid, Court Rules.—A tax rate of \$5 levied by Imperial Irrigation District for 1923-24 was declared partially invalid by Superior Judge George R. Freeman of Riverside County on Dec. 17.

Imperial Irrigation District's 1923-24 tax-levy rate of \$5 is declared partially void in a decision announced to-day by Superior Judge George R. Freeman of Riverside County.

The decision was given by Judge Freeman in an action brought by Charles R. Wores, landowner of Brawley and Los Angeles, who asserted that the tax levy was illegal and that the Irrigation Act of 1915 under which the levy was made is unconstitutional.

District officials to-night asserted that the Court's decision will probably require all the district tax books to be revised to enable collection of only the amount of taxes coming within the limit set by the Court.

C. L. Childers, attorney for the irrigation district, said he had not yet seen the written decision of Judge Freeman, but had merely been shown a telegram from the Judge telling his findings in brief.

"The case will undoubtedly be appealed," asserted Attorney Childers. "The irrigation district cannot operate unless permitted to levy taxes in accordance with the Act of 1915, which apparently by this decision is held unconstitutional.

Judge Freeman's decision also held that the cutting of the assessed valuations of the towns throughout the district 50% to relieve them from the effect of the \$5 tax rate is void.

The total district tax levy under the \$5 rate is \$27,513,363. Since Nov. 1 Collector C. W. Barry reports the collection of \$166,358 in district taxes.

The district board of directors, in levying the \$5 rate, provided for giving credit to taxpayers on their irrigation water bills of one-half the amount paid as taxes.

Connecticut.—List of Legal Investments for Savings Banks.

—Complying with Section 3976, General Statutes, Revision of 1918, the Bank Commissioner on Nov. 1 1923 issued a list of bonds and obligations which he finds upon investigation are legal investments for savings banks.

The following table shows the State and municipal bonds which are considered legal investments:

Table with columns: First, Third, Fourth. Lists various legal investments including United States Bonds, Panama Canal, Treasury bonds, and various state and municipal bonds from California to Wyoming.

Cincinnati, Ohio. Hammond, Ind.
Clarksburg, W. Va. Harrisburg, Pa.
Cleveland, Ohio. Hazelton, Pa.
Clinton, Iowa. Haverhill, Mass.

Rock Island, Ill.
Rome, N. Y.
Saginaw, Mich.
St. Joseph, Mo.
St. Louis, Mo.

Pennsylvania System.
Consolidated Mortgage 4s, 1943
" " " 3 1/2s, 1945
" " " 4 1/2s, 1900

Fifth.—Railroad bonds which the Bank Commissioner finds to be legal investments are shown below:

BONDS OF NEW ENGLAND COMPANIES.
Conn. & Passumpsic River RR. 4s, 1943
Bangor & Aroostook System.
Aroostook Northern 5s, 1947.

Minn. St. Paul & S. S. Marie System.
First Consolidated 4s & 5s, 1938
Minn. S. S. M. & At. Ry. 1st 4s, 1926

Allegheny Valley Ry. gen. 4s, 1942
Belv. Del. RR. (guar.) cons. 4s, 1925
" " " " 4s, 1927

BONDS OF OTHER COMPANIES.

Delaware & Hudson System.
Adirondack Ry. 1st 4 1/2s, 1942
Albany & Sus. RR. (guar.) conv. 3 1/2s, '46

Norfolk & Western System.
Consolidated Mortgage 4s, 1906
General Mortgage 6s, 1931
New River Division 1st 6s, 1932

Reading System.
Philadelphia & Reading RR. 5s, 1933
Southern Pacific System.
Central Pacific Ry. (gu.) 1st ref. 4s, '49

Illinois Central System.
Collateral Trust 3 1/2s, 1950
Carro Bridge 4s, 1950
Chicago St. Louis & N. O.—

Buffalo Rochester & Pittsb. System
Allegheny & Western Ry. 1st 4s, 1908
Buff. Roch. & Pitts. Ry. gen. 5s, 1937

Pennsylvania System.
Camden & Burl. Co. RR. 1st 4s, 1927
Delaware RR. gen. 4 1/2s, 1932

Central Railway of New Jersey.
General mortgage 5s, 1987
Amer. Dock & Imp. (guar.) 1st 6s, '36

Connecticut Railway & Lighting Co.
First Refunding 4 1/2s, 1951
Conn. Lighting & Power Co. 1st 5s, 1939

Reading System.
Del. & Bound Brook RR. cons. 3 1/2s, 1955
East Pennsylvania RR. 1st 4s, 1968

Chicago Burlington & Quincy System
General mortgage 4s, 1958
Illinois Division 3 1/2s & 4s, 1949

Chicago & North Western System.
General mortgage 3 1/2s, 4s and 5s, 1987
Boyer Valley RR. 1st 3 1/2s, 1923

Western Maryland System.
Balt. & Cumb. Val. Ext. 1st 6s, 1931

Chicago & North Western System.
General mortgage 3 1/2s, 4s and 5s, 1987
Boyer Valley RR. 1st 3 1/2s, 1923

Central Railway of New Jersey.
General mortgage 5s, 1987
Amer. Dock & Imp. (guar.) 1st 6s, '36

Allegheny Valley Ry. gen. 4s, 1942
Belv. Del. RR. (guar.) cons. 4s, 1925
" " " " 4s, 1927

Chic. St. Paul Minn. & Omaha System
Consolidated 6s & 3 1/2s, 1930
North Wisconsin Ry. 1st 6s, 1930

Chicago & North Western System.
General mortgage 3 1/2s, 4s and 5s, 1987
Boyer Valley RR. 1st 3 1/2s, 1923

Chicago & North Western System.
General mortgage 3 1/2s, 4s and 5s, 1987
Boyer Valley RR. 1st 3 1/2s, 1923

Jan. 29 1924 in New York City; delivery elsewhere at purchaser's expense, including New York exchange.

Financial Statement. Assessed valuation of property 1923. Actual value estimated. Total indebtedness, including bonds offered.

MANITOWOC, Manitowoc County, Wis.—BOND SALE.—The First National Bank, Manitowoc, purchased \$225,000 4 3/4% high school bonds at the offering on Dec. 21 (V. 117, p. 2678) at par less \$190 for printing of bonds.

MANSFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (P. O. Mansfield), Richland County, Ohio.—BOND SALE.—The \$48,618 84 5/8% Series D-1 school bonds offered on Dec. 18—V. 117, p. 2568—have been awarded to the Richland Savings Bank of Mansfield, for \$49,104 84—equal to 100.91 on a basis of about 5.25%.

MAPLE HEIGHTS (P. O. Bedford), Cuyahoga County, Ohio.—BOND SALE.—Well, Roth & Irving of Cincinnati have been awarded the \$20,000 5 1/2% general sewer bonds offered on Dec. 17—V. 117, p. 2460—at par plus a premium of \$68, equal to 100.34.

MARION COUNTY (P. O. Fairmont), W. Va.—BOND SALE.—On Dec. 20 an issue of \$391,000 5 1/2% road impt. bonds was awarded at par to the Provident Savings Bank & Trust Co., Grau, Todd & Co. and the J. R. Ballinger Co.

MARQUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 30, McKenzie County, N. Dak.—CERTIFICATE OFFERING.—Mary Skinner, District Clerk, will receive bids at the County Auditor's office in Schafer until 2 p. m. Jan. 2 for \$1,600 certificates of indebtedness, bearing interest at a rate not to exceed 7%.

MELROSE, Middlesex County, Mass.—TEMPORARY LOAN.—The temporary loan of \$175,000, maturing \$50,000 on July 17 and Aug. 15 1924, and \$75,000 Sept. 15 1924, offered on Dec. 27 (V. 117, p. 2799), has been awarded to the Old Colony Trust Co. of Boston on a 4.20% discount basis plus a \$1.75 premium.

MERRILL, Lincoln County, Wis.—BOND SALE.—The \$50,000 school and \$25,000 bridge 5% coupon bonds offered on Dec. 20—V. 117, p. 2678—were purchased by the Citizens National Bank of Merrill at a premium of \$1,860 equal to 102.48.

MIAMI, Dade County, Fla.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids will be received by O. L. Huddleston, Director of Finance, until 10 a. m. Jan. 8 for \$177,000 5% coupon (not registrable) storm and sanitary sewer bonds.

MILLVILLE, Cumberland County, N. J.—BOND OFFERING.—Wilbert J. Simmerman, Director of Revenue and Finance, will receive sealed bids until 3:30 p. m. Jan. 11 for the purchase of an issue of 5% coupon high school bonds not to exceed \$375,000, no more bonds to be awarded than will produce a premium of \$1,000 over \$375,000.

MOBILE, Mobile County, Ala.—BOND OFFERING.—S. H. Hendrix, Clerk Board of City Commissioners, will receive bids until 12 p. m. Jan. 15 for \$350,000 5% coupon high school bonds.

MOORESVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT (P. O. Mooresville), Bucks County, Pa.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids will be received by William S. Lair, President Board of Directors, until 8 p. m. Jan. 7 for \$120,000 5% school bonds.

MT. VERNON, Westchester County, N. Y.—BOND SALE.—The \$240,000 coupon or registered school bonds offered on Dec. 20 (V. 117, p. 2678), have been awarded as 4 1/8 to Sherwood & Merrifield of New York for \$244,032—equal to 101.68—a basis of about 4.28%.

NEW IBERIA, Iberia Parish, La.—BONDS VOTED.—A special wire from our Western correspondent advises us that \$25,000 light bonds have been voted.

NOGALES, Santa Cruz County, Ariz.—BOND ELECTION.—On Jan. 24 a proposition to issue \$100,000 street improvement bonds will be submitted to a vote of the people at an election to be held on that day.

NOLAN COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 1 (P. O. Sweetwater), Tex.—BOND SALE.—Paying a premium of \$7,000 equal to 101.16, Kauffmann, Smith & Emert & Co., Inc., of St. Louis, were the successful bidders for the \$300,000 5 1/2% road bonds, offered on Dec. 20 (V. 117, p. 2679).

OAKWOOD, Montgomery County, Ohio.—BOND SALE.—The \$33,175 6% Shafer Boulevard coupon paving bonds, offered on Dec. 18—V. 117, p. 2569—were awarded to the Herrick Co. of Cincinnati for \$34,539, on Oct. 1 as follows: \$3,175 1925, \$3,000 1926 to 1931, incl., and \$4,000 1932 to 1934, incl.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma County, Okla.—BIDS REJECTED.—All bids received for the \$1,600,000 5% water works extension bonds offered on Dec. 18 (V. 117, p. 2679) were rejected. Date Dec. 15 1923. Due to 25 years.

ORANGE COUNTY (P. O. Paoli), Ind.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids will be received by William B. Lashbooks, County Treasurer, until 2 p. m. Jan. 7 for \$6,500 4 1/2% Norman Smith et al., coupon road bonds.

OX CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 14, Rolette County, N. Dak.—CERTIFICATE OFFERING.—Martin Retrum, District Clerk, will receive bids at the County Auditor's office in Rolla until 2 p. m. Jan. 5 for \$3,000 certificates of indebtedness.

PALO PINTO COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 1 (P. O. Palo Pinto), Texas.—BOND OFFERING.—E. L. Pitts, County Judge, will receive sealed bids until 10 a. m. Jan. 7 for \$306,000 5 1/2% road bonds.

inclusive, and \$8,000, 1938 to 1963, inclusive. A certified check for \$3,100 required.

PENNINGTON, Mercer County, N. J.—BOND SALE.—The First National Bank of Pennington purchased \$49,500 5% coupon water bonds (\$50,000 offered—V. 117, p. 2679) for \$50,350, equal to 101.717, a basis of about 4.86%.

PIPESTONE COUNTY (P. O. Pipestone), Minn.—BOND SALE.—The \$18,000 Judicial Ditch No. 1 bonds offered on Dec. 21 (V. 117, p. 2461) were purchased by the Capital Trust & Savings Bank of St. Paul as 4 3/8 at par less a discount of \$45, equal to 99.75. Denom. \$1,000. Date Jan. 1 1924. Interest J. & J. Due serially.

PITTSBORO, Chatham County, No. Caro.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed proposals will be received until 12 m. Dec. 31 by Daniel L. Bell, Town Secretary, for the purchase of the following issues of 6% coupon bonds (with privilege of conversion into fully registered bonds): \$2,500 second electric light bonds.

PORT EMMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83, Dickey County, N. Dak.—BOND SALE.—G. B. Keeman & Co. of Minneapolis have purchased the \$3,000 7% coupon funding bonds offered on Dec. 22—V. 117, p. 2680—at par, plus a premium of \$12, and to furnish blank bonds and pay attorney's fees.

POLK COUNTY (P. O. Bartow), Fla.—BOND ELECTION.—An election will be held on Feb. 26 to vote on the question of issuing \$3,600,000 5 1/2% road building bonds.

PORTO RICO (Government of)—BOND OFFERING.—Bids will be received by Frank McIntyre, Major-General United States Army and Chief Bureau of Insular Affairs, at his office, Room 3042, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C., until 2 p. m. Feb. 5 for \$3,000,000 5% coupon public improvement bonds.

PROSPECT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33, Ramsey County, N. Dak.—BOND OFFERING.—Wm. Goodwill, District Clerk, will receive bids until Dec. 31 at the County Auditor's office in Devils Lake for \$6,000 5 1/2% funding bonds.

PULASKI COUNTY (P. O. Little Rock), Ark.—NOTE SALE.—Brandon, Gordon & Wadell of New York have purchased \$500,000 5 1/2% refunding county general fund notes, of which \$300,000 are dated July 1 1923 and \$200,000 Aug. 1 1923.

RALEIGH COUNTY TOWN DISTRICT (P. O. Beckley), W. Va.—BOND SALE.—On Dec. 21 the \$450,000 5 1/2% coupon school bonds offered on that date (V. 117, p. 2680) were awarded to the Well, Roth & Irving Co. of Cincinnati for \$360,317 50, equal to 102.29—a basis of about 5.29%.

RENVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25, Bottineau County, N. Dak.—CERTIFICATE OFFERING.—Mertie Van Newkirk, District Clerk, will receive bids until 2 p. m. Jan. 11 at the County Auditor's office in Bottineau for \$2,000 7% certificates of indebtedness.

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, McKenzie County, N. Dak.—BOND OFFERING.—Anna Ritland, District Clerk, will receive sealed bids at the County Auditor's office in Schafer until 2 p. m. to-day (Dec. 29) for \$6,000 funding bonds bearing interest at a rate not to exceed 7%.

ROCKWALL COUNTY (P. O. Rockwall), Texas.—BOND SALE.—The Taylor-White Co. of Oklahoma City has been awarded an issue of \$156,500 bonds (balance of an issue of \$800,000 road bonds authorized in 1918) for \$158,704, equal to 101.40.

SALT LAKE CITY, Salt Lake County, Utah.—NOTE SALE.—A syndicate composed of the Bankers Trust Co., Hannahs, Ballin & Lee and Curtis & Sanger, all of New York, and Bosworth, Chanute & Co., of Denver, has purchased \$1,900,000 5% tax anticipation notes, dated Dec. 31 1923 and maturing Dec. 31 1924.

SAN ANTONIO, Bexar County, Texas.—INJUNCTION PROCEEDINGS BEGUN TO TEST LEGALITY.—We are informed by our Western representative that injunction proceedings to test the legality of the \$4,250,000 various improvement bonds recently voted (V. 117, p. 2680) have been started.

SAN JOSE, Santa Clara County, Calif.—BOND SALE.—A syndicate composed of R. H. Moulton & Co., National City Co. and the Anglo-California Trust Co. has purchased \$550,000 5% municipal improvement bonds.

SAN MARCOS, Hay County, Texas.—BONDS DEFEATED.—A special telegraphic dispatch from our Western representative advises us that at a recent election a proposition to issue \$200,000 school bonds failed to carry.

SAN PATRICK COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 3 (P. O. Sinton), Texas.—BONDS DEFEATED.—At the election held on Dec. 8 the \$25,000 road bond issue put before the voters on that day (V. 117, p. 2242) was defeated.

SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, Santa Barbara County, Calif.—BOND SALE.—Stephens & Co. of San Francisco have purchased \$150,000 5% school coupon bonds.

SAWTELLE, Los Angeles County, Calif.—BONDS VOTED.—By a vote of 7 to 1 a \$430,000 street bond issue was authorized at a recent election.

SCOTCH BLOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 12, Rolette County, N. Dak.—BONDS NOT SOLD.—The \$3,500 funding bonds offered on Oct. 16 (V. 117, p. 1694) were not sold, as the bids received were unsatisfactory.

SCOTIA SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22, Bottineau County, N. Dak.—CERTIFICATE OFFERING.—Until 2 p. m. Jan. 10 bids will be received at the County Auditor's office in Bottineau by H. K. Peterson, District Clerk, for \$3,000 certificates of indebtedness.

SHAMROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (P. O. Shamrock), Wheeler County, Texas.—BOND SALE.—The \$60,000 high school building bonds recently voted—V. 117, p. 2242—have been awarded at par.

Aug. 1 1923. Due \$300 each six months from Feb. 1 1924 to Aug. 1 1931 inclusive

VERNIN TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (P. O. Kinsman), Trumbull County, Ohio.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids will be received by Guy E. Martin, Clerk Board of Education, until 1 p. m. Jan. 3 for \$2,500 5% fireproof gymnasium construction bonds. Denom. \$500. Date Dec. 1 1923. Prin. and semi-ann. int. (A. & O.) payable at the Kinston National Bank of Kinston. Due \$500 yearly on Oct. 1 from 1925 to 1929 incl. Cert. check for \$500, payable to the above Clerk, required.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP (P. O. Lilly), Cambria County, Pa.—BOND OFFERING.—Sylvester Diehl, Township Treasurer, will receive sealed bids until 6 p. m. Jan. 5 for \$27,000 4 1/2% coupon highway bonds. Denom. \$1,000. Date Sept. 1 1923. Principal and semi-annual interest (M. & S.) payable at the Cassandra Deposit Bank of Cassandra. Due yearly on Sept. 1 as follows: \$5,000, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948 and \$2,000, 1950. Certified check for \$600 required.

WEHAWKEN TOWNSHIP (P. O. Wehawken), Hudson County, N. J.—BOND OFFERING.—Thomas Carroll, Township Clerk, will receive sealed bids until 8:30 p. m. Jan. 7 for the purchase of an issue of 4 1/2% coupon or registered bonds not to exceed \$86,000, no more bonds to be awarded than will produce a premium of \$1,000 over \$86,000. Denom. \$1,000. Date Dec. 1 1923. Principal and semi-annual interest (J. & D.) payable at the office of the Township Treasurer. Due yearly on Dec. 1 as follows: \$5,000, 1925 to 1934, inclusive, and \$6,000, 1935 to 1940, inclusive. Certified check for 2% of the amount of bonds bid for, payable to the Township, required. The bonds will be prepared under the supervision of the United States Mortgage & Trust Co. of New York, which will certify as to the genuineness of the signatures of the officials and the seal impressed thereon and the validity of the bonds will be approved by Hawkins, Delafield & Longfellow, of New York.

WESTGATE, Los Angeles County, Cal.—BONDS VOTED.—An issue of \$430,000 street impt. bonds was recently voted by a count of 272 to 38.

WHITE PLAINS, Westchester County, N. Y.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids until 11 a. m. Jan. 7 will be received by Eugene S. Martin, Commissioner of Finance, for \$500,000 4 1/2% registered municipal building bonds. Denom. \$1,000. Date Jan. 1 1924. Prin. and semi-ann. int. (J. & J.) payable in lawful money in New York exchange at the office of the Commissioner of Finance. Due \$20,000 Jan. 1 1934 to 1958 incl. Certified check for \$10,000, required. Legality approved by Clay & Dillon of New York.

WILLIAMS IRRIGATION DISTRICT (P. O. Williams), Colusa County, Calif.—BOND OFFERING.—W. R. Lindersmith, Secretary Board of Directors, will receive sealed bids until 3 p. m. Dec. 31 for \$581,000 irrigation bonds. Denom. \$1,000. Date Jan. 1 1924. Due on Jan. 1 as follows: \$15,000, 1942 to 1944 incl.; \$20,000, 1945 to 1947 incl.;

\$25,000, 1948 to 1950 incl.; \$30,000, 1951 to 1953 incl.; \$34,000, 1954 and 1955; \$40,000, 1956 to 1958 incl.; \$45,000, 1959 and 1960, and \$31,000, 1961. A certified check for 2% of amount bid for, payable to the District, required.

WILLOUGHBY, Lake County, Ohio.—BOND SALE.—The \$12,700 5 1/2% village's portion sewer funding bonds offered on Dec. 22—V. 117, p. 2681—have been awarded to the Provident Savings Bank & Trust Co. of Cincinnati at par., plus a premium of \$215.90, equal to 101.70, a basis of about 5.31%. Date Oct. 1 1923. Due yearly on Oct. 1 as follows: \$500 1924 to 1947, incl., except the years 1926, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1941 and 1944, when \$600 becomes due.

WITTENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8, Mercer County, No. Dak.—BOND OFFERING.—Fred Brunmeier, Clerk of the School Board, will receive bids at the County Auditor's office in Stanton until 3 p. m. Jan. 7 for \$2,000 7% school-building bonds. Denom. \$1,000. Interest annual. Due in ten years. A certified check for 5% of bid required.

YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (P. O. Youngstown), Mahoning County, Ohio.—BOND SALE.—On Dec. 20 the \$1,202,000 5% coupon bonds issued in anticipation of taxes, offered on that date (V. 117, p. 2682), were awarded to Stevenson, Perry, Stacy & Co. of Toledo at par. Date Dec. 20 1923. Due each six months as follows: \$75,000 Feb. 1 1924 to Aug. 1 1930 incl. and \$76,000 Feb. 1 and Aug. 1 1931.

CANADA, its Provinces and Municipalities.

BEAUPORT, Que.—BOND OFFERING.—Henri Delage, Sec.-Treas., will receive bids until 12 m. Dec. 31 for \$50,000 5 1/2% serial bonds, maturing 1924 to 1938, incl.

ONTARIO (Province of).—NOTE SALE.—Dillon, Read & Co. have been awarded an issue of \$10,000,000 one-year 5% notes on a 5 1/2% interest basis.

OTTAWA, Ont.—BOND OFFERING.—Frank H. Plant, Mayor, will receive sealed bids until 3 p. m. Jan. 10 for the following 5 1/2% coupon (with privilege of registration as to principal) bonds:

\$322,586 54-----10-year \$175,734 77-----20-year
193,240 21-----15-year 1,125,000 00-----30-year
Denom. \$1,000. Date Jan. 1 1924. Cert. check for \$10,000, required.

ST. CHARLES, Bas du Sault, Que.—BOND OFFERING.—Emile Delorme, Secretary-Treasurer, will receive tenders until 10 a. m. Dec. 31 for \$15,000 6% 10-installment school bonds. Date Sept. 1 1923. Interest semi-annually.

TECK TOWNSHIP, Ont.—BOND SALE.—An issue of \$30,000 6% 15-installment bonds has been awarded privately to Mackay & Mackay.

UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF LA REINE AND DESMELOIZES, Que.—BOND OFFERING.—Until Jan. 7 Frank Foley, Secretary-Treasurer (P. O. La Reine), will receive bids for \$6,000 6% 20-year bonds, dated Feb. 1 1923.

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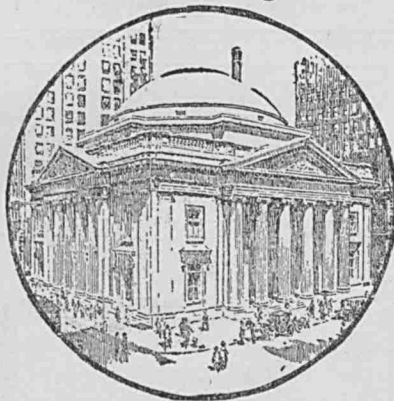
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NEW LOANS

Union Free School District No. 1 of the
Town of Greenburgh, New York.

NOTICE OF SALE.

\$450,000

School District Bonds, Series A.

\$150,000

School District Bonds, Series B.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education of Union Free School District No. 1 of the Town of Greenburgh, N. Y., on January 16, 1924, at 7 o'clock p. m., at Washington Irving High School, Tarrytown, New York, for the purchase of the following issues of bonds:

\$450,000 School District Bonds, Series A, dated April 1st, 1923, maturing \$15,000 thereof on October 1st in each of the years 1925 to 1954, both inclusive; and

\$150,000 School District Bonds, Series B, dated January 1st, 1924, maturing \$5,000 thereof on October 1st in each of the years 1925 to 1954, both inclusive.

Said bonds will be of the denomination of \$1,000 each, will bear interest at the rate of four and one-half per centum (4 1/2%) per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of April and October in each year. Both principal and interest of said bonds will be payable in gold coin of the United States of America or equal to the present standard of weight and fineness at the office of the Tarrytown National Bank, Tarrytown, New York. The bonds will be coupon bonds, with the privilege of registration as to principal and interest.

The right is reserved to reject all bids, and any bid not complying with the terms of this notice will be rejected.

The bonds will not be sold for less than par, and in addition to the amount bid the successful bidder must pay accrued interest at the rate borne by the bonds from the date of the bonds to the date of payment of the purchase price, less interest on the deposited check as provided below.

All bidders are required to deposit a certified check payable to the order of Treasurer of Union Free School District No. 1 of the Town of Greenburgh for two per centum of the amount of bonds bid for, drawn upon an incorporated bank or trust company. Checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon the award of the bonds. Interest will be allowed upon the amount of the check of a successful bidder at the rate borne by the bonds from the date of the award to the date of delivery, and such check will be retained to be applied in part payment for the bonds or to secure the Board against any loss resulting from the failure of the bidder to comply with the terms of his bid.

Proposals should be addressed to
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
Town of Greenburgh,
Tarrytown, New York,

and enclosed in a sealed envelope marked on the outside "Proposal for Bonds."

The successful bidder will be furnished with the opinion of Messrs. Hawkins, Delafield & Longfellow of New York City that the bonds are binding and legal obligations of the Board.

The Bonds will be prepared under the supervision of the United States Mortgage & Trust Company, which will certify as to the genuineness of the signatures of the officials and the seal impressed thereon.

By order of the Board of Education,
Dated December 26, 1923.

MERTON F. BELLOWS,
District Clerk.

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