

The Commercial & Financial Chronicle

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VOL. 118.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 1924.

NO. 3056.

The Chronicle.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Terms of Subscription—Payable in Advance

For One Year	\$10 00
For Six Months	6 00
European Subscription (including postage)	13 50
European Subscription six months (including postage)	7 75
Canadian Subscription (including postage)	11 50

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Transient display matter per agate line	45 cents
Contract and Card rates	On request
CHICAGO OFFICE—19 South La Salle Street, Telephone State 5594.	
LONDON OFFICE—Edwards & Smith, 1 Drapers' Gardens, E. C.	

WILLIAM B. DANA COMPANY, Publishers,
Front, Pine and Depeyster Streets, New York.

Published every Saturday morning by WILLIAM B. DANA COMPANY, President, Jacob Selbert; Business Manager, William D. Riggs; Secretary, Herbert D. Selbert; Treasurer, William Dana Selbert. Addresses of all, Office of Company.

The Financial Situation.

On Monday nearly a hundred of the leading railroads received from the Inter-State Commerce Commission an order for the immediate equipping, on at least one passenger division of each road, of a complete system of automatic train control. This action, which is not heralded by any recent announcement or mention, is conjectured to be immediately prompted by a recent collision on the New York Central. Under it, the carriers are called on to make reports of progress and conditions by May 1 next, and monthly reports thereafter, and to have the demanded equipment ready by Feb. 1 of 1926 at the latest. The Transportation Act authorizes the Commission, after investigation, to order any carrier, "within a time specified in the order, to install automatic train-stop or train-control devices or other safety devices, which comply with specifications and requirements specified by the Commission, upon the whole or any part of its railroad, such order to be issued and published at least two years before the date specified for its fulfillment"; but a carrier is not to be deemed negligent for failing to do this on any portion of road not specified in the order, and any action arising because of an accident on such portion shall be determined without consideration of the use of such devices on some other portion.

An order, applying to 49 roads, was issued in June of 1922, these roads being directed to equip one division by the close of this calendar year, and now they are ordered to equip another by Feb. 1 of 1926. It is estimated that compliance will cost over 100 millions; the Eastern roads set the subject down for consideration at this week's regular meeting, and may possibly ask a re-hearing upon it.

Automatic train control is clearly quite proper, because most desirable on every ground of consideration. But as to the outlay, by whom and how

shall the funds be supplied? Rates are burdensomely high, as everybody admits, notwithstanding the carriers are not thriving properly and their credit is low. There is not a shipper or a passenger anywhere who is heartily for any increase in the rate, and as for the politicians, the most rabid see red in their determination to overhaul the rail monopolists and bring them down to theoretical hardpan. As for the railway brotherhoods, no whisper of sympathy is heard, but, on the contrary, there are mutterings of intent to file further wage increase demands. As for the financial markets, an important road is now offering a 6% bond at less than par, and the structure of railway finance is becoming top-heavy by too much bonded debt and too little of stocks. Where are the persons who want to buy evidences of ownership, rather than evidences of obligation for borrowed funds?

The Transportation Act prescribes a fine of \$100 a day for failure to comply with this particular requirement. That seems something in the line of penalty, yet is mild compared with the provision in Governor Hughes's Public Service Commission law of 1907 in this State, which empowered the Commission to make rates and regulations and ordered carriers to comply with "any order or requirement," on penalty of \$5,000 for each offense; the law did not say that the order must be "reasonable," it said "any" order, and in case of continued violation each day thereof was to be deemed "a separate and distinct offense." Possibly the discharge of this statutory gun has not been quite according to the strength of its load; and yet? Is it not time we—the people who own these railway work "horses" which we vaguely imagine are owned, instead, by some wealthy and wicked outsiders whom nobody can discover, much less can reach—began to consider whether oats would not be a better help towards service than whips and spurs? Or (to drop to homely but irresistibly suggestive figure) is it not time we began to view the transportation question with a nearer approach to ordinary common-sense?

The merchandise movement of the United States to and from foreign ports continues along well-defined lines. Exports of raw cotton, at a valuation fully 30% higher than a year ago, still serve to swell the value of merchandise exports from this country, while imports for the month of December underwent a further reduction. The value of merchandise exports in December was \$425,000,000, this figure contrasting with \$400,190,707, the value of exports for November, and \$344,327,560 in the corresponding amount for December 1922. Exports for the last month of 1923 were the largest in value for any month since February 1921. Merchandise imports

for the month just closed were valued at \$285,000,000, contrasting with \$291,457,878 for the preceding month and with \$293,788,573 for December 1922. Only two months of last year showed a smaller volume of imports than the closing month of the year, and these two months were August and September. The average value of merchandise imports each month in 1923 was in excess of \$315,300,000; for 1922, however, the average monthly value was only \$260,000,000. The excess of merchandise exports for December 1923 over merchandise imports was \$140,000,000; for the preceding month it was \$108,730,000, and for December 1922 only \$50,540,000.

Merchandise exports from the United States for the twelve months of 1923 were valued at \$4,164,831,132, while imports amounted to \$3,788,882,215, an excess of exports of \$375,948,917. For the preceding year merchandise exports were \$3,831,777,469, and imports amounted to \$3,112,746,833, the excess of exports for 1922 being \$719,030,636. Exports increased in 1923 over 1922 \$333,053,663 and imports \$676,135,382. The excess of exports for 1923 was the smallest in many years; in fact, during four months of 1923, March to June inclusive, imports exceeded exports, the excess of imports for these four months being \$152,270,000. From June to December, inclusive, exports gradually increased each month, while imports showed little change, and in consequence there was a constant gain in excess exports for each month to the close of the year. There is usually a large movement from the United States to foreign ports, of cotton and grain, during the last four or five months of the year, which swells the volume of merchandise exports, and this was the case in 1923 as in other years.

Exports and imports of the precious metals in December were not materially different from the movement in the preceding months of 1923. Imports of gold in December were \$32,641,226 and exports only \$711,529. For the twelve months of 1923 the value of gold imports was \$322,715,812 and of gold exports \$28,643,417, an excess of imports of \$294,072,395. Gold imports last year were \$47,546,027 larger than in the preceding year, while gold exports were \$8,231,477 below the gold exports of 1922. The excess of gold imports in 1922 was \$238,294,891.

Silver imports in 1923 were \$74,453,530 and exports \$72,468,789. The imports of silver in 1922 were valued at \$70,806,653 and the exports at \$62,807,286. For December 1923 the imports of silver amounted to \$8,172,301 and the exports to \$9,521,083.

The committee of which Brigadier-General Charles G. Dawes is Chairman, and which is composed of "leading business men and financiers of the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy," has begun its work. The first formal meeting was held in Paris Monday morning, Jan. 14. Its task is to "study the stabilization of the German currency and a balanced budget" for that country. Louis Barthou, Chairman of the Reparations Commission, presided at the opening session and in his speech of welcome was quoted as saying: "We do not expect from you the unlooked-for miracle of a solution of the reparations problem, but we have sincere confidence that your competency, experience and authority will concentrate to hasten the result toward which we are bending all our efforts. Germany receives from the treaty the right to be heard. You

shall hear her in the form which appears most useful to you. We eagerly desire for the common good that its Governmental administrations will facilitate your task, so arduous and so complex. We must reach results. Germany's creditors and Germany herself are not the only ones interested in a reparations settlement. It is not excessive to say that the pacific equilibrium of the entire world depends upon it. Gentlemen experts, get to work with courage and formulate the opinion which the unanimous Commission has requested of you. Take your time, but take only the time necessary. We expect much from you. The entire Commission is rejoiced at the co-operation American citizens have brought to the Allied experts. The committee's conclusions will receive from this increased authority." General Dawes, in his speech, made the following points in substance: "Disaster faces the Allies and Europe unless common-sense is exercised. Let us first help Germany to get well. The world realizes that if the German people lose their capacity for work Germany loses her capacity to pay. Experts hitherto have wandered in the gloomy reparations labyrinth until a whole library of information that was now obsolete had been collected. Germany's productivity is the key to the restoration of Europe's prosperity. Our first consideration is not so much Germany's present capacity to pay, but rather the establishment of a stable currency and a balanced budget. We must find the water to turn through the budget mill, leaving the building of the mill until later." The Paris dispatches stated that "the committee, after adopting Chairman Dawes's suggestion that it proceed to the study of the stabilization of the German currency as the first item on the agenda, adjourned at 12.40 o'clock until 3 p. m." At the afternoon session "the committee adopted a resolution providing that the records of the proceedings be kept absolutely confidential. The Secretary alone is authorized to give out statements, when approved by the members. The experts themselves have been pledged to give no interviews." The Associated Press correspondent added that "it is understood that the committee hopes, by holding three sessions daily, it can reach a point where it can leave for Berlin Saturday" (today).

In a cablegram the day before the committee had its first session, the Paris correspondent of the New York "Times" suggested that the committee might not be able to accomplish nearly all that was outlined by M. Barthou and General Dawes, and that in whatever degree they might fail would be due to obstructionist tactics by the French. He suggested that, "while naturally the eminent members of the experts' committee wish to go completely into the whole problem before them, it is very plain that under the conditions in which the committee was born and must work the extent to which it may go depends entirely on the attitude of the French." He added that "if the French see in the experts' inquiry an effort to put Germany back on her feet and nothing more, they will not sit by and allow the experts to discuss what might or might not happen if Germany did not owe so much reparations, or if she owed none at all, or if the Ruhr were not occupied, or if the Allies did not hold the Rhine bridgeheads." Continuing, he declared that "if, on the other hand, the French can be brought to see that the experts have in mind to work primarily for payment of repara-

tions and help Germany to her feet that she may pay reparations—in other words, to work out the German budget with the directing idea that sooner or later a part of the appropriations of that budget will go for reparations, and can succeed in giving some sort of guarantee that their plan will work this way, the French attitude may well change from that of skepticism to one of deep interest.' He said "it is believed Mr. Dawes realizes this fully."

General Dawes's speech seems to have made a favorable impression upon the French, who naturally were expected to be the most sensitive of any people over what he might say relative to the policy of the committee and the scope of the work it would undertake. The Associated Press representative in the French capital cabled that "Charles G. Dawes's speech, at the opening of the session of the First Committee of Experts to-day, made an excellent impression upon the French delegation in the Reparations Commission, which was particularly gratified by the insistence with which the American dwelt upon the necessity for a policy of unity between the Allies. The impression made by the speech was indeed in every way favorable, both inside and outside of reparations circles, except in extreme nationalist quarters, where his reference to 'nationalistic demagogues' caused some slight emotion. One of the British delegates said: 'The impression was most favorable; the beginning of the discussions augurs well.' Colonel James A. Logan, American unofficial observer on the Reparations Commission, expressed himself to the same effect, while M. Barthou, President of the Commission, declared that the committee could not have got to work under better auspices."

According to an Associated Press cablegram from Berlin, "a leading member of the Cabinet" was quoted as saying that "we have not yet been informed as to the procedure to be adopted in connection with the forthcoming discussions, but in any event we shall be prepared to accommodate the Commission, in a comprehensive and loyal manner, with any and all the information it may require of us." The correspondent said also that "official interest naturally centres in the activities of the consulting experts and whether they will come to Berlin for a personal survey. It was declared to-day that the German Government would be able to give the inquirers concrete evidence of a tangible and continued improvement in the nation's internal finances and that, barring untoward upsets, an actual budgetary equilibrium would probably be achieved by March 1. This presupposes that the Government will be in a position to keep its currency stabilized through the transitional medium of the rentenmark, or an early establishment of gold currency through the firmly founded gold note bank, which is the cherished scheme of Dr. Schacht, Federal Currency Commissioner and head of the Reichsbank."

The French franc had a particularly severe decline on Monday, going down rapidly at the very time that the committee was in session. After the closing of the Paris Bourse that day "francs continued to fall. At 6.30 the dollar commanded 23.27 francs to the dollar and the pound sterling 98.20 francs to the pound." The New York "Times" representative said that "the selling of francs on the Paris Bourse showed a heavy increase to-day, purchases of dollars

in the official session being 685,000 and sterling 466,000."

The exchange situation was regarded so serious that it was decided to hold a Cabinet meeting the next morning "to take measures to meet the situation created by the fall of the franc." The New York "Times" representative cabled that "it is understood there may be an immediate curtailment of advances for the reconstruction and reparations bill, adding 20 or 30% more taxes." He added that "the Paris Produce Exchange to-day announced cereals, oils and sugars would not be officially quoted until further notice, these commodities being at prices that generally accord with exchange. This restriction was removed a day or two later. After conferences with bankers this afternoon the Finance Minister acquainted Millerand with the projected moves. There exists here a feeling of deep resentment over the exchange situation and most often one hears it said there is no fairness in the Italian lire being above the franc, since it is argued no economic reasons can justify that quotation."

That the force of General Dawes's statements and arguments were better realized as the days passed was clearly revealed in successive cable dispatches from the French capital. The representative of the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" seemingly gave the best account of the effect upon the French people of what he said and did. According to his account, "Brigadier-General Charles G. Dawes, through the speech in accepting the presidency of the Experts' Committee on Reparations by which he broke his self-imposed and unaccustomed silence with literally stunning effect, has left Paris simply gasping. His broadsides of hard, plain words completely bowled over the oft-repeated thesis of Premier Poincare and the French Government on the capacity of Germany to pay. His speech was delivered with the cold, calm directness of a corporation director seeking means to obtain dividends and without the slightest interest either in 'national aspirations' or the political aspects of the situation. It is regarded as the most forceful and potent prescription for the ills of Europe since the Treaty of Versailles. Papers which have had time at least partially to digest the pill are not uttering a single word of complaint or criticism, but are displaying a commendable although sudden eagerness to get into step with the Dawes procession." Continuing to outline the attitude of the French, he said: "As I have already suggested, the French are quickly orienting themselves not only to the Dawes methods but also to the arguments laid down in his speech. The newspaper comment begins usually with the reminder that after all the committee still is operating 'within the Treaty of Versailles' and apparently feel better after getting that idea off their chests. Then—perhaps with an eye on the rapidly falling franc and certainly with an eye fixed on the date of the parliamentary elections—they rush into agreement with Dawes to the effect that France regrets just as he does the disaccord between the Allies that has existed since the war, and even that France also now believes it is necessary to stabilize German currency before determining how and when Germany can pay."

Another encouraging development and a striking illustration of the directness and fairness of General Dawes's methods were found in a message from

Paris Tuesday afternoon saying that "Dr. Schacht, President of the Reichsbank and German Currency Commissioner, has been invited by the expert investigating committee headed by Charles G. Dawes to come to Paris immediately, it was announced this afternoon." It was added that "the committee desires to avail itself of Dr. Schacht's knowledge of the present currency situation in Germany and receive his suggestions as to measures which could be quickly applied to improve the status of the mark and stabilize it." It was expected at that time that Dr. Schacht would reach Paris the latter part of the week. He arrived in Paris Thursday evening and appeared before the Dawes committee yesterday. The Associated Press correspondent cabled that "the committee of experts began this [Tuesday] morning its task of examining the resources of Germany. The members met at 10 o'clock at the unofficial American reparations headquarters." He further stated that "Arthur N. Young, economic adviser to the State Department, arrived here to-day to act as the second unofficial observer for the United States with the Reparations Commission," and said also that "Premier Poincare has expressed a desire to meet the experts personally, and he is arranging a dinner for this purpose, to be held Jan. 21 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

It seems that the French lost no time in taking steps to strengthen the financial position of the Government. The Paris correspondent of the New York "Times" cabled on the evening of Jan. 15 that, "faced by the financial crisis caused by the recoverable budget plan under which France has spent for reconstruction and pensions 100,000,000,000 francs against no other resource than Germany's promise to pay, the Paris Government decided to-day to abandon this system and in the future to expend for reconstruction only such sums as can be raised from the taxpayer." He added that "in order that reconstruction shall not end, the Government will introduce on Thursday a bill increasing all taxes by 20%. It is estimated that this will raise 5,000,000,000 francs and from budget economies and sale of the match monopoly the Government counts on raising three more billions. Reconstruction work for 1924 will be limited to this amount and, if the Government's program goes through and is followed there will be no more borrowing for reconstruction." Going further into the situation, he explained that "the French are paying the running expenses of their Government and are paying interest on nearly 300,000,000,000 francs borrowed in the domestic market to conduct the war. It is the 100,000,000,000 recoverable budget which has got her into trouble and made the franc fall. Although until Germany pays the French must continue to carry this burden of a hundred billion, the Government has now decided that it shall not become larger and that the 40,000,000,000 calculated cost of completing reconstruction must be raised by taxation." The "Times" representative made it known also that "the Government issued a long communique to-night calling on the country to show a spirit of sacrifice for the common good and emphasizing the danger the country is running if the franc continues to fall." According to a Paris cablegram Wednesday evening, "public reaction to the Government's financial program, as drawn up by the Cabinet yesterday, is on the whole favorable, judging from the press comment. Although no one

likes to see a 20% increase in taxes, the average citizen realizes that such a drastic measure is necessary and is prepared to take his medicine." In a Washington dispatch the same evening it was stated that, "to bring stability to the French franc a reparations settlement between France and Germany, which would involve a solution of the whole reparations problem, is necessary, it was declared in an authoritative quarter here to-day."

In another dispatch Tuesday evening the New York "Times" representative said that "it is understood that the French experts may place before General Dawes and his colleagues a proposal for the establishment of a German bank of issue, either in Germany or, preferably, outside of Germany, which shall be completely independent and out of touch with the German Government, being controlled by an international committee of business men likewise independent of their Governments." Continuing to outline the plan, he said that "the French believe it would be easy to obtain the necessary capital for such a bank by pledging certain German monopolies and furthermore that if this bank were in Holland or Switzerland and were made to look like a good business affair it could draw largely on German capital held abroad, which while remaining outside Germany would help solve Germany's troubles. Such a bank, it is held, could with a gold reserve, issue money, which could be sent into Germany for use. Realizing that were the Berlin Government in the position to force inflation on such a bank it would ruin it, those back of the scheme would have it absolutely above the reach of Reich politicians. If this project finds favor with the committee of experts the French may be expected to ask the committee to consider the German budget problem not so much as a proposition for getting Germany's Government finances going and leaving reparations to be collected later, but to consider Germany's fiscal situation by comparison with the fiscal situation in France or England."

The Berlin cable advices made public here Wednesday morning indicated a difference of opinion as to General Dawes's speech at the opening session of his committee in Paris on Monday. The Berlin representative of the New York "Times" cabled that "not since President Wilson's famous fourteen points has any oratorical effort aroused such interest and discussion in Germany as General Dawes's speech to the Experts' Committee in Paris yesterday. Hitherto unknown to Teutons, General Dawes became famous overnight, for the text of his speech filtered in only toward midnight and was printed by the morning papers without comment, but the evening papers contain column-long editorials as well as special articles about it. What has heartened the Germans is the blunt, straightforward exposition of the situation, which they find in refreshing contrast to the long series of diplomatic notes, official, semi-official and inspired communiques, the most part beating about the bush. All the commentators recognize and hail the intrinsic 'Americanism' of General Dawes's utterances, regardless of party, which itself is a unique reaction in Germany. Incidentally 'Hell and Maria' has been added to the German journalistic vocabulary." The New York "Herald" correspondent at the same centre had quite a different story to tell. He said in part that, "despite the thundering phrases of General Dawes's speech in Paris,

in which he branded militarists as 'vultures' who play with the peace of the world, Berlin, after calm consideration to-day showed only the slightest favorable reaction. The only complimentary comment comes from the Democratic press, while Nationalistic sources maintain the most severe silence, evidently believing their toes as well as those of the French militarists have been trod upon."

Premier Poincare spent all day Wednesday discussing with associates in the Government and financiers his plans for stabilizing the franc. In a cablegram that evening the Associated Press representative in Paris said that the Cabinet will approve the terms of the measures to-morrow morning, and the bills will be presented in the Chamber in the afternoon, when the Premier in a short declaration will demand urgency for their discussion. The finance bills will at once be sent to the Finance Committee, which will make an urgent report on them, so that the Chamber can discuss them next week." He added that "M. Poincare, it was said to-night, wishes the new Government measures to be applied by Feb. 1. He will, therefore, intervene in the debate in the Chamber at an early stage and reaffirm the Government's responsibility respecting the proposals." According to his message also, "the search for possible economies was pursued by the Ministers under the Premier's direction all afternoon, and the propositions were embodied by M. de Lasteyrie in a bill for introduction in the Chamber. The Government's program continues to meet with the strong support of the press. The Socialists, who will vote against it, express delight at its introduction, as liable to cause trouble to the national bloc, from which the Government gets its majority."

Cabling Thursday afternoon, the Paris representative of the Associated Press said that, "in the presence of a full and agitated house, Finance Minister de Lasteyrie introduced the financial bills in the Chamber of Deputies shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon. Premier Poincare then mounted the tribune, and the turmoil was supplanted by a dead silence as he began to speak." He added that "the Chamber of Deputies expressed confidence in the Government by a vote of 394 to 180, refusing immediate discussion of an interpellation on the subject of pensions. There seems little doubt that the measures will pass." He observed, however, that "the Deputies who have decided to vote as the Government desires—and they appear to be in the majority—in the full knowledge that they are injuring their chances for re-election a few weeks hence, have taken the position that France is taking its internal Battle of the Marne and that all questions of personal interest must be discarded now as in war time for the good of the nation." At that session two bills were presented. The first asks "for increased control over exchange operations by making it compulsory to obtain preliminary authorization from Chambers of Commerce for the purchase of foreign moneys needed for commercial purposes and preliminary authorization from the Ministry of Finance to conduct exchange business, which authorization will be revokable in case of abuse. The second bill provides for effecting economies in the public services by decree and for an increase of 20% in all taxes." The Premier received a vote of confidence on the second as well as the first bill, the ballot on the second being 360 to 215. According to Paris dispatches, "Premier

Poincare asked that the Chamber Finance Committee take in hand immediately consideration of these bills and report to the Chamber Tuesday, when discussion of them will be begun."

Commenting on the outlook for the success of the Dawes committee's efforts, the Paris correspondent of the Associated Press said in a dispatch Thursday evening that "the prospects that the Reich will cooperate in the effort to find a basis upon which to balance the German budget and renovate German money was the outstanding feature of the reparations situation to-day." He added that "the committee of experts now delving into the matter feels little can be done unless the Germans collaborate, especially in recovering exported capital. The prompt acceptance of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, of the committee's invitation to come here and confer has created an excellent impression."

As has been feared from the outset, there were indications yesterday that once again the French might block well-meaning plans for a settlement with Germany. The Paris correspondent of the Associated Press cabled that in a speech from the tribune in the Chamber of Deputies Premier Poincare "renewed his declaration that the French Government would not accept a reduction in the German reparations." He added that "Premier Poincare said that if the international expert committees appointed by the Reparations Commission reached decisions that would decrease the French credits on Germany or diminish the Reparations Commission's prerogatives, it would lead to a deadlock." The correspondent suggested, however, that "the excellent pronouncements made by Brigadier-General Charles G. Dawes, the American Chairman of the first committee, allowed the hope that there would be no danger of this kind."

It has been apparent for some days that the Labor Party in Great Britain, with a strong probability of being asked soon to form a new Ministry, does not know what to do with the power almost within its grasp, and for which it has been fighting for years. J. Ramsay Macdonald, who is expected to head the Labor Cabinet, if one is formed, clearly showed in his speech in King Albert Hall last week, a realization of the great responsibility that will be inseparably linked with whatever power may come to him. Then, too, the Laborites have shown that they do not know what to do with the opportunities socially that are coming to them on the eve of a possible Labor Government. Lady Astor held a reception recently in honor of "the seven other women now members of the House of Commons." The London correspondent of the New York "Herald" said that, "still fearful of criticism such as was made on previous occasions when Labor leaders moved socially with the aristocracy, a number of Laborite members of Parliament absented themselves." In fact, he added that "J. H. Thomas was the only well-known Laborite to accept Lady Astor's hospitality."

This was on the evening of Jan. 11. The very next day J. Bromley, Secretary of the Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, was quoted as saying that a strike of its men was "inevitable." The London correspondent of the New York "Times" said that "the strike is expected at the end of next week, when the new wage scale comes into force, but Bromley refuses to announce the date the men will be called out." Secretary Bromley was quoted as say-

ing that "we shall choose our own time and we shall not warn the public. If we wish, we are in a position to strike within 24 hours." It was explained that "failure of the companies to enter into negotiations with the society concerning an award of the National Wages Board, which was made at a conference yesterday, is the cause of Bromley's threat. The engineers contended that the award did not constitute an order to the companies or their employees, but was subject to negotiations. The companies stood absolutely by the new scale." According to the "Times" dispatch also, "the points in dispute, according to the society, involve a reduction in wages of from 9 to 22 shillings per week and disturbance of customs which have prevailed for 20 years. It is, however, the political appeal of the threatened strike which is interesting the public. The award which the Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, numbering about 58,000 men, has refused has been accepted by the National Union of Railwaymen, which claims that there are about 20,000 engineers and firemen among its own members, and, although the engineers on most of the important trunk lines belong to the former society, it is evident that there are sufficient in the N. U. R. to prevent rail traffic being completely tied up." The "Times" representative further observed that "now that a Labor Government will be in office before or immediately after the strike, if it is called, it will be interesting to see how it will deal with the situation. J. H. Thomas, Political Secretary of the N. U. R., it is generally accepted, will be in the Cabinet, and by virtue of both his office and his great personal influence with railway men, it is said, he could certainly use his union to break a strike."

As further evidence of Labor's realization of the great responsibilities which it is forcing, it is interesting to read the following excerpt from a cable dispatch under date of Jan. 13 to the New York "Herald" from its London correspondent: "Sensing the political handicap which an industrial strike would impose upon a Labor Government going into power for the first time in the nation's history, Ramsay Macdonald and his colleagues have appealed to the highest labor authority in the Kingdom to try to avert the threatened railroad workers' walkout. An emergency meeting of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress has been called for to-morrow to consider the critical situation precipitated by the announced determination of 59,000 locomotive engineers and firemen to strike, probably next Sunday. It is the hope of the political leaders that the strike may be averted through a further conference of railway executives and men. If the railway executives continue to adhere to the National Wages Board award the men say they will certainly strike. It is expected that the Council will appoint a mediation committee to consult with both sides and initiate negotiations."

The formal opening of Parliament by the King occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at noon. He read the speech that had been prepared for him by Premier Baldwin and approved by his Cabinet. The Associated Press correspondent cabled that "the King's speech referred to the recent rejection of protection by the country and indicated that the Government had abandoned such a policy. The speech said that the question of the extension of Imperial preference,

discussed at the recent Imperial Conference, would be submitted to the new Parliament. The Government and the Dominions, it asserted, have been anxious to remove all difficulties in regard to the illicit importation of liquor into the United States, and it pointed out that an agreement between the two countries on this issue was about to be concluded—a fact which should further strengthen the happy relations between Great Britain and America." He also said that "a large part of the speech was devoted to a discussion of bills which the Baldwin Government would submit for the benefit of the working classes, were it permitted to remain in power. The speech furnished one of the most extensive lists of proposed measures favorable to labor that was ever placed in a King's message. In fact, the Labor Party itself could hardly have issued a more striking pronouncement."

As had been predicted in earlier London cable advices, "the Parliamentary Labor Party decided [on Tuesday] to bring up the question of confidence in the Baldwin Government for decision during the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne at a meeting prior to the assembling of the House of Commons. An amendment to the reply was framed, reading as follows: 'It is, however, our duty respectfully to submit to your Majesty that your Majesty's present officers have not the confidence of this House.'" It was reported that "Ramsay Macdonald, leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party, in the debate characterized the King's speech as a collection of odds and ends." In moving the vote of a lack of confidence it was said that "Mr. Macdonald declared emphatically for peace and rehabilitation in Europe on a basis of fairness to all interests, and opposed to the domination of any one nation. Britain and British interests could not be ignored." The New York "Times" representative declared that "the proceedings of the day indicated that, however wide-reaching may be the results of the accession of the first Labor Ministry to power, they will come about in the most orderly and constitutional way." He said also that "the only other development in the situation was an announcement by Mr. Macdonald that if he comes into power he will permit the House to vote, unfettered by party whips, on the pledges given by the present Government to the Dominions with regard to Imperial preference at the recent Imperial conference."

The latest London cable advices received last evening before going to press did not state whether the labor leaders had actually decided to go ahead with the strike to-morrow night. Basis for the hope that it might be averted was found in an Associated Press dispatch indicating disagreement between them as to what should be done and stating that "an important circular signed by J. H. Thomas and C. T. Cramp was issued from the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen to all its branches, denouncing the strike. The circular said that up to the present moment the leaders had refused to believe that such a 'grave blunder' as a strike could be embarked upon. It added: 'Any member of the N. U. R. ceasing to work or refusing to do any job he would have done had there been no strike is a blackleg to the signature of his accredited representatives, who accepted the wages award, and is a traitor to the decision of the special general meeting which is the

democratic method whereby his views are expressed." In another London cable message last evening it was asserted that "if the strike really takes place it will be attributed only to rival leaders among the engine drivers and firemen."

The greatly confused political situation in Great Britain took a new turn on Thursday, when "ex-Premier Asquith, leader of the reunited Liberal Party, announced in the House of Commons that he would vote in favor of the Labor amendment to the King's speech expressing 'no confidence' in the Baldwin Government, and would advise all his friends to do the same." It was added that "Mr. Asquith and ex-Premier Lloyd George were seated next to Ramsay Macdonald, Parliamentary Labor leader and prospective Prime Minister, on the front Opposition bench. Mr. Asquith's declaration, however, created enthusiasm among the Opposition. After announcing his position the former Premier said: 'It is a clear, distinct and unencumbered vote of no confidence. The Government invited the judgment and have got it. Whatever theories there may be on other questions, it is clear that the Opposition parties were not sent back [in the recent elections] to maintain the present Government in office. The situation that confronts us—the situation of three independent and organized parties, none insignificant in numbers and none commanding a majority of votes—is unexampled, but under these conditions, unexampled as they are, the Labor Party has the absolute and undoubted right and claim to assume office.'

Eleutherios Venizelos, who again has become Premier of Greece, appears to have recovered from the heart attack from which he suffered last week during a session of the National Assembly, soon after his return from Paris. A special European correspondent of the New York "Times," who was received by M. Venizelos on the evening of Jan. 10, cabled that Venizelos "believes a fair, free plebiscite, supervised in each district by two Royalists, two Republicans and a judicial representative as the only means to avert civil war. Greece has no foreign engagements preventing the choice of any regime the people choose. M. Venizelos believes that whatever form of government is legally decided the popular vote will not affect the international loan or the renewal of credits suspended three years ago. He has had no opportunity to estimate the reported change in popular sentiment, complaining he has so far seen only politicians and not the people." According to a news agency dispatch received on Jan. 11, George Roussos, Republican-Liberal leader, formerly Greek Minister to Washington, is Foreign Minister in the new Cabinet. The other members are not much known in this country. The Philadelphia "Public Ledger" correspondent said that "foreign circles believe the new Cabinet is composed of exceptionally good men, but fear factional jealousies and financial and economical difficulties will be too much for it."

Word came from Athens Tuesday evening that "Great Britain has recognized the Greek Government." According to an Associated Press cablegram from London the same evening, "the Foreign Office announced to-day that normal diplomatic relations had been resumed between the British and Greek Governments." It was added that "this action follows the return to Greece and the formation of a

Cabinet by M. Venizelos to succeed the revolutionary Government which assumed power in 1922."

In an Associated Press cablegram from Athens Wednesday evening Premier Venizelos was quoted as saying, "I strongly disapprove the sending away of the King, which I regard as a slap in the face of the Greek people. I am not a dictator or a revolutionist; I am a conciliator. I have decided on a plebiscite as the best method for giving the people an opportunity to decide upon a monarchy or a republic. The plebiscite will be under my personal direction, for nobody else could carry out a referendum to-day in the present state of affairs. I am convinced it is the only thing to do under the circumstances. I am delaying the plebiscite two or three months for the purpose of making certain that the League is disbanded and that its members return to their military duties. The interval will help enable the people to realize there is no danger of coercion and assure them of an honest election. The majority of our people are weary of the state of unrest and desire peace. I hope to give them peace."

The possibility of the United States Government recognizing Greece was indicated in an Associated Press dispatch from Athens Wednesday evening. It said that "the American Charge d'Affaires visited the Greek Foreign Office to-day, where he conferred with Foreign Minister Roussos regarding Great Britain's recognition of the new Government. He also left his card for Premier Venizelos. Afterward the American official cabled to Washington for instructions." Nothing has been noted in European cable dispatches or in advices from Washington since as to whether the "instructions" have gone forward from the State Department.

The Bank of France on Jan. 17 again advanced its discount rate, this time to 6%. This constitutes the second advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% in two weeks, and shows the determination of the French authorities to restore franc values. On the same day it was learned that the National Bank of Denmark had raised its rate from 6% to 7%, the previous rate having been in effect since April 30 1923. Aside from these changes, official discount rates in leading European centres continue to be quoted at 10% in Berlin; 7% in Norway; $5\frac{1}{2}$ % in Belgium and Sweden; 5% in Madrid; $4\frac{1}{2}$ % in Holland, and 4% in London and Switzerland. Open market rates in London were a trifle higher, at 3 5-16% for short bills, against 3@ 3 1-16% a week ago, and at 3 7-16% for three months' bills, against 3 5-16% a week ago. Money on call at the British centre also advanced, reaching $2\frac{3}{4}$ %, but closing at $2\frac{1}{2}$ %, as compared with $1\frac{3}{4}$ % the previous week. At Paris the open market rate was advanced from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ % and in Switzerland from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3%.

The Bank of England in its statement for the week ending Jan. 16 announced another small gain in gold, namely £13,212, which brings the bank's gold holdings up to £128,071,256, as compared with £127,491,357 last year and £128,444,198 in 1922. Moreover, note circulation was again reduced, this time £1,118,000, and consequently reserve expanded £1,131,000, while the proportion of reserve to liabilities advanced to 18.39%, from 16.80% last week and 12.40% the week before that. A year ago the reserve ratio stood at $17\frac{1}{8}$ % and in 1922 at $17\frac{3}{8}$ %. Public de-

posits showed a gain of £2,172,000. "Other" deposits, however, declined £6,867,000. Loans on Government securities expanded £1,630,000. In loans on other securities a contraction of £7,401,000 was reported. The bank's reserve aggregates £22,663,000, against £24,705,207 in 1923 and £24,294,248 a year earlier. Note circulation stands at £125,158,000, in comparison with £121,236,150 and £122,599,950 one and two years ago, while loans aggregate £69,639,000, against £65,232,301 last year and £83,974,646 the preceding year. Clearings through the London banks for the week were £767,160,000, as contrasted with £753,066,000 last week and £749,534,000 a year ago. No change has been made in the bank's official discount rate from 4%. We append herewith comparisons of the different items of the Bank of England returns for a series of years:

BANK OF ENGLAND'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1924.		1923.		1922.		1921.		1920.	
	Jan. 16.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 18.	Jan. 19.	Jan. 20.	Jan. 21.	Jan. 22.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 25.
Circulation.....	£125,158,000	£121,236,150	£122,599,950	£128,540,705	£88,094,255					
Public deposits.....	13,944,000	10,408,126	19,623,055	16,076,294	21,472,380					
Other deposits.....	109,294,000	133,601,983	117,821,255	120,012,067	140,341,208					
Govt. securities.....	48,942,000	72,109,811	47,143,686	54,510,256	68,157,438					
Other securities.....	69,639,000	65,232,301	83,974,646	81,324,834	84,407,836					
Reserve notes & coin	22,663,000	24,705,207	24,294,248	18,196,790	27,162,457					
Coin and bullion.....	128,071,256	127,491,357	128,444,198	128,287,495	96,806,712					
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....	18.39%	17½%	17½%	13½%	16½%					
Bank rate.....	4%	3%	5%	7%	6%					

The Bank of France in its weekly statement shows a further small gain of 161,625 francs in the gold item. The Bank's total gold holdings are thus brought up to 5,540,758,100 francs, comparing with 5,535,179,902 francs on the corresponding date last year, and with 5,424,572,907 francs the year previous; of these amounts 1,864,320,900 francs were held abroad in 1924, 1,864,344,927 francs in 1923 and 1,948,367,056 francs in 1922. During the week, increases were registered in the various other items as follows: Silver, 112,000 francs; bills discounted, 41,379,000 francs; Treasury deposits, 3,569,000 francs, and general deposits, 313,314,000 francs. On the other hand, advances fell off 49,392,000 francs. Note circulation took a favorable turn, a contraction of 494,423,000 francs being recorded. The total of notes outstanding is now 38,678,344,000 francs, contrasting with 37,081,399,480 francs at this time last year and with 36,785,724,100 francs in 1922. 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 1923 and 1922, are as follows:

BANK OF FRANCE'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	Changes for Week.	Status as of		
		Jan. 17 1924.	Jan. 18 1923.	Jan. 19 1922.
Gold Holdings—	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
In France.....Inc.	161,625	3,676,437,200	3,670,834,975	3,576,206,850
Abroad.....No change		1,864,320,900	1,864,344,927	1,948,367,056
Total.....Inc.	161,625	5,540,758,100	5,535,179,902	5,424,572,907
Silver.....Inc.	112,000	296,845,000	289,910,230	280,235,174
Bills discounted.....Inc.	41,379,000	3,586,836,000	2,659,200,894	2,456,844,493
Advances.....Dec.	49,392,000	2,496,597,000	2,113,252,255	2,280,100,385
Note circulation.....Dec.	494,423,000	38,678,344,000*	37,081,399,480	36,785,724,100
Treasury deposits.....Inc.	3,569,000	20,484,000	23,855,637	33,347,139
General deposits.....Inc.	313,314,000	2,568,220,000	2,237,976,273	2,551,742,814

* This total was reported in our statement of last week at 32,357,727,100 francs when the amount should have been 37,387,727,100 francs.

The Imperial Bank of Germany did not repeat its performance of the previous week in showing a decrease in note circulation, but in a statement, issued as of Dec. 15, reported another huge expansion in note circulation, amounting to 24,153,334,346,740,945,000 marks, thus once more establishing a new

high record for outstanding notes in circulation, which now stand at 414,170,745,461,000,000 marks as against 400,267,649,729,000,000 marks (the previous high in the week of Nov. 30), 970,000,000,000 marks a year ago and 104,000,000,000 marks in 1922. In deposits also there was a colossal increase, viz., 93,412,652,616,384,272,000 marks, while advances expanded 50,670,826,802,979,000,000 marks and other assets 47,438,914,625,217,939,000 marks, but bills of exchange and checks declined 22,900,671,551,974,271,000 marks, and discount and treasury bills 37,856,077,707,120,025,000 marks. Reductions were also accomplished in investments, 441,496,090,019,072,000 marks; other liabilities, 2,391,495,596,398,579,000 marks and Treasury and loan association notes, 2,401,350,999,997,146,000 marks. Total coin and bullion (which now includes aluminum, iron and nickel coins) was reduced 82,246,000 marks, although gold increased nominally 7,000 marks, to 467,033,000 marks, against 1,004,846,000 marks in 1923 and 993,696,000 marks a year earlier.

An analysis of the Federal Reserve Bank's weekly statement issued Thursday afternoon, revealed the same general conditions as in the week immediately preceding—continued expansion in gold holdings and curtailment of rediscounts. The System reported an increase in gold reserves amounting to \$25,500,000. Rediscounting of all classes of paper was reduced \$72,700,000. Bills bought in the open market declined in volume \$26,400,000, so that total bills on hand diminished over \$99,000,000. Earning assets fell of \$83,000,000, but deposits increased about \$14,800,000. In the New York Bank report an even larger addition to gold was shown, namely, \$35,000,000. Rediscounts of Government secured paper decreased \$21,000,000, although discounting of "all other" expanded \$7,000,000. Bill buying in the open market was reduced \$9,900,000. Total bill holdings declined \$24,000,000. Earning assets fell off \$21,000,000, but here also deposits showed a gain, expanding \$30,000,000. Both locally and nationally the amount of Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation was reduced \$10,000,000 and \$62,000,000, respectively. As contrasted with the heavy shrinkage last week, member bank reserve accounts further declined \$4,700,000 for the banks as a group, but increased \$23,700,000 at New York. Further addition to gold reserves made for another advance in reserve ratios, and the New York Bank reported a percentage of 87.6%, or up 1.7%, with 80.1% (also a gain of 1.7%) the ratio for the System as a whole.

Saturday's statement of the New York Clearing House banks and trust companies revealed some rather striking changes, chief among them a loss in surplus reserve of more than \$21,000,000, which again wiped out all excess reserves and left a deficit. This was due almost entirely to a big decrease in member bank reserves with the Federal Reserve Bank. Loans declined \$28,855,000. Net demand deposits expanded \$6,897,000 to \$3,835,858,000. This is exclusive of \$32,433,000 in Government deposits, a decrease in the latter item for the week of \$5,504,000. On the other hand, time deposits fell off \$2,755,000 to \$463,919,000. Cash in own vaults of members of the Federal Reserve Bank declined \$2,483,000 to \$52,083,000 (not counted as reserve).

Reserves of State banks and trust companies in own vaults were reduced \$716,000, but reserves of these same institutions kept in other depositories increased \$1,512,000. Reserves of member banks at the Reserve Bank fell off \$21,661,000. The net result was a cut in surplus of \$21,791,440 and the creation of a deficit of \$4,402,290. The above figures for surplus are on the basis of reserve requirements of 13% for member banks of the Federal Reserve System, but do not include cash in own vaults amounting to \$52,083,000 held by these institutions on Saturday last.

There was a little flurry in call money to 5% just before the mid-month disbursements, but a recession quickly followed, so that before noon on Thursday a 4% rate was announced. Moreover, it was the prevailing rate for the rest of the business session, and was the only rate quoted yesterday. Time money was so freely offered at the quoted rates that borrowers were slow to bid and even asked for longer periods without change in price. There has been no change in the general money position worthy of special mention. The ease of the money market has found a natural reflection in the increased buying of bonds and other investment securities. With the exception of the European Government issues, and to some extent, the Liberties, bonds have advanced. Offerings of new issues have been on a considerably increased scale. The two largest individual issues were \$60,000,000 Federal Farm Loan Bank bonds and \$40,000,000 Argentine external sinking fund 6s of 1923, Series A. There have been renewed rumors of an early loan to Mexico by American bankers, but this is not likely to be arranged while the present revolutionary movement is in progress. The investigation by the Dawes committee of Germany's finances probably will lead to rumors of an early loan to that country. Other foreign loans are likely to be mentioned. Whether they materialize will largely depend upon the outcome of present efforts to get a basis of a settlement between France and Germany.

Dealing with specific rates for money, loans on call this week covered a range of 4@5%, which compares with 3 3/4@4 3/4% last week. Monday the high was 4 1/2%, with 4% the low and also the rate for renewals. On Tuesday increased firmness developed and the maximum advanced to 5%; the renewal basis was 4 1/4%, which was also the minimum quotation. The range on Wednesday was 4@4 3/4% with 4 3/4% the ruling rate. Thursday no loans were made over 4 1/4%, and this was the basis at which renewals were negotiated. On Friday there was no range, a flat rate of 4% being quoted, this being the high, the low and the ruling figure for the day. These quotations are for both mixed collateral and all-industrials alike. For fixed date maturities the situation has continued quiet. Most of the business passing is for the shorter maturities, with sixty days still quoted at 4 1/2@4 3/4% and all other periods up to six months at 4 3/4%; although for the longest maturities lenders were usually asking 5%, with no takers.

Mercantile paper rates remain at 4 3/4@5% for sixty and ninety days' endorsed bills receivable and six months' names of choice character, with names not so well known at 5%, unchanged. Trading was quiet and featureless, with country banks still the principal buyers.

Banks' and bankers' acceptances have been in fair demand, especially in the latter half of the week, in keeping with the relaxing in the call market. Both city and out-of-town banks appear to take more interest in prime acceptances and brokers are predicting broader operations in the not distant future. For call loans against bankers' acceptances the posted rate of the American Acceptance Council is 4%, the same as last week. The Acceptance Council makes the discount rates on prime bankers' acceptances eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve banks 4 1/8% bid and 4% asked for bills running 30 days, 4 1/4% bid and 4 1/8% asked for bills running from 60 to 120 days, and 4 1/2% bid and 4 1/4% asked for bills running 150 to 180 days. Open market quotations were as follows:

	SPOT DELIVERY.		
	90 Days.	60 Days.	30 Days.
Prime eligible bills.....	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2
FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.			
Eligible member banks.....	4 1/2 bid		
Eligible non-member banks.....	4 1/2 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 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS IN EFFECT
JAN. 18 1924.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.	Paper Maturing—					
	Within 90 Days.				After 90 Days, but Within 6 Months.	After 6 but Within 9 Months.
	Com'rcial, Agricul. & Livest'k Paper. n.e.s.	Secur. by U. S. Govt. Obligations.	Bankers' Acceptances.	Trade Acceptances.	Agricul. & Livestock Paper.	Agricul. and Livestock Paper.
Boston.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	---	4 1/2	4 1/2	5
New York.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Philadelphia.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	5
Cleveland.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Richmond.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Atlanta.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Chicago.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
St. Louis.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Minneapolis.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Kansas City.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Dallas.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
San Francisco.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

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

Sterling exchange values were again subjected to pressure this week and trading was marked by a series of price changes, varying in degree of severity, which eventually carried demand bills—after an opening figure of 4 26 7-16—down to 4 22 1/8, then back to 4 26 5-16. This represents a new low point on the current downward movement and the lowest level established since January of 1922. No real increase in activity was shown and for the most part movements on the local market simply reflected the unsettlement prevailing abroad. During the greater part of the week London cable rates were depressed by nervousness over the political situation, to which was later added the sentimental influence of the collapse in French francs. For a while following King George's speech on the opening of the British Parliament, reports from the other side assumed a more favorable aspect and prices strengthened accordingly. Announcement of the energetic steps that are to be taken for the purpose of reforming French finances, coupled with the satisfactory start made by the Dawes Committee in the matter of reparations adjustment all combined to restore confidence. Toward the close, however, weakness again set in on rumors of pending labor, as well as political, troubles in England and nearly all of the gains were lost.

Considerably less optimism is expressed over the future of sterling than was the case a few months ago. Many leading financiers now take the view that the change in the political situation in Great Britain may lead to unexpected complications in the event that Laborites attempt to enact drastic legislation; and although political tension has somewhat abated, it is likely to remain as an element of uncertainty for a good while to come. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that aside from fears of the capital levy project and labor disturbances, which have been responsible for heavy transfers of British funds into American securities, a certain amount of selling of sterling to accumulate dollars is going on almost constantly, incidental to payments of interest on Great Britain's war indebtedness to the United States. During the past week or so the English Government was said to be a heavy buyer of Liberty bonds. In view of these factors, it would seem that sterling values are not due for any extended rise for the present at least, though there are those who look for improvement to follow the straightening out of Franco-German affairs.

Referring to the day-to-day rates, sterling exchange on Saturday last again sagged and demand bills sold down to 4 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ @4 26 7-16, cable transfers to 4 26 $\frac{3}{8}$ @ 4 26 11-16 and sixty days to 4 23 $\frac{7}{8}$ @4 24 3-16; trading was dull and featureless. On Monday sterling values suffered a violent break, largely as a result of increased offerings on a dull, narrow market; losses of over 4 cents were registered, and a new low on the present movement of 4 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ established for demand; the high was 4 23 $\frac{1}{2}$, while cable transfers ranged between 4 22 $\frac{3}{8}$ @4 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ and sixty days between 4 19 $\frac{7}{8}$ @4 21 $\frac{1}{4}$. Better foreign news induced a more optimistic feeling; consequently rates rallied sharply and demand bills were advanced to 4 23 1-16@4 25 $\frac{7}{8}$, cable transfers to 4 23 5-16@ 4 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ and sixty days to 4 20 13-16@4 23 $\frac{3}{8}$. Wednesday there was further improvement in values; good buying support was put forth, which carried quotations up to 4 25 $\frac{1}{8}$ @4 26 5-16 for demand, 4 25 $\frac{3}{8}$ @4 26 9-16 for cable transfers and 4 22 $\frac{7}{8}$ @ 4 24 1-16 for sixty days. Profit-taking sales were responsible for a partial reaction on Thursday and demand ranged between 4 24 $\frac{3}{8}$ @4 25 $\frac{3}{4}$, cable transfers between 4 24 $\frac{5}{8}$ @4 26 and sixty days between 4 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ @4 23 $\frac{1}{2}$. On Friday irregularity developed and the trend was lower with a fractional decline to 4 23@4 24 $\frac{1}{8}$ for demand, 4 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ @4 24 $\frac{3}{8}$ for cable transfers and 4 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ @4 21 $\frac{7}{8}$ for sixty days. Closing quotations were 4 21 $\frac{5}{8}$ for sixty days, 4 23 $\frac{7}{8}$ for demand and 4 24 $\frac{1}{8}$ for cable transfers. Commercial sight finished at 4 23 $\frac{3}{4}$, sixty days at 4 21 $\frac{1}{4}$, ninety days at 4 20, documents for payment (sixty days) at 4 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ and seven-day grain bills at 4 23 $\frac{1}{4}$. Cotton and grain for payment closed at 4 23 $\frac{3}{4}$.

So far as could be learned, no gold was engaged either for export or import this week. However, silver valued at \$750,000 is being exported on the Cedric, sailing to-day for Liverpool. Of this amount, \$50,000 is destined for Bombay and the remainder is consigned to the Bank of England.

In Continental exchange the sensational drop in the value of French francs again proved the outstanding feature, and attention continued to centre, to the exclusion of almost all else, on affairs in France. Notwithstanding the steps taken last week to stem

the decline, exchange on Paris after opening at a new low of 4 69, suffered a series of violent breaks which sent the price down to the spectacularly low point of 4 26 $\frac{1}{2}$. This constitutes a loss of nearly 50 points from last week's low and brought the value of French exchange to below that of Italy. Conditions bordering upon sheer demoralization prevailed at times on the Paris and London markets; although, locally, trading was little more than intermittently active, being described as "spotty." Only the more venturesome of the speculative cliques were willing to risk commitments in so erratic a market. Following establishment of this extreme low point, which, of course, was due to persistent unloading of francs by frightened holders in France and elsewhere, publication by French Government authorities of plans involving important budgetary reforms, as well as another advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% in the discount rate of the Bank of France, had a salutary effect and values recovered almost as sharply as they had collapsed. On Wednesday francs shot up from 4 37 to 4 71—a gain of 34 points in a single day. Later, rates ran off again, but subsequently recovered and the close was not far from the best. Practically through the whole week Paris was a heavy seller of francs, and it was claimed that French funds were being transferred not only to the United States but to Italy and other Continental centres, as well. Probably, however, the most important development of the week was France's definite decision to abandon reconstruction financing by means of borrowing in anticipation of reparations payments and to institute strict measures of economy. This, together with intimations that genuine progress is being made by the Committee appointed to investigate ways and means of ending the reparations deadlock, created a good impression and gave rise to predictions of substantial betterment in values.

Next in importance to the debacle in French exchange, was the contrasting strength in Italian lire, which in a declining market rose from 4.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4.48, though later receding to 4.35, on light transactions. It was pointed out that this was due mainly to the policy of retrenchment pursued by the Mussolini Government which in its efforts to restore Italian finances and bring about a resumption of normal trade position, has completely ignored reparation payments as a possible source of revenue. It is worthy of note that while for the first time in history, Paris francs receded below Italian currency, Belgian francs established the lowest quotation ever recorded, namely, 3.97. The remainder of the list was in neglect. Reichsmarks continue to rule at very close to the nominal figure of 0.000-000000022. Greek exchange was steady. This is also true of the minor Central European countries with the exception of Polish marks which continued heavy, remaining most of the time at the recent abnormally low level of 0.000010.

The London check rate on Paris closed at 93.40, as compared with 89.00 a week ago. In New York sight bills on the French centre finished at 4.58 $\frac{1}{4}$, against 4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$; cable transfers at 4.59 $\frac{1}{4}$, against 4.77 $\frac{1}{2}$; commercial sight at 4.57 $\frac{1}{4}$, against 4.75 $\frac{1}{2}$, and commercial sixty days at 4.52, against 4.70 $\frac{1}{4}$ last week. Antwerp francs finished at 4.18 $\frac{1}{2}$ for checks and 4.19 $\frac{1}{2}$ for cable transfers, in comparison with 4.26 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4.27 $\frac{1}{2}$. Reichsmarks closed at 0.00000000023 $\frac{1}{2}$, for both checks and cable transfers, against 0.00000000022 a week ago. Austrian

Conscripting Property for War.

In the interest of the prevention of war the "Christian Science Monitor," of Boston, proposes the submission of an amendment to the Constitution, to read as follows: "In the event of a declaration of war, the property, equally with the persons, lives and liberties of all citizens shall be subject to conscription for the defense of the nation, and it shall be the duty of the President to propose and of Congress to enact the legislation necessary to give effect to this amendment." Nothing is contained in the wording of this proposal to make it harmonize with the principle that the property of a citizen cannot be taken for the public use without just compensation. But we may pass this, and examine the proposal upon its merits. Superficially, there is a savor of justice in making the man who is not conscripted in person to pay a proportionate share of the costs of war. Yet, as matters stand now, he *does* pay, if he has any earning capacity or any property. Taxes pay for war-bond issues—though the taxes *may*, and often in large part do, fall upon another generation; and, at the time of the original levy, certainly fall upon non-combatants, the "stay-at-homes" as well as upon those who fight.

Suppose, however, such a plan in existence. Would the man who is conscripted in person also pay in property? Would the man pay in property, as he now pays in high surtaxes, by a system of graduated tax, taking from one 4% of his holdings and from another 50%, on the basis that he who has the most property should be conscripted the most heavily? In the rapid culmination of the emergency of war, who would assess the values of property? How many civilians would it take to make the assessments and levies? Of course, since *all* property is to be conscripted according to the amount needed, it would have, proportionately, to be sold and converted into money, or taken in kind. If sold, it would bear the market; if taken in kind it would be partly useless, without conversion through sale, and where not susceptible of ready division would seem to encounter troublesome obstacles. And unless the termination of the war could be accurately determined the *process* of conscription of property would have to be applied annually or by piecemeal and the economic denouement no man would dare estimate.

Mention is made of the evil of profiteering. It is thought this would be prevented. But the *waste* of the cost-plus system would be a bagatelle compared to the waste of giving the war managers an unlimited check on the resources and labor of the country. Some men, in the late war, remained at home at high wages in necessary industries; some went "over the top" on a pittance of pay in ghastly forays in fields of foreign countries. Could the actual conscription of industrial labor prevent this disparity? Would it make the "sacrifice" of the actual combatant any lighter to know that the worker at home received no more wages than himself? Who would separate the sheep from the goats in the wholesale slaughter, and would there be any "profiteering" in making the selections?

Alas, the wretched business by no method can be made a just and holy thing! At this point we are called back to the proposal as a means of *prevention*. Did capital or property cause or start the participation in the last war? A foolish belief exists with some that "the rich" wanted the war for the chance

to make exorbitant profits. No man with sense enough to make a fortune believes this. Are "the rich" so powerful over the wise, honest and poor that they can create the wildfire of public emotion that rushes a nation into war? No. The war-fever is a deadly contagion that sweeps through the stubble of dead heroics and makes men savage to fight. "Honor," it is said, is at stake and the nation must have defenders. The democracy of a world, perchance, is threatened by a single rabid autocracy which must be destroyed. Lives and property on the high seas are attacked and must be protected by any self-respecting nation. And all of them, though deemed reasons sufficient, do not explain the sudden, swift abandonment of all thought of arbitration and the rapid descent into the hell of war. No. Conscription of property might, if feasible, exercise some deterrent effect, but only the outlawry of war and the solemn pledge of peoples *in and out of their hearts*, to abstain forever from this form of aggression will prevent it. But better than an amendment giving the war managers unlimited use of our resources as a means of prevention would be one that, *until attacked on our own soil no army or navy shall be used and no property, either by conscription or tax levy, shall be taken*—and the Constitution comes very near to implying this as it now stands. Better that no one be made to pay for war than that all be forced to give all to carry it on. Not that we are offering this as a means of prevention—merely, rather, to show the futility of conscripting property and labor as a means of prevention.

When the seas of sentiment run red with blood there *is* no prevention. While the paid armies and navies of the world *plan* for the next war it will some time come. A solemn convocation of all nations and the national signing of a solemn pledge, to abstain from all wars of aggression, to await the overt act of entrance upon native soil before conscription of any kind, and to call down upon that people that would afterward ever engage in force of arms rather than arbitration the execration of mankind and the curse of God *might* prevent—but only consecration to God and good ever will!

Universality and Diffusiveness of Taxes.

According to a preliminary summary by the Census Bureau, the public debt in the entire United States was \$32,786,715,000 at the end of 1922, more than four and three-quarter times its total in 1912. Not merely the Federal and the State Governments, but all minor civil divisions having authority to incur debt are included in this total. There was a day when this State of New York was practically free of debt, but time has changed all that. In these totals soldiers' bonuses have already begun to figure. Of the total gross indebtedness by the census figures, 68.7% is Federal, 3.5% is State, 4.2% is county, and 23.6% is city and minor civil divisions. The gross Federal debt, of course due to the war, rose 672% between 1912 and 1922. A deduction for sinking funds and like assets for retirement leaves the net total debt \$30,851,816,000, or \$288.76 per capita. Taking interest at 4%, the annual interest charge is \$12 06 per capita; taking the rate at 4½%, with a 1% sinking fund, it would be \$16 59 per capita. "The actual amount lies somewhere between these figures," says the Bureau.

All such computation may be taken as approximate, and probably nobody knows precisely the com-

plete aggregate of public indebtedness at any date, just as very few realize the insidiousness of the debt-incurring habit and probably still fewer have a just conception of the character and tendencies of the debt-incurring process. For most persons, to state a debt "per capita" merely expresses the ratio to population, and they miss the menacing fact that this expression means more than that. For it is strictly true that everybody pays a share of every tax and also of the cumulative burden which taxes successively lay upon one another as they go. Surtaxes only pile it on and thicken it; the process reaches to and beyond the "normal." All dependents (including those born yesterday) and all persons supported at the public charge, pay taxes vicariously, and there is a law maxim that "he who does it through another does it himself." He does, and there is an aspect in which the effects of taxes vicariously collected are especially hurtful, because hidden. The dependent child is not expected to think upon this subject, but self-supporting adults ought to think and to think very seriously, whereas the man or woman who takes no notice of the income tax and never even sees a tax bill fails to realize the irresistible diffusiveness of taxes. "I have no property, so of course I don't pay a tax," is the notion of many thousands, but it is as far from truth as to say that whoso owns no securities (possibly having something in a savings bank) has no concern in the cost of steel rails or in the burdens under which transportation struggles. Neither income tax nor any other such burden flies above anybody's head, and the notion that "it don't touch me" is the most pestilent of all delusions, as must be said again and again, because it fosters a belief that "the rich" pay the taxes and the "poor" escape, because of their poverty, whereas their poverty is even a special burden in respect to taxes, as in other respects. By this misconception a very evil result comes: either those who are possessed by it are indifferent to the whole subject, or they are still further deceived into conjecturing that high taxes and swollen expenditures may be a good thing, by passing money around.

The elementary and unalterable rule is that the consumer pays for everything; further, that every living human being is a consumer; still further, that taxes (like labor) enter into the cost of every consumable thing. No statement can possibly be more broadly and unexceptionally inclusive than this; as well hope to escape being reached and affected by the atmosphere as to get out of the reach of taxes. They are necessarily and universally diffusive; when water poured from a pail will stay in a heap on the floor we may expect taxes to stay, unchanged, where they are "put," and never before.

Complex though it is in operation and incapable of being followed and kept out of cover as it proceeds, this process of tax-diffusion is as simple as the instinct of self-preservation. The trader in tangible merchandise, be he wholesale or retail, figures in, as nearly as he can, his own business taxes along with his rents and other "overhead"; the wholesaler or jobber tries to pass the whole along, and if the retailer omitted from his own calculations any of the items of load he would be on the downward business slide. Everybody pays his own direct tax (plus those which he cannot reckon as they come to him in prices) and then tries, or desires to pass along as much as possible of it to the public. Of course, he ought not to be able to pass the whole thus; and even

if he were able to do that he could not escape, because others are trying (and more or less equitably succeeding) to pass the same back to him in his inescapable role of consumer. Our confident but misguided friends, the labor unionists, imagining they can wall off society into classes, think they utilize opportunity and dispose of what the high cost of living does to themselves by progressively pushing up their own wages and cutting down their own efficiency and product; they are unable, thus far, to see—something their leaders, either themselves ignorant or caring only to prolong their own good time to the utmost, do not wish them to see—that labor is far the largest item in all costs. Possibly they could gather a hint from a story of a farmer who owned a ram, of ample growth of horn and ample hardness of skull, which was too fond of butting. So the farmer, having considered, suspended a grindstone near the floor of the barn, left the door open; the ram walked in, saw the opponent, accepted the challenge, and got a lesson. Likewise, when anybody, labor unionist or other, tries to dispose of taxes by butting them aside, they come back upon him hurtfully.

A too prevalent notion of public debt is that it is just something which everybody owes yet is only what everybody has borrowed and interest and principal are so distributed that each is only repaying value. A good conception, but for three defects. The first is that public borrowing tends to unprofitable undertakings, and the greater the spending the more irresistible that tendency; so easy, for an instance, to say that the demanded bonus can be put into a bond issue and thus so distributed through a long term that nobody will ever feel it. The second defect is that taxes raise an army of consumers who are non-producers, absorbing their share (generally a disproportionately large share) of the aggregate product of industry without contributing an atom to it. The more taxes, the more collectors and tax-eating office-holders. A few months ago, former Senator Beveridge declared in a public address that while before the Civil War only one person in a thousand was an official or employee of the Federal or some minor civil Government in the time of President Cleveland the number had risen to one in a hundred and now it is one in twenty. Some figures by the National Industrial Conference Board also estimate that of all persons over 16 gainfully employed in the United States one in twelve is on a public payroll. The third defect is that money is only an instrument and the real cut is upon human labor and enterprise. Give wing to imagination, and suppose that to an isolated and thriving island people came a pressing suggestion that, once a month, each person, whether self-supporting or supported, should bring to some public place a certain portion of the product of regular labor, and that then the pile should have the torch applied to it; in such a fanciful though just illustration probably even the slowest-witted would be able to recognize unprofitable "consumption." As we now have it, taxation discourages initiative, dries up the sources which contribute to it, clogs production, and reaches everything with a numbing hand. In his latest reply to a critic, Secretary Mellon calls the surtaxes the chief cause why capital has not been more drawn towards increasing the supply of housing and predicts that the railroads will soon be unable to issue more bonds without substantial increase in their stocks, which were once

taken and held by wealthy men but are now diverted from them by too heavy taxation.

The question is before the country, and the reaction upon it, in response to the note Mr. Mellon so ringingly struck, is the most encouraging fact we now have. The people do not object to tax reduction; they would cheerfully accept it, they approve it, but do they *want* it, and how much do they want it? The "Herald" is publishing a series of maps of rather irregular outlines of Congressional districts in this part of the State, whereby each voter can locate his own district and discover "his" Congressman. That the Congressman is "his," in that "the power behind the Congressman is the voter," is the purport of these maps, and the voter is told that "if you want tax reduction you can have it; write your Congressman what you want, and what you expect of him."

The point is well taken. The country is apparently aroused against the tax burden, but it should make itself heard, and unmistakably.

The Key to National Prosperity.

A book with the above title, written by Jules Nahoum, Secretary of the American-European Finance Corporation, comes from the press of E. P. Dutton & Co. It develops the thesis that Foreign Trade lies at the foundation of national prosperity, and aims to increase the knowledge and enlarge the range of vision of American citizens.

Because the economic principles involved in foreign trade are more complex than is generally understood the book seeks to present the subject in its essential relations, rather than to give details of methods, customs, regulations and the like, which, however, are extensively treated in separate chapters. Foreign trade is rising on the wings of the new means of intercourse, as well as in response to the vast needs created by the war, into a place of new importance. It is important for all concerned to know the conditions of success, and, not less, its relations to national life. The book is drawn from an intimate and varied experience and covers many phases of the subject.

The war has added to the situation elements which increase the complexity. The consumption of capital, the exhaustion of industry, the destruction of exchange and of currency, the new antagonisms and the extensive depression caused by heavy and irreparable loss, are sufficiently evident, and show the necessity of reducing artificial barriers as completely as possible. Tariffs, preferentials and unsettled disputes have wide-reaching influence. Differences of language, history, national character and religion are real, but can be modified or surmounted. All need to be studied in their larger relations, both domestic and international. The International Financial Conference meeting in Brussels in September 1920 indicated a dozen or more directions in which combined effort is required. Inflation must be stopped, gradually but persistently. Budgets must be adopted and lived up to. Floating debts must be provided for. Credits must be granted, but only for real economic needs. Increased production must be secured; and also, the arrest of unprofitable consumption. Commerce must be freed from impediments. The gold standard must be re-established, and artificial control of exchange abandoned as mischievous. It is a large order, but directions in which honest attempts are

made have already proved that it is all in the right line, and is entirely practicable.

There is special reason just now why the sections on the importance of foreign trade to the United States should be read. We are the next to the largest importing country in the world. In 1921, of our total imports of \$2,509,147,570, 34% consisted of crude material for use in manufacturing; 13.7% of manufactured material for further use in manufacture; 26.8% in foodstuffs; and 25½% in other articles. This indicates that about one-half of our imports consists of materials required in our industries. If imports were to stop practically all our industries would be crippled; demoralizing our railways, our merchant marine and our financial system, and throwing out of employment ultimately the greater part of about 20,000,000 people working in manufactories and stores. Farmers would suffer acutely, for the prices of their products would decline correspondingly. In the \$62,000,000,000 worth of our entire production in 1919, \$37,000,000,000 worth of raw material was used; of which about 10% was imported, but this was largely of material otherwise unattainable; \$5,000,000,000 worth of varnished and finely finished goods could not be completed without the imported gums; 1,700 factories calling for tin could not exist, having an output of over \$1,000,000,000 value; and some 500 more factories requiring rubber and similar gums, with another billion dollars of output, would have to shut down. Our imports of merchandise in the year ending June 1923 amounted to \$3,789,002,114, an increase of \$1,180,923,106 over the corresponding period of 1922. The figures of merchandise exports in the same period are \$3,965,967,460; an increase of \$194,810,971. The relations between the two lines of trade are seen to be intimate; and their effect in developing prosperity in the countries with which we deal is quite as evident as in our own. A single item as to the connections here to be noted is that American farmers have in ten years supplied 49.8% of the entire exports of the nation.

Certain relative facts are brought out. For instance, while the population of the world has increased since 1850 nearly 60%, that of the United States increased approximately 350%. Meanwhile the agricultural production per person engaged in that activity in the United States increased only 20% from 1850 to 1910, while the increase in output per person engaged in manufacturing was about 200%. The improvement in living conditions at home and the vast increase of business of all kinds is mainly due to manufacturing industry in which inventive skill and scientific research have played so large a part, and also to the fact that American manufacturers have in recent years advanced from a state of indifference to foreign trade to that of recognition of its importance.

Mr. A. J. Wolfe in his "Theory and Practice of International Commerce" is quoted. "The manufacturer must recognize that although the technique of foreign trade is slightly more involved than that of the home market, he has in the combined markets of the world a vaster field for his activity than at home, and the export business is even more secure than the home business, for it is never 'slack' all over the world at a given time."

In recognition of this situation what is known as the Webb Act permitting foreign trade combinations was passed by Congress in April 1918. By the end

of 1921 approximately 50 "associations" under the Export Trade Act presented their annual reports to the Federal Trade Commission, and the Commission now reports six different plans of operation in use with about 1,000 members scattered through 41 States of the Union.

As throwing light upon the much-debated condition of our Merchant Marine, it was reported to Congress by Senator Fletcher on the authority of J. L. Bogard of the Society of Naval and Marine Engineers, that "not a single American ship is carrying any grain, and that we are paying foreigners for ocean-going transport between \$500,000,000 and \$800,000,000 in gold every year." Our ship building, which in 1919 was 4,750,000 tons, had fallen in 1922 to 259,747 tons; which puts us sixth in rank, and second in tonnage output to Germany which, restricted as she is, launched 631,485 tons.

The figures we have given throughout this article are gathered from the large number collated in many tables by the author, and can there be referred to for many similar details.

As he says, the prosperity of our export trade will depend in large degree on extended scientific and inventive progress. That progress will also be of great benefit to humanity. Fuel oil, for example, "has redeemed an army of stokers from the inferno of the stokehole; and the marine engine has emancipated the galley slaves, as the American motor car is about to free millions of Asiatic coolies from the status of draft animals."

Ultimate success in this, even more than in domestic trade, depends upon irreproachable integrity, unquestioning regard for agreements and unflinching personal respect, no less than upon economic production, intelligence and effective industry. We have before us, as a modern instance, the increased prestige Great Britain has gained in the eyes of the world by her recent settlement of her indebtedness to the United States.

A New Batch of Emergency Housing Proposals.

The batch of still more radical emergency propositions for dealing with housing already forecasted, were introduced in the Legislature on Tuesday. They are crammed with provisions intended to further curb the rapacity of landlords, and it is indisputable that landlords are not a class distinguished by altruism and do sometimes go to unreasonable and even absurd lengths. As an example, a printed leasing form for flats, in use in a certain city of another State than our own, contains nothing distinctly requiring the landlord to furnish either water or heat or to make any repairs; he agrees to provide heating apparatus "for the use of the tenants," which could literally be taken to mean that they are to operate and be responsible for such apparatus. An ordinary reading almost fails to show that the landlord is bound to do anything, unless to collect the rent, but the most marvelous stipulation is that he may make "rules and regulations," which he may add to or alter from time to time, and the tenant agrees in advance to accept and be bound by requirements made and subject to revision thus. Contracts are mutual obligations, and upon their sanctity the entire political structure rests; we need not argue about that, yet they ought to have some limits in reason, and what the courts would do with such a document as

this may be left to conjecture. But why should anybody frame such a form and have it put into print?

The batch just presented in Albany require landlords to paint and paper all occupied rooms, when ordered to do so by the Tenement Department; require the landlord to show a certificate from that Department that no violations of law are on file against him, whenever a tenant proceeds against him for an alleged unjust demand for increased rent; require a landlord who wishes to use the premises himself to file a bond guaranteeing such occupation, and provide "that personal occupation is the only ground for recovering possession of premises." One bill would extend the emergency laws for another year from April 1 next. Another provides that the tax exemption law shall not apply to premises with unheated rooms renting above \$10 a month each or to heated rooms at above \$12; as to the need of some such provision, it is alleged that builders of new houses have been greediest of all.

The constitutional propositions offered would empower the State to go into housing construction, using its own credit, and would permit counties and cities to do the same; under such a permission, this city could assume the role of both constructor and landlord, or, as an alternative possibly just a little less bad, use its credit to finance private persons for such operations. Long ago the State's Constitution wisely provided that the State's credit "shall not in any manner be given or used in aid of any individual, association or organization," and, similarly, forbade any minor civil division to make any gift to or loan of its money or credit "in aid of any individual, association or corporation." It is now said, on behalf of the proposed venture, that the "lawmakers believe that building must become a State function, in much the same way that building roads and canals is a State duty." Some of them may so think, yet the analogy is not a just one. For building roads and canals could no more become an individual work than building railroads could so become. The very earliest conception of the latter may have been that a railroad is an improved highway upon which each citizen could drive his own "team"; any such notion, if it was entertained, was speedily dispelled, for a railroad involves the public right of eminent domain and is too large for any strictly private and personal building or operating. Of a canal or a highway the same is still true. A man may "fix," after some fashion, the road which skirts his own land, and this used to be done, in very rural places, as the means of paying a road tax by "working it out"; but it is unnecessary to dwell upon the obvious distinctions between such constructions as roads, which are for general use, and housing, which is for individual use. The State does provide for some public institutions, charitable, penal and reformatory, and does take up education, but because experience has proved the latter to be duty as a measure of self-preservation; but the line must be drawn, and be kept somewhere and distinctly, or we drift into Socialism.

Nor have the emergency housing statutes justified themselves thus far; the contrary, rather. All of them have been leveled against the landlord, but against him all unionized workers conspire, or (if that be deemed an unwarrantably harsh word) they agree against him, and, through him, against the public, of which they are themselves a part. To go the very full length, would anybody favor a sweeping statute requiring—under some form of pressure

yet to be determined—all corporations and all persons having any invested property to go into housing construction on any terms acceptable to members of the building trades? If statutes are to be set at overriding natural laws, where is the final line of stopping?

The Harvests in 1923.

Except for the poor return to the farmers on the wheat crop of 1923, about which much complaint was heard during the season when the bulk of this important cereal is ready for the market, the product of the farms in 1923, according to the estimates of the Agricultural Board at Washington for that year, was quite satisfactory. The yield for some crops was very large and in a number of instances prices were higher last year than in either of the two preceding years, so that aggregate values were heavily increased. Trade conditions in many sections of the country were in consequence greatly benefited and there is little doubt that the effect of this movement in many of the important sections of the country will be felt in the general distribution of merchandise during the early months of 1924.

The aggregate yield of all commercial crops in the United States for 1923 shows a hypothetical value 12% greater than in the preceding year. This contrasts with a gain of 34% in 1922 over 1921, but consideration must be given to the fact that for some of the leading commercial crops, notably that of cotton in 1921, the situation in the last mentioned year, both as to yield and value, was almost a disaster. The cotton crop of 1923 was somewhat larger than in 1922 and substantially larger than two years ago, although the yield was much less than what was formerly considered a good crop. Yet the value of the cotton crop raised last year contributed very largely to the increase in the aggregate value of all crops. Corn is another crop showing a large yield for 1923, and the value of which is very much higher, cotton and corn together contributing the bulk of the increase in value shown for 1923 over the two preceding years. In the following table the production of the leading cereal crops is shown, a comparison for four years being included, besides which the high record for each crop is shown:

CEREAL CROPS.

Total Production.	Department, 1923.	Department, 1922.	Department, 1921.	Department, 1920.	Previous Record.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Corn.....	3,054,395,000	2,906,020,000	3,068,569,000	3,230,832,000	3,124,726,000
Wheat.....	785,741,000	867,598,000	814,905,000	833,027,000	1,025,801,000
Oats.....	1,299,823,000	1,215,803,000	1,078,341,000	1,496,281,000	1,592,740,000
Barley.....	198,185,000	182,068,000	154,946,000	189,332,000	228,851,000
Rye.....	63,023,000	103,362,000	61,675,000	60,490,000	91,041,000
Buckwheat.....	13,920,000	14,564,000	14,207,000	13,142,000	19,249,000
Rice.....	33,256,000	41,405,000	37,612,000	52,066,000	42,790,000
Flaxseed.....	17,429,000	10,375,000	8,029,000	10,774,000	29,285,000
Total.....	5,465,773,000	5,341,395,000	5,238,284,000	5,863,696,000	6,154,503,000

The yield of wheat for 1923 was far from satisfactory. There was a large area planted to winter wheat in the fall of 1922, but the winter killing was heavy, equivalent to 4.3%, which reduced the area for that cereal 6,629,000 acres. The later progress of the winter wheat crop during May and June was not entirely favorable; likewise, as to spring wheat, and for both varieties there was quite marked deterioration as the season advanced. Rust and poor threshing returns were indicated in the reports at the close of the season, and the quality was considerably below the average. In North Dakota, the leading spring wheat State, the yield was very small, only 7.1 bushels per acre, the lowest of any of the

spring wheat States, and contrasting with 14.1 bushels per acre for the same State in 1922. For South Dakota the yield per acre for 1923 was 9.5 bushels, as against 13.2 bushels per acre for the preceding year. The yield last year of winter wheat also was somewhat reduced. For Kansas, the leading winter wheat State, the 1923 yield was very much less than in either of the two preceding years, likewise for Nebraska. Illinois, Ohio and Oklahoma, three important winter wheat States, had a larger yield of that grain in 1923 than in 1922, and the yield per acre was higher in the first mentioned year. Taking it all in all, the total yield of both winter and spring wheat was less for 1923 than for either of the two preceding years. The total yield per acre for winter wheat last year was 14.5 bushels; this contrasts with 13.8 bushels per acre both for 1922 and 1921. As to spring wheat, the yield per acre was 11.4 bushels in 1923, which contrasts with 14.1 bushels per acre in 1922 and 10.6 bushels per acre in 1921.

It is in the price received by the farmer for his wheat, as indicated by the Board of Agriculture, where the rub comes, and the price thus indicated naturally follows the course of the grain markets. For 1923 the average price of wheat on the farm is given as 92.3 cents per bushel. This contrasts with 100.9 cents per bushel in 1922 and 92.6 cents per bushel in 1921.

Wheat and rye, however, are practically the only two important farm products for which there was a lower farm price in 1923 than in 1922. Other leading farm crops recorded an advance in price for 1923 as compared with 1922, and for many of them the 1923 prices are higher than the prices quoted for 1921. Cotton and corn are the two noteworthy instances of an increase in price. The advance in the price of cotton, as indicated by the Department at Washington for 1923 over 1922 was equivalent to 30%; for corn the increase was in excess of 10%. In comparison with 1921, the advance in the average price received by the farmer was even greater. For cotton, the 1923 price was over 90% higher than in 1921, while the increase in the price of corn in 1923 over 1921 was 70%. Such variations in prices over a period of one or two years are quite exceptional. Conditions incident to the World War turned things topsy-turvy during that disastrous period in practically all of the markets of the world, and as to many of the markets the effect of that great catastrophe has far from subsided as yet. Cotton is one of the staples for which prices since the close of the war have pursued a most extraordinary course.

The corn crop of 1923 is one of the five three-billion bushel crops of corn raised in the United States. The Department of Agriculture places the production of corn for 1923 at 3,054,395,000 bushels. In three of the past four years, 1920, 1921 and 1923, the corn crop exceeded three billion bushels, while the yield for 1922 was so close to that figure that the average production for the last four years is in excess of three billion bushels per year. The 1923 crop made very good progress during the growing season, but at harvest time there was some deterioration in important sections owing to early frost and excessive moisture. In Iowa, the leading corn State, where 15% of the crop is raised, there was a considerable reduction in yield in 1923 as contrasted with 1922, but in practically all of the other important corn States, particularly in Nebraska, there was a large increase in yield. In the Southern States a

considerable loss in yield was shown last year in contrast with both preceding years, where corn is grown to any extent, especially in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, but the production in these States is not large in proportion to the total yield. Based on the farm price of corn, the Department of Agriculture places that grain at the top of the list for value of all farm products for 1923, far above cotton, the farm value of corn being given as \$2,222,013,000 for 1922; this contrasts with \$1,910,775,000, the farm value of corn for the preceding year.

Corn is second on the list of farm values, and the money value of that great staple is placed by the Department at \$1,563,347,000 for 1923. An important difference as to cotton must be given consideration, and that is that every bale reaches the market, a very considerable part of the crop of corn not leaving the farm where it is grown. Last year's yield of cotton fell considerably under what was expected earlier in the season. The progress of the crop up to the crucial month of August was far from satisfactory and during that month a further decline in condition of 13.1 points was reported. The price of raw cotton in the market accordingly jumped. There was further deterioration during the remainder of the season, and this, with very low stocks, caused a further advance in prices. The latest estimate of yield for 1923 is 10,081,000 bales of cotton. This is higher, as already stated, than in either of the two preceding years, one of which, 1921, was almost a disaster. In comparison with earlier years, however, the yield for 1923 was materially reduced. From 1911 to 1920, inclusive, the growth of cotton each year ranged from 11,420,000 bales to 16,043,300 bales, the latter for the year 1911. Only in three years of the ten years mentioned, was the annual production under 12,000,000 bales.

The increase in cotton production last year over 1921 and 1922 was practically all of it, so far as the bulk of the crop is concerned, raised in the States of Texas and North and South Carolina. In all of the other cotton growing States, formerly considered important as such, there was a decrease in production in 1923 as contrasted with 1922, and with most of these States in contrast with the growth of 1921, notwithstanding the greatly reduced yield in both 1921 and 1922. It is in the yield per acre that a very notable change appears. Georgia reports only 82 lbs. per acre in 1923; Alabama 91 lbs.; Mississippi 89 lbs.; Oklahoma and Tennessee 90 lbs., and Arkansas 97 lbs. For Texas the yield per acre was 146 lbs., for North Carolina, 290 lbs., and for South Carolina 187 lbs. These are all important cotton growing States, yet the last three States mentioned are the only States of the entire group showing a larger yield per acre in 1923 than in the two preceding years. For the entire cotton belt, the yield per acre for 1923 was 128.8 lbs., which contrasts with 141.5 lbs. in 1922 and 124.5 lbs. for 1921. As to cotton prices, the average price received by the planter is placed by the Department at 31.0 cents per pound for the 1923 crop. This, as already noted, is considerably higher than in any year since 1919 and contrasts with 23.8 cents per pound, the average price for the 1922 cotton crop, 16.2 cents per pound for the greatly reduced crop of 1921 and 13.9 cents per pound for 1920.

With the exception of five years, the production of oats last year exceeded that of any previous year in the country's history. Prior to twelve or fourteen years ago, a yield of a billion bushels of oats in

a year was unheard of. Since that time there has been only one year in which the crop has been under a billion bushels, and in 1923 the yield was 1,299,823,000 bushels, as against 1,215,803,000 bushels for 1922. The progress of the crop throughout last year was very satisfactory and practically all of the States of large production show an increased yield for 1923 over both preceding years, except that in the case of Iowa, the leading State for this crop, there is a slight decrease in yield as compared with 1922. The acreage for 1923 was practically the same as for 1922, but the yield per acre in 1923 was 31.8 bushels, against 29.8 bushels in the preceding year. Farm values for oats were also very much higher in 1923 than in the year prior thereto, the average price to farmers, estimated by the Department, being 41.5 cents per bushel, which contrasts with 39.4 cents per bushel for the preceding year.

Perhaps the crop of importance next in line is potatoes and here there is a considerable reduction in yield for 1923, as contrasted with 1922, wholly due to a smaller acreage. The production of potatoes is placed at 412,392,000 bushels for 1923, as against 453,396,000 bushels for 1922, the largest on record. But the area planted in 1923 was only 3,816,000 acres, which contrasts with 4,307,000 acres in 1922; the average production was 108.1 bushels per acre in 1923, against 105.3 bushels per acre in 1922. The falling off in production was in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the States of large yield, and in all of these States the area was considerably less last year than it was in the preceding year, but in Wisconsin alone, of these three States, there was a larger decrease in the yield per acre for 1923 as contrasted with the preceding year. Maine reports an increase in yield for 1923 as compared with the preceding year; likewise New York State, but New Jersey shows a considerable decrease, mainly due to the large loss in yield per acre for that State, while for Pennsylvania there is a small decrease in production. The average price to producers was considerably higher in 1923 than in the preceding year, the marked decline in price in 1922, which was caused by the record production of that year, being in part recovered, although the high prices ruling in 1921 and for a number of years prior thereto, are still far above the 1923 figures.

As to the minor cereal crops, rye shows a very large decrease in production for 1923 as compared with the preceding year, although the yield for 1923 is somewhat larger than that of 1921. For barley, the 1923 production was considerably above both preceding years. The 1923 rye crop is put at 63,023,000 bushels, which contrasts with 103,362,000 bushels, the yield for 1922, the loss being due in part to a reduction in area in 1923. The yield per acre for the crop of 1923 is 12.2 bushels, as contrasted with 15.5 bushels per acre for the crop of 1922; for 1921 it was 13.6 bushels per acre. Production of barley in 1923 was 198,185,000 bushels, against 182,068,000 bushels in 1922 and 154,946,000 bushels in 1921. There was a somewhat larger area planted for the crop of 1923 than for either of the two preceding years, and the yield per acre was 25.1 bushels in 1923, against 24.9 bushels in 1922 and only 20.9 bushels the preceding year. Rice, buckwheat and flaxseed each show a substantial yield for the 1923 crops, although for the two first mentioned crops the production last year was somewhat less than that of the two preceding years. A comparison is given below

Indications of Business Activity

THE STATE OF TRADE—COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

Friday Night, Jan. 18 1924.

General trade in this country still plainly reflects a conservative spirit. There is little or no disposition to order ahead. Weather conditions are reacting in different fashion on trade in different parts of the country. At the North and West colder weather has in a measure helped retail trade. In the Southwest heavy rains have hurt it. In general, at the East the weather has been too mild for the best results in retail business. It has hurt the sale of heavy winter goods. Iron and steel are among the industries that make the best showing. The automobile business is more active. Spring jobbing trade is somewhat better. Colder weather has helped trade in soft coal at the West. Mild weather in the East has stimulated building. In the West it has been delayed by temperatures around zero or below. The cotton manufacturing business of New England in general shows only a moderate degree of activity. Indeed, there is a gradual spread of curtailment among the mills there. At Fall River it is especially marked, and judging by reports received to-day it may become still more so, owing to the sluggishness of trade. It is said that while not a few of the mills at the South and in New England are running at a good rate of production it is resulting in the piling up of goods in mill warehouses. And the other day gingham and sheets were reduced in price. Print cloths are said to have sold at as low as 10½c. from second hands. Re-sellers have been cutting under the mills. On the other hand, raw silks have advanced somewhat at Yokohama and Patterson silk mills on Feb. 1 will advance prices 10%. At the South fertilizer factories are busy. It is said that their orders show a noticeable increase over those of a year ago. Whether it really reaches that area or not there are predictions that the cotton acreage this year will reach 40,000,000 acres.

Some grades of crude petroleum and gasoline very generally have advanced. Corn has risen during the week with the continuance of a big feeding demand, which prevents heavy marketing of the crop at the big terminal points at the West. Railroads are buying steel on a noticeable scale. So it appears are the automobile industries. Pig iron has advanced. Prices for iron ore are higher. At the British and Australian wool sales higher prices have been paid. But in this country wool has been simply quiet and steady. Cotton has declined about \$4 a bale as a reflection of the smallness of the cotton goods business and evidences of an overdoing of speculation on the bull side. The consumer seems to balk at paying for cotton goods made from cotton much above 30 cents per pound. Also, the influence of Europe's disturbed financial condition and unsettled politics has been apparent in the cotton markets at home and abroad. Meanwhile the aggregate movement of general merchandise throughout the country is large, despite the fact that caution in trading is very apparent. The buying power of the country is large. Employment is very general, although it would appear that labor is not so scarce as it was some months ago. Bank clearings show an increase and the number of failures has fallen off. The total this week, it appears, is 525, against 564 last week, 540 this week last year and 646 in 1922. Meanwhile the market for stocks and bonds has advanced despite some irregularity from time to time. Foreign exchange, however, has declined. Francs have been down to a new low. Sterling at times has shown weakness. It was lower to-day. London reported the stock market quiet but steady. It is said that a big railroad strike will be ordered in Great Britain for midnight Sunday, but London seems to be indifferent. Japanese exchange here, it is gratifying to see, was notably firm, to-day rising 2 cents, and European currencies steadied up toward the close. These things are naturally watched very sharply now-a-days by the commercial community. It is said that arrangements have been made for placing a Japanese loan here. It is to be hoped that the first half of 1924 will see a noteworthy change for the better in the condition of European currencies, which five years after the close of the war are still in such a disordered state. Taking trade in this country as a whole it is in good shape, even though adversely affected, as already intimated, by unseasonable weather in some sec-

tions and stormy conditions in others. It is a bad sign that the buying community is cautious. It is certainly in marked contrast with the state of things a year ago, when buyers took too many chances and overbuying resulted.

The big economic problem before the civilized world, one of the greatest in Occidental history, is how to regulate the currency of Germany and help that country to balance its budget and make Germany as a political society a going concern, furnishing the benefits of government to its people at a fair price and laying by something for a rainy day, not to mention something for sinking funds, etc. Three Americans, headed by General Dawes, are assisting in the work of bringing this about. It has been well said that the paper money myth has been dissipated in Europe. Germany, whatever her motive, good or bad, in diluting her currency with mere paper until it has become the mockery of the civilized world, is an outstanding, though not the only, object lesson to drive home the bitter fact, so often emphasized in history, though so often disregarded, even dismissed with contemptuous skepticism, that a house built on quicksand shall not stand. Following the line of least resistance and issuing more and more paper to fill a bottomless pit, or as the current excuse is, to pay for State services, charity doles, etc., has brought European problems at times since the war to such a pass that barter has had to be resorted to, and various commodities used as standards of value, a confession that, after all, paper itself is not enough and that there must be real value of some sort behind it; that mere talk, mere theorizing, will not do. The ancient gold standard is now the objective of all Europe. Even Russia is cautiously developing a new currency system on a gold basis, decreeing that the paper ruble of 1923 shall have the value of 1,000,000 rubles of 1922, while the value of paper rubles issued previous to 1922 has vanished. Meanwhile, it is gratifying to see that Austria is making satisfactory progress in restoring a sound currency system according to a plan formulated in 1922. Hungary evidently means to follow in the same path. Italy has forged ahead, aided by good grain crops. Finland has a favorable balance of trade and its finances are in good shape. Progress in the same direction is reported in Lithuania, Jugoslavia, Latvia and Esthonia. Poland is not doing so well, but has a favorable trade balance, relatively small debts, and large crops. Czechoslovakia has been and is a shining example of sound finance, stable money and good harvests. Good crops, it is pointed out, have helped Bulgaria and Rumania and a lifting of an embargo on exports of oil and grain may relieve their money stringency and infuse greater activity into trade. The trade of Sweden has, as is well known, been injured by the depression in Germany, but it is now improving. Denmark is declared to be in as good shape commercially as it was previous to 1914, aside from some depreciation in its currency. For a year France has had a good trade coincident with good crops almost up to the pre-war level. Cheap francs, however deplorable in other ways, have pushed the foreign sale of French goods, notably woolen goods in England. Of course, this was largely the cause of the fight for a protective tariff on some manufactures in England, with the defeat of the Baldwin program and the imminence of a Labor Ministry. In Belgium, as all students of European business conditions know, low francs have stimulated exports and domestic manufactures though such prosperity is superficial. It needs, like the rest of the world, a restoration of world's buying power. So much for a cursory glance at Europe. The United States is trying to help it by helping to set its house in order, or, in other words, by helping it to help itself. The present auguries in this direction seem favorable. Without abandoning its old-time aloofness, the United States is willing to lend a helping hand in restoring economic health to Germany and it need not be doubted that success in this great historic work will be the harbinger of a gradual return to normal pre-war business conditions throughout Europe if not throughout the world.

Fall River, Mass., reports extensive curtailment in cotton mills and a prospect of it becoming still larger. At Winchendon, Mass., the N. D. White mills will continue on a three-day schedule "until cotton markets ease." They have

eased of late considerably, but, of course, the price is still very high. The Goddard cotton mills of Blackstone Valley, Boston wired, have begun to curtail their output. At Manchester, N. H., every mill owned by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co. was in operation. The company has recently received some very good orders for lines of fancy gingham and has advertised for women workers to go on the night shift at once. But it cut gingham on the 17th inst. to 12½ cents, a drop of 1.9 cents. A year ago it was 15½ cents. At Southbridge, Mass., four mills of the Hamilton Woolen Co. will go on a four-day week, affecting over 1,800 operatives. At Willimantic, Conn., with one exception, all textile plants are operating on short working hours. This week the Holland Silk Co. dropped from 48 hours a week to 36 hours a week, operating but five days. The Windham Silk Co. is on 43¼ hours a week, or five days. The Quidnick-Windham Cotton Manufacturing Co. is on 30 hours, three days a week. The American Thread Co. is also on short time, the manufacturing department working four days a week. The Rosie Velvet Co. and the J. D. Chaffee Braid Co. are the only textile plants operating on full time. At Cohoes, N. Y., district underwear mills are increasing operations. Two mills resumed this week, after several weeks' idleness. Heavy underwear was advanced by several large mills 20%. Augusta, Ga., says that Southern mills are running at 80 to 90%. At Amsterdam, N. Y., more than 2,000 knitting mill employees struck because of a cut in wages of 10%. The manufacturers increased wages 10% last April, but have announced that because of competition of cheap labor in Southern mills and reductions made in other Northern knit goods centres, a cut is necessary at this time when a change from summer to winter lines of goods at higher cost of production is about to be made. Six of the leading manufacturing companies agreed to the reduction, but 24 hours after the cut went into effect the Chalmers Knitting Co. announced there would be no cut to its employees. At some plants work continues with reduced forces. Amsterdam, N. Y., wired Jan. 14 that conferences between knit goods manufacturers in whose plants strikes have been in effect for several days as a result of the wage reduction following the increase of that figure given last spring were in progress. It is expected an agreement will be reached. More than 2,000 employees are idle. The Blood Knitting Co., Morris Mills and Gardiner & Waring Co. plants are affected.

The International Paper Co. mills at Franklin, N. H., closed on the 16th inst. for an indefinite period, owing, it is said, to poor business. The mills employ only 150 persons.

Freight traffic on American railroads in November was the heaviest for any November in history, according to reports filed by the carriers with the Bureau of Railway Economics. A new high record for the month of November was also established in the average daily movement per freight car, an average of 29.3 miles per day having been attained, the highest for any November on record. Car loadings totaled 703,269 for the week, an increase of 87,838, though a decrease from 1923 to 64,027. The general merchandise movement shows a big improvement.

Washington reports a slight decline in wholesale prices during December. The wholesale price index maintained by the Department, which represents the composite price level of 404 commodities entering into living expenses was 151 at the month-end, as compared with 152 for November. The price level shown was 3¼% less than that of December a year ago. Food, building material and fuel were included in the list of commodities showing declines. Clothing increased slightly in price.

A 70 to 75-mile gale, accompanied by a hard, driving rain, the worst storm in 52 years, swept New York and its neighborhood on Wednesday night. Twelve were killed in the Metropolitan district and many accidents were reported. The gale was so great that it blew off the cups of the Weather Bureau recorder. The big Shenandoah dirigible, which is to fly to the North Pole, wrenched loose from its tower 170 feet in the air by breaking its great steel nose piece and it carried with 21 men a mile a minute 60 miles north towards the sea. Over Newark the great ship "found herself" and managed to turn around and reach home at Lakehurst, N. J., at 2.20 a. m. Thursday, after being eight hours in the air. The gale abated at midnight to about 20 miles an hour and the weather cleared. Zero weather reached Chicago and vicinity on the 17th inst. In Chicago it was 4 degrees below; at Minneapolis 16 degrees below; in St. Louis it was zero. Below zero temperatures prevailed from central Iowa northward. There was a snowstorm of

six inches in Chicago. The force of the snowstorm was centred over northern Indiana and moving eastward rapidly, with precipitation over the Great Central Valleys. St. Paul, Minn., wired that a 30 degree drop in temperature in 12 hours brought another cold wave to the Northwest. It was 6 degrees below zero at Milwaukee yesterday. To-day it has been clear and mild at New York.

1923 Broke All Construction Records—F. W. Dodge Corporation's Review of Building Activity.

Last year broke all previous construction records, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation. Total contracts awarded during the year in the 36 Eastern States and the District of Columbia (including about seven-eighths of the total construction of the country) amounted to \$3,990,483,000. This indicates more than 4½ billion dollars worth of construction in the entire country, says the report, which goes on as follows:

In 27 of these States the increase over 1922, which was itself a record-breaking year, was nearly 5%. After an unusually heavy spring season, there was a slight reaction through the summer months, followed by an unusual increase in the late fall. December, 1923, showed an increase of 25% over the previous December.

The increase was largely in residential and industrial buildings. Residential construction increased 18% over 1922, which was rather surprising in view of the higher cost levels last year, and industrial construction increased 16%. Construction of public works and utilities remained about stationary; business buildings declined 9%, and all other classes combined decreased 15% from 1922.

All previous construction records were broken in these districts: New York State and northern New Jersey; the Pittsburgh district, and the Northwest. New England just about equalled the 1922 record, and the Middle Atlantic States and the Central West declined. The Southeastern States probably showed a considerable increase, although there was no record on them previous to last year.

Contemplated new work reported during the year 1923 in the 36 States amounted to \$7,421,940,000, which is 86% in excess of the total of contracts awarded (or work actually started). The normal excess is about 50%. This may be taken as an indication of a demand that has not been fully satisfied. However, the excess of contemplated work reported has been abnormally large every year since the war, and is not sufficient to indicate an increased volume of construction in 1924.

In fact, the reaction of last summer was a very mild one, insufficient to bring about an appreciable lowering of building costs generally. Building costs are now at a level nearly 30% above the prices of general commodities; labor and materials are generally scarce. The 1923 increase over 1922 was surprising, in view of all the conditions. It seems unlikely that 1924 can better the 1923 record, or even equal it. A total construction program of 4 billion dollars in the entire country seems a reasonable estimate to make at the present time. A moderate decline from the 1923 construction volume, about 10%, ought to have a wholesome influence on building conditions.

Record Year in New York State and Northern New Jersey.

Contracts awarded during December in New York State and northern New Jersey amounted to \$111,070,000, an unusually large amount for the last month of the year. The decrease from November was 11%; but December 1923, started double the amount of construction that was started in December 1922.

The year's total for the district is \$1,068,935,000, which exceeded all previous records, being a 20% increase over 1922, which was itself a record-breaking year. The greater part of the increase over 1922 came in the closing months of the year, which have witnessed a boom in New York City residential building of considerable proportions. Residential buildings accounted for \$636,398,000, or 60%, of the year's total for the district. Other important items in the year's record were: \$139,859,000, or 13%, for business building; \$83,424,000, or 8%, for educational buildings; \$82,376,000, or 8%, for industrial plants; and \$62,350,000, or 6%, for public works and utilities.

The total amount of contemplated new work reported during the year amounted to \$1,717,505,000, which is 61% greater than the amount of work actually started, the normal excess of contemplated work over work started being about 50%.

New England.

December building contracts in New England amounted to \$26,617,000, an increase of 8% over November and of 27% over December, 1922.

Total construction started during the entire year 1923 amounted to \$332,857,000, only a fraction of 1% less than the amount of 1922, which was the highest recorded year for the district. Last year's total included: \$156,852,000, or 47%, for residential buildings; \$55,677,000, or 17%, for business buildings; \$35,501,000, or 11%, for public works, and utilities; \$29,344,000, or 9%, for industrial plants, and \$27,428,000, or 8%, for educational buildings.

Contemplated new work reported during the year amounted to \$481,455,000, compared with \$332,857,000 for work started. This is about a normal ratio for contemplated work to contract awards, and is an indication that the year's building needs were more or less adequately taken care of by the year's construction program.

Middle Atlantic States.

December building contracts in the Middle Atlantic States (Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia and Virginia) amounted to \$24,521,000. While this was an increase of 3% over the preceding month, it was a drop of 24% from the previous December.

Total construction started in this district during 1923 amounted to \$374,182,000, a decrease of 11% from 1922. Last year's total included: \$176,013,000, or 47%, for residential buildings; \$55,242,000, or 15%, for business buildings; \$49,091,000, or 13%, for public works and utilities; \$43,284,000, or 12%, for industrial plants, and \$23,876,000, or 6%, for educational buildings.

Contemplated new work reported in this district during 1923 amounted to \$833,426,000, more than double the amount of contracts awarded, indicating a considerable unfulfilled construction demand.

Record Year in Pittsburgh District.

December contracts in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky amounted to \$36,158,000. This was a decrease of 12% from November, but an increase of 33% over the previous December.

Total construction started in this district during the entire year 1923 amounted to \$593,995,000, an increase of 12% over 1922. Last year's record included: \$201,107,000, or 34%, for residential buildings; \$169,752,000, or 29%, for public works and utilities; \$80,533,000, or 14%, for industrial plants; \$58,958,000, or 10%, for business buildings, and \$45,982,000, or 8%, for educational buildings.

Contemplated new work reported during the year amounted to \$901,605,000, compared with \$593,995,000 for construction actually started, a normal ratio indicating a building demand more or less adequately filled.

Southeastern States.

Contracts awarded in December in the Southeastern States (the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana) amounted to \$31,832,000, an increase of 8% over November.

The year's total of construction started in this district was \$486,757,000, which included the following important items: \$151,568,000, or 31%, for residential buildings; \$98,105,000, or 20%, for public works and utilities; \$74,256,000, or 15%, for industrial plants; \$66,733,000, or 14%, for business buildings; and \$48,608,000, or 10%, for educational buildings; in all a very well-balanced program.

Contemplated new work reported during the year 1923 amounted to \$891,472,000, an excess of 83% over the amount of work actually started, \$486,757,000. Since the normal excess is 50%, this indicates a considerable unfinished program.

The Central West.

December building contracts in the Central West (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Southern Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma) amounted to \$60,869,000. The drop from November was 9%, from the previous December, 19%.

The year's total for these States was \$1,006,422,000, a decrease of 8% from the 1922 total. The 1923 record included: \$371,743,000, or 37%, for residential buildings; \$215,569,000, or 21%, for public works and utilities; \$128,172,000, or 13%, for industrial buildings; \$127,834,000, or 13%, for business buildings; and \$76,631,200, or 8%, for educational buildings.

Contemplated new work reported in this district during 1923 amounted to \$2,433,183,000, considerably more than double the volume of contracts awarded, indicating a large unfinished building program in this section.

Record Year in the Northwest.

December building contracts in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Northern Michigan amounted to \$5,680,000. This was an increase of 7% over the previous month, and was more than double the figure for the corresponding month of 1922.

The 1923 construction total for these States was \$127,336,000, the record figure for the district. The increase over 1922 was 62%. Last year's record total included: \$41,811,000, or 33%, for residential buildings; \$29,794,000, or 23%, for public works and utilities; \$15,098,000, or 12%, for industrial buildings; \$13,984,000, or 11%, for business buildings; and \$13,937,000, or 11%, for educational buildings. This was a very well-balanced program, the various classes being in very nearly normal proportion to the total.

Contemplated new work reported in 1923 amounted to \$163,296,000, compared with \$127,336,000 for work actually started. The excess of contemplated work was below normal, indicating that the year's program was more or less completed.

Lumber Production in 1923 Shows a Fifteen Per Cent Increase Over 1922.

The "National Lumber Bulletin," published monthly by the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association of Washington, D. C., and Chicago, Ill., in the issue dated Jan. 7 1924, stated that 38,000,000,000 feet was a conservative estimate of the lumber cut of United States in 1923. The statement follows in full:

Based on actual reports for fifty-one weeks and estimates for the last week of the year, the lumber production of the mills reporting weekly to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association shows a 15% increase over the reports for 1922.

The estimate of 35,000,000,000 feet as the total lumber production of the country in 1922, made early last year by the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association on the basis of the 1922 association reports, has been confirmed by the United States Forest Service figures which were 31,426,922,000 feet as the production of 13,163 mills, representing probably about 90% of the total cut of the country.

In 1922 the mills reporting to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association cut nearly 12 billion feet or about one-third of the estimated total cut of the United States. The lumber production of the country in 1923 is estimated as over 38 billion board feet. The production of the nine associations reporting production and shipments for 1923 is 14,000,000,000 feet; shipments and other disposals approximately 14,400,000,000 feet.

The greatest increase in production and in shipments is in the Pacific Northwest a billion feet or about 20% increase in production over 1922 being reported by the mills of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association; and nearly 1,200,000,000 feet increase in shipments. The West Coast Association estimates total production of the Douglas fir region to have been nine and one-third billion feet in 1923, the association mills reporting nearly 60% of this total.

Total production of Southern yellow pine is believed by the Southern Pine Association at New Orleans to have been 12,000,000,000 feet in 1923, of which subscribers of this association produced over 40%. The association mills show an increase of 250,000,000 to 350,000,000 feet in production as compared with 1922, the cut of subscriber mills exceeding any one year except 1916.

There are also notable increases in production in other regions, the California White and Sugar Pine Manufacturers Association of San Francisco estimating its production as about a billion and a half feet or an increase of 18% over 1922; the Northern Pine Manufacturers Association stating its production as probably 14 1/2% more than in 1922; the Western Pine Manufacturers Association as 20% higher, giving a record year's cut of 1,700,000,000 feet; and the Northern Hemlock & Hardwood Manufacturers Association estimating its production as well over the ten-year average, and about 32% more than in 1922.

In some cases more complete reports may influence the results, but an increase in production of 15% over 1922 is seemingly conservative as based on these preliminary estimates.

In his review of economic and industrial conditions in 1923, Secretary of Commerce Hoover refers to the increase in production in a number of important industries and estimates the increase in lumber production as 10% over 1922. On this basis the lumber cut for 1923 would equal about 38,500,000,000 board feet.

The increases in shipments as reported by the associations are on a par in nearly every case with those of production; orders show an increase of somewhat over 8% as compared with 1922. It is probable, however, that the increase is actually greater but the less complete and accurate reports in this item account for the smaller percentage.

At the December meeting of the directors of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association suggestion was made that measures be taken to secure, if possible, greater uniformity and accuracy in reporting association statistics of production, shipments and orders to the National Association. It was pointed out that although production figures are fairly complete, in recounting shipments no account is kept of lumber used in the plant in re-manufacture, as in flooring, or lumber destroyed, or used on the grounds or, frequently, local sales. The reported shipments are, therefore, incomplete as is disclosed by the fact of reduced stocks in the mill yards in nearly all regions.

A brief analysis by Wilson Compton, Secretary and Manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association on the lumber industry in 1925 follows in full:

The lumber industry is fast resuming its pre-war stride in volume of production and shipments, and 1923 was, generally speaking, one of the most satisfactory years in the recent history of the lumber trade. The volume of lumber movement has been perhaps the greatest in ten years. This activity has been widespread, not localized. The service rendered by the railroads for the transportation of sawmill products for the country as a whole is the best in the industry's history—a credit to railroad performance and to the better understanding between shipper and carrier. An increasing volume is being transported by water, probably 20% of the shipments of the larger sawmills and perhaps 15% of the total shipments of the lumber industry. Water transportation is adding a valuable new facility to large portions of the lumber industry as a substantial guarantee against involuntary tie-up by car shortage. There is great safety in two alternative transportation outlets.

The lumber stocks at the sawmills are generally smaller than a year ago. Many mills have run double, even triple, shifts throughout a considerable portion of the past year. That the stocks are relatively low is an indisputable evidence of the tremendous volume of actual lumber consumption during 1923.

It is a tremendously significant fact that a volume of lumber, unprecedented during the last decade, has moved day by day from the mills to the retail yards and from the retail yards to the job. This was achieved without substantial increases in lumber prices. Prices realized for lumber at the sawmills are no higher than a year ago. In fact, there has been during the past six months a considerable decline in the average price level. Manufacturing costs, which had been greatly reduced during 1921 and 1922, have increased substantially during 1923. In some lumbering regions wages paid are the highest in history. The quality of labor performance has improved and the labor turnover greatly decreased except in certain regions affected by special conditions, such as the negro labor exodus to the North from the South Atlantic.

Lumber Production and Shipments as Reported by States by Member Associations to National Lumber Manufacturers Association for November 1923 and November 1921.

	November 1923			November 1921		
	Production.	Shipments.		Production.	Shipments.	
	Mills.	Feet.	Mills.	Mills.	Feet.	Feet.
Alabama	22	37,297,000	35,113,000	17	30,564,000	31,604,000
Arkansas	17	35,265,000	36,473,000	17	40,519,000	39,982,000
California	38	127,550,000	93,409,000	26	60,279,000	58,508,000
Florida	17	30,549,000	27,965,000	*17	*26,551,000	*26,623,000
Georgia	9	3,932,000	4,766,000			
Idaho	17	55,934,000	47,747,000	15	19,458,000	33,800,000
Louisiana	58	136,151,000	125,783,000	53	135,939,000	146,629,000
Michigan	49	29,516,000	39,938,000	53	18,051,000	44,179,000
Minnesota	5	15,586,000	27,711,000	8	9,678,000	26,152,000
Mississippi	46	112,432,000	98,675,000	44	93,886,000	88,091,000
Montana	11	22,091,000	15,513,000	12	7,190,000	16,214,000
North Carolina	10	5,920,000	4,496,000	3	2,781,000	3,417,000
Oklahoma	3	6,934,000	6,085,000	2	4,515,000	6,090,000
Oregon	56	196,859,000	165,709,000	49	104,190,000	93,926,000
South Carolina	13	10,516,000	11,632,000	3	4,207,000	4,651,000
Texas	39	79,530,000	74,841,000	43	88,904,000	93,288,000
Virginia	10	16,008,000	16,216,000	6	10,654,000	10,489,000
Washington	92	303,183,000	266,528,000	79	188,746,000	165,177,000
Wisconsin	41	32,127,000	48,593,000	54	10,464,000	39,769,000
Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina				9	17,296,000	12,422,000
Others†	30	74,675,000	82,681,000	22	47,936,000	44,328,000
Total	583	1,332,055,000	1,229,874,000	532	921,808,000	985,339,000

*Includes both Georgia and Florida.
†Includes mostly non-member mills, not distributed

The lumber consumption of the railroads is outlined briefly as follows:

The railroads of the country consume between nine and ten billion feet of forest products each year, according to a recent circular of the Southern Pine Association. This is approximately 25% of the total sawmill output, divided about as follows: Ties, 160 million pieces, six billion feet; lumber, timber, bridge and switch ties, three and one-half billion feet.

The Country's Foreign Trade in December—Imports and Exports.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce at Washington on Jan. 15 issued the statement of the foreign trade of the United States for December and twelve months ending with December. The value of merchandise exported in December this year was \$425,000,000, as compared with \$344,327,560 in December last year. The imports of merchandise were \$285,000,000 in December 1923, as against \$293,788,573 in December last year. This left a trade balance in favor of this country on the merchandise movement of \$140,000,000 for the month in 1923 and of \$50,538,987 in 1922. Imports for the twelve months of 1923 were \$3,788,882,215, as against only \$3,112,746,833 for the twelve months of 1922. The merchandise exports for the twelve months were \$4,164,831,132, against \$3,831,777,469, giving a favorable trade balance of \$375,948,917, against \$719,030,636. Gold imports totaled \$32,641,226 in December this year, against \$26,439,677 in the corresponding month last year, and for the twelve months they are \$322,715,812, as against

Structural Steel is Dominant Factor in Market— Price Rises.

The third week of the new year continues the scale of activity in orders and in steel mill operations to which the industry stepped up after the holidays, declares the "Iron Age" of New York in its Jan. 17 summary of market conditions. Already construction work appears as the dominant factor, with indications that the pace set in structural steel in 1923 will be maintained for months to come, continues this journal, adding further details quoted below:

To take care of the larger aggregate of small demands from a variety of manufacturing sources, some of the leading producers, particularly in the Youngstown district, have increased their running schedules. As a whole the industry is not far from a 75% operation, the Steel Corporation's rate, like last week's, being close to 85%. The corporation has blown in two additional blast furnaces, one in the Pittsburgh district and one at South Chicago. Another will be added at Edgar Thomson this week. An independent furnace in the Pittsburgh district has just started up and one Youngstown and one Johnstown furnace are about to go in.

The approach of the soft coal conference to be held in Florida has brought up the possibilities of a strike and its effect on steel production. Stocks of coal are being built up and reserves on April 1 will be among the largest on record. Opinion leans to the expectation of a strike and a later compromise, with non-union fields meanwhile making a larger contribution to steel works operation than in the strike of 1922.

Railroad purchases in the past week include 4,277 cars, practically the first so far in 1924. Of these 1,200 are for Australia and 3,057 for the Pacific Fruit Express, these latter, with what were placed in the last week of 1923, putting the Southern Pacific's total at 9,612 cars. Of 73 locomotives bought, 57 were for the Santa Fe and 16 were for Canada. China is inquiring for 200 cars.

Car builders in the Chicago district have better assurance of operation, two shops there having taken orders that will carry them through the first half.

December bookings of fabricated steel, as computed by the Bureau of the Census, totaled 202,500 tons, somewhat more than April, and only exceeded in 1923 by March. The year's purchases were slightly larger than those for 1922 and establish a record at 1,940,000 tons. The war years 1915 and 1916 showed a higher percentage, but under contract, but the country's fabricating capacity then was not so large.

In the week's structural developments, the Ford Motor Co. is again conspicuous, this time asking for bids on 15,000 tons for the Ribber Rouge plant. Awards call for 12,500 tons and on top of the two record years just closed, fresh inquiries continue in notable volume, amounting for the week to 53,000 tons.

Shading in prices of sheets has practically disappeared. Most of the independent makers are booked through the present quarter at the present operating rate of 80% of capacity. Their position is better than that of the Steel Corporation's subsidiary, which is completing its Japanese orders.

Increased activity has developed in the pig iron market, especially in basic, of which two 5,000-ton lots have been sold at St. Louis. There an inquiry is pending for 10,000 tons, while another inquiry for 10,000 tons comes from a southern Ohio company. A sale of 2,500 tons of basic has been made to a Maryland tin plate plant. Sales of foundry iron to a cast iron pipe company amount to 60,000 tons. Prices on all grades, except charcoal, have been marked up 50c. at Chicago, and at Pittsburgh foundry and malleable have been advanced 50c. Sales at Cleveland included 9,000 tons of malleable and foundry to a Michigan automobile foundry.

The Steel Corporation's latest purchases of scrap have attracted a good deal of attention. For the Lorain, Ohio, works 10,000 to 15,000 tons were taken in addition to a round lot for Vandergrift, Pa. Prices have been advanced \$1 to \$1.50 largely due to this buying.

British exports during the year included over 500,000 tons of tin plate, over 600,000 tons of galvanized sheets and nearly 300,000 tons of black sheets, of which latter Japan took 170,000 tons.

Another slight advance in foundry iron raises the "Iron Age" pig iron composite price to \$22.04, from \$21.96 last week. It was \$26.63 one year ago.

For the first time since July there has come a change in finished steel, the "Iron Age" composite price being now 2.789c. per lb., against 2.775c. for the past six months and 2.789c. for the 11 weeks from May 8 into July. It was 2.474c. one year ago.

The usual composite price table for the week is as follows:

Composite Price Jan. 15 1924, Finished Steel, 2.789c. per Lb.			
Based on prices of steel bars, beams, tank plates, plain wire, open-hearth rails, black pipe and black sheets, constituting 88% of the U. S. output	10-year pre-war average	1.689c.	
Composite Price Jan. 15 1924, Pig Iron, \$22.04 per Gross Ton.			
Based on average of basic and foundry irons, the basic being Valley quotation, the foundry an average of Chicago, Philadelphia and Birmingham	10-year pre-war average	15.72	
	Jan. 8 1924	2.775c.	
	Dec. 18 1923	2.775c.	
	Jan. 16 1923	2.474c.	
	Jan. 16 1923	26.63	
	10-year pre-war average	15.72	

The operations of the steel works and mills are expanding as the flow of heavy tonnage keeps up, states the "Iron Trade Review" of Cleveland in its issue of Jan. 17 in its regular weekly market review. The bookings are 25 to 50% over those for December, partly owing to the revival of the implement industry, continues the "Review" in its summary, which follows:

Expanded bookings by the mills which are being well maintained have turned iron and steel production upward after a gradual decline extending over eight months. At Chicago where the best showing is being made, the Illinois Steel Co. has gone from 75 to 83% of ingot capacity in a week and is blowing in more blast furnaces. Idle steel capacity in the Pittsburgh district is resuming, notably the Bessemer plant at Johnstown and larger production schedules are being laid out. In Youngstown territory independent open-hearth furnace operations are the highest since September and in sheets, since August. Even in the East, where operations have been sluggish, a measurable improvement is noted.

The present market condition which furnishes the background for this increase in production is encouraging. A healthy state of buying and demand is shown in practically all products; in those which have been lagging, prospects are improving. Bookings for the first half of January with numerous mills are at least 25 to 50% over the corresponding period in December and more than that above November. The leading interest at Chicago last week had the largest tonnage of specifications and new bookings in four months. The gain of 76,755 tons in the Steel Corporation

unfilled tonnage for December, the first since March, was due more to the increase of incoming tonnage than to any holiday check on shipments. The farming implement industry is showing a degree of vitality it has not manifested in several years.

Talk of a possible coal strike April 1 is beginning to receive attention from buyers and sellers and is having some influence upon future policies.

Makers are giving more thought to conserving raw steel supplies in anticipation of increasing requirements of their finishing mills. Accordingly they are limiting their open market sales of semi-finished steel. A Mahoning Valley maker in the week refused offers for about 20,000 tons of sheet bars and slabs. Large interests at Pittsburgh are mentioned as possible buyers of sheet bars to supplement their own production. A sheet mill in that district bought 8,000 tons of sheet bars at the full price of \$42.50. A northern Ohio consumer is inquiring for 15,000 tons of slabs.

A step-up of fabricated steel prices has exercised some check upon the heavy structural buying in the metropolitan district, but this is considered only temporary. The general view of the structural steel market is one of large and growing activity. Plans are out at Chicago for the 17,000-ton Palmer Bldg. and bids have gone in for the Tribune Tower, 10,000 tons. The Louisville & Nashville RR. is inquiring for 6,500 tons of bridge work additional. Pipe lines at Boston, Denver, Portland, Ore., and in the Catskills require 15,000 tons.

Conservative policies are being pursued by the railroads in making their purchases, steel prices apparently having their part in this, but the tonnage being closed from this source is large, nevertheless. The backward spot is in locomotives for which orders are few and some shops are in sharp need of business. Car steel placed at Chicago last week totaled 20,000 tons. The Pacific Fruit Express awarded 3,057 cars and other orders called for 2,000 underframes. The Santa Fe needs are 5,200 cars and 57 locomotives.

For the fourth consecutive week, "Iron Trade Review" composite of 14 leading iron and steel products has advanced, though slightly. The week's figure is \$43.29. Last week it was \$43.21.

With heavy melting steel selling above basic pig iron at certain points in the Pittsburgh district, considerable activity, much of it of speculative character, has been stimulated in the latter grade. Cleveland sellers have inquiry for about 75,000 tons of basic iron which includes tonnage for two Ohio steel plants in addition to a large amount for brokers. Valley basic is well held at \$22, though late sales have been made at \$21 western Pennsylvania furnace. In general pig iron buying is fair, with prices holding well. Southern iron is stronger with sales at \$22 Birmingham and some makers are asking more.

The scrap market is strong, with some grades scarcer. A Wheeling interest bought 12,000 to 15,000 tons of heavy melting steel at \$22 delivered.

Bookings of Structural Steel Large in December.

The Department of Commerce issued its statement showing December sales of fabricated structural steel, based on figures received from the principal fabricators of the country. Total sales of 181,741 tons were reported for December by firms with a capacity of 224,982 tons per month, or 81% of capacity. Shipments of firms reporting this item represented 66% of capacity, as against 80% in October and 70% in November. Tonnage booked each month by 177 identical firms (of which six are now out of business) with a capacity for 1923 of 234,057 tons per month, is shown below, together with the per cent of shop capacity represented by these bookings. For comparative purposes, the figures are also prorated to obtain an estimated total for the United States on a capacity of 250,000 tons per month.

	Actual Tonnage Booked.	Per Cent of Capacity.	Computed Total Bookings.
1922—			
October.....	133,037	58	145,000
November.....	112,367	49	122,500
December.....	138,737	60	150,000
1923—			
January.....	173,294	74	185,000
February.....	184,887	79	197,500
March.....	220,400	94	235,000
April.....	186,117	80	200,000
May.....	131,875	56	140,000
June.....	118,117	50	125,000
July.....	117,563	50	125,000
August.....	113,431	48	120,000
September.....	112,096	48	120,000
October.....	111,762	48	120,000
November.....	112,573	48	120,000
December.....	118,741	51	125,000

^a Reported by 176 firms with a capacity of 232,857 tons. ^b Reported by 174 firms with a capacity of 232,107 tons. ^c Reported by 170 firms with a capacity of 231,357 tons. ^d Reported by 162 firms with a capacity of 229,157 tons. ^e Reported by 146 firms with a capacity of 224,982 tons.

Pig Iron Output for December 1923 Shows No Gain.

The daily rate of pig iron production during December fell off to the lowest for the year, according to the "Iron Age" of Jan. 10. The statement follows:

Official returns for the December output of blast furnaces warrant practically no change in the estimate published in "The Iron Age," Jan. 3. The decline in daily rate was 2,251 tons per day at 94,225 tons per day for December as compared with 96,476 tons for November. The December daily rate was the lowest for the year. Instead of there being a gain of one furnace for December, the net change was none, according to the revised data.

Production of coke and anthracite pig iron for the 31 days of December amounted to 2,920,982 gross tons or 94,225 tons per day as compared with 2,894,295 tons or 96,476 tons per day for the 30 days in November. The total for the year is, therefore, 40,059,308 tons, comparing with 26,880,383 tons in 1922, making the 1923 output the largest on record. There were 9 furnaces blown in and 9 blown out or banked during December, leaving the total number of furnaces in blast on Jan. 1 at 231, the same as on Dec. 1. The capacity of the 231 furnaces in blast on Jan. 1 is estimated at 94,265 tons per day as compared with 94,345 tons per day for the same number of furnaces operating on Dec. 1.

The output of ferromanganese in December was 18,069 tons with the spiegeleisen production 10,124 tons.

The figures for daily average production, beginning with January 1917, are as follows:

Daily Average Production of Coke and Anthracite Pig Iron in the United States by Months Since Jan. 1 1917—Gross Tons.

Table with columns for years (1917-1923) and months (January-December). Rows show production figures for each month and a yearly total.

Production of Iron by Steel Companies—Gross Tons.

Returns from all furnaces of the United States Steel Corporation and the various independent steel companies as well as from merchant furnaces producing ferromanganese and spiegelisen, show the following totals of steel-making iron produced month by month, together with ferromanganese and spiegelisen. These last, while stated separately, are also included in the columns of "total production."

The fluctuations in pig iron production from 1913 to the present time are shown in the accompanying table.

Production of Iron by Steel Companies—Gross Tons.

Table showing production of iron by steel companies, categorized by Total Production, Spiegeleisen, and Ferromanganese for months and six-month periods.

Production of Coke and Anthracite Pig Iron in the United States by Months, Beginning Jan. 1 1919—Gross Tons.

Table showing production of coke and anthracite pig iron by months from 1919 to 1923, including a half-year and yearly total.

* These totals do not include charcoal pig iron. The 1922 production of this iron was 224,731 tons.

Bookings of Steel Castings Still Light.

December bookings of steel castings by companies representing over two-thirds of the commercial castings capacity of the United States amounted to 41,098 tons, according to the Department of Commerce, as against 39,660 tons in November. The previous March bookings were 143,564 tons. Total bookings for 1923 amounted to 868,019 tons, or 74.6% of capacity, of which 380,000 tons were railway specialties and 488,019 tons were miscellaneous castings.

BOOKINGS OF COMMERCIAL STEEL CASTINGS.

Table showing bookings of commercial steel castings by month for 1923, categorized by Total, Railway Specialties, and Miscellaneous Castings.

*Two companies with a capacity of 785 tons per month on miscellaneous castings now out of business.

November Production of Acetate of Lime and Methanol.

The Department of Commerce announced on Jan. 11 the November production, shipments and stocks of acetate of lime and methanol based on reports received from manufacturers. The following table gives for November the operations of wood-chemical plants, with comparisons for previous months, also the capacity included in this report and the total capacity of the industry:

Large table with multiple columns: Acetate of Lime (in pounds), Shipments (or Use), Stocks, End of Month, Methanol (in gallons), Shipments (or Use), Stocks, End of Month, Wood (in cords), Shipments, End of Month, Stocks, End of Month, Capacity (in cords per day), and Retention. Rows list months from January 1922 to November 1923.

Locomotive Shipments in December Heavy But Orders Small.

December 1923 shipments of railroad locomotives from the principal manufacturing plants, based on reports received from the individual establishments, according to a report issued by the Department of Commerce on Jan. 10, comprised 329 locomotives, against 210 in December 1922, and for the twelve months of 1923 the number was 3,189, against only 1,274 in the twelve months of 1922, but the unfilled orders at the end of December 1923 were no more than 387, against 691 at the end of November 1923 and no less than 1,592 at the end of December 1922.

The following table compares the December 1923 figures with the previous month and with the corresponding month of 1922, as well as totals for 1923, compared with 1922, in number of locomotives:

Table comparing locomotive shipments and unfilled orders for December 1923, November 1923, December 1922, and Total Year Jan.-Dec. 1923 vs 1922.

Coal Production Rises in Bituminous Fields—Anthracite Output Remains Low—Coke Output in 1923.

The weekly report on the production of bituminous coal, anthracite and beehive coke issued by the Department of the Interior, through the U. S. Geological Survey, Jan. 12 1924, shows that the output of bituminous coal has rallied from the holiday slump, whereas anthracite shows little improvement. The Survey's report follows in brief: The daily output of soft coal recovered promptly from the sudden decline of Christmas week and the year 1924 opened with production close to the daily average of 1923. The total output for New Year's week (Dec. 31 to Jan. 5), including lignite and coal coked at the mines, is estimated at 9,031,000 net tons, as against 6,713,000 tons in Christmas week. Although New Year's Day was generally observed as a holiday, many non-union mines continued to work. As the railroads report loading 5,230 cars, the day appears to have counted over the coal fields as a whole for about 0.17 of a normal working day. The average output per working day rose from 1,343,000 tons during Christmas week to 1,747,000 tons.

indicating that the sudden slump of the preceding week was due to prolonged holiday observance rather than to any change in the market.

The year 1923 was remarkable for the steadiness with which production of soft coal was maintained during the spring and summer. Consumers purchased heavily for storage throughout the summer, largely because the strike of 1922 had depleted stocks below a comfortable reserve.

Estimated United States Production of Bituminous Coal (Net Tons).

Table with columns: Year, Production (Net Tons), Average Per Working Day. Rows include Christmas week a-1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and New Year's week for 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923.

a Five-day week. b Revised from last report. c Counting New Year's Day in 1920 and 1923 as equivalent to 0.3 of a working day; in 1921 and 1922 to 0.2 of a working day and in 1924 as 0.17 of a working day. d Subject to revision.

ANTHRACITE.

The decrease in anthracite production which always attends the holiday season has been noticeably greater this winter than last. The output for New Year's week, 1924, was 1,419,000 net tons, against 1,725,000 tons last year.

Estimated United States Production of Anthracite (Net Tons).

Table with columns: Year, Production (Net Tons), Average Per Working Day. Rows include Christmas week-1922 and New Year's week-1923, 1924.

BEEHIVE COKE.

The output of beehive coke in the week of Jan. 5 1924 was slightly higher than during Christmas week-234,000 tons, against 223,000. Inasmuch as no coke is loaded on Christmas Day, while loadings on New Year's are much the same as on other days of the week, this apparent increase in total output actually represents a decrease in the daily rate of production.

Estimated Production of Beehive Coke (Net Tons).

Table with columns: Week Ended, Jan. 5 '24, Dec. 29 '23, Jan. 6 1923. Rows include Pennsylvania and Ohio, West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee & Ga, Virginia, Colorado and New Mexico, Washington and Utah, Total United States, Daily average.

a Subject to revision. b Revised from last report. c Counting New Year's Day as a full working day and Christmas as a full holiday.

BY-PRODUCT COKE IN DECEMBER.

The daily rate of output of by-product coke declined slightly during the last month of 1923. While the total output of by-product coke was somewhat greater than in November-2,999,000 tons, against 2,942,000-the output per day decreased from 98,055 tons to 96,740 tons, a decline of 1.3%.

The total production of the beehive ovens in Dec. was 1,063,000 tons, a decrease of 40,000 tons, compared with Nov. The output in Dec., however, was reduced by the Christmas holiday and by the occurrence of five Sundays in one month, and the rate of production per working day underwent no change.

Monthly Output of By-Product and Beehive Coke in the United States (Net Tons)

Table with columns: By-Product, Beehive, Total. Rows include monthly averages from 1917 to 1923, and monthly totals for 1923.

a Excludes screenings and breeze.

In spite of this gradual decline in the output of coke, the ovens continue to require very large quantities of coal. To manufacture the coke produced in December required the charging of 5,986,000 tons of coal, of which 4,309,000 tons were used by the by-product ovens alone.

Estimated Monthly Consumption of Coal for Manufacture of Coke (Net Tons) a

Table with columns: Consumed in By-Product Ovens, Consumed in Beehive Ovens, Total Coal Consumed. Rows include monthly averages from 1917 to 1923, and monthly totals for 1923.

a Assuming a yield of merchantable coke of 69.6% of the coal charged in by-product ovens and 63.4% in beehive ovens.

REVIEW OF THE COKE INDUSTRY IN 1923.

Total Output for the Year.-A new record in the output of by-product coke was established in 1923, and the total production of all coke during the year has been exceeded but twice in the history of the country. The 2,999,000 tons reported by producers for Dec. brought the year's output of by-product coke up to 37,527,000 net tons. This was an increase of 6,693,000 tons over the 1920 output, hitherto the maximum.

The combined production of beehive and by-product coke was about 55,487,000 tons, an amount almost equal to that of 1917 and only 1.8% less than the record set in the war year 1918.

Relative Proportion of Beehive and By-Product Coke.-Production from by-product ovens passed the production of beehive ovens in Nov. 1918, and since that date by-product coke has been continuously in the lead. In 1923, 67.6% of the total was contributed by by-product ovens and 32.4% by beehive ovens. These figures are especially significant when it is remembered that the year was one of heavy consumption and favorable prices, conditions which should call forth maximum activity in the beehive industry under the present ratio of capacity to demand.

Production of Beehive and By-Product Coke in the United States.

Table with columns: Year, Beehive, By-Product, Total, Per Cent of Total Output. Rows include years 1913 to 1923.

Increase in Demand.-The recovery in coke production was associated with great activity in the iron industry, and with a shortage of household fuel. The demand for domestic coke resulting from the anthracite strike of 1922 was felt even by the beehive operators, and in the first quarter of 1923 Connellsville foundry coke was quoted at \$8 25 to \$9 00 a ton.

The month of highest production was May, when the by-product ovens were turning out coke at the rate of 40,000,000 tons a year. In the last five months of 1923 a slowing up of industrial activity was manifest, and the output of coke correspondingly declined.

Increase Over 1922.-In comparison with 1922, both branches of the industry reported a great increase in output. For by-product coke the increase amounted to 8,976,000 tons, or 31%. Production of beehive coke showed a still larger increase because the strike in the Connellsville region had artificially restricted operations the year before.

Production of By-Product and Beehive Coke in 1922 and 1923 (Net Tons).

Table with columns: 1922, 1923, Tons, Inc., Per Cent, Inc. Rows include By-product and Beehive.

a Final figures. b From monthly reports furnished by operators. c Final figures. d Estimated from railroad shipments.

New By-Product Plants and Plants Under Construction.-The only new plant to start operation in 1923 was that of the Weirton Steel Co., with 37 ovens, which began producing in July. On Jan. 1 1924 there were approximately 709 ovens under construction, of which 541 were additions to existing plants and 168 were at 7 small new plants.

Capacity of By-Product Ovens.-At 100% operation with all ovens active and all conditions favorable, the plants in existence at the end of 1923 could produce 44,092,000 tons of coke a year. When the ovens under construction are in operation this total will be increased to 48,350,000 tons of coke. The plants now built have a coal-carbonizing capacity of 100% operations of 63,000,000 tons, and this will be increased by the ovens under construction to a little over 69,000,000 tons.

By-Products Obtained.-Accurate statistics of recovery of by-products from coke-oven operations in 1923 will not be available for some time. The following preliminary estimates are obtained by assuming that the quantity of by-products recovered during 1923 bore the same relation to the known production of coke in 1923 as in 1922:

Table with columns: Product, Quantity. Rows include Tar, Ammonia (sulphate equivalent of all forms), Gas, Crude light oil.

Portland Cement Output in December 1923 and Summary of Output in 1923.

The statistics shown in the following tables issued by the Department of the Interior, and prepared under the direction of Ernest F. Burchard of the Geological Survey, are based mainly on reports of producers of Portland cement but in part on estimates. The estimates for December 1923, it is stated, were made necessary by the lack of returns from two plants. December production, shipments and stocks were well above those of 1922 and the preliminary totals for 1923 show increases of 19.7 and 15.5%, respectively, for production and shipments over the final totals for 1922.

PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF FINISHED PORTLAND CEMENT, BY DISTRICTS, IN DECEMBER 1922 AND 1923, AND STOCKS IN NOVEMBER 1923, IN BARRELS.

Table with columns: Commercial District, Production-December, Shipments-December, Stocks at end of December, Stocks at End of November. Rows include Eastern Pa., N. J. & Md., New York, Ohio, western, Pa. & W. Va, Michigan, Ill., Ind. & Ky., Va., Tenn., Ala. & Ga., Eastern Mo., Ia. & Minn., Western Mo., Neb., Kan., Okla., Texas, Colo. & Utah, California, Ore., Wash. & Montana.

a Revised.

Census Report on Cotton Consumed and on Hand, Also Active Spindles, and Exports and Imports.

Under date of Jan. 15 1924 the Census Board issued its regular preliminary report showing cotton consumed, cotton on hand, active cotton spindles and imports and exports of cotton for the month of December 1922 and 1923 and the five months ending with December. Cotton consumed amounted to 461,560 bales of lint and 40,892 of linters in December 1923, compared with 529,342 bales of lint and 49,143 of linters in December 1922 and 531,631 of lint and 48,069 of linters in November 1923, the Bureau announced. It will be seen that the decrease from December 1922 in the total of lint and linters combined was 76,033 bales, or 13.2%. The statistics of cotton in this report are given in running bales, counting round as half bales, except foreign bales, which are in equivalent 500-lb. bales.

COTTON CONSUMED AND ON HAND IN SPINNING MILLS AND IN OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS, AND ACTIVE COTTON SPINDLES. (Linters Not Included.)

Locality.	Year	Cotton Consumed (Bales) During—		Cotton on Hand Dec. 31 (Bales).		Cotton Spindles Active During November (Number)
		Dec.	Five Months Ending Dec. 31.	In Consuming Establishments x	In Public Storage and at Compresses x	
United States.....	1923	*461,560	*2,510,472	*1,623,453	*3,526,164	34,044,870
United States.....	1922	529,342	2,662,669	1,917,231	4,069,470	34,976,103
Cotton-growing States. 1923	308,506	1,681,500	1,032,046	3,227,466	16,254,183	
Cotton-growing States. 1922	324,412	1,700,017	1,207,232	3,796,269	15,856,102	
All other States..... 1923	153,054	828,972	591,407	298,698	17,790,687	
All other States..... 1922	204,930	962,652	709,999	273,201	19,120,001	

* Includes 17,483 Egyptian, 7,310 other foreign, 2,238 American-Egyptian and 495 sea-island consumed; 45,354 Egyptian, 15,699 other foreign, 11,848 American-Egyptian, and 3,877 sea-island in consuming establishments, and 26,865 Egyptian, 15,688 other foreign, 19,214 American-Egyptian and 3,183 sea-island in public storage. Five months, consumption, 89,403 Egyptian, 35,630 other foreign, 12,530 American-Egyptian, and 2,016 sea-island. x Bales.

Linters not included above were 40,892 bales consumed during December in 1923 and 49,143 bales in 1922; 112,949 bales on hand in consuming establishments on Dec. 31 1923 and 123,215 bales in 1922; and 64,232 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1923 and 38,445 bales in 1922. Linters consumed during five months ending Dec. 31 amounted to 243,674 bales in 1923 and 291,221 bales in 1922.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COTTON AND LINTERS.

Country of Production.	Imports of Foreign Cotton During (500-lb. Bales)—			
	December.		Five Months Ending Dec. 31.	
	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.
Egypt.....	28,391	52,191	48,865	112,844
Peru.....	5,677	2,737	15,129	9,650
China.....	370	2,310	1,112	4,210
Mexico.....	254	11,047	760	33,388
British India.....	904	56	3,799	3,643
All other.....	5	206	143	869
Total.....	35,601	68,547	69,808	164,604

Country to which Exported.	Exports of Domestic Cotton and Linters During (Running Bales)—			
	December.		Five Months Ending Dec. 31.	
	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.
United Kingdom.....	395,885	174,737	1,183,352	890,588
France.....	84,269	89,879	455,269	443,572
Italy.....	71,495	55,787	309,338	272,241
Germany.....	109,514	105,517	575,492	494,923
Other Europe.....	74,931	73,380	372,314	404,397
Japan.....	80,105	74,079	330,888	293,485
All other.....	29,382	34,474	97,298	106,846
Total.....	*845,581	*607,853	*3,323,951	*2,906,052

* Figures include 11,660 bales of linters exported during December in 1923 and 2,445 bales in 1922, and 28,262 bales for the five months ending Dec. 31 in 1923 and 14,199 bales in 1922. The distribution for December 1923 follows: United Kingdom, 1,170; France, 908; Germany, 6,975; Belgium, 770; Netherlands, 275; Italy, 730; Canada, 822; Mexico, 10.

World Statistics.

The world's production of commercial cotton, exclusive of linters, grown in 1922, as compiled from information secured through the domestic and foreign staff of the Department of Commerce, is 17,540,000 bales or 478 pounds lint, while the consumption of cotton (exclusive of linters in the United States) for the year ending July 31 1923 was approximately 20,950,000 bales of 478 pounds lint. The total number of spinning cotton spindles, both active and idle, is about 157,000,000.

Production of Boots and Shoes in November 1923 the Smallest in All Recent Months.

The Department of Commerce in a statement made public Jan. 7 finds that the production of boots and shoes in November 1923, based on reports received from 1,124 manufacturers, representing 1,242 factories, amounted to 26,838,878 pairs, as compared with 30,704,883 pairs produced in October. 27,554,838 pairs in September, 30,028,391 pairs in August and 30,076,128 pairs in November 1922. Comparative figures for the eleven months January to November show from 328,330,546 pairs produced in 1923, as against 296,023,190 pairs produced in the eleven months of 1922. The November production included 8,028,762 pairs of men's shoes (high and low cut, leather), 1,673,918 pairs of boys' shoes, 7,929,265 pairs of women's shoes, 3,134,387 pairs of misses' and

children's shoes, 1,971,654 pairs of infants' shoes, 427,774 pairs of athletic and sporting shoes (leather), 313,744 pairs made of canvas, satin and other fabric, 2,377,685 pairs of slippers for house wear, and 981,689 pairs of all other leather or part-leather footwear.

PRODUCTION OF BOOTS AND SHOES FOR NOVEMBER, OCTOBER, SEPTEMBER 1923, NOVEMBER 1922 AND COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1923 AND 1922.

Kind.	Number of Pairs.		
	November 1923.	October 1923. a	September 1923.
Boots and shoes, total.....	26,838,878	30,704,883	27,554,838
High and low cut (leather), total.....	22,737,986	25,954,023	23,439,720
Men's.....	8,028,762	8,896,372	7,908,527
Boys' and youths'.....	1,673,918	1,968,927	1,805,334
Women's.....	7,929,265	9,616,945	8,847,898
Misses' and children's.....	3,134,387	3,211,777	2,842,569
Infants'.....	1,971,654	2,260,002	2,035,392
Athletic and sporting (leather).....	427,774	360,336	366,981
Canvas, satin and other fabrics b.....	313,744	534,082	453,445
Slippers for house wear.....	2,377,685	2,887,059	2,469,028
All other leather or part-leather footwear.....	981,689	969,383	825,664

Kind.	Number of Pairs.		
	November 1922.	Jan.-Nov. 1923.	Jan.-Nov. 1922.
Boots and shoes, total.....	30,076,128	328,330,546	296,023,190
High and low cut (leather), total.....	25,349,862	279,848,132	256,464,452
Men's.....	8,700,335	93,474,989	81,748,975
Boys' and youths'.....	1,986,075	20,870,659	19,893,419
Women's.....	8,937,732	102,767,419	96,988,467
Misses' and children's.....	3,440,536	37,465,549	36,145,883
Infants'.....	2,285,184	25,269,525	21,687,708
Athletic and sporting (leather).....	875,531	6,115,584	7,712,377
Canvas, satin and other fabrics b.....	742,699	7,896,371	6,093,708
Slippers for house wear.....	c	c	c
All other leather or part-leather footwear.....	3,108,036	34,470,459	25,752,653

a Figures revised to include data received after publication of October report.
b Excludes rubber-soled footwear.
c Included in "all other leather or part-leather footwear."

Production, Orders and Stocks of Hosiery for November 1923.

The Department of Commerce on Jan. 11 made public the following statistics on hosiery production, orders and stocks, received from 305 establishments representing 392 mills, for the month of November 1923, with a comparative summary for 298 identical establishments representing 382 mills in October and 381 mills in November. The 305 establishments included in this statement represent 68.4% of the total value of hosiery reported at the census of manufactures, 1921.

Kind.	Quantity (Dozen Pairs).			
	November 1923.	October 1923.	November 1922.	October 1922.
Men's.				
Full Fashioned.....	80,163	1,759,812	567,206	1,079,810
Seamless.....	17,278	17,278	11,098	23,379
Total (All Classes).....	97,441	1,777,090	578,304	1,103,189
Women's.				
Full Fashioned.....	8,618	126,375	8,226	13,960
Seamless.....	37,501	37,501	200,005	200,005
Total (All Classes).....	46,119	163,876	208,231	213,965
Children's & Infants' (All Styles).....	19,183	1,301	7,959	14,508
Boys' & Misses' (All Styles).....	39,970	13,634	420,029	22,432
Athletic & Sport (All Styles).....	4,405	4,405	12,789	4,300
Total (All Classes).....	229,773	2,045,671	1,097,774	1,564,839

* Included in "All other" to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations.

The following is a comparative summary of hosiery production, orders and stocks for October and November 1923, for 298 identical establishments representing 382 mills in October and 381 mills in November. The figures for October have been revised to include data received after publication of October report.

Product Manufactured During Month. (All Classes.)	Total.		Men's.		Women's.		Boys' and Girls' and Children's.		Athletic and Sport.	
	October.	November.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.
All cotton, including mercerized.	2,451,354	2,448,434	7,417	7,280	1,080,664	1,052,439	60,663	60,663	47,176	466,505
All wool (woolen and worsted).	91,906	73,595	(*)	(*)	34,816	25,905	1,847	1,847	1,417	20,815
Natural silk (including those with lisle or cotton tops, heels and toes):	955,010	974,646	68,808	68,764	205,625	225,094	476,209	478,977	195,329	193,852
Knitted.	3,120	1,694	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cut (Glove silk, &c.).	359,451	359,020	---	---	102,126	119,245	---	---	---	---
Artificial silk (including those with lisle or cotton tops, heels and toes).	244,590	232,898	(*)	(*)	191,657	176,117	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,795
Merino (including wool and cotton mixtures).	88,435	58,558	(*)	(*)	36,353	17,278	9,755	11,088	32,501	23,079
Silk mixtures.	219,561	220,072	(*)	(*)	58,811	66,071	9,060	8,618	140,340	126,200
Silk and wool.	83,820	75,147	(*)	(*)	41,438	37,501	7,714	8,256	18,865	13,960
Silk and other fibers (cotton, mercerized, &c.).	4,497,247	4,444,064	77,985	80,163	1,751,490	1,719,650	558,368	557,206	1,094,953	1,078,959
Total.	4,317,378	3,815,779	73,053	72,551	1,723,361	1,568,178	565,488	469,588	1,113,215	892,298
Shipments during month.	6,772,335	7,506,257	49,013	50,399	2,030,039	2,198,074	692,884	776,611	2,084,304	2,293,853
Finished product on hand, end of month.	4,533,206	4,432,347	110,778	51,981	1,701,241	1,899,234	521,573	661,270	1,159,427	876,526
Orders booked during month.	191,720	277,877	1,095	1,530	73,794	95,990	21,928	25,340	54,237	75,420
Cancellations received during month.	8,729,817	9,727,240	133,487	139,639	6,242,170	5,723,261	761,509	944,096	2,053,508	2,118,878
Unfilled orders on hand, end of month.										

(*) Included in "All other" to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations.

was issued. These returns include only mills which are now manufacturing at the rate of 5,000 or more barrels of flour annually. For November 931 companies reported 1,052 mills and these mills produced approximately 85% of the total wheat flour reported at the biennial census of manufactures, 1921. The 1,069 mills reporting for October produced 85.1% of the flour reported in 1921.

The wheat ground averaged 278.2 pounds per barrel of flour in November, 277.6 pounds in October, 276.4 pounds in September, 274.9 pounds in August, 275.8 pounds in July, 275.6 pounds in June and 274.6 pounds in May. The offal reported amounted to 18 pounds per bushel of wheat in November, 17.9 pounds in October, 17.7 pounds in September, July and June, and 17.5 pounds in August and May.

WHEAT GROUND AND WHEAT-MILLING PRODUCTS, BY MONTHS.

Month.	Mills Reporting (No.).	Wheat Ground (Bushels).	Production.		Daily (24-Hr.) Capacity in Wheat Flour (Barrels).	Per Cent of Total Capacity Operated.
			Wheat Flour (Barrels).	Wheat Grain Offal* (Pounds).		
May	1,081	36,210,276	7,911,852	635,329,571	683,649	44.5
June	1,080	30,942,592	6,735,493	549,483,608	661,396	39.2
July	1,054	35,871,115	7,805,106	633,324,409	650,248	48.0
August	1,068	44,178,688	9,641,745	772,774,477	653,047	54.7
September	1,069	44,969,038	9,759,968	796,325,380	655,362	62.1
October	1,069	50,810,445	10,982,508	908,310,889	655,756	62.0
November	1,052	42,657,237	9,201,052	766,260,316	654,048	58.6

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR 1,002 IDENTICAL MILLS WHICH REPORTED EACH MONTH.*

Month.	Wheat Ground (Bushels).	Production.		Average Pounds of Wheat per Bushel of Flour.	Average Pounds of Offal per Bushel of Wheat.	Daily (24-Hr.) Capacity in Wheat Flour (Bbls.).	P. C. of Total Capacity Operated.
		Wheat Flour (Barrels).	Wheat Grain Offal (Pounds).				
July	35,728,127	7,774,500	630,514,390	275.7	17.6	644,616	48.2
August	43,809,467	9,555,983	766,439,997	275.1	17.5	644,726	54.9
September	44,328,082	9,621,364	785,596,428	276.4	17.7	644,371	62.2
October	49,964,372	10,800,892	893,132,153	277.6	17.9	643,696	62.1

*These mills produced approximately 84% of the total wheat flour reported in 1921

Attorney-General Daugherty's Ruling on Trade Statistics—Distribution Through Medium of Department of Commerce Sanctioned, but Trade Associations Barred From Circulating Information Among Members.

In answer to a request for a ruling on the question of the right of trade associations to gather and distribute information and statistics, United States Attorney-General Daugherty, in a letter to Secretary of Commerce Hoover presents his conclusions as follows:

... have no doubt it is important that those engaged in an industry should have general information which should be distributed strictly through a reasonable medium like your Department, and I see no objection to its being gathered by an association provided it be strictly guarded and the association be prohibited from distributing it among its membership.

... This is but a statement of the position I feel compelled to take as Attorney-General of the United States in enforcing the Anti-Trust Act.

The request for an opinion by the Attorney-General came from Secretary Hoover under date of Dec. 11, and both the latter's letter and the answer thereto by Attorney-General Daugherty, dated Dec. 19, were made public Jan. 9. Commenting on the conclusions of the Attorney-General the New York "Journal of Commerce," in advices from its Washington bureau Jan. 9, said:

Issuance of trade statistics by the Commerce Department appears to have been struck a death blow by Attorney-General Daugherty. The views of the Attorney-General on the question of the legality of the issuance of reports of production, stocks and prices by the Commerce Department were made public to-day by Secretary Hoover.

While Mr. Daugherty held that it was perfectly legal for the Commerce Department to issue such figures, he held that it would be flatly against the law for the trade associations who collect and compile the figures for the Department to make any other use of this data than to turn it over to the Government. According to Mr. Hoover, little co-operation may be expected from the associations if they are forced to go the expense of gathering trade information when the only lawful use which can be made of the figures is to turn them over to the Government.

Future Course Undecided.

The future course of the Department with respect to its trade figures is still undetermined. Mr. Hoover, it was said at the Department, had not yet given Mr. Daugherty's letter sufficient study to decide the exact effect of that ruling. It is probable that an effort will be made to obtain the co-operation of the trade organizations for the continuance of the Government's reports, but falling in that it would seem that the only alternative to putting an end to their issuance would be for Congress to appropriate funds for the collection of the data.

The following is Secretary Hoover's letter to the Attorney-General:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
Office of the Secretary.

Washington, Dec. 11 1923.

The Honorable the Attorney-General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Attorney-General—The question of the right of trade associations to gather and distribute information and statistics is becoming more and more acute. My own impression is that the collection and distribution of

Cigar Tobacco Production Increases.

The production of cigar types of tobacco last year was 195,788,000 pounds, as compared with 175,001,000 pounds in 1922, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Production of cigar tobacco increased in all tobacco-growing States except Ohio, where the crop decreased around 750,000 pounds.

The crop of all types for snuff and chewing, cigarette and pipe tobacco totaled 1,278,998,000 pounds in 1923, as compared with 1,071,836,000 pounds in 1922. The burley crop alone jumped from 275,601,000 pounds in 1922 to 326,116,000 pounds in 1923.

The Old Belt type of tobacco crop in North Carolina and Virginia was 249,500,000 pounds in 1923, as compared with 209,708,000 pounds in 1922, and the New Belt crop of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia was 306,647,000 pounds, compared with 199,060,000 pounds.

Decreased production is shown for a few types, but the decreases are more than offset by the increases in other kinds.

Wheat Ground and Wheat-Milling Products in November 1923.

The Department of Commerce on Jan. 14 announced statistics on wheat ground and wheat-milling products by months. The figures for October are revised to include reports received since the preliminary bulletin for that month

current unidentified information and statistics as to production, stocks on hand and prices on closed transactions should be permissible providing that it is all made available on fair terms, not only to the association members but to all others interested, including the general public.

Such knowledge is essential to the consumer, producer, manufacturer and distributor, as it places them all in a position to interpret and judge market conditions intelligently on the basis of supply, demand and current prices, and to gauge their purchases and sales accordingly. This unquestionably would be of tremendous aid in the economical conduct of business and redound to the public good.

If business be compelled to operate without such vital information it will naturally be forced into unscientific and highly speculative avenues.

Competition based on fair and equal information of existing conditions would more likely result in lower prices to the consumer than competition based on uncertainty, in which each dealer must add something to his price to cover unforeseen eventualities.

Some time ago I realized that the carrying out of the purposes of this department as set forth in the Organic Act, "To foster, promote and develop a foreign and domestic commerce, the mining, manufacturing, shipping and fishing industries, and the transportation facilities of the United States," required that the character of information described in the first paragraph hereof should be available, and that the gathering of such from the individual units of industry would involve such a gigantic physical task that this department with its facilities could not undertake such action with the faintest hope of attaining the ends desired. I therefore have in the past utilized to a very considerable extent the trade association as a medium for securing such information and have received splendid co-operation from them as a whole.

Seeking to clarify the situation regarding legitimate trade association activities, I set forth my views in several letters to you in February, 1922, and requested your informal opinion as to the legality of many association functions, including the collection and distribution of the character of information herein referred to. Predicated principally upon your informal views in reply thereto, this Department formulated a plan of co-operation with trade associations (copy of which is attached hereto) under which the association's secretary collects and compiles unidentified current information and distributes it to the members, simultaneously sending identical reports to Governmental agencies, competitors of the association's members, and to any other person who arranges for them. Under this plan no supplemental or separate reports are transmitted to the members only. This Department receives all such reports for wide dissemination by publication.

My attention has been directed to a decree entered Nov. 26 1923 in the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of Ohio, in the case of United States vs. The Manufacturers' Credit Association, et al, paragraph 2 of page 4 of which is as follows:

"Provided, however, that the defendants are not restrained or enjoined from maintaining an association, either voluntary or incorporated, for the following objects and purposes and none other."

after which various permissible activities are set forth. Paragraph 2 of page 3 is as follows:

"Provided, however, that the defendants may, through the association or corporation hereinafter provided for, receive and compile for transmission to any Governmental agency such information and statistics as it may request as to the production, shipments, the stocks on hand and the prices of tiles, but are restrained from distributing said information among themselves, except that information respecting sales may be collected annually and used to enable the assessment of the several members for their proportionate parts of the several expenses of the association, and for no other purpose."

I interpret the last quoted paragraph to mean that it would be unlawful for the proposed association on behalf of its members to transmit information and statistics of the character therein described to its members, but that it could receive and compile if for the purpose only of transmitting it to a Governmental agency that might so request.

It is my understanding that this decree is only binding between the parties thereto; however, in view of informal conversation between representatives of your Department and this Department on the subject of trade association activities, I am inclined to be of the opinion that the last mentioned paragraph embodies an expression of the present policy of your Department relative to the collection, compilation and distribution of information and statistics of the character therein set out applicable to trade associations in general.

It is not the desire or purpose of this Department to continue operations under the co-operative plan if it is in conflict with the policy of your Department; it is our desire, however, to call your attention to the situation that in my opinion will develop, if my interpretation of this decree correctly expresses the policy of your Department. I think there is great likelihood that not only the associations from which this Department now receives valuable statistics, but a great many others, will discontinue the collection of information and statistics as to production, shipments, stocks on hand, and the prices on closed transactions. They will not go to the expense of collection if the only use that can be lawfully made of them is to transmit them to some Governmental department. If this should happen, I fear that the efficiency of this Department in carrying out the purposes set forth in the Act creating it would be very greatly impaired.

I respectfully request that you informally advise me, in view of the foregoing, whether or not this Department should discontinue its present plan of co-operation with trade associations.

Yours faithfully,
HERBERT HOOVER,
Secretary of Commerce.

The conclusions of Attorney-General Daugherty were submitted as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.

December 19 1923.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your communication of the 11th inst. relating to exchange of statistics through trade associations was received, and has been given careful consideration; and in reply thereto I beg to say:

Referring to the correspondence which passed between your Department and this Department in February 1922, I call your attention to the following paragraphs in the initial communication, transmitted by you to this Department on Feb. 3, which contain the sole reference in that letter to the gathering of statistics by trade associations and their dissemination:

"(10) A. May a trade association collect statistics from each member showing his volume of production, his capacity to produce, the wages paid, the consumption of his product in domestic or foreign trade, and his distribution thereof, specifying the volume of distribution by districts, together with his stock, wholesale or retail?"

"B. And may such trade association, on receipt of the individual reports of each member, compile the information in each report into a consolidated statement which shows the total volume of production of the membership, its capacity to produce by districts of production, which, in some instances, include a state or less area, the wages by districts of production, the con-

sumption in foreign or domestic trade by districts, the volume of distribution by districts, and the stocks on hand, wholesale and retail, by districts?"

"C. And, if, after compiling the information as aforesaid, the information received from the members as well as the combined information is not given by the association to any other person, may it then file the combined statement with the Secretary of Commerce for distribution by him to the members of the association through the public press or otherwise and to the public generally and to all persons who may be in any way interested in the product of the industry, it being understood that the individual reports for the members should cover either weekly, monthly, quarterly, or longer periods as may be deemed desirable by the members, and, when a period is adopted, the report for each member shall cover that period, and the combined report shall be for that period?"

"(11) A. May a trade association, at the time it collects the production and distribution statistics above outlined, at the same time have their members report the prices they have received for the products they have sold during the period taken, specifying the volume of each grade, brand, size, style, or quality, as the case may be, and the price received for the volume so sold in each of the respective districts where the product is sold?"

"B. And may the association, without making known to any person the individual price reports of any member, consolidate all of the reports into one, and show the average price received for the total volume of each grade, brand, size, style, or quality, as the case may be, distributed in each district covered by the distribution statistics for the period covered by each individual report?"

"C. And may the association, after making such compilation, send the compiled report as to average price, as aforesaid, to the Secretary of Commerce, to be by him distributed to the public and to any or all persons who may be interested in the particular industry making the reports?"

This particular subject had been carefully considered by representatives from both departments before the foregoing was incorporated in the communication; and my views as to how far trade associations should be used in collecting and distributing statistical information are there set forth.

The paragraph to which you refer in the decree entered in United States vs. The Manufacturers' Credit Association reads as follows:

"Provided, however, that the defendants may, through the association, or corporation hereinafter provided for receive and compile for transmission to any governmental agency such information and statistics as it may request as to the production, shipments, the stocks on hand and the prices of tiles, but are restrained from distributing said information among themselves, except that information respecting sales may be collected annually and used to enable the assessment of the several members for their proportionate parts of the several expenses of the association, and for no other purpose."

You will observe that this proviso in the decree complies strictly with the paragraphs above quoted from your letter of Feb. 3 1922.

Two objects were had in mind during the conferences which precede the above-mentioned correspondence, both of which it was thought were secured by the limitations embraced in the above-quoted paragraphs of your letter: First, that the information distributed should be general; and, second, that individual contact between those engaged in the same industry with reference to matters which vitally affect prices should be avoided. If the character of the information and the manner of its dissemination be restricted as specified in your letter, one member would not be informed as to the individual activities of another member, and those engaged in the industry would be prevented from revealing their business to their competitors. Under the system now practiced by many of the associations each member reports its production, shipments, stocks on hand, and each individual sale, stating the price at which it is made, and, generally, the locality where made; and this information is distributed by the secretary or manager of the association among all the members, though in some associations the names of the members making the sales are omitted. Thus each member reveals the details of his entire business to every other member which, as suggested by the Supreme Court in the *Hardwood* case, is entirely inconsistent with the normal attitude of real competitors.

In my judgment the effect of general information as to the conditions of an industry, such as the total production, shipments, stocks on hand and the average price, or range of price, is entirely different from that resulting from each person engaged in an industry receiving directly, or through a common medium, reports which reveal to him the exact condition of the business of all of his competitors. When thus informed each one is invited, and is naturally inclined, to imitate the conduct of his most successful competitor; and the spirit of comradeship created by the confidential exchange of information of this character necessarily prevents the free competition between them which would otherwise prevail.

Those who organize and conduct these associations appear to entertain the idea that if the information imparted relates only to past and closed transactions there can be no violation of the Anti-Trust Act. In my judgment such an idea is wholly fallacious. One's future conduct is to be judged by what he has done and is then doing, and not so much by what he says he will do. It is one's actual conduct that is taken as an example for imitation. It has developed in the trial of cases involving associations that the members first agreed upon prices; but such a plan did not work because the members could not be relied upon to keep the agreement; and the system of exchanging statistics was adopted because it was found to be the only effective way to procure co-operation as to prices and production; and such co-operation could be thus procured even in the absence of any positive agreement.

Again, the idea seems to be prevalent that no exchange of information between the members, regardless of its extent or character, can be unlawful if at the same time publicity be given thereto through the press or some governmental agency. In my judgment this idea is likewise fallacious. The illegality as well as the evil results arise from the co-operation among the members pursuant to a positive or tacit understanding; and this co-operation is not affected by publicity. Those who purchase the commodity, though fully informed as to the activities of the association, can protect themselves only by an organization and co-operation of like character, which, if it were lawful, is an impossibility upon the part of the public.

I have no doubt that it is important that those engaged in an industry have general information as to the conditions of that industry, but I think that information should be distributed strictly through a responsible medium, like your Department; and I see no objection to its being gathered by an association provided it be strictly guarded and the association be prohibited from distributing it among its membership. This is the same view that I entertained when the communications were exchanged in February 1922; and it has since been strongly confirmed by decisions of the Supreme Court, and by investigations of a number of associations and the trial of cases involving associations.

This is but a statement of the position I feel impelled to take as Attorney-General of the United States in enforcing the Anti-Trust Act. But, of course, as to what activities and how far you will co-operate with trade associations are matters for your determination in conducting your Department.

Yours sincerely,

H. M. DAUGHERTY, Attorney-General.

Honorable Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Referring to the concern felt by oil companies as a result of the Attorney-General's ruling, a dispatch to the New York "Journal of Commerce" from Tulsa Jan. 14 said:

The directors of the Western Petroleum Refiners Association are perturbed over Attorney-General Daugherty's ruling that statistics cannot be assembled and compiled by an association.

The Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association is also upset over a proposal now before the Oklahoma Legislature to impose a three-cent tax on the sale of gasoline.

The refined petroleum market is still somewhat excited over last week's crude oil and tank wagon changes, by the advances in gasoline prices in

Nebraska and elsewhere, and by the impending changes in the Magnolia territory on Tuesday morning by Pierce & Pierce, who are reported ready to advance the State tank wagon price 2 cents, making a 17-cent wagon and 20 cents for service.

Mid-Continent purchasers of crude were offering Prairie prices for Powell-Mexia crude, or 5 cents over Humble's price, so that Humble to-day puts its price up to \$1 40 a barrel.

New Navy gasoline was quoted to-day at 11¼ to 11½ cents.

Current Events and Discussions

The Week with the Federal Reserve Banks.

Further decreases in holdings of total earning assets, amounting to \$82,900,000, together with a reduction of \$62,700,000 in Federal Reserve note circulation and an increase of \$31,900,000 in cash reserves are shown in the Federal Reserve Board's weekly consolidated statement of condition of the Federal Reserve banks at close of business January 16, 1924, and which deals with the results for the twelve Federal Reserve banks combined. The reserve ratio rose from 78.4 to 80.1%. After noting these facts the Federal Reserve Board proceeds as follows:

Discounted bills on hand declined \$72,700,000, all Federal Reserve banks, except Dallas, reporting smaller holdings than a week ago. Cleveland shows a decrease of \$15,600,000, and New York and Kansas City decreases of \$14,100,000 and \$9,000,000, respectively. Paper secured by United States Government obligations decreased by \$46,600,000, to an aggregate of \$259,800,000. Of this amount \$153,200,000 was secured by Liberty and other United States bonds, \$97,600,000 by Treasury notes, and \$9,000,000 by certificates of indebtedness.

Holdings of bills bought in the open market fell off \$26,400,000, New York and Dallas showing decreases of \$9,900,000 and \$5,900,000, respectively. United States Government securities on hand increased \$16,300,000 all Federal Reserve banks except Minneapolis reporting larger holdings than a week ago.

All Federal Reserve banks report reductions in Federal Reserve note circulation, the largest declines being as follows: Chicago, \$10,900,000. Cleveland, \$10,900,000; New York, \$10,100,000; and Boston, \$7,100,000.

Gold reserves increased by \$25,600,000 during the week. Reserves other than gold increased by \$6,300,000 and non-reserve cash by \$1,200,000.

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 289 and 290. A summary of changes in the principal assets and liabilities of the Reserve banks during the week and the year ending Jan. 16 1924 follows:

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) During	
	Week.	Year.
Total reserves.....	+\$31,900,000	+\$56,300,000
Gold reserves.....	+25,600,000	+79,600,000
Total earning assets.....	-\$82,900,000	-183,600,000
Bills discounted, total.....	-72,700,000	+20,800,000
Secured by U. S. Government obligations.....	-46,600,000	-24,300,000
Other bills discounted.....	-26,100,000	+45,100,000
Bills bought in open market.....	-26,400,000	+91,400,000
U. S. Government securities, total.....	+16,300,000	-295,800,000
Bonds.....	+100,000	-8,000,000
Treasury notes.....	+10,000,000	-56,700,000
Certificates of indebtedness.....	+6,200,000	-231,100,000
Federal Reserve notes in circulation.....	-62,700,000	-172,200,000
Total deposits.....	+14,900,000	+30,200,000
Members' reserve deposits.....	-4,700,000	+17,800,000
Government deposits.....	+19,100,000	+30,100,000
Other deposits.....	+500,000	-17,700,000

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

Aggregate reductions of \$184,000,000 in loans and investments, of \$153,000,000 in demand deposits (net), of and \$185,000,000 in accommodation at the Federal Reserve banks are shown in the Federal Reserve Board's weekly consolidated statement of condition on Jan. 9 of 763 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. All classes of loans show decreases; loans secured by U. S. Government obligations by \$11,000,000, loans secured by corporate stocks and bonds by \$109,000,000, and all other, largely commercial loans and discounts by \$16,000,000. Investments of all reporting banks show a reduction of \$48,000,000 of which \$11,000,000 are in holdings of U. S. Government securities and \$37,000,000 in other bonds, stocks and securities.

Loans and discounts of member banks in New York City show a reduction of \$75,000,000, declines of \$9,000,000 in loans on U. S. Government securities and of \$80,000,000 in loans on corporate stocks and bonds being offset in part by an increase of \$14,000,000 in all other, largely commercial, loans and discounts. Investments of these banks in Liberty bonds increased by \$8,000,000, while their holdings of Treasury notes and certificates of indebtedness declined by \$5,000,000, and their holdings of other bonds, stocks and

securities by \$7,000,000. Further comment regarding the changes shown by these member banks is as follows:

Demand deposits (net) show declines in most of the Federal Reserve districts. The New York district shows a decrease of \$95,000,000, the Chicago district a decrease of \$31,000,000 and the Boston and Cleveland districts decreases of \$16,000,000 and \$14,000,000, respectively. Increases of \$9,000,000 each are shown for the St. Louis and San Francisco districts. Time deposits of all reporting banks show an increase of \$2,000,000 and Government deposits a decrease of \$9,000,000. For the New York City banks reductions of \$7,000,000 in time deposits and of \$2,000,000 in Government deposits are reported.

Reserve balances of all reporting members show a reduction of \$25,000,000 and cash in vault a reduction of \$12,000,000. For the New York City banks a decline of \$48,000,000 in reserve balances is shown, while their cash in vault shows practically no change.

Borrowings of all reporting institutions from the Federal Reserve banks show a decline from \$533,000,000 to \$348,000,000, or from 3.2 to 2.1% of their total loans and investments. For the New York City members a reduction from \$150,000,000 to \$70,000,000, or from 2.8 to 1.3% of their loans and investments is shown.

On a subsequent page—that is, on page 290—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 as compared with a week and a year ago:

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) During	
	Week.	Year.
Loans and discounts—total.....	-\$136,000,000	+\$433,000,000
Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations.....	-11,000,000	-76,000,000
Secured by stocks and bonds.....	-109,000,000	+134,000,000
All other.....	-16,000,000	+375,000,000
Investments, total.....	-48,000,000	-181,000,000
U. S. bonds.....	+1,000,000	-134,000,000
U. S. Treasury notes.....	-10,000,000	+26,000,000
U. S. Certificates of indebtedness.....	-2,000,000	-83,000,000
Other bonds, stocks and securities.....	-37,000,000	+10,000,000
Reserve balances with F. R. banks.....	-25,000,000	-43,000,000
Cash in vault.....	-12,000,000	-7,000,000
Net demand deposits.....	-153,000,000	-310,000,000
Time deposits.....	+2,000,000	+390,000,000
Government deposits.....	-9,000,000	-32,000,000
Total accommodation at F. R. banks.....	-185,000,000	+60,000,000

Expiration of Time for Deposit of Mexican Bonds under Debt Readjustment Plan—Remittances from Mexico.

With the expiration on Jan. 15 of the time for the deposit of Mexican bonds under the terms of the Mexican debt funding agreement, announcement was made on that date that bonds thereafter presented would be subject to a charge of ½ of 1%. The following is the notice issued in behalf of the American Section of the International Committee of Bankers on Mexico, of which section Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., is Chairman:

To the holders of bonds, notes and other securities included in the plan and agreement of June 16 1922, and the deposit agreement dated July 1 1922, referred to in the committee's notice dated July 9 1923:

Referring to the committee's announcement of Dec. 31 1923, deposits of bonds under the plan for the readjustment of the Mexican debt will be accepted after Jan. 15 1924 only upon payment of an additional charge of one-half of one per cent (½%) of the principal amount of the bonds presented for deposit.

Such additional charge will be payable in the currency of greatest value expressed in such bonds, but will be collected in the currency of the country in which the bonds are deposited at the current exchange rates.

The committee reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to impose additional terms and conditions or to decline at any time to accept further deposits of bonds.

On Jan. 14 an Associated Press dispatch from Mexico City said:

The Secretary of Finance has sent to New York scrip covering the difference between \$16,000,000, delivered as first payment under the Lamont-de la Huerta agreement, and the \$23,125,000 which should be the amount delivered yearly to the international bankers in payment of Mexico's indebtedness.

According to the agreement the Mexican Government should increase the payment 5,000,000 pesos each year until the \$23,000,000 has been reached, the balance meanwhile being paid in scrip, until 1928, when the payments on the foreign debts will become normalized. The Mexican Government then will issue 3% gold bonds for the amount held in scrip by the international banks.

In its issue of Jan. 15 the New York "Tribune" stated: The Mexican Government has already remitted to the committee interest amounting to \$15,000,000, payable at once on coupons falling due in 1923 on the scale of payments as prepared by the committee. Actual payment to holders of certificates of deposit is dependent only upon the speed with which certificates and scrip can be delivered by the printers and upon the

time needed to complete the necessary bookkeeping. It was presumed that bondholders would receive their first actual interest payments upon their Mexican securities since 1914 in about six weeks.

Coupons falling due in 1924 will be paid as they mature, it was expected, according to the sums agreed upon in the scaling down of the debt. The \$15,000,000 to be paid right away represents only the current interest agreed upon to be paid during the last year. Interest in default is to be paid in scrip. This sum up to Jan. 1 1923 amounts to \$212,000,000. The total principal amount of the bonds outstanding included in the agreement is \$517,000,000.

References to the recent notices regarding the deposit of bonds appeared in our issues of Dec. 8, page 2486, and Jan 5, page 31.

Stock of Money in the Country.

The Treasury Department at Washington has issued its customary monthly statement showing the stock of money in the country and the amount in circulation after deducting the moneys held in the United States Treasury and by Federal Reserve banks and agents. The figures this time are for Jan. 1. They show that the money in circulation at that date (including, of course, what is held in bank vaults) was \$4,951,085,383, as against \$4,732,898,991 at the corresponding date of the previous year, but comparing with \$5,628,427,732 on Nov. 1 1920. Just before the outbreak of the European war, that is, on July 1 1914, the total was only \$3,402,115,427. The following is the statement:

KIND OF MONEY.	MONEY HELD IN THE TREASURY.			MONEY OUTSIDE OF THE TREASURY.			Population of United States (Estimated).
	Stock of Money, a	Total.	Am't. Held in Reserve Against Gold and Silver Certificates (and Treasury Notes of 1890).	Held for Federal Reserve Banks and Agents.	All Other Money.	Total.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Per Capita.
Gold coin and bullion.....	64,247,200,861	3,563,932,238	976,605,729	2,219,982,005	204,365,478	693,268,023	3.71
Gold certificates.....	c(976,605,729)	421,484,478	411,169,091	2,219,982,005	304,365,478	976,605,729	5.20
Stan. silver coin.....	498,382,769	421,484,478	411,169,091	2,219,982,005	10,315,387	70,898,291	.53
Silver certificates.....	c(409,726,165)	421,484,478	411,169,091	2,219,982,005	10,315,387	409,726,165	3.35
Treasury notes of 1890.....	c(1,442,926)	7,169,115	7,169,115	2,219,982,005	7,169,115	1,442,926	.01
Subsid'y silver.....	276,887,941	7,169,115	7,169,115	2,219,982,005	7,169,115	260,626,464	2.33
U. S. notes.....	346,681,016	3,510,856	3,510,856	2,219,982,005	3,510,856	96,347,526	2.74
F. R. notes.....	2,822,326,020	1,092,164	1,092,164	2,219,982,005	1,092,164	597,560,064	19.56
F. R. bank notes.....	14,420,170	331,230	331,230	2,219,982,005	331,230	478,189	.12
Nat. bank notes.....	771,566,979	17,543,198	17,543,198	2,219,982,005	17,543,198	713,490,252	6.37
Total Jan. 1 '24.....	8,977,466,356	64,005,063,279	1,387,774,820	2,219,982,005	2,244,327,428	6,360,177,897	44.22
Comparative totals:							
Dec. 1 1923.....	8,836,908,196	63,969,115,918	1,321,725,690	2,273,933,942	220,477,260	6,189,517,968	44.01
Jan. 1 1923.....	8,614,433,237	63,696,096,962	1,053,901,905	2,235,460,675	253,755,356	5,972,238,240	42.81
Nov. 1 1920.....	8,326,338,267	62,406,801,772	696,854,226	1,206,341,990	350,626,530	6,616,390,721	52.36
April 1 1917.....	5,312,109,272	62,942,998,527	2,684,800,085	152,979,026	105,219,416	5,053,910,830	39.54
July 1 1914.....	3,738,288,871	61,843,432,323	1,507,178,879	100,000,000	186,273,444	3,402,015,427	34.85
Jan. 1 1919.....	1,007,084,483	421,242,402	21,602,640	150,000,000	90,817,762	816,266,721	16.92

a Includes United States paper currency in circulation in foreign countries and the amount held by the Cuban agencies of the Federal Reserve banks.
 b Does not include gold bullion or foreign coin outside of vaults of the Treasury, Federal Reserve banks, and Federal Reserve agents.
 c These amounts are not included in the total, since the money held in trust against gold and silver certificates and Treasury notes of 1890 is included under gold coin and bullion and standard silver dollars, respectively.
 d The amount of money held in trust against gold and silver certificates and Treasury notes of 1890 should be deducted from this total before combining it with total money outside of the Treasury to arrive at the stock of money in the United States.
 e This total includes \$18,733,390 of notes in process of redemption, \$186,446,905 of gold deposited for redemption of Federal Reserve notes, \$14,359,261 deposited for redemption of national bank notes, \$13,440 deposited for retirement of addi-

tional circulation (Act of May 30 1908) and \$6,601,936 deposited as a reserve against postal savings deposits.

f Includes money held by the Cuban agencies of the Federal Reserve banks of Boston and Atlanta.

Note.—Gold certificates are secured dollar for dollar by gold held in the Treasury for their redemption; silver certificates are secured dollar for dollar by standard silver dollars held in the Treasury for their redemption; United States notes are secured by a gold reserve of \$152,979,025 63 held in the Treasury. This reserve fund may also be used for the redemption of Treasury notes of 1890, which are also secured dollar for dollar by standard silver dollars held in the Treasury. Federal Reserve notes are obligations of the United States and a first lien on all the assets of the issuing Federal Reserve bank. Federal Reserve notes are secured by the deposit with Federal Reserve agents of a like amount of gold or of gold and such discounted or purchased paper as is eligible under the terms of the Federal Reserve Act. Federal Reserve banks must maintain a gold reserve of at least 40%, including the gold redemption fund which must be deposited with the United States Treasurer against Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation. Federal Reserve bank notes and national bank notes are secured by United States Government obligations, and a 5% fund for their redemption is required to be maintained with the Treasurer of the United States in gold or lawful money.

Suspension of Rome (Italy) Bank With Eighty-seven Branches.

A press cablegram from Rome (Italy) Jan. 16 said: The Banca Italiana Di Credito e Valori closed its doors to-day. The institution had deposits of 75,000,000 lire.

The bank had eighty-seven branches, scattered throughout Piedmont, Lombardi, Umbria and Lazio. It started in 1919 with a capital of 3,000,000 lire and, with two prosperous years, its capital rose to 17,000,000 lire. The bank suffered heavily when the Discount Bank failed in Dec. 1921, but its directors came to its aid and bolstered it through the crisis.

The depositors of the bank are mostly small business owners, numbering about 20,000. The directors of the institution this afternoon applied to the courts for the appointment of a commission to liquidate its affairs.

We also quote the following "Inter-Ocean Press" cablegram from Rome Jan. 16, reported in the New York "Journal of Commerce":

The Rome Credit & Securities Bank (Banca di Credito e Valori), established in 1919 with a capital of 5,000,000 lire, closed its doors to-day and asked for a receivership. The disaster was foreseen some time ago and the bank endeavored to weather its difficulties by reducing expenses and obtaining aid from other banks. Consequently, the impression made in financial circles by its failure was somewhat relative. The bank operated especially in Umbria, the Campagna and Latium.

Notice of Chinese Government 5% Hukuang Railways Loan.

J. P. Morgan & Co. announced on Jan. 12 that they had received instructions from the paying agents in Paris which authorize them now to pay the Dec. 15 coupon from bonds of the French issue of this loan. Accordingly, such coupons will be paid upon presentation at their office. Previous reference to the Dec. 15 coupons was made in our issue of Dec. 29, page 2835.

Hungarian Loan Approved by League of Nations—Hungary's Attitude.

While it was indicated in press dispatches from Budapest, Hungary, on Jan. 10, that Parliamentary opposition to the League of Nations's reconstruction plan for Hungary was growing, and it was considered doubtful whether Premier Bethlen would be able to put through the necessary legislation, a special cablegram to the New York "Times" from Budapest Jan. 12 indicated that there was a likelihood of the acceptance of the League's loan terms. The plan for the financial restoration of Hungary along the lines pursued in the case of Austria was approved by the Council of the League of Nations at Paris on Dec. 20. Regarding the plan, a copyright cablegram on that date from Paris to the New York "Times" said:

Under the Hungarian scheme that country would turn over to the League the revenue from its customs and other State monopolies, and would give the League supervision over its finances, in return for which the League undertakes to float a loan of 250,000,000 gold crowns and establish budgetary equilibrium by June 30 1926.

The League plan now goes to the Government of Hungary on the one hand and the Little Entente and nations to which reparations are due from Hungary on the other hand. All these Governments have been heard, and it is presumed that ratifications will be held by the time the Council meets again in the middle of March.

It will be noted that the proposed Hungarian loan is only 40% the size of that raised for Austria. The exact terms of the Hungarian plan have not been made public, but, generally speaking, it provides for an agreement, as in the case of Austria, by all the interested nations to seek no particular advantage through the arrangement and agreement by Hungary to observe strictly the military and all other provisions of the Trianon peace treaty.

Exception is made for derogations in the financial clauses, to which the Reparation Commission consents. The Reparation Commission has agreed to reduce for twenty years all claims against Hungary for war indemnity, to 10,000,000 gold crowns annually. Count Bethlen, the Hungarian Premier, to-day asked for complete exoneration from reparations payments for thirty years, and made a reservation on that point, but it is generally expected here that the Hungarian Government will accept it.

A committee composed of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia will be named to put the new plan into effect.

Little Entente Conciliatory.

In working out the Hungarian plan, recognition should be given to the spirit of conciliation shown by the nations of the Little Entente, led by Benes, who won them over with the argument that it would be worth while not only from the economic point of view for her former enemies to help Hungary recover, but that the League supervision of Hungary's finances carried with it strict supervision of Hungary's military status, and thus served to assuage fears, particularly of Rumania and Yugoslavia.

In a speech at the meeting to-day, M. Titulesco, representing the Little Entente, said he hoped Hungary would give proof of the same good-will which had actuated the nations of the Little Entente in largely foregoing their reparations claims to permit Hungary to borrow money needed to put into effect the League restoration plan.

M. Benes expressed the same idea, and said he believed the work about to be put under way meant a great step toward the pacification of Central Europe.

Count Bethlen thanked the Council and assured it that Hungary would carry out its part of the bargain. M. Hanotaux of France laid stress on the fact that in joining the League of Nations Hungary had pledged herself solemnly to carry out the disarmament clauses of the Treaty of Trianon, and also noted that the plan was based on the principles laid down in the peace treaty.

"By this accord," he said, "peace will be consolidated in Eastern Europe. That is the capital fact, for confidence will reign more and more in this part of Europe."

He paid a tribute to Count Bethlen, who, he said, will rank with Chancellor Seipel as one of the great peacemakers of Europe.

A statement by the League Council says it is expected the Hungarian task will prove much easier than the Austrian, largely because of the fact that Hungary is of a nature to be self-supporting, which was not the case with Austria, which must import a large part of her food supply. Hungary, with her rich resources, should be able to get on her feet in three years, the League experts think, with the help their plan will give.

Economically, the situation of Hungary is nothing like as bad as that of Austria, but politically there have been more difficulties for Count Bethlen in persuading the Hungarian politicians to accept League tutelage.

The Budapest advices of Jan. 10 reporting opposition to the plan said:

One of those expressing dissatisfaction with the loan conditions is Count Albert Apponyi, heretofore one of the warmest supporters of the League, who in a speech before the National Assembly said:

"Hungary cannot be grateful to the League for a reconstruction plan which gives only a breathing spell and strangles Hungary's industry, making the country a purely agricultural State."

The arrangements looking to the acceptance of the plan by Hungary were reported as follows in the special cablegram to the "Times" on the 12th inst.:

During the last few days the Hungarian Government has been feverishly putting the finishing touches to arrangements and documents pertaining to the prospective loan before the delegation leaves for London.

Owing to the fact that so many important questions of interior policy are hung up until a final decision is reached, it is hoped that a settlement will be made within a few days, although in political circles many people are extremely skeptical about the advisability of accepting a loan under such unfavorable conditions as are proposed, added to which is the bitter knowledge that the unfavorable terms of the loan constitute one more triumph for the Little Entente.

On the eve of his departure for London, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Bethlen, made a statement to the New York "Times" correspondent in connection with the proposed loan. He said that in the decision of Oct. 17 1923 the Reparation Commission decided that Hungary should receive a loan for her financial rehabilitation free from reparation conditions, whereas a second loan would be partly used for reparations. After this decision the League sent a commission to Hungary to study conditions. Subsequently, however, the Finance Committee met in London and the League met in Paris, with the result that another program was drawn up, containing the protocols already published. The first of these two protocols, regarding the sovereignty and independence of Hungary, resemble the protocols of the Austrian loan, although the second part, concerning the Trianon Treaty, naturally differs.

Denies Secret Conditions.

Count Bethlen then alluded to many rumors concerning secret conditions of the loan, which had created mistrust in Hungary, as fictitious, as were also rumors concerning military control.

"As regards military control," he said, "we take the stand that there can be no further obligations undertaken than those laid down in the Trianon Treaty. I have, moreover, always stated that the Government could not maintain its existence if it undertook conditions beyond this."

Count Bethlen said a new commission would now be sent to Hungary by the League, when the Government would have to decide with the commission and a Commissioner-General, still to be appointed, on the principles of the budget for the next two and a half years, in six months' periods.

Count Bethlen maintained that the conditions named in both protocols meant giving over far-reaching power, which superseded the rights of even the National Assembly, which, however, would always be consulted. But he expressed fear that Hungary might share the fate of Germany unless outside help were available in the near future.

"The 250,000,000 gold crowns promised must be used exclusively for the budget deficit, and the conditions are quite different to those in the original plan presented to Hungary," he said. "Above all, the amount of the loan is much smaller, and the time given for reconstruction is much shorter. Hungary will have heavy burdens to bear, but we must hope that this is the last after her many years of suffering. Everything considered, I must state that although a loan of 250,000,000 gold crowns is considerable help, it can be considered only as a transition loan, as this sum will only suffice to balance the budget and not for any enterprise, without which, however, Hungary cannot be rehabilitated."

"When I see that the State finances must be in order within two and a half years, which means doubling the State income and eliminating the passive trade balance, I maintain that, although the loan will help, it will be of a very temporary nature, and that we must rely on ourselves for the lion's share of the work."

The Financial Commission argues that Hungary is an agrarian country and self-supporting in the matter of food stuffs, and that it should, therefore, be possible to help Hungary in a relatively shorter period than Austria and with less money.

Count Bethlen protests against this opinion, stating that in many cases Austria's expenses were much easier to decrease than those of Hungary; that, moreover, Hungary's economic resources, especially as regards raw materials, were much less than those of Austria.

In spite of the unfavorable conditions, Count Bethlen is convinced that this is the only solution for Hungary in view of the present situation.

To Claim Against Rumania.

Just how the reparations question will be involved in Hungary's loan appears somewhat uncertain. One thing, however, appears, likely: That when the question comes up Hungary will come back with counter claims against Rumania for property valued at 40,000,000 gold crowns, including rolling stock, cattle, &c., said to have been stolen from Hungary, and which Hungary maintains must be deducted from reparations.

Former Minister of Finance Popwiotti, Director of the Danube Navigation Co. and a well-known financier, said a foreign loan was indispensable.

"In judging the general financial situation," he said, "it must not be forgotten that Hungary as a result of the peace treaty has lost two-thirds of her former territory and 60% of her population, besides the effect of the revolution and Bolshevik regime, during which period a condition of economic stagnation reigned."

"Stabilization of the currency is no longer attainable without the help of a foreign loan, as the resources of the country will be fairly exhausted by the payment of taxes. In addition, there will be need of an internal loan, for a loan of 250,000,000 gold crowns, as proposed by the Financial Commission, is really a very restricted minimum, and we originally expected a bigger loan."

"Provided the loan is placed at our disposal in time, I still believe, however, that we shall be able to achieve order in a period of two and a half years."

"The country still is able to bear a certain increase in taxation which will result from taxes being paid in a stabilized currency and on the same basis as when they were levied. The new bank of issue will be of assistance in furthering the work of adjustment. Our Devisen Centrale only contributed in a slight measure to the stabilization of the currency."

"It is difficult to determine in advance the effect of stabilization on exchange. Speculative elements have a good deal to say in the matter. One thing is certain, that the enormous fluctuation of quotations will cease, and speculation in exchange, as a means of earning a livelihood, will be restricted to narrower limits. In its place serious economic work will be placed on a sound basis."

Under date of the 16th inst. Associated Press advices from London said:

The special committee of the Council of the League of Nations appointed to consider the proposed international loan to Hungary for that country's financial re-establishment began its work at St. James's Palace to-day.

The loan, with its amount fixed at £10,000,000, was originally planned to run for 20 years, with certain of Hungary's resources as security. It is understood, however, that the Little Entente States and France favor a shorter period.

Among the members of the committee are Foreign Minister Benes of Czechoslovakia, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood (the former Lord Robert Cecil) Count Bonin-Longare of Italy and M. Titulesco of Rumania.

Committee of Experts Begins Inquiry to Determine Germany's Financial Position—Gen. Dawes on Necessity of Stabilizing German Currency.

With the start of the sessions at Paris on Monday last (Jan. 14) of the committee of experts named to inquire into Germany's financial position, Brig-Gen. Charles G. Dawes, Chairman of the committee, delivered the opening address, in which he declared that the success of the committee's efforts depended "chiefly whether in the public mind and conscience of the Allies and of the world there is an adequate conception of the great disaster which faces each ally unless common sense is crowned king." General Dawes, referring to the task which was to be undertaken by the experts, stated that "the Reparations Commission and the world, upon the question of Germany's capacity to pay, have been listening thus far to the medical experts. Let us," he said, "first help Germany to get well." He pointed out that "as the world has seen the economic life of Germany ebbing away, the credit of all the European allies has felt a preliminary shock, because the world realizes that if the German people lose their capacity for work, Germany loses her capacity to pay those reparations which are so great an element in European solvency." "If without fear or favor," he said, "we suggest a plan for the stabilization of the German currency and the balancing of the German budget which the Reparations Commission deems fit to ratify, we will at least have done this—we will have suggested that which has enabled the Reparations Commission to start Germany toward productivity and the re-establishment of German productivity is the starting point of European prosperity." As we have already indicated (Dec. 29, page 2833, and Jan. 5, page 30), General Dawes and Owen B. Young are the unofficial representatives of the United States on the committee of experts called upon to inquire into Germany's financial position. Messrs. Dawes and Young, who sailed from the United States on Dec. 29 landed at Cherbourg on Jan. 7 and later in the day reached Paris. On the 8th inst. the following joint statement was issued by them:

The American experts up to this time have made no statement of any kind to the press. Whatever they have to say now and hereafter will be by formal statement.

They have been invited by the Reparations Commission to sit as members of the Expert Committee which is asked to develop facts and make certain suggestions. The American experts come as private citizens, without instructions and without obligations of making reports except to the Reparations Commission. They have no preconceived plans, simply hoping in the plans developed by others they may be of assistance.

There is one statement, however, which they have no hesitation in making at this time, and without consultation they assume it represents the sentiment of all the members of the committee, as well as public sentiment everywhere, to wit:

That time is an essence of this situation—that the committee is a business committee concerned with facts and constructive inferences to be drawn from them—that their work should be conducted with all possible expedition and that there should be daily and continuous sessions.

On the 10th inst. Associated Press advices from Paris said:

Charles G. Dawes and Owen B. Young, the American representatives on the first expert reparations committee, are having long conversations with various persons connected with the reparation problem, among them Jean V. Parmentier, preliminary to the opening of their committee's work next Monday.

It is understood the Americans have decided that it would be prudent in the beginning to confine the inquiry to practical questions, such as the stabilization of the German currency, probably by a new bank issue; advice upon the formation of the budget so Germany can pay its Government's internal expenses out of its revenue; the length of the moratorium necessary before reparation payments can be resumed, and cognate questions. Their attitude, it is said, will be receptive with the desire of offering constructive suggestions as opportunity may arise.

The atmosphere in which the committee will begin its work appears more favorable than at any time since the signing of the peace treaty. The German Government and its Opposition are reported now to be willing to accept and sincerely endeavor to execute measures which may be suggested to them, such as are designed to stabilize the mark and place German public finance upon a solvent basis.

This change of mind on the part of Germany is reflected in the modified attitude of the French Government, and Premier Poincare has said privately that he would be willing to accept a rather lengthy moratorium, perhaps from four to seven years. The French financial situation with the fall of the franc is causing uneasiness, and the French Government is represented as desiring to hasten the completion of some durable arrangement with Germany.

The decision to invite Dr. Schacht, President of the Reichsbank and Germany Currency, to confer with the committee of experts was made known on Jan. 15. On the 17th inst. the Associated Press advices from Paris said:

The committee of experts now delving into the matter feels little can be done unless the Germans collaborate, especially in recovering exported capital. The prompt acceptance of Dr. Hjalmer Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, of the committee's invitation to come here and confer has created an excellent impression.

Pending the arrival of Dr. Schacht, assistants of the expert committee are keeping members busy looking over groups of figures dug out of Reparation Commission reports, and the committee still is unable to get down to continuous discussion of ways and means for rehabilitating Germany financially. Consequently, instead of day and night work by the committee, as suggested by Chairman Dawes, it is holding one short session daily.

To-day's session lasted half an hour. The report after adjournment was the usual "no communique." It is understood the committee will invite Dr. Schacht not only to throw all the light he can on the present situation and explain the operation of the new Renten marks, but will ask that he suggest what system he thinks will furnish the needed basis for financial reconstruction of Germany.

According to Associated Press cablegrams from Paris yesterday (Jan. 18), Premier Poincare of France, in the Chamber of Deputies renewed his declaration that the French Government would not accept a reduction in German reparations. It is added:

Premier Poincare said that if the international expert committees appointed by the Reparation Commission reached decisions that would decrease the French credits on Germany or diminish the Reparation Commission's prerogatives, it would lead to a deadlock.

Mr. Dawes's address of Monday last follows:

The difficulties involved in the determination of the Allied policy, both in time of war and in time of peace, are little realized by the average citizen in all countries. To him it seems strange that eventual common-sense agreements, which in times of emergency characterize Allied policy, come about so slowly.

He does not realize the barriers which must first be beaten down, erected by national pride and the pride and selfish interest of different Allied officials whose powers are affected by any act of coercive inter-Allied coordination, and by the incessant misrepresentations and intolerable interjections of those foul and carrion-loving vultures, the nationalistic demagogues of all countries, who would exploit their pitiful personalities out of a common misfortune.

Let me illustrate: Napoleon's sixty-fourth maxim of war was that nothing in war is more important than a central command under one chief. This great principle was realized and accepted at the beginning of the war by all the military authorities in the world; and yet, after nearly four years of warfare and the unnecessary loss of tens of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions in material wealth, the German army on March 21 1918 struck at the junction of the British and French armies and broke through because of the lack of a central command controlling the proper disposition of reserves.

The British army was forced back upon its lines of communication toward the Channel ports. The French army was forced back upon its line of communication toward Paris. A gap was opened. Then it was that the Allies, facing the abyss, yielded part of their sovereign power for the time being to the central command under Foch, which paved the way to the Allied victory.

What brought about the complete Allied co-operation in time of war? Nothing but an overwhelming emergency. And when the victory came and the Treaty of Versailles was signed, what again have we seen but those same natural forces and immutable laws of human nature which prevented the earlier agreement upon a central Allied command in time of war operating to prevent a common Allied plan in time of peace?

What is the question of to-day? Upon what does the success of this committee depend? Upon the powers of persuasion? Primarily, no. Upon honesty and ability? Primarily, no. It depends chiefly upon whether in the public mind and conscience of the Allies and of the world there is an adequate conception of the great disaster which faces each Ally and Europe unless common sense is crowned king.

Does this conception exist? We do not know, but we shall know. To this knowledge of whether this conception exists the results of our work and the action of the Reparations Commission thereon will perhaps be the final contribution.

As an American citizen, invited to this place by the Reparations Commission, I can speak neither for the Government of the United States nor for the American people; but, as an individual I can say that I have read in shame and humiliation the outpourings of the American nationalistic demagogues who undertake to lecture Europe in order to lift themselves into some petty office or to maintain political popularity.

Surely I have as much right as they to express my individual opinion of the attitude held by the great inarticulate mind and conscience of my People. Mr. Young and I will endeavor to express it in our actions upon

this committee. We come humble in opinion, knowing there is no barrier against acquiring knowledge like pride and preconceived opinion. We come knowing that you know much more about your own affairs than we do. We come realizing the sacrifices which you have made for the victory to which our people also contributed and of which we share the benefits.

We know that 1,385,000 of the flower of France's youth, 946,000 of Great Britain's youth, 460,000 of Italy's youth, 40,000 of Belgium's youth and 127,000 of Serbia's youth, together with the precious bodies of our own American youth, lie buried close together here, across the sea. We know that from their sacrifice has come a great desire on the part of all peoples to make it worth while for their sakes as well as for those who live and are to live hereafter in the world.

We coming wanting only to be helpful to you who with your superior knowledge and longer experience will take the initiative in the search for a common-sense agreement. We come determined that nothing shall prevent our full usefulness, if we have any, to you in a work which is yours.

In the last war I was Chief of Supply and Procurement for the American Expeditionary Forces under command of General Pershing. In the vanguard of our army I came with empty hands. Our great commander Pershing, at the date of our entry into the war, was faced with the necessity of building lines of communications and other installations which would care for his eventual army.

During the first seven months from the time we landed in France there were shipped to us from America only 357,000 ship tons of supplies. Yet when the Americans sailed back to the United States the army had required over 17,000,000 tons, of which 10,000,000 had been furnished chiefly by France and Great Britain, already stripped of their resources by three years of devastating warfare.

When we came we stood empty-handed, reaching to our friends for the needed supplies. You may be sure that we did not start to tell our Allies what great men we were and how much we knew. At their feet humble in opinion, out of their large experience, we tried to learn the lessons of the war emergency.

Great Britain furnished us ships to transport the bulk of our troops. We fired only French ammunition from French guns. Our artillery was carried into action by French horses. We flew French airplanes at the beginning, Belgian locomotives carried our materials. Italy furnished us men to work upon our lines of communication.

All our allies with their depleted stocks helped us with a generosity to express gratification for which I find no adequate terms. But there was one supply in which our Government did not fail, and that was in the supply of two million splendid men, who, under Pershing, marched and fought with your heroic troops in the final great and victorious struggle.

With these memories of old associations it is surprising that I feel as if I had come among friends? With the confidence and belief in each other which we had during the war and the love which has come from past associations in common difficulties; with the belief that in the providence of God humanity is facing brighter days, and with the prayer that however little as individuals may be our contribution to better things—it will be all we have—let us approach our common work.

Now let us consider for a moment the situation here as it is confronted by two American business men who, some three weeks ago, were invited to by the Reparations Commission to give detailed attention in connection with the proposed work which we start to-day. Like the other citizens of our own and other countries, our information consisted of what we had read in the newspapers and gained from conversation with others presumably better informed.

We had seen the Allies, finally and really united under a single command, obtain the military victory which we had supposed was the precursor of a better world. For five years since that time and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles we had seen the Allies losing the unity of understanding which is always essential to real peace and progress. We had come to know—in common with the citizens of all nations—that at last the lack of power to agree upon a common attitude and common action had brought all Europe to a most critical and dangerous situation.

This is no time to mince words. What to-day, at the inception of the work of this Committee, have we found? In the first place we see an impenetrable and colossal fogbank of economic opinion based upon premises of fact which have changed so rapidly as to make the bulk of them worthless, even if they were in agreement. With all due respect to the great ability of these experts who wandered through this gloomy labyrinth, they could not have failed to come out in opposite directions. They were confronted with the necessity of finding stable conclusions where no conditions were stable.

If in their computations, designed to clarify the mind, they dealt with the mark, the next week the mark was something else; if they dealt with the dollar, the pound, the French or Belgian franc or the Italian lire, there was one value in exchange for each and another in internal purchasing power; if they dealt with gold there were values in pre-war gold and post-war gold to be considered. In general we fail to find much value in economic arguments based upon what ought to be instead of what is—based, in other words, upon a constantly changing status quo.

Meantime, while those immense libraries—for they can be called by no other name—of legal arguments, of more or less obsolete statistics and of economic discussion were being laboriously compiled for five years, the foundations of economic Germany have well-nigh crumbled away, and with them the productivity of Germany.

Again, as the world has seen the economic life of Germany ebbing away, the credit of all the European allies has felt a preliminary shock, because the world realizes that if the German people lose their capacity for work, Germany loses her capacity to pay those reparations which are so great an element in European solvency.

It would seem that that was the situation as it developed. In the minds of your American members of this Committee it must have been regarded in much the same way by the Reparations Commission, to whom this Committee of practical men, free from political pressure, owes its creation. Realizing that the house was afire, they proposed to find some water to put it out without the further use of mathematics involving the fourth dimension.

By their instructions they have enabled us to start work on the basis of the status quo. We are not asked to determine legality of the occupation of the Ruhr. We are not asked to declare the political effects of that prospective act of common sense. We are not asked to give our opinion upon those things which the politicians of all countries have interjected into a situation which primarily demands for its proper consideration business minds uninfluenced by political ambition or thought of personal consequences.

Upon our report to the Reparations Commission of a plan for the rehabilitation of German currency and the balancing of the German budget it is for them, not us, to be concerned with the political effects. The more I have talked with those here who are nearest the situation the more I have realized the great wisdom the Reparation Commission has shown in defin-

ing the purpose of our convocation, "in order to consider, in accordance with the provisions of Article 234 of the Treaty of Versailles, the resources and capacity of Germany."

We are not entrusted with considering means of balancing the budget and measures to be taken to stabilize the currency. If, without fear or favor, we suggest a plan for the stabilization of the German currency and the balancing of the German budget which the Reparations Commission deems fit to ratify, we will at least have done this—we will have suggested that which has enabled the Reparations Commission to start Germany toward productivity, and the re-establishment of German productivity is the starting point of European prosperity.

As the economic processes of Germany under a stable currency and with a balanced budget are revived, there will be demonstrated the capacity of Germany to pay. The basic and controlling facts will then appear. Any common sense individual can estimate the distance a well man can run. Fifty medical experts gathered around the bedside of a dying patient will give fifty estimates of how far he can run if he gets well. The Reparations Commission and the world, upon the question of Germany's capacity to pay, have been listening thus far to the medical experts. Let us first help Germany to get well.

Now that we are members of a committee having a definite and authoritatively defined object in view, we are less concerned for the moment with the present capacity of Germany to pay than with the present capacity and courage of this committee to act. What is the use of deferring plain statement or for this committee to waste time in formalities and meaningless courtesies and conventionalities?

Let us make thus early one practical suggestion. Under President Harding I established a system of executive control set up by executive order under which the first budget of the United States was prepared in accordance with our recent budget legislation. I hesitate to call myself an expert on budget matters lest I put my reputation for common sense under suspicion; but how could any one, expert or non-expert, suggest anything worth while about the German budget if the money collected through taxes and dispersed under the budget would not buy or pay for anything?

The first step which we should take, it seems to me, is to devise a system of stabilizing Germany's currency so we can get some water to run through the budget mill. Let us build the mill after we find the stream to turn its wheels.

The Associated Press cablegrams of the 14th inst. from Paris in the account of the opening session said in part:

A member of the British delegation of the Reparations Commission, commenting on the opening of the conference, said: "The experts got off to a breezy start." This expresses the general sentiment in reparations and diplomatic circles on the beginning of the work of the experts.

General Dawes's "legendary energy," as M. Barthou put it, seemed to send a draft of fresh air throughout reparations headquarters, which never appeared to shelter so much activity since the commission was organized.

"Can he keep them up to it?" was a question repeatedly asked around the buildings, when it became known that General Dawes would propose that his colleagues work night and day until they got somewhere with the inquiry. Other members of the delegations are heartily with General Dawes in the desire to make as short work as possible of their task, but some of them are rather frightened at the idea of three sessions daily. The general has conceded a point by agreeing that the night meetings should be merely informal personal exchanges of views between the members.

The impression made by General Dawes's speech was in every way favorable, inside and outside of reparations circles, excepting in extreme nationalist quarters, where his reference to "nationalistic demagogues" caused some slight emotion.

One of the British delegates said: "The impression was most favorable; the beginning of the discussions augurs well."

Colonel James A. Logan, American unofficial observer on the Reparations Commission, expressed himself to the same effect, while M. Barthou, President of the Commission, declared that the committee could not have gotten to work under better auspices.

Opinions differed as to whether General Dawes, speaking of the Jack of unity among the Allies, meant to allude to the attitude of Great Britain or to that of France; some are inclined to think it was meant for both. Although the need of unity among the Allies has been dwelt upon constantly in France, as well as in other Allied countries, General Dawes brought it out so impressively that it sank in deeply, as evidenced by the talk to-night in French official circles and around reparations headquarters. That it was meant for some other of the Allies than France appears to be the opinion in French official circles. A high functionary of the French Foreign Office remarked this evening that what France had suffered from most and what Germany most profited from was lack of unity among the Allies, and that if General Dawes's coming to Europe accomplishes nothing else than bringing about unity he would earn the everlasting gratitude of the French.

It is understood that the committee hopes by holding three sessions daily to reach a point where it can leave for Berlin Saturday.

An address of welcome was delivered by Louis Barthou, President of the Reparations Commission, who promised French co-operation in the work of the committee. "The pacific equilibrium of the entire world," he declared, "depends upon its success."

After a three-and-a-half-hour session this afternoon the meeting adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock. The committee adopted a resolution providing that the records of the proceedings be kept absolutely confidential. The Secretary alone is authorized to give out statements, when approved by the members. The experts themselves have been pledged to give no interviews.

Henry M. Robinson, of Los Angeles, who is to serve on the committee which is to estimate the amount of German capital abroad, arrived in Paris on Jan. 11; the British delegates reached Paris at the same time, while the Italian members of the committee, designated by the Italian Government, arrived on the 13th inst., on which date also the Belgian delegates arrived. On the 13th inst. the New York "Herald" announced the following copyright advices from Paris:

The Reparations Commission's experts, including Gen. Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young, spent Sunday in further examination of the heavy reports on Germany's resources, liabilities and policies, made by previous experts and agents of the Allies. Gen. Dawes and Mr. Young spent several hours with Col. James A. Logan, American unofficial observer.

It is not too much to say that all Europe has its hopes based on the participation of American experts in the forthcoming diagnosis of her economic ills, and to-morrow's address of Gen. Dawes is awaited with great interest. In this address, made in reply to the speech of welcome by M. Barthou, President of the Reparations Board, Gen. Dawes will

make known the position of the American experts and their idea of how the work of the committee should proceed, with suggestions as to how the questions should be approached. After the speech the Reparations Commission's members will withdraw and the experts will begin work by drawing up an agenda.

The British notion, to use the words of one member of the Reparations Commission, is already fairly well fixed as to the sources of Germany's trouble. Belgium's delegation goes into conference not caring much where the blame lies, but anxious to have the plans elaborated last year by the Belgian Government given at least more than cursory attention, despite the attitude of the British members of the Reparations Commission itself that that scheme is too academic and never can present anything practical in the way of funds from State monopolies sufficient to bring back international confidence in Germany or to enable her to stabilize the budget.

Each delegate, however, insists he will weight the question in absolute independence, the sole object being to offer a joint solution which shall be acceptable to the Commission, which must take final decision, or continue to watch Europe go to pieces.

President Barthou has received the fullest instructions from Premier Poincare to stress France's desire for a conference wherein conciliation shall be the ruling factor, instead of Europe's diplomatic differences. But as soon as this is declared publicly by the President of the Commission, in introducing General Dawes and the other delegates to the expert committees, the French Government intends to remain as aloof as possible.

It is foreseen that there may be differences in which the French delegates may ask the opinion of M. Poincare or M. Barthou, but financial circles point out that, with the franc totalling from day to day, the French Government cannot afford to dictate, without incurring the dangerous mistrust of the Allies, and especially the United States. This M. Poincare, with his Premiership at stake, is himself unwilling to risk.

The second committee, whose task is to search for German cash abroad, continued to be almost ignored, the general impression being that nothing can develop in that direction until, as American bankers already have pointed out, confidence begins to be restored in Germany. Louis Thomas, in to-day's "Avenir," quotes "unnamed Wall Street friends" to support the theory that Germany has sent at least \$1,000,000,000, and perhaps \$2,000,000,000, to the United States. This is divided into three categories:

1. \$100,000,000 in individual deposits by Germans or their German-American relatives.
2. At least \$500,000,000 sent by Hugo Stinnes and other industrial magnates, this sum not including huge sums sent to Holland, England and Switzerland.
3. Between \$500,000,000 and \$700,000,000 exported by would-be imitators of Stinnes, which may be shifted from one country to another rapidly, without any Government being able to put its nose into the accounts.

Princeton, N. J., press advices Jan. 4 stated that Edwin W. Kemmerer, Professor of Economics and Finance at Princeton University, had accepted the post as adviser to the three American members of the German inquiry committees. He sailed on the Aquitania on the 5th inst. The press advices added:

Professor Kemmerer is widely known as an expert on finance and currency, and only this summer returned from Colombia, where he acted as Chairman of the American Financial Commission which investigated the financial and currency question there and made recommendations which have been passed by the Colombian Government.

Arthur N. Young, a former student of Professor Kemmerer's and former member of the Princeton faculty, has also been ordered to Paris to be associated with Colonel Logan, the American unofficial observer with the Reparations Commission.

British Liberty Buying at Low Point.

The following is from the New York "Times" of the 8th inst.:

The method by which Great Britain has been able to absorb more than \$150,000,000 of United States Liberty bonds has been made fairly well known in its general operation, but experienced bond dealers are still unable to tell when or how the British Government stands at any one given time. At the present moment it is fairly well agreed that Great Britain has temporarily suspended purchases, although there is no way to tell whether she may be back in the market to-day or to-morrow. Buying continued until well after Dec. 15, when the latest installment on her debt was paid, and dried up appreciably over the holiday period, when, it was noted, sterling was undergoing a decline. Britain's success in buying Liberties without running up prices has been due to the fact that she was "taking up the slack," according to most explanations, and it is believed that English buying has taken care of requirements for some time ahead. Until there appears some real sign of liquidation, or desire to liquidate, by banking houses or other institutions, it is assumed that Britain will stay out of the market.

Liberty Bonds as Collateral.

From the New York "Times" of Jan. 9 we take the following:

The report that Government authorities are considering action which would place Liberty bonds on virtually the same basis as prime commercial paper as collateral for loans created interest in the financial district yesterday. The effects, it was suggested would be far reaching, and the significant thing, according to one judge, would be the removing of the last war-time prop. During the war period, it was explained, Liberties had a pre-eminence over all other kinds of securities due to emergency needs. To-day, according to this explanation, the country is fast getting back to a peace-time basis and the Government now recognizes that financially the "return to normalcy" has been completed.

On the same date the New York "Journal of Commerce" had the following to say editorially in the matter:

The report from Washington that Treasury (or Federal Reserve Board?) authorities are studying the question of eliminating the preferential status now given to Liberty bonds and other Government issues as security for loans obtained from national banks is interesting.

During the war national banks were allowed to make loans in excess of 10% of their capital and surplus provided that the loans were secured by Liberty bonds to a specified amount, and this provision was continued from time to time, the purpose being to give Liberty bonds a better position in the market and, of course, to raise their prices. This is only one of many ways in which the bond issues of the Government were "hooked onto" bank

credit, with corresponding damage to the latter and to the entire system of commercial banking. It was the "McAdoo policy" in its worst aspect.

Why should there be any longer a hesitation about putting Government bonds where they belong—leaving them to stand on their own merits, which need no enhancement, but are quite able to sustain the value of the securities without extraneous assistance?

British Restrict Use of Radio in Harbors—Foreign Warships Must Obtain a Permit in All Naval Ports.

The New York "Evening Post" announced the following advices from London, Jan. 5:

The British Admiralty has issued an order restricting the use of its radio, telegraph or telephone apparatus by foreign warships when in or near British harbors.

If the harbor is a naval one, such ships must obtain permission from the naval port commander before employing any of these services; they must, furthermore, state the system, wave length, and time of transmission proposed.

In other harbors transmission on 600 metres is forbidden except for distress signals, interference with naval and military signaling must be avoided and transmission must be discontinued on request of the authorities.

To Retail Meat in Britain—Australian Producers Plan to Open 1,000 Stores.

In its issue of Jan. 4 the New York "Times" printed the following from London, Jan. 3:

The proposal of Australian meat producers to establish in Great Britain a number of retail stores to be supplied and conducted by themselves without the services of middlemen is attracting considerable attention.

The "Daily Telegraph" learns that an Australian company with a capital of £1,500,000 plans to start the project with more than 1,000 shops, on which it has already obtained an option, making these the nucleus of an even more extensive business.

"This will mean," says the newspaper, "taking the meat and other produce trade between overseas countries and Great Britain a very important stage further than hitherto has been attempted by the American packing houses."

The scheme, if it is put in operation, is likely to be greatly opposed by the retailers of this country who, when similar suggestions have been mooted in the past, have always raised a storm of protest. The question, however, seems now much further advanced than ever before.

If the project is carried out it is likely, according to the "Daily Telegraph," to be extended to cover all Australian products, including butter and fruit.

Spain Excludes United States from Radio Parley.

The New York "Journal of Commerce" reports the following from its Washington Bureau Dec. 30:

American radio and cable companies were excluded from the list of invitations sent out to other foreign commercial radio and cable interests to send representatives to the Spanish Government's radio conference, which held its first meeting in Madrid early in December, it was learned at the Department of Commerce. Although other meetings will be held by the conference in January, American representatives, of which there are a large number in Spain, have not been asked to join with representatives of British, German, French and Italian firms, in attempting to formulate and discuss standards of radio, telegraph, cable and visual signaling forms and devices.

France Reduces Duty on Wheat by 50%.

On Jan. 7 Associated Press advices from Paris stated:

A decree has been issued by the French Government reducing the duty on wheat from 14 francs per hundredweight to 7 francs per hundredweight. The decrease is based on the increase in the price of wheat, which has followed the decline in the franc.

French Government Acts Against Alleged Wheat Conspiracy.

From the New York "Evening Post" of Jan. 11 we take the following:

Minister of Agriculture Cheron has filed a charge against persons unknown alleging an illegal conspiracy to corner the wheat market and defraud the public. The judicial authorities are also starting an investigation. This activity on the part of officials follows the failure of the price of wheat to drop despite the fact that the custom duties on this grain have been reduced by five francs.

On the day the reduction went into effect the pound sterling fell nearly three francs. Wheat showed a trifling decrease, but the next day rose again to its original price, all of which convinced the Minister that some syndicate was holding up wheat and keeping it off the market.

Bank of France Seeks to Reduce Its Loans.

The New York "Journal of Commerce" publishes the following from France, Jan. 10:

The action of the Bank of France to-day in raising the rate of discount to 5½% is attributed mainly to the desire of the bank to reduce outstanding discounted bills to a normal figure, namely around 3,000,000,000 francs. This item is now at the unusually high level of 4,263,000,000 francs.

Restricting Reichsbank—Proposal to Withdraw Life-Service Privilege from Directors.

From the New York "Times" of Jan. 7 we take the following copyrighted cablegram from Berlin, Jan. 5:

The Rentenbank has not issued any official report. The Government is considering a bill increasing its authority over the Reichsbank, which was restricted by the law of May 26 1922.

The present plan is to deprive the President and directors of their life-long service right, and to increase the authority of the President over the other directors.

Freight Rate Cut in Germany Jan. 20.

Special radio to the "Journal of Commerce" from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Jan. 10, stated:

Consequent upon the 10% reduction in coal prices inaugurated on Jan. 2, railroad freight tariffs will be reduced on and after Jan. 20 by 8%. In addition to this, special facilities are to be introduced for transit and export freight rates.

Dutch East Indies Gold Bonds Ready for Delivery in Definite Form.

The Guaranty Trust Co. of New York announces that on and after Jan. 21 1924 Dutch East Indies 30-year external 5½% gold bonds, due Mar. 1 1953, in definitive form with Mar. 1 1924 and subsequent coupons attached, will be delivered in exchange for trust receipts now outstanding upon presentation of the latter at its Trust Department, 140 Broadway, New York City.

Santa Catharina (Brazil) Bonds—Payment of Coupons Due Feb. 1.

Announcement was made last week to the effect that coupons due Feb. 1 next on the 25-year 8% sinking fund gold bonds of the State of Santa Catharina, Brazil, will be paid on presentation on or after Feb. 1 at the offices of Halsey, Stuart & Co., New York and Chicago. The semi-annual sinking fund of \$50,000 will also operate on Feb. 1. Since the start of operation of the first sinking fund on Aug. 1 1922 and to and including Feb. 1 1924 approximately \$164,000 principal amount of the 8% bonds will have been acquired by the sinking fund.

The Recovery in Italy.

From Felice Bava, New York representative of the Credito Italiano, we have received the following under date of Jan. 5:

From the recent statement of the Italian Finance Minister we extract a few of the most interesting facts and figures, and, feeling sure that you will be interested, we take the liberty to submit them to your kind attention:

1. *The Budget.*—For the fiscal year 1922-23 a deficit of 4,000,000,000 lire had been estimated, but the actual deficit was only 3,041,000,000 lire. For the current fiscal year 1923-24 a deficit of 2,600,000,000 lire is estimated and for 1924-25 the estimated deficit is further reduced to 700,000,000 lire, with every reasonable expectation that, barring exceptional unforeseen events, the Italian budget will balance in the very near future.

2. *Public Debt.*—The deficits of the several fiscal years from 1914 up to date have been met with issues of Government bonds, notes and foreign debts, thus bringing the present total of the public debt of Italy to:

Lire paper 96,270,000,000 in internal debt
Lire gold 22,157,000,000 in foreign debt.

Of the total aforesaid internal debt, 44,400,000,000 lire are perpetual loans (consolidated) and the rest are redeemable debts at various maturities. However, as these redeemables fall due the Italian holders generally demand that they be exchanged into long-term bonds, thus relieving the Treasury of the necessity to provide cash. The short-term Treasury notes are quoted at par and the 5% consolidated loan was quoted on the Italian markets on Dec. 31 1923 at 92%, as against 87% on Dec. 31 1922 and 77% in December 1921. The 6½% Italian dollar loan, redeemable at par in 1925, is quoted on the New York market to-day at 99%. These figures speak for themselves.

3. *The Note Circulation.*—The peak was reached on Dec. 31 1921 with 22,000,000,000 lire. It has gradually decreased to the present 19,450,800,000 lire.

4. *Deposits.*—The public deposits in the various classes of banks in Italy for the last three years show the following steady increases—26, 28 and 32 billions of lire.

5. *Economic Situation.*—Work, discipline and sacrifices are the ruling sentiments in Italy to-day. Unemployment, which reached 500,000 in October 1921, has been reduced to 300,000 in 1922 and to 200,000 in October 1923. Strikes, which numbered 680 in 1921-22 with long duration, were reduced to 156 in 1922-23 and were all settled within a few days.

Despite the unfavorable trend of the lira exchange, due to general causes, over most of which Italy has no control, the cost of living has not increased in Italy during the last two years; on the contrary, the index numbers of wholesale prices decreased from 549% on Dec. 31 1921 to the present 529%. Wages and salaries have been adjusted to meet the necessities of comfortable life.

6. *Premier Mussolini.* being satisfied that his work of moral reconstruction is so well advanced that his Government can count on the support of the necessary majority of the people whenever needed, has allowed his full powers to expire on Dec. 31 1923 without asking for an extension, which would certainly have been granted to him willingly.

Proposed Mixed Claims Commission to Settle United States War Claims Against Austria.

The proposal by the United States for the creation of a mixed claims commission to settle the claims of the United States and its citizens against Austria for losses sustained during the war has, it is stated, been agreed to by the Austrian Government. A dispatch from Washington to the New York "Journal of Commerce" on Jan. 7 said:

The formal convention will be signed in the near future. The committee will be modeled on the American-German Mixed Claims Commission.

As was the case with the German Government, the Austrian Government has indicated its willingness for the President of the United States to name an umpire, although under ordinary practice the umpire would be selected from a neutral country. This action is determined upon by the Austrian Government, it was stated, because of a wish to expedite matters as much as possible.

Amounts to Be Scaled.

No definite figures are available at present as to the amount of American claims against Austria, though it has been intimated that they totaled more than \$10,000,000. It was admitted that this amount probably would be greatly reduced. The Austrian property held by the Alien Property Custodian is estimated at \$15,000,000.

During the World War the Austrian Government did not sequester alien property, as was the case in Germany and the United States. Some restrictions were placed, however, on the removal of foreign assets from the country, though the foreign interests were allowed to retain control, and there was no regularly constituted alien property custodian.

It is believed that a number of American claims arise from the fact that bank deposits in Austria were kept in the country, with a resultant depreciation in value with the slump in the value of Austrian currency. For example, if Americans with deposits in Austrian banks had been permitted to remove their deposits at the beginning of the war, they would have had the advantage of a much better rate of exchange than later, when the kronen had fallen to almost nothing.

Claims for Ships.

Some claims also are said to have resulted from the sinking of American ships by Austrian submarines, particularly in the Mediterranean. One American ship, the Ancona, was reported as sunk by an Austrian submarine, and though there has been some doubt expressed as to the real identity of the vessel causing the sinking, the Austrian Government has assumed responsibility.

One of the greatest difficulties which it is expected the Mixed Claims Commission will encounter arises from the fact that during the war Austria and Hungary were a political entity, while they are now separate nations. It is predicted that in many cases it will be difficult to fix responsibility and to apportion the exact share of indemnity.

More than a year ago the Austrian Government indicated its willingness to participate in a mixed claims commission, but difficulties respecting the Hungarian share and the adjournment of Congress halted negotiations until now.

Offering of \$40,000,000 Argentine Government External Gold Bonds.

An issue of \$40,000,000 Government of the Argentine National External Sinking Fund 6% Gold bonds of 1923, Series "A," was offered on the 17th inst. by a syndicate headed by Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Blair & Co., Inc., and the Chase Securities Corp. The bonds were offered, subject to private sale, at 96½ and accrued interest to the date of delivery, to yield 6¼% to maturity. The bonds are dated Sept. 1 1923, will mature Sept. 1 1957, and are redeemable through the operation of a cumulative sinking fund calculated to retire the bonds of this issue not later than Sept. 1 1957. They are coupon bonds in denominations of \$1,000 and \$500, registerable as to principal only. Principal and interest are payable in the City of New York in United States gold coin without deduction for any Argentine taxes or impositions present or future. Interest is payable March 1 and Sept. 1. The proceeds of the issue will be applied toward the payment of the Argentine Government's six months 6% Treasury gold notes, due March 1 1924, which will be accepted in payment for these bonds on a 4% interest basis, provided that notice of the amount of such notes to be tendered in payment is given not less than five days prior to the date fixed for delivery of and payment for the new bonds. The official circular says:

The above bonds are offered if, when and as issued and received by the under signed and subject to the completion of their purchase and approval of counsel. Temporary bonds or interim receipts exchangeable for definitive bonds when prepared may be delivered against payment in New York funds.

Felipe A. Espil, Charge d'Affaires of the Government of the Argentine Nation at Washington, in a letter to Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and Blair & Co., Inc., under date of Jan. 16, said in part:

The national debt of the Republic as of Dec. 31 1923, at gold parities of exchange, amounts to 932,000,000 gold pesos, being equivalent to \$100 U. S. per capita, as against over \$200 per capita for the United States. In addition, the Argentine Nation guarantees the bonds of the National Mortgage Bank. These bonds are somewhat similar to the United States Federal Farm Loan bonds, and are favored as an investment in Europe. The National Mortgage Bank is self-supporting and has a large reserve of its own.

Argentine credit in Europe ranks very high. A large number of pre-war Argentine loans are listed in London and on the Continental Stock Exchanges of Europe, none of which carries a higher interest rate than 5%. During the war, the Argentine Republic made large advances to some of the Allies, besides repurchasing a large part of the Argentine securities previously placed in European markets.

The budgetary figures since 1919 are as follows:

Year—	Receipts Gold Pesos. a	Expenditures Gold Pesos.
1919	168,388,000	188,276,000
1920	218,416,000	214,456,000
1921	130,784,000	246,664,000
1922	193,352,000	278,696,000
1923 b	249,054,000	292,160,000

a One gold peso=\$0 96½ at gold par of exchange. b Budgetary estimates for 1923.

The above receipts do not include funds raised through loans, but the expenditures do include capital expenditures for which loans were contracted. The capital expenditures for 1922 were about 28,000,000 gold pesos and for 1923 about 31,000,000 gold pesos.

The total note circulation of Argentina amounts to 1,362,564,000 paper pesos, equal to 599,528,000 gold pesos, which is covered by a gold reserve of 475,003,000 pesos (=U. S. \$458,300,000) or 79% one of the highest in the world.

The proceeds of this issue will be applied toward the payment of short-term notes which are included in the amount of the total debt as above stated.

The External Sinking Fund 6% gold loan of 1923 has been duly authorized by Acts of the National Congress of the Government of the Argentine Nation, known as Laws Nos. 11206 and 11207, and is limited to an amount of 150,000,000 Argentine gold pesos (\$100=103.64 gold pesos at gold par of exchange) or the equivalent thereof in American dollars or pounds sterling of Great Britain.

The loan is a direct liability and obligation of the Government, which pledges its good faith and credit for the punctual payment of the principal and interest thereof and of the installments of the sinking fund, in accordance with the terms of the bonds, and otherwise for the service of the loan; and the Government covenants, and the bonds shall so provide, that if, while any of the bonds of the external loan of 1923 shall be outstanding, the Government shall create or issue or guarantee any loan or bonds secured by lien on any of its revenues or assets, or assign any of its revenue or assets as security for any guaranty of any obligation, the bonds of the external loan of 1923 shall be secured equally and ratably with such other loan or bonds or such guaranty.

Beginning March 1 1924, and thereafter semi-annually on March 1 and Sept. 1 in each year, the Government of the Argentine Nation will pay to Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Blair & Co. and the Chase National Bank of the City of New York, the fiscal agents of the loan, as a sinking fund, in United States gold coin of the standard of weight and fineness aforesaid, (a) an amount equal to one-half of 1% of the maximum principal amount of the bonds of Series "A" at any time theretofore issued, plus (b) an amount equal to the interest accrued and unpaid on all bonds acquired through the operation of the sinking fund to the date of each such sinking fund payment. The fiscal agents shall apply each installment of the sinking fund towards the purchase of bonds below par through tenders and to the extent that such installment shall not within a period of ninety days after its payment have been so applied, bonds shall be drawn by lot for retirement at par. Notice of the numbers of the bonds drawn for retirement shall be advertised and the bonds so indicated shall become due and payable on the next interest payment date and shall bear no interest thereafter. Sinking fund payments may be increased by the Government in its discretion.

A part of the Series "A" bonds of the External Sinking Fund 6% Gold Loan of 1923 may be issued as Sterling bonds in denominations of £200, £100 and £20, interest and sinking fund payable in London in Sterling of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and such Sterling bonds shall in all other respects be similar to the dollar bonds of Series "A."

Application will be made for the listing of the dollar bonds of series "A" on the New York Stock Exchange. From the New York "Evening Post" of last night (Jan. 18) we take the following Buenos Aires advices:

The announcement that the American banking syndicate had offered only \$40,000,000 of the Argentine 30-year loan, instead of \$60,000,000, came as a surprise here. As originally published in Buenos Aires, the contract between the Argentine Government and the bankers provided that the bankers should take \$60,000,000 prior to March 1, of which \$55,000,000 would be used to pay off the six months' loan the bankers advanced the Government last September and which matures March 1.

Finance Minister Molina was absent from the city to-day, but it was authoritatively explained that the fact that the bankers only offered \$40,000,000 of the 30-year loan at this time did not imply any alterations in the contract with the bankers, who took the entire \$60,000,000, thus assuring the paying off of the remaining \$15,000,000 of the six months' loan. It was stated that the bankers were at liberty to offer the \$60,000,000 in whole or in part.

It is surmised here that the bankers may not offer the remaining \$20,000,000 of the long-term loan until after March 1, but in that case provision for the paying off of the remaining \$15,000,000 of the short-term loan would be for the bankers' account.

A reference to the proposed offering appeared in our issue of Dec. 29, page 2836.

Argentine Draws Gold from Italy.

On the 13th inst. advices as follows from Buenos Aires were announced by the New York "Journal of Commerce":

The \$2,800,000 in gold which arrived here on board the steamer Conte Verdi from New York, according to the Argentine National Bank, had been on deposit in Rome for account of the Argentine Government. The transfer of the money home was for the purpose of facilitating the payment of Argentine obligations in New York. The transfer enables the national bank to take advantage of the New York Exchange rates.

New Issue of \$60,000,000 Federal Land Bank Bonds Sold.

Following an announcement on Jan. 13 by Commissioner Cooper of the Federal Farm Loan Board that there would be a combined offering of \$60,000,000 Federal Land Bank bonds the following day, public offering of the issue was made on Monday last, the 14th inst. The issue, it is stated, is in anticipation of the winter and spring borrowing demand upon the banks. The bonds were offered to the public by a country-wide group, composed of the twelve Federal Land banks, investment houses, institutions and upwards of 1,000 dealers. The banking group is headed by Alex. Brown & Sons of Baltimore, Harris, Forbes & Co., Brown Bros. & Co., Lee, Higginson & Co., the National City Co. and the Guaranty Co. of New York. The issue, ten-thirty year 4¾% bonds, are dated Jan. 1 1924, become due Jan. 1 1954 and are redeemable at 100 and interest at any time on and after Jan. 1 1934. Interest is payable Jan. 1 and July 1 at any Federal Land bank or Federal Reserve bank; principal is payable at the bank of issue. The bonds are in coupon and registered form (interchangeable) in denominations of \$10,000, \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$100 and \$40. The bonds were offered at 100½ and interest, to yield about 4.70% to the redeemable date and 4¾% thereafter to redemption or maturity. They are acceptable by the United States Treasury as security for Government deposits, including Postal Savings funds, and the Federal Farm Loan Act provides that the bonds shall be

lawful investments for all fiduciary and trust funds under the jurisdiction of the United States Government. They are eligible under the laws of many of the States for investment of all public and private funds and have been held eligible for investment by savings banks in 37 States indicated further below. The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the constitutionality of the Act creating the banks and exempting these bonds from Federal, State, municipal and local taxation. The official circular also says:

Issuing Banks: The twelve Federal Land banks were organized by the United States Government with an original \$9,000,000 capital stock which has since increased through the operation of the system to over \$43,000,000.

Security: These bonds, in addition to being obligations of the Federal Land banks all twelve of which are primarily liable for interest and ultimately liable for the principal on each bond, are secured by collateral consisting of an equal amount of United States Government bonds, or mortgages on farm lands which must be:

(a) First mortgages to an amount not exceeding 50% of the value of the land and 20% of the value of the permanent improvements as appraised by United States appraisers;

(b) Limited to \$25,000 on any one mortgage;

(c) Guaranteed by the local National Farm Loan Association of which the borrower is a member and stockholder. The stock of these associations carries a double liability;

(d) Reduced each year by payment of part of the mortgage debt.

Values: The conservatism of appraisals made for the Federal Land banks is indicated by the fact that during the year ended Nov. 30 1923, 5,943 farms, against which the banks had made loans totaling \$17,492,109 were sold by their owners at private sale for \$43,659,950.

Operation: In six years of active operation the twelve Federal Land banks have been built up until on Nov. 30 1923 their capital was \$42,884,600; reserve \$4,050,500; surplus and undivided profits, \$4,401,459; and total assets \$871,146,694. All twelve banks are on a dividend paying and every bank shows a surplus earned from its operations.

The United States Government, as of Jan. 1 1924, owned approximately \$2,000,000 of the capital stock of the Federal Land banks. The Farm Loan associations, during the years 1922 and 1923, acquired approximately \$19,000,000 of Federal Land Bank stock, part of the proceeds of which was used to retire stock owned by the Government, as required by the Farm Loan Act. The United States Treasury has purchased and now holds over \$100,000,000 Federal Land Bank bonds. While these bonds are not Government obligations, and are not guaranteed by the Government, they are the secured obligations of banks operating under Federal charter with Governmental supervision, on whose boards of direction the Government is represented.

The following is the consolidated statement of condition of the twelve Federal Land banks at the close of business Nov. 30 1923 as officially reported by the Federal Farm Loan Board:

Assets.	
Net mortgage loans	*\$786,401,602 11
Accrued interest on mortgage loans (not matured)	13,886,406 91
United States Government bonds and securities	54,497,588 78
Accrued interest on bonds and securities (not matured)	390,978 61
Other accrued interest (uncollected)	64,465 93
Notes receivable, acceptances, &c.	287,110 31
Cash on hand and in banks	8,196,194 65
Accounts receivable	2,199,620 76
Installments matured (in process of collection)	1,401,500 32
Banking houses	1,477,132 43
Furniture and fixtures	213,023 03
Other assets	2,131,069 83
Total assets	\$871,146,693 67
Liabilities.	
Capital stock, held by—	
United States Government	\$2,434,385 00
National Farm Loan associations	40,227,780 00
Borrowers through agents	220,165 00
Individual subscribers	2,270 00
Total capital stock	\$42,884,600 00
Reserve (from earnings)	4,050,500 00
Surplus (from earnings)	300,000 00
Farm Loan bonds outstanding	807,455,720 00
Accrued interest on Farm Loan bonds (not matured)	6,594,446 32
United States Government deposits	1,141,225 91
Notes and accounts payable	652,056 08
Due borrowers on uncompleted loans	1,133,682 30
Amortization installments paid in advance	1,872,712 39
Matured int. on Farm Loan bonds (coupons not presented)	358,803 31
Reserved for dividends unpaid	591,488 13
Other liabilities	4,101,459 23
Undivided profits	—
Total liabilities	\$871,146,693 67
* Unpledged mortgages (gross), \$15,076,427 14.	

Federal Land Bank bonds have been held eligible for investment by savings banks in the following States:

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Four issues of Federal Land Bank bonds were offered during the late year; two of these, for \$75,000,000 each, were referred to in these columns Jan. 6 1923, page 26, and April 21 1923, page 1711; an issue of \$45,000,000 offered in June 1923 was reported by us June 30 1923, page 2940, and a \$47,000,000 issue was noted by us Oct. 20 1923, page 1728. The issuance of the \$75,000,000 bonds in April 1923 followed the call for redemption and payment on May 1 of \$55,032,000 then outstanding 5% Federal Land Bank bonds. In his announcement of the proposed offering Commissioner Cooper said:

The twelve Federal Land banks have during the past year increased their capital to \$43,597,320 and their total assets to \$876,232,007. With this continued growth and continued evidence of their solidarity it is anticipated that the present offering will be promptly absorbed.

Offering of Bonds of Bankers' Joint Stock Land Bank of Boonville, Mo.

An offering of \$500,000 5% Farm Loan bonds of the Bankers' Joint Stock Land Bank of Boonville, Missouri, was announced on Jan. 10 by the Farmers' Trust Co., Boonville, Mo., the Citizens' Trust Co., Boonville, Mo., the Tri-County Trust Co., Glasgow, Mo., and the Central Missouri Trust Co., Jefferson City, Mo. The bonds were offered at 100.40, to yield more than 4.95 to optional date and 5% thereafter. Issued under the Federal Farm Loan Act, the bonds are dated Oct. 1 1923, become due Oct. 1 1953, and are redeemable at the option of the obligor at par and accrued interest on Oct. 1 1933, or any interest date thereafter. Principal and semi-annual interest are payable April 1 and Oct. 1. The bonds are in denomination of \$1,000. The bonds are the direct obligations of the Bankers' Joint Stock Land Bank of Boonville. It is stated that the loans of this bank have been made largely in central Missouri and north-eastern Arkansas. Average loan per acre in Missouri is \$35 77 and in Arkansas \$19 78. The valuation by the Federal appraisers on the land, it is added, is 2.52 times the amount of the loans securing this issue. The bonds are exempt from all Federal, State, municipal and local taxes, except inheritance taxes. The constitutionality of the Act and the tax exemption features were upheld by the United States Supreme Court on Feb. 28 1921.

Opening of International Union Bank in New York.

An addition to the labor banks already in operation in this city occurred on Saturday, Jan. 5, when the International Union Bank, organized under the auspices of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union began business at 147 Fifth Avenue, at the corner of 21st Street. As was noted in our issue of Oct. 27, page 1833, the bank has a capital and surplus of \$250,000 each. The officers of the bank are Abraham Baroff, President; Philip R. Rodriguez, Vice-President and General Manager, and Philip Kaplowitz, Cashier. It is announced that deposits received on the opening day amounted to approximately \$600,000, consisting of about 400 special interest bearing and commercial checking accounts.

Paul M. Warburg on Necessity of Keeping Gold Reserves High.

Paul M. Warburg, Chairman of the Board of the International Acceptance Bank, in an address at the annual meeting of the latter this week stated that while it is true that adverse economic conditions had rendered the granting of acceptance credits in world markets more difficult than normally it should be, the uncertainty prevailing in many foreign countries had, on the other hand, increased the demand for dollar credits, as buyers and sellers would naturally seek to place their trades on the basis of the currency enjoying the greatest stability. Mr. Warburg added:

It is not surprising that the flood of foreign funds seeking shelter in the United States, as money on deposit or in permanent investments, has assumed larger proportions and greater intensity in recent months. Wherever a country's unbalanced budgets (or other circumstances) render further drastic inflation and its concomitant panicky demand for stable exchanges inevitable the "flight of capital" cannot be arrested by Government decree or the club of the policeman. The wave of currency depreciation, which has been sweeping westward from Russia through Poland, Austria and Germany, and is now threatening to cross the Rhine, cannot be brought to a halt by strong arm methods, but only by a restoration of confidence.

It is interesting to observe in this connection that many leading central banks, and some of the newly born note-issuing banks, are now using their balances in the United States or dollar acceptances as their principal or secondary gold reserves. Thus our vast gold treasure has begun to serve as the fundamental basis not only for our own currency and credit structure, but also for that of other countries. This condition is likely to prevail in an increasing measure in coming years, and it will, therefore, be all the more important to keep our gold reserves high. If the world is ever to return to a fairly normal state of things, it must be permitted, in one form or another, to regain the facility of using as the basis of its financial structure that share of Uncle Sam's excess ownership of gold that is a luxury and danger to him and a necessity for others. We must learn to consider our gold as the gold reserve not only of the United States but of, practically, the entire world, and we must administer it with that fact in our minds.

Reviewing the year that has just come to a close, one would write it down as "a year of progress." For it is "progress" also if the fever reaches the climax which must be passed before a cure can set in.

Austria now furnishes the classic illustration of a case of violent infection, desperate sickness and rapid recovery. Other countries, such as Norway and Denmark, suffered from milder attacks of deflationary troubles, and, after some major—in some cases capital—operations, they are now on fair road to recuperation. Germany at present is in a life and death struggle, making a flight to pass the climax of the fever.

Two things the doctors have learned:

One, that the only remedy that will help is the injection of an adequate dose of confidence, and

Two, that the disease is contagious.

The realization of these two facts, pathetically late as it comes, may prove of the greatest value to those now straining their wits to conquer the

epidemic of disorganization, destruction and suffering that, much too long, has been permitted to hold the world in its cruel grip. The innate strength and geographical remoteness from the centre of disturbance, a far-sighted and courageous fiscal policy, a prudent and conservative administration of our Federal Reserve System, and an intelligent co-operation on the part of business and finance, have enabled our country in 1923 to enjoy a high degree of prosperity in spite of the grave difficulties facing the rest of the world. The process of adjusting ourselves to the new conditions created by the war, of finding the approximate level likely to prove the normal base of our economic structure of the near future, seems to be almost completed. Those who prophesy for the United States a conservative prosperity have a fair chance to be proved right, even though it remains a hazardous undertaking to venture prognostications in present circumstances where the unexpected so often happens. It is obvious, however, that our emancipation from the fate of the rest of the world can never be complete. Certain maladjustments—particularly between the agricultural and the industrial situations—will not cease to embarrass us as long as European disintegration continues. We are too strong for Europe to drag us down, but we are not strong enough to permit us to expect for the United States a period of sustained and pronounced general prosperity if the further decline of Europe is not arrested in the near future.

When the war began we hoped that it would remain localized. When the conflagration spread and when it lasted long enough, it became inevitable for us to be drawn into the caldron—in spite of "geographical remoteness." It is wise for us to realize that economic and financial conflagration in Europe, if it lasts long enough and if it spreads far enough, must inevitably affect us. There is nobody who is immune from contagion, and epidemics have a nasty way of crossing the oceans.

Paul M. Warburg Re-Elected to Federal Advisory Council.

Paul M. Warburg, Chairman of the Board of the International Acceptance Bank, New York, has been re-elected a member of the Federal Advisory Council, made up of one member from each Federal Reserve District. He has been connected with the Council for several years, and was preceded by J. P. Morgan and A. Barton Hepburn.

Annual Meeting of American Exporters' and Importers' Association.

The American Exporters and Importers Association, whose membership includes most of the leading export and import commission houses of the country, held its annual meeting Jan. 16 at the Whitehall Club. The following officers and directors were elected:

President, Wm. H. Knox, Wm. H. Knox & Co., Inc.; Vice-President, G. R. Parker, Frazer & Co.; Treasurer, John R. Bradlee, Henry W. Peabody & Co.; Secretary, Maxwell McMaster, R. W. Cameron & Co.; Directors: George U. Kirkpatrick, Smith, Kirkpatrick & Co.; F. W. Lincoln, Henry W. Peabody & Co.; R. A. Medina, J. A. Medina Co.; Daniel Warren, American Trading Co.

Donald Mackinnon, Commissioner from Australia, spoke on trade conditions and the business outlook in his country.

New Members of Governing Committee of New York Stock Exchange.

Charles S. Sargent Jr. of Kidder, Peabody & Co., and Gerald M. Livingston of Livingston & Co., have been elected to the Governing Committee of the New York Stock Exchange to serve until the annual election. Mr. Sargent fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of R. T. H. Halsey and Mr. Livingston the vacancy caused by the resignation of H. T. B. Jacquelin. There are still two more vacancies in the Governing Committee, caused by the recent resignations of C. I. Stralem and Robert G. Glendenning. L. Martin Richmond has been appointed to the Committee on Quotations and Commissions.

J. L. Morgenthau, New York, Suspended for Six Months From New York Curb Market.

On Thursday (Jan. 10) the Board of Governors of the New York Curb Market announced the suspension for a period of six months of J. L. Morgenthau of J. L. Morgenthau & Co., 2 Rector Street, this city, for a technical violation of the Curb's trading rules as set forth in Article 17, Section 6, of the institution.

New York Curb Suspends Failed Cincinnati Firm of Channer & Sawyer from Associate Membership.

The firm of Channer & Sawyer, Cincinnati, which failed in November last, was suspended from associate membership in the New York Curb Market on Jan. 10. It was explained that action had not been taken sooner because the firm did very little business in this market.

A. C. Douglas, New York, Suspended from New York Curb Market.

The suspension of A. C. Douglas from associate membership in the New York Curb Market has been announced from the rostrum of the Exchange. The suspension was due to failure to meet his engagements.

New York Consolidated Stock Exchange Expels H. Glaser.

The expulsion of Harry Glaser was announced from the rostrum of the Consolidated Stock Exchange on Jan. 11. Glaser, who was admitted to the Exchange Jan. 18 1922, was charged with violation of Section 1 of Article 3 of the Constitution, which provides that any member who fails or refuses to appear before the Board of Governors for examination may be expelled. Glaser was a floor trader and did no business with the public.

Harry Nathans Elected Trustee of Defunct Firm of Chandler Bros. & Co., Philadelphia.

At a meeting on Jan. 7 of the creditors of the bankrupt firm of Chandler Bros. & Co., Philadelphia, Harry Nathans was elected trustee to succeed Willard P. Barrows, whose death occurred recently. Our last reference to the failed firm of Chandler Bros. & Co. was in the "Chronicle" of Jan. 3 1923, page 134.

The R. Parker Co., New York, Enjoined.

R. H. Parker, 50 Broad St., this city, a stock broker doing business under the firm name of The R. Parker Co., was on Jan. 4 enjoined by Justice William P. Burr of the Supreme Court from dealing in securities on application of the Attorney-General of New York. The defendant was charged with bucketing orders in two affidavits, one signed by an official of the Better Business Bureau. The latter alleged, it is said, Parker had been doing a lucrative business, trading in "puts" and "calls" and had failed to deliver purchased stock.

Former Vice-President of the R. L. Dollings Co. Sentenced to Three Years in Penitentiary.

Dwight Harrison, former Vice-President of the R. L. Dollings Co. of Ohio, was on Jan. 5 sentenced by Judge Robert P. Duncan in the Court of Common Pleas at Columbus to three years in the Ohio penitentiary and in addition to pay a fine of \$5,000. The defendant some weeks ago was found guilty of making false statements concerning the holdings of the Phoenix Portland Cement Co. of Ohio, which stock was being sold by the R. L. Dollings Co. Appeal will be taken, it is said. Trial of Mr. Harrison in the Federal Court is scheduled, it is said, to take place shortly on an indictment charging alleged misuse of the mails in connection with the sale of Dollings' stock. Reference was last made to the affairs of the R. L. Dollings Co. in the "Chronicle" of Sept. 29 1923, pages 1417 and 1418.

Representative Frear's Proposal to Tax Outstanding State and Municipal Securities—Secretary Mellon Declares Suggestion Unsound and Unfair.

The proposal of Representative Frear of Wisconsin, Republican member of the House Ways and Means Committee, that income from outstanding issues of State and municipal securities shall be made subject to tax, has brought from Secretary of the Treasury Mellon a letter citing objections to such a proposal. A bill embodying his proposal was introduced by Representative Frear on the 3d inst., and on the same date he wrote Secretary Mellon regarding his suggested legislation. In this letter Mr. Frear, it was stated in the New York "Commercial," expressed the opinion that a constitutional amendment was unnecessary. The same paper said:

His bill, as introduced, provides that the Act shall not be held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court without the concurrence of all but one of the judges and shall remain in effect, notwithstanding any decision by a lower court pending final determination by the Supreme Court.

"By one vote the Supreme Court emasculated the income tax amendment and exempted over \$2,000,000,000 of stock dividends from personal income tax during the single year of 1922, largely destroying the value of the income tax provisions of the Constitution," said Mr. Frear in his letter to Secretary Mellon. "Now trained constitutional lawyers further contend that the Supreme Court will hold net income from municipal bonds, State bonds and similar securities tax free if the question comes before the court.

Cites Evans Case.

"If the Evans case exempting justices' salaries is authority for exempting all municipal securities, then I submit that by two divided court decisions the United States income tax constitutional amendment and the will of the people will have gone to the scrap heap and more amendments are futile to reach the horse that is gone. My plan is again to catch the horse by requiring a nearly unanimous decision of the court on a controversial legal proposition wherein hundreds of millions of dollars annually are to be gained or lost to the Government. This follows the principle that a unanimous jury finding shall be had in determining the simplest controversy of fact in court."

Secretary Mellon in his answer to Representative Frear under date of Jan. 8 states that a subcommittee of the

Ways and Means Committee "has decided with the concurrence of all but you, that the bill would be clearly unconstitutional and on no account should be passed." Assuming that Representative Frear's suggestion "has been made in an endeavor to reach some constructive and practical solution," Secretary Mellon says, "do you not think it would be better to abandon a project which is unsound, unfair, and in all probabilities a violation of the Constitution, in favor of the Constitutional amendment affecting future issues of tax-exempt securities, and a reduction of surtaxes affecting, through economic incentive, present issues?" Secretary Mellon's letter to Representative Frear follows:

Jan. 8 1924.

My dear Congressman:

I have your letter of Jan. 3, in which you propose, instead of the passage of an amendment to the Constitution permitting the taxation by the Federal Government of income from State securities subsequently issued, and giving reciprocal rights to the States; the immediate passage of a bill taxing the income on State and municipal securities now existing, and requiring that the statute be not held void without the concurrence of at least all but one of the Supreme Court Justices, and that it shall continue in full force and effect, irrespective of the decision of any inferior court. You ask my support of your proposal.

Not being a lawyer, I shall not enter into a discussion with you on the constitutionality of your bill. I might, however, call your attention to the fact that your legal argument appears to be based upon dissenting opinions of the Supreme Court and not on the opinions which have become the law of the land. I have been informed that a sub-committee of the Ways and Means Committee composed entirely of lawyers, of which you were one, has decided, with the concurrence of all but you, that the bill would be clearly unconstitutional and on no account should be passed. This agrees with every other lawyer whose views I have seen.

With respect to the constitutionality of the restrictions on the action of the Supreme Court and the inferior courts, I again cannot give you a legal opinion, but it seems to me that if these restrictions are constitutional, why not eliminate all questions as to the constitutionality of your bill by going just one small step further and providing "this Act shall not be held unconstitutional"?

I may, however, be permitted to say something on what I consider the merits of your bill.

The bill applies only to municipal and State securities and does not apply to securities created by Congress. The proposed constitutional amendment is reciprocal; that is, both State and United States securities thereafter issued would be taxable. Do you not think the discrimination in your suggestion is indefensible? Is Congress to say that the United States will tax securities issued by a State or its subdivision, but the State may not tax securities issued by the United States?

The proposed constitutional amendment covers only securities issued subsequently to its adoption. Your bill affects existing securities in the hands of innocent holders. Tax-exemption was a material factor in fixing the price at which these securities were sold to their present owners. As an example of what this means, the First Liberty 3½s are fully tax-exempt, the 4½s of the same issue and maturity are exempt as to normal tax only. Based upon the average market price of these bonds during last month, the removal of the exemption from surtax would drop the price from 99.7% to 87.2%, or a loss of \$125 for a \$1,000 bond, and removal of the normal tax exemption would reduce the price further to 82.4%, or a total loss of \$173 on each \$1,000 bond.

A similar situation would, of course, exist in every municipal and State bond. This is the value of tax-exemption sold and paid for. You propose to confiscate this value and to pay nothing for it. Irrespective of its validity, it seems to me such legislation would be dishonest.

Because you must base your legal case on what some Justices of the Supreme Court may have said in their dissenting opinions, you must admit that there is a grave constitutional question involved in your suggestion, on which the probability of the Act being declared unconstitutional greatly exceeds the probability of its constitutionality. The question can only be decided by an opinion of the United States Supreme Court on a case duly brought before it.

If your bill were passed promptly, it would affect income received in 1924, which is returned for taxation in 1925. Some time later a decision would be obtained from the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the doubt of the law's validity would completely destroy the market for all State and municipal bonds, because the investor would be unwilling to purchase bonds at a price justified by their tax-exempt feature, and the States and the municipalities would be charged with negligence if they sold their bonds on the basis of not being tax-exempt.

You may recall that a similar situation arose a few years ago, when there was no market for Federal Farm Loan bonds for several years until the Supreme Court passed upon the constitutionality of the tax-exempt feature. This condition of uncertainty would exist, irrespective of what might ultimately be the decision.

If ultimately the Supreme Court should determine that the Act was unconstitutional—and you seem to be practically alone in believing that any other result will follow—then you would have accomplished nothing and you would have to start over with the constitutional amendment. At that time the Government would have to refund enormous sums of money which it had collected on the tax-exempt income and which was wrongfully withheld from the owners, together with interest on these sums. The effect on the Government's budget in making repayment of the amounts which it would then have spent, and which it had no right to collect or hold, would be most serious.

To summarize: First, your bill makes an indefensible discrimination between securities issued by States and municipalities and securities issued under authority of Congress. Second, it confiscates, without compensation, property values which have been paid for by the investor. Third, it would seriously disturb the State and Federal Government finances; and finally, the entire proceeding would most probably be vain and the time utterly wasted.

I agree with you that the proposed constitutional amendment because it does not reach the \$11,000,000,000 of fully tax-exempt securities already in existence, is not a complete remedy. I have, therefore, recommended such a reduction in surtaxes as to make further investment of tax-exempt securities less desirable for the most compelling reason in the world—that is, because the investor will be given an opportunity to make more money out of productive business than out of unproductive tax-exempts.

Upon the present basis of surtaxes, a 4½% municipal bond gives as much for a man with a large income as he would receive after taxes from an investment returning him 11%. No prudent investor will consider an 11% investment the equal in safety to a municipal bond, and will not go into

productive business on those terms. Under the recommendations which I have made the return on a 4½% tax-exempt would be equalled by a taxable investment yielding 6½%. Returns in excess of this may reasonably be expected and the prosperity of the country increased through devotion of moneys to productive enterprise.

I have assumed that your suggestion has been made in an endeavor to reach some constructive and practical solution of the question. If so, do you not think it would be better to abandon a project which is unsound, unfair and in all probability a violation of the Constitution, in favor of the constitutional amendment affecting future issues of tax-exempt securities, and a reduction of surtaxes affecting, through economic incentive, present issues?

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON, Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. James A. Frear, House of Representatives.

According to the New York "Times" of yesterday (Jan. 11) Representative Frear, replying on the 10th inst. to Secretary Mellon's assertion that the proposal of the Wisconsin member to tax the present tax-free securities without a Constitutional amendment was based on a wrong conclusion, Mr. Frear says: "a Constitutional amendment would be comparatively useless." The "Times" in its account of Representative Frear's reply adds:

An allegation by Mr. Mellon that the Frear scheme discriminates between State and municipal securities on one hand and Federal securities on the other is answered by Mr. Frear with the statement that he would welcome any suggested changes so long as they did not make his bill "illogical and patently unconstitutional." The point that the Frear proposition would confiscate without compensation is answered by the author with the statement that this is not a cause for argument unless no attention is paid to other tax measures and constitutional provisions already passed.

On the third point, that the Frear ideas would disturb State and Federal finances, Mr. Frear asserts that all income tax measures on large incomes come under such a category, and that in any case the matter would have to be settled by the courts.

Comment is made by Mr. Frear that the Ways and Means sub-committee approved a constitutional amendment "in a few minutes" after hearing the opinion by A. W. Gregg, the Treasury expert assigned to the committee. The Gregg brief did not, however, change the views of any opposed to such an amendment, Mr. Frear asserts.

Mr. Frear criticizes five-to-four Supreme Court decisions, and says:

"I have believed that possibly a wise provision would be to require practically unanimous decision in a matter involving many billions of dollars to the Government and far-reaching effect in its final determination of power of the people through constitutional amendment to save the income tax law from wholesale evasion.

"It certainly does not seem a serious departure from the Constitution to say that when safeguards are placed around the acts of the Ohio Legislature by its constitutional provision, and on the simplest question of facts juries are required to find unanimously that something more than the vote of one Judge who frequently overturns matters of vital moment, should be necessary."

Another proposal on taxation of the exempt securities was made to-day in a bill by Representative Hill of Maryland. This would give power to the Federal Government to tax State issues, and the same right to the States to tax Federal securities.

Death of Edward G. Riggs.

The unexpected death on Thursday this week (Jan. 17) of Edward Gridley Riggs, who had formerly, for so many years, been associated with the New York "Sun" and latterly, for the past eleven years, had been executive Assistant to the President of the New York, New Haven & Hartford RR., is deeply deplored by the legion of friends which he possessed not alone in New York, but throughout the country. Mr. Riggs had been an intimate friend of Senator Platt, and had been well known as one of those in the inner circles of the "Amen Corner." The New York "Herald" of yesterday (Jan. 18)—with which the "Sun" was merged—commenting on Mr. Riggs' activities said:

"Eddie," or "Riggs of 'The Sun'," as he was known to politicians and officials in every State from Maine to California, was a political writer of great force and influence. He scorned all such titles as political editor and preferred to be known as a reporter. Mr. Riggs probably knew more political figures, and knew them well, than any other man in his profession.

Mr. Riggs joined the staff of "The Sun" in 1885 as a Wall Street reporter, and although for the rest of his life he maintained his interest in things and persons financial he gravitated toward politics and reported every national convention for "The Sun" from 1888 to 1912. He never held a permanent assignment in Albany or Washington, but preferred to rove. The late Charles A. Dana, editor of "The Sun," whose interest in politics was unflagging, relied on Riggs for his surveys and political appraisals. "Riggs," Mr. Dana once remarked to a friend, "is my Phil Sheridan." One of his last great pieces of newspaper work was a 20,000 word history of national conventions which appeared in "The Sun" in 1912—the first of its kind ever written.

Frank M. O'Brien, writing of Riggs' work in his "Story of 'The Sun,'" said: "In Washington he knew and was welcomed by Presidents Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft; by Senators like Hanna and Quay; by Cabinet members like Hay and Knox; by House leaders like Reed and Bland. He knew J. P. Morgan and William C. Whitney as well as he knew William J. Bryan and Peffer, the Kansas Populist."

When in 1896 Thomas C. Platt wanted a financial plank for the Republican State platform that would offset and denounce the movement for the free coinage of silver it was Riggs he asked to get the ideas of Mr. Dana and William M. Laffan, publisher and afterward owner of "The Sun." And it was Riggs who in 1897 carried a message from Mr. Dana to Platt asking the Senator to withdraw his opposition to the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Platt complied and Roosevelt got the position.

Mr. Riggs was born in New York City and educated in the public schools and by private tutors. He joined the New York New Haven & Hartford in 1919. Since he retired from newspaper work he had been a frequent contributor to "Harper's Weekly," "The Bookman," the "North American Review," and "Munsey's Magazine" on political and financial topics. He belonged to the Lotos, Barnard, Manhattan, Pilgrims and Newspaper clubs.

The same paper also had the following to say editorially regarding Mr. Riggs:

Riggs of "The Sun."

The greatest of American political correspondents died yesterday. Edward G. Riggs had been out of journalism for ten years, but he was still "Riggs of The Sun" to the countless public men whose friendship he had formed in his long service and to the newspaper men who regarded him with affection, admiration and pardonable envy.

Mr. Riggs was on "The Sun" for twenty-eight years and during all but three years of that period was a political writer. He attended the national conventions from 1888 to 1912, and from 1896 to 1912 he was in charge of his paper's convention staff. His greater usefulness, however, was year round. Wherever and whenever politics seethed, there was Riggs. Charles A. Dana said of him that he was his Phil Sheridan; and this comparison with the swiftly moving cavalry leader was a very happy one.

Mr. Riggs knew the country and its politics, city, State and national, from A to Z. He never took root after the manner of many political reporters. He wanted to be at the seat of excitement, whether it was Tammany Hall, Albany, Washington or Wall Street. Other and capable men could write of what was happening; Riggs discovered why it was happening and what would happen next.

Samuel G. Blythe called Mr. Riggs the American De Blowitz. The "Sun" man resembled the famous European journalist in his remarkable ease of access to great men and their political secrets. Presidents and Governors, reformers and bosses, farmers and financiers, all gave their confidences to him. He moved in the political age more mysterious than the present. Machines were more powerful and there was much intrigue. The relationship between finance and politics was closer than it is to-day.

Like De Blowitz, Mr. Riggs played some part in the politics he watched and wrote about. When Senator Platt wished to have Mr. Dana's draft of a gold plank for the Republican State platform of 1896 it was Riggs who negotiated. When Dana, in 1897, wanted Platt to withdraw his opposition to the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, it was Riggs who carried the request.

Mr. Riggs knew intimately every President from Harrison to Taft. Powerful Senators like Hanna and Quay sought his friendship. John Hay's latchstring was out for him. Tom Reed always had a Yankee epigram waiting for "Eddie." Without being a politician, Riggs knew more of politics than most of his famous contemporaries, for he heard all sides of every question.

Men liked Riggs even when they dreaded his pen and his newspaper. It was not his power to help or harm, or even his remarkable ability as a writer, that made him the most popular of political correspondents. Beyond and above these was the man's own personality. His cheerfulness, his humor, his fine intelligence, his meticulous sense of honor, his delightful companionship, all went to make friends of every man he met. "Loyalty," Mr. Blythe wrote of Riggs, "is his first attribute, even better than his courage."

Mr. Riggs might have been great in politics or finance if he had chosen either field. But he was happiest and most useful as "Riggs of the Sun." And as such he will be grieved for and long remembered.

Mr. Riggs, who was 68 years of age, was born on March 24 1856. Besides his widow, he leaves one son, Royal E. T. Riggs, a lawyer of this city. Funeral services will be held this afternoon (Jan. 19) at 2:30 at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Livingston and Clinton Streets, Brooklyn. The honorary pallbearers will be Howard Elliott, Chairman of the board of the Northern Pacific RR., formerly of the New Haven; Louis Seibold of the New York "Herald"; Judge Samuel A. Beardsley of Utica; Louis A. Coolidge of Boston, President of the United Shoe Machinery Co., and a former political writer; Alexander Konta and N. O. Messenger of the Washington "Star."

Mr. Riggs in his early life did some work for the "Commercial and Financial Chronicle." He was the son of James W. Riggs, who reported the commercial markets for this publication from the day it was started in July 1865 almost up to the time of his death a dozen years ago. Another son Oscar W. Riggs, a brother of Eddie, is reporting these same markets for us to-day, and the work has been in the Riggs family for the whole 59 years of the paper's existence.

Foreign Holdings of Common and Preferred Stock of the United States Steel Corporation Show Decline.

According to the figures for Dec. 31 1923, just made available, the foreign holdings of both common and preferred shares of the United States Steel Corporation have again been slightly further reduced. On Dec. 31 1923 the holdings abroad of common stock totaled 203,109 shares, as against 210,799 shares Sept. 30 1923, 207,041 shares June 30 1923 and 261,768 shares Dec. 30 1922. The foreign holdings of preferred shares, which on June 30 1923 stood at 117,631 shares and on Sept. 30 1923 at 118,435 shares, on Dec. 31 1923 were down to 113,155 shares. A year ago at this time viz., Dec. 30 1922, the holdings abroad of preferred stock totaled 121,308 shares. The shrinkage in these foreign holdings when contrasted with the period before the war is very striking indeed. Thus, while the foreign holdings of common now, as already stated, amount to only 203,109 shares, on March 31 1914 they aggregated no less than 1,285,636 shares, and the preferred holdings abroad, which at present total 113,155 shares, on March 31 1914 stood at 312,311 shares.

Below we furnish a detailed statement of the foreign holdings at various dates since Dec. 31 1914 to the latest period:

FOREIGN HOLDINGS OF SHARES OF U. S. STEEL CORPORATION

Table with columns: Common Stock, Dec. 31 1923, Dec. 31 1922, Dec. 31 1921, Dec. 31 1920, Dec. 31 1919, Dec. 31 1918, Dec. 31 1917. Lists countries like Africa, Algeria, Argentina, etc., and their share counts.

In the following table is shown the number of shares of the Steel Corporation distributed as between brokers and investors on Dec. 31 1923 and Dec. 31 1922:

Table with columns: Date, Shares, Per Cent. for COMMON and PREFERRED stock, comparing Dec. 31 1923 and Dec. 31 1922.

Common—	Dec. 31 1923.	Ratio.	Dec. 31 1922.	Ratio.
Brokers, domestic and foreign	1,048,318	20.62	1,335,864	26.38
Investors, domestic and foreign	4,034,707	79.38	3,747,161	73.72
Preferred—				
Brokers, domestic and foreign	193,607	5.37	223,121	6.19
Investors, domestic and foreign	3,409,204	94.63	3,379,690	93.81

The following is of interest as it shows the holdings of brokers and investors in New York State:

Common—	Dec. 31 1923.	Ratio.	Dec. 31 1922.	Ratio.
Brokers	905,079	17.80	1,137,021	22.37
Investors	1,287,527	25.33	1,185,586	23.32
Preferred—				
Brokers	165,911	4.60	188,585	5.24
Investors	1,502,722	41.70	1,473,807	40.90

New York Cotton Exchange Committee Prepares Charges Against Members.

The Business Conduct Committee of the New York Cotton Exchange, of which Louis Brooks is Chairman, and William N. Schill and Marshall Geer the other members, issued the following statement on the 8th inst.:

Pursuant to the direction of the Board of Managers of the New York Cotton Exchange, which met yesterday, the Business Conduct Committee to-day prepared charges against two members of the Exchange for submission to the Supervisory Committee. The charges are the outgrowth of the investigation by the committee of the leakage of the Exchange quotations to odd lot cotton bucket shops and kindred matters. The two members in question will be charged with conduct detrimental to the Exchange.

The Supervisory Committee will, in turn, report back to the Board of Managers with such recommendations as it sees fit to make.

The Business Conduct Committee, in the meantime, is continuing its investigation of similar matters which may lead to disclosures of other violations of the rules.

The previous day, Jan. 7, Edward F. Bartlett, Jr., President, issued the following statement:

The Business Conduct Committee of the New York Cotton Exchange, which has been investigating the leakage to odd lot brokerage houses of quotations through certain houses which have membership on our Exchange, made its report to-day in two of the cases which have been under inquiry. The Board of Managers heard the evidence in these two cases and will act accordingly. The Business Conduct Committee has other cases of this nature under consideration, which, it is expected, will be reported to the Board for action in the near future.

In the meantime, the New York Cotton Exchange, fortified by the recent decision of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, is determined to do everything in its power to prevent its quotations from reaching the hands of unauthorized persons, and any member of the Exchange who violates this rule may expect to be disciplined.

Negroes Returning South.

[From Manufacturers Record.]

Negroes are moving back from Chicago and other Western points to the central South in large numbers. A dispatch from Memphis reports that the Illinois Central is running a special train from Chicago to Mississippi carrying 247 negro families, and R. J. Carmichael, Assistant General Passenger Agent of that road, stated that this is the first of a series of special trains which will bring many negroes from the West to the South.

Negroes Flock Back South—1,700, Fleeing Northern Cold, Swamp Trains in Kentucky.

The following Paducah (Ky.) advices Jan. 5 appeared in the New York "Times":

Scurrying before the chill advance of the Northern winter, 1,700 negroes passed through Fulton Junction last night en route to their old homes in Dixie. They are the vanguard of the army that usually relinquishes Northern jobs in the face of Northern winter.

Railroad officials swamped, telephoned from Cairo to Fulton for extra coaches to relieve the congestion. In several of the coaches conductors were unable to wedge in to collect tickets and gave up the effort.

Negro Centre Changed—First Northeasterly Migration Puts It in Georgia.

From the New York "Times" we take the following Associated Press advices Dec. 23:

The centre of negro population in the United States has been determined by the Census Bureau as 1.8 miles north-northeast of Rising Fawn, in Dade County, Georgia. For the first time in history this centre has moved to the northeast, its former movements having been in a southwesterly direction.

"The movement of the centre of negro population is an accurate index of the direction of negro migration," says the Bureau. "In 1790 it was located 25 miles west-southwest of Petersburg, Va.

"The present northeasterly movement is due principally to the great increase in the negro population of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. The total increase in the negro population of the United States was 635,368, and the increase in the Northern States noted was 56% of the total increase.

"This hegira north of the negro population was due mainly to the expansion of certain industries during the World War, the high wages paid being the great attraction. It is probably true that this movement has been continued, due to the reduction of the cotton crop and the demand for common labor at higher wages in the North."

Ford Motor Stocks Valued at \$840,000,000—Current Market \$4,866 a Share—Average Net Profit \$67 a Car—Ford of Canada.

The following from Detroit appeared in the "Wall Street Journal" of Jan. 9:

The recent revelation by the "Wall Street Journal" that Ford Motor Co. (Detroit) and Ford of Canada make almost identical profits per car, and the

fact that the latter has a public valuation, furnish for the first time a basis for computing the market valuation of the \$17,264,500 stock in the Detroit Ford company.

On this basis the Ford Motor Co. is worth \$840,000,000 in the market, and when production reaches steady 10,000 cars a day, it will be worth \$1,260,000,000 or more. Present market value a share is \$4,866; at 10,000 cars a day each share will be worth \$7,342.

This market valuation is deduced from the fact that investors place a market value of \$425 a share on the 70,000 \$100 par shares of Ford Motor Co. of Canada, Ltd., and that this company during 12 months ended July 31 1923 showed net profits available for dividends of \$68 a car, while the American company in twelve months ended June 30 1923 showed \$67 a car. The Canadian company reported \$5,106,197 net profits on a production of 75,000 units, while the American company reported \$124,193,062 on an output of 1,833,000 units.

Ford of Canada.

At \$425 a share Ford of Canada is worth \$29,750,000 in the market, or six times its \$5,106,197 net profits during the twelve months ended July 31 1923. Six times the \$124,193,062 net profits of the American company during twelve months ended June 30 1923, yields a market valuation of \$745,158,362 for its outstanding 172,645 \$100 par shares, or \$4,300 a share.

Applying the same ratio to probable profits of \$140,000,000 on the nearly 2,000,000 unit 1923 production at \$70 a car, the American company has a present valuation of \$840,000,000, or \$4,866 a share; at the same profit a car on a contemplated production of 2,500,000 cars in 1924 the company will have a valuation of \$1,050,000,000 (2,500,000 x 70 x 6), or \$6,083 a share. But when the company achieves a regular daily production of 10,000 cars, or 3,000,000 a year, its 172,645 shares will have a market valuation of \$1,260,000,000, or \$7,342 a share.

These calculations do not take into consideration any change in the profit per car, although that item should increase as daily output increases. The reason for not doing so is that if profits per car do increase the Ford company is likely to cut its prices. That this may almost be depended on as a certainty is shown by past performance of the Ford Motor Co. and the further fact that for the first 20 years of its existence Ford's profits have averaged \$77 per car.

It is significant as regards future Ford prices that since 1921 output has grown from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 a year and Ford prices have been cut 40%, and it should also be noted that the profit a car since 1921 has been practically the same as for 18 years prior thereto.

Average Profit Per Car.

Total net profits of the Ford Motor Co. were \$432,443,888, and total cars sold were 5,406,537 through 1921, or at the average rate of \$79 a car.

Profits during the first half of 1922 can be safely estimated at \$65,000,000 because the company showed a net gain in surplus of \$133,248,624 for the twelve months ended June 30 1922. It showed a net gain in surplus of \$124,194,000 for twelve months ended June 30 1923, and the sale of 1,000,000 cars during the last half of 1923 at the rate of surplus gain shown during the preceding twelve months yields a close estimate of \$75,000,000 for this period. By adding these items to the \$432,443,888 total profits through 1921 the total through 1923 becomes \$696,637,888. And as the 9,000,000th Ford is expected to be turned out about Jan. 1 1924 it may be noted that the average profit a car during the entire life of the Ford Motor Co. is approximately \$77.

Meeting in Chicago to Consider Organization of Coal Exchange—No Action Taken.

At a meeting held in Chicago on Jan. 12 for the purpose of discussing plans for the formation of a coal exchange, the plans failed of development. From the Chicago "Journal of Commerce" of the 14th inst. we take the following relative to the meeting:

Coal men failed to respond to the effort to appoint a committee to consider plans for a coal exchange in Chicago at a conference of retailers, wholesalers and operators at the Congress Hotel Saturday night.

The attendance listened attentively to J. R. Mauff, former Executive Vice-President of the Chicago Board of Trade, present arguments for an exchange, but the conference took no action.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Chicago Coal Merchants' Association. Coal men from all parts of the Middle West packed the Gold Room at the annual dinner of the city coal dealers to hear the plan.

The retailers unanimously adopted a resolution continuing the present wage contract with the Teamsters' and Chauffeurs' Union in Chicago.

Representatives of the National Retail Coal Association who were present announced the next annual convention of the association will be held June 4, 5 and 6 at Blue Fields, W. Va. Homer D. Jones, Chicago, former President of the national association, was presented with a baby grand piano by the association in recognition of his services last year.

Mr. Mauff, in urging a coal exchange, pointed out the advantages that have accrued through such an agency in other lines of industry. He said an exchange is the best means of price determination and that it would permit coal men to deal in the open rather than in the dark.

He declared the United States Supreme Court favors exchanges instead of trade associations and said that the plan is feasible in coal if the coal men will take hold of it and work out a scheme of operation.

Mr. Mauff was asked how the various grades of coal could be determined in any exchange sales program. It was pointed out that each coal field has a variation in grades of coal and at present there is no means of standardization.

Mr. Mauff answered standards could be fixed by the exchange and that the coal could be graded by those operating the board.

Resolution Adopted by United States Senate Calling for Information from Secretary of Agriculture Regarding Grain Speculation in Chicago.

A resolution calling upon the Secretary of Agriculture for information with regard to grain speculation in Chicago during the past two months was adopted by the Senate on Jan. 8. The resolution was introduced by Senator Ladd on Dec. 8 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, by which it was reported back favorably without amendment. The following is the resolution as adopted by the Senate on the 8th inst.:

Whereas, Since the Grain Futures Act was declared constitutional by the United States Supreme Court on Apr. 16 1923 members of the Chicago

Board of Trade and other grain exchanges, with a few exceptions, by means of their daily market reports and published opinions in the daily papers, and also market press reports written in Chicago and given wide publicity, together with syndicated articles which there is reason to believe had their inspiration in the Board of Trade, have systematically opposed the price of wheat or, in trade terms, tried to "bear the market"; and because of this condition there is reason to believe that the market was, except during brief intervals, depressed by short selling by professional traders or speculators, and that the price has been depressed and held materially below a level warranted by legitimate supply and demand conditions, and, furthermore, because no information has been published by the Department of Agriculture regarding the activities of such speculators; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of Agriculture be requested to take steps at once to determine, through the Grain Futures Administration, the position on the market taken by the well-known professional speculators and the members of the large "futures" commission houses of the Board of Trade, and promptly publish the findings without opinions by the investigators as to the effect which the trading by said professionals may have had.

In explaining the purpose of the resolution, Senator Ladd said:

The purpose of the resolution is to have the Secretary of Agriculture furnish certain information with regard to speculation in buying and handling grain in the Chamber of Commerce in Chicago. Taken in connection with a report which will be released to-morrow from the Federal Trade Commission with regard to speculation and conspiracy that have been found to have taken place in Minneapolis in the Chamber of Commerce, it seemed desirable to know whether the low prices for wheat at times prevailing during the past year were due to speculation in grain in Chicago. The resolution calls for the information as to what those buyers were doing.

The Federal Trade Commission's order, directing the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, a grain exchange, to cease unfair methods of competition, was referred to in our issue of last week, page 160.

Income Tax of Estates—Regulations to Conform to Ruling of Court of Appeals.

The Bankers Trust Co. of New York on Jan. 9 issued the following statement:

H. F. Wilson, Jr., Vice-President of the Bankers Trust Co. and President of the Corporate Fiduciaries Association of New York City, has just been notified by the attorneys who instituted the test suit in behalf of his company and for the benefit of all estates throughout the country, that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has advised that no appeal will be taken from the decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals with respect to Section 226 (c) of the Federal Revenue Act, and that the existing regulations of the Treasury Department will be amended to conform to the opinion of the Court of Appeals. A previous ruling of the Treasury Department held that the income tax of estates was to be computed on a hypothetical annual income based on the amount of income actually received by the decedent up to the time of death. In practice, this worked out into the payment of a tax on incomes never received in every case, except when the testator died on the 31st day of December, and, as the Treasury Department has concluded not to appeal to the Supreme Court, this important decision is of very general interest.

Refund claims should not be filed to recover any excess taxes which were paid under protest on the annual basis required by the previous ruling of the Treasury Department.

ITEMS ABOUT BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, ETC.

Two New York Stock Exchange memberships were reported sold this week, that of Arthur B. Enos to Louis Lee Stanton, and that of Theodore L. Bronson to Reginald Halliday, each for a consideration of \$85,000. The last previous sale was for \$83,000.

Two New York Cotton Exchange memberships were reported sold this week, viz., the membership of Atwood Violet to W. R. Craig, for \$32,000, and that of Jules Casard to E. P. McEnany for \$33,000, a new high record price. The last previous sale was \$31,500.

The New York Coffee & Sugar Exchange membership of John W. Edmonds was reported sold to E. H. White, Sr. for a consideration of \$6,300. Last previous sale was at \$6,200.

The Philadelphia Stock Exchange membership of James B. Borden was reported sold this week to Arthur K. Salomon of Salomon Bros. for a consideration of \$2,600, an unchanged figure from the last preceding transaction.

A membership on the Chicago Board of Trade was reported sold this week for \$4,125, net to buyer, with 1924 dues paid. Last previous sale, \$4,025.

A condensed statement of condition of the National City Bank of New York (including domestic and foreign offices) as of Dec. 31 1923 was issued on Jan. 8, the day on which the annual meeting of the shareholders of the institution was held. Total assets are shown in the statement in the huge sum of \$920,174,625. Of this amount \$472,546,990 represents loans, discounts and acceptances of other banks; \$231,764,724 cash and due from banks, and \$158,452,394 represents United States bonds and certificates, State and municipal

bonds, stock in Federal Reserve Bank, ownership of International Banking Corporation and other bonds and securities. On the liabilities side of the statement deposits are given as \$728,640,082; combined capital, surplus and undivided profits as \$91,902,625 and acceptances of other banks, etc., at \$43,589,898. President Mitchell in his remarks to the shareholders said in part:

Net profits for the year, after all reserves except the contingency reserve fund, to which reference is later made, were in the amount of \$10,228,347 30. In addition, there was a credit balance resulting from tax adjustments which was carried directly to the contingency reserve account. Though the losses for the year on current credits on our books have been insignificant, the directors, recognizing the business of commercial banking as one in which large reserves are desirable, have deemed it wise to contribute liberally from current earnings to the contingency reserve account, and after so establishing reserves for the year and paying to shareholders dividends of 16% on the capital stock, in the aggregate amount of \$6,400,000, undivided profits have been increased in the amount of \$1,618,195 76.

The current operations of the International Banking Corporation, all of whose stock is held by the bank, have continued to reflect the unsatisfactory condition of the trade in the Far East, but its earnings have justified the declaration of dividends of 20% on its share capital of \$5,000,000. In view, however, of the corporation's probable losses as a result of the Japanese earthquake, and the continued slow recovery from post-war economic conditions in Santo Domingo, where the corporation has several branches and substantial outstanding accounts, the directorate of the Corporation has deemed it wise to establish a reserve for contingencies in the amount of \$2,500,000 through a charge to undivided profits in this amount.

Harry E. Henneman was appointed an Assistant Cashier of the National City Bank of New York at the regular meeting of the board of directors held Jan. 15.

Percy H. Johnston, President of the Chemical National Bank of New York, sails on the Belgenland to-day (Saturday, Jan. 19) on a Mediterranean cruise, to be gone about two and a half months. The trip will cover the following places of interest: Madeira, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Algiers, Tunis, Naples, Athens, Constantinople, Alexandria, Rome, Florence, Genoa, Monte Carlo and Paris. Mr. Johnston will be accompanied by Mrs. Johnston and their two children, and several others.

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Mechanics & Metals National Bank of this city on Jan. 16, all of the officers were re-elected and George W. Simmons was appointed an additional Vice-President of the bank. Edward S. Dix and George J. Runge were appointed Assistant Cashiers. Mr. Simmons will take office Feb. 1. He comes to New York from St. Louis, where, since the merger of the Simmons Hardware Co. with the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. in 1922, he has served as President of the Winchester-Simmons Co. He is the youngest son of Edward C. Simmons, founder of the Simmons Hardware Co., and spent almost his entire business life, up to the time of the merger, as Department Manager, General Manager and Executive Officer of that company.

William B. Loery has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Bank of New York & Trust Co., in charge of the Income Tax Department of the company. Mr. Loery has been specializing in this work since the first income tax law was passed—first with the Union Trust Co. of New York and its successor, the Central Union Trust Co., and since 1920 with the New York Life Insurance & Trust Co., now the Bank of New York & Trust Co.

Norman H. Davis was at last week's annual meeting elected a trustee of the Bank of New York & Trust Co. to fill a vacancy in the board. Mr. Davis was formerly a banker and became Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during the Wilson Administration. He was one of the prominent figures at the Peace Conference in Paris and after the Conference became Under-Secretary of State in the latter part of the Wilson Administration.

The latest instance of the general movement of financial institutions opening offices in the Grand Central zone occurred on the 4th inst., when the American Trust Co. and the New York Title & Mortgage Co. acquired property for an uptown banking site at the southeast corner of 41st Street and Madison Avenue—an unusually choice location in uptown financial district. The building, which was formerly the old Thompson mansion, and more recently the home of the Aero Club of America, is well suited for banking quarters. It is a five-story stone structure—24 feet on Madison Avenue and 85 feet on 41st Street. Work will soon commence on remodeling. Occupancy will be had as soon as

alterations are completed. The American Trust Co. will occupy the first floor as a general banking and trust company. The upper floors will be used by the New York Title & Mortgage Co., whose business is the examination of titles, lending on bond and mortgage and selling mortgage investments. The American Trust Co. has main offices at Broadway and Cedar Street, New York, and other offices at 209 Montague Street, Brooklyn; 375 Fulton Street, Jamaica; and Bridge Plaza North, Long Island City. The New York Title & Mortgage Co. is at 135 Broadway, New York, with branches in Brooklyn, Long Island City, White Plains, Jamaica and Staten Island. This is the second development announced by these companies within the week, the former being the acquiring of control of the County Trust Co. of White Plains, by interests affiliated with the American Trust Co. and New York Title & Mortgage Co., to which we referred in our issue of a week ago, page 168.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Guaranty Trust Co. of New York on Jan. 16 the following new directors were elected to the board: Howard Elliott, Chairman of the Board, Northern Pacific Railway Co.; W. Palen Conway, Vice-President, Guaranty Trust Co. of New York; Lansing P. Reed, of Stetson, Jennings, Russell & Davis. The following directors of the company were re-elected to serve for three years: Cornelius F. Kelley, Joseph P. Knapp, Edgar L. Marston, William C. Potter, Samuel W. Reyburn, John S. Runnells, George Whitney, Harry Payne Whitney. At the annual meeting of the board of directors, held immediately after the stockholders' meeting, the officers of the company were re-elected for the ensuing year.

The Guaranty Trust Co. of New York announces the appointment of John M. Murphy as an Assistant Treasurer, in charge of the company's Income Tax Department.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Guaranty Safe Deposit Co. of New York on Jan. 8 all the directors of the company were re-elected for the year 1924. Following the meeting the board of directors met and re-elected all officers for the year. The directors of the company are: Edward J. Berwind, W. Palen Conway, Thomas W. Lamont, Grayson M. P. Murphy, William C. Potter, Charles H. Sabin and Albert H. Wiggin. Officers are Charles H. Sabin, President; Oscar Cooper, Vice-President; R. J. F. Allen, Vice-President; Walter Meacham, Treasurer; Charles M. Billings, Secretary; D. P. Hughes and M. J. Dumont, Assistant Treasurers.

H. E. Wills and F. A. Burgess have been elected directors of the Empire Trust Co. of New York.

The Metropolitan Trust Co. at its annual meeting elected John H. Mason, Chairman of the Board of the Bank of North America & Trust Co. of Philadelphia, as a director in the place of Beverly Chew, who has retired and now resides at Geneva, N. Y. Nine other directors, whose terms had expired, were re-elected by the company.

The annual meeting of the Hudson Trust Co. of New York was held on Jan. 16. All the present officers and directors were re-elected.

The Bank of America of this city announces that L. Bystrus Heemstirk has been made Assistant Vice-President. Mr. Heemstirk will also continue as Manager of the Foreign Department. Edward Craig and Giles Barksdale have been made Assistant Cashiers.

The State Bank, at 374 Grand Street, this city, announces that the following new appointments were made at the annual meeting on Jan. 8: Assistant Vice-Presidents, Clarence E. James, Charles C. Schnecko, Paul Muller, Maxwell M. Teicher and Thomas M. Sherman; Assistant Cashiers, Thomas E. Speer, James H. Vandebree, Robert J. Kiernan, David T. L. Van Buren and George W. Pierson. The following officers were unanimously re-elected: Harold C. Richard, President; Albert I. Voorhis, Vice-President; the following officers were re-appointed: Vice-Presidents, John Kneisel, William B. Roth, Charles A. Smith and Harry W. Vogel; Cashier, John Kneisel; Assistant Cashiers, Frank A. Pappi, Phillip L. Tuchman, Arthur J. Van Pelt, J. V. D. Garretson, Walter J. Gilpin and Joseph A. Seckinger; Auditor, Chester Woodworth; Manager of Foreign Department, Maxwell M. Teicher.

Jerome J. Hanauer, member of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and Mrs. Hanauer, are sailing to-day (Saturday, Jan. 19) on the steamship Conte Verde of the Lloyd Sabauda Line for an extended pleasure trip abroad. They expect to be away for several months, planning first to visit Italy and Egypt and later returning to the Continent.

Roger Wittlesey has been elected Vice-President of the Central Union Trust Co. of New York City.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of Irving Bank-Columbia Trust Co. on Jan. 16, the retiring directors were re-elected.

Samuel Palley of Brooklyn has been appointed Assistant Vice-President of the Public National Bank of New York City. He has been Manager of the Pitkin Avenue branch of the Public National Bank for the past ten years. J. A. Mitchell has been appointed Assistant to the President, Alfred C. Rossin. Harry N. Britt has been elected an Assistant Cashier of the bank.

George F. A. Olt has been added to the directorate of the Commonwealth Bank of New York.

The following officers were elected at last week's meeting of the board of directors of the Harriman National Bank of the City of New York: Joseph W. Harriman, President; John A. Noble, First Vice-President; William A. Burke, Comptroller; Marshall Sheppey, Frederick Phillips, Thomas B. Clarke, Jr., Orlando H. Harriman, Charles F. Koth, Milton S. Billmire, Oliver W. Birkhead, Vice-Presidents, and Harry B. Fonda, Cashier. Appointments were made as follows: Morton Waddell, Trust Officer; William B. Sheppard, Frederick J. Revere, Frederick Kohlenberger, Thorolf Machel, James L. Turner and Alan Harriman, Assistant Cashiers.

At the annual meetings of the American Exchange National Bank of New York and the American Exchange Securities Corporation, the officers and directors were re-elected.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Seaboard National Bank of New York the entire official staff was re-elected for the ensuing year.

In the Broadway Central Bank of New York Max N. Natanson, prominently identified with real estate interests in this city, has been elected a director.

William M. Kingsley, Vice-President of the United States Trust Co., has been elected a trustee of the Seamen's Bank for Savings of this city; Thornton C. Thayer has been made Assistant Cashier of the bank.

At last week's annual meeting of the Globe Exchange Bank of Brooklyn new directors were elected as follows: A. A. Edelman, Abe Rosenblum and Bernard M. Maltz.

The board of directors of the Keyport Banking Co. of Keyport, N. J., announce the death of their Vice-President, Jonathan I. Holmes, on Jan. 8.

Joseph E. Hayes, for the past two years Treasurer of the Atlas Trust Co. of Springfield, Mass., has resigned to become Treasurer of the Bancroft Trust Co. of Worcester. The resignation will become effective Feb. 1. The Atlas Trust Co. is soon to be merged with the Chapin National Bank of Springfield. Reference to the proposed merger was made in our issue of Nov. 24, page 2293.

To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of George W. Gardiner as First Vice-President of the Union Trust Co. of Providence, Walter F. Farrell, heretofore one of the Vice-Presidents of the bank, was promoted at a meeting of the officials on Jan. 16 to the office. He has been with the Union Trust Co. eleven years.

The closing of the Cascade Savings Bank of Oakland, Me., was reported in the following special dispatch from Augusta, Me., to the Boston "Herald" under date of Jan. 5. The dispatch read:

On application of Fred F. Lawrence, Bank Commissioner, setting forth that the Cascade Savings Bank of Oakland was insolvent and its condition such as to render its further proceedings hazardous to the public and to those having funds in its custody, Chief Justice Cornish to-day (Jan. 5) issued a

restraining order closing the bank and enjoining it until a hearing can be had. He further ordered a hearing on the application for a permanent injunction and receivership to be held at the courthouse at Augusta Jan. 17.

The Cascade Savings Bank was organized on May 7 1869. Its board of trustees consists of W. M. Ayer, Morrison Libby, J. E. Harris and D. E. Wheeler. Its deposits as of Dec. 29 1923 were \$578,217 30. Its reserve fund as shown by its books \$29,000 and its undivided profits account \$3,497 07.

Bank Commissioner Lawrence stated that the closing of the institution was due to impaired earning capacity, and losses resulting from unfortunate investments, conspicuous among which are the bonds of certain street railway companies in other States. He believes that the loss to depositors will be comparatively small.

At the recent organization meeting of the newly elected board of directors of the Union Trust Co. of Washington, D. C., Edson B. Olds, Treasurer of the institution, was, in addition, made a Vice-President and S. William Miller and G. Elmer Flather were elected Assistant Treasurers. These were the only changes made in the bank's roster. E. J. Stellwagen is President.

Laurence H. Sanford, Assistant Cashier of the First National Bank of Philadelphia, has resigned to become identified with the Congoleum Co. of Philadelphia. The Congoleum Co. is one of Philadelphia's most successful manufacturers. Harry J. Haas, Vice-President, First National Bank of Philadelphia, was elected a member of the board of directors at the annual election. The present board of directors were all re-elected. They are the following:

William P. Gest, President, Fidelity Trust Co.; Jos. B. McCall, President, Philadelphia Electric Co.; Charles S. Child, Wilson & Bradbury; Fred. McOwen, President, Cambria Mining & Manufacturing Co.; William A. Law, President, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co.; E. C. Irvin, President, Fire Association of Philadelphia; Cyrus H. K. Curtis, President, Curtis Publishing Co.; J. W. Van Dyke, President, Atlantic Refining Co.; Joseph S. Clark, attorney-at-law; Franklin D'Olier, President, Franklin D'Olier & Co.; Walton Clark, consulting engineer, United Gas Improvement Co.; Livingston E. Jones, President; J. Henry Scattergood, American Dyewood Co.; M. C. Kennedy, Vice-President, Pennsylvania Railroad Co.; A. W. Galloway, President, Davis Coal & Coke Co.; Wilfred W. Fry, N. W. Ayer & Son.

The board of directors of the National Bank of Commerce of Philadelphia was increased to thirteen members at the annual meeting of the stockholders by the addition of E. J. Lafferty and Clinton E. Woods. The directorate is now as follows: Emil Selig, Nathan T. Folwell, Jacob Cartun, Clarence B. Kugler, Jr., John C. Bogan, S. Croft Register, Joseph J. McCaffrey, Jacob Netter, H. Stewart Moorhead, John M. Patterson, Nelson F. Eberbach, Clinton E. Woods and E. J. Lafferty.

The only change made in the directorate of the Girard National Bank of Philadelphia at the stockholders' recent annual meeting was the addition of W. C. Dunbar as a director, which increased the board to 19 members. Mr. Dunbar is President of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co.

At the annual stockholders' meeting of the Union Trust Company, Cleveland, Ohio, on Jan. 9 1924, officers were elected and four new members as follows were added to the board of directors:

E. P. Lenihan, Resident Manager, Peck, Wilcox & Hughes;
E. J. Kulas, President the Midland Steel Products Company;
Samuel Lewis Smith, Vice-President National Malleable Castings Company;
P. A. Myers, the F. E. Myers & Bros. Company, Ashland, Ohio.

The stockholders of the Southern Ohio Savings Bank & Trust Co. of Cincinnati on Jan. 3 ratified plans to increase the capital from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The increased stock will be issued to present stockholders as a stock dividend of 25%. The enlarged capital becomes effective immediately.

Irving W. Lemaux, President of the Indianapolis Brush & Broom Co., was elected Vice-President of the Security Trust Co. of Indianapolis on Dec. 29; at the same time Edward B. Raub, Vice-President and General Counsel of the Indianapolis Life Insurance Co., was elected a director of the trust company. Mr. Lemaux succeeds Truman C. Rapp as Vice-President of the trust company and Mr. Raub takes Mr. Rapp's place on the board of directors. Mr. Rapp's resignation was due to his removal to California.

At the regular annual meeting of the board of directors of the National Bank of the Republic of Chicago all officers and directors were re-elected, but the following changes were made: John A. Lynch, formerly President, was elected to the office of Chairman of the Board and George Woodruff was elected to the presidency. In 1907 Mr. Woodruff was made President of the First National Bank of Joliet, Ill. In 1909 Mr. Woodruff inspected all of the railroads in China and all of the mileage of the trans-Siberian railroad in the interest of a group of international bankers. In 1910 he visited every country in South America for a group of

American bankers who were interested in establishing branch banks in foreign countries. In 1912 he organized at Joliet, the first farm loan bank in America to loan money to farmers on the amortization plan. In 1922 Mr. Woodruff was elected Vice-President of the National Bank of the Republic. During the past two years the assets of that institution have grown from \$28,000,000 to approximately \$50,000,000, and with the merger of the National City Bank that has been arranged, the assets will amount to over \$85,000,000. When this merger takes place it is expected that Mr. Woodruff will be advanced from President of the National Bank of the Republic to the Vice-Chairmanship.

Many important changes were made in the personnel of the Continental Bank of Detroit, at the annual meeting of the directors on Jan. 8. Walter G. Toepel, President of the institution since its organization, three years ago, resigned on account of ill health, and was elected Chairman of the board, while James A. Hoyt, until recently a Vice-President of the First National Bank of Detroit, was appointed President. Other elections were those of Mason P. Rumney and Alvin G. Sherman as new Vice-Presidents. Henry J. Guthard and Alexander J. Stuart, who have been strong factors, it is said, in the bank's growth, were re-elected Vice-Presidents. At the meeting of the stockholders on the same day seven new directors were elected, namely: Herbert V. Book of the Book estate; Horace J. Caulkins, James A. Hoyt, Louis Kamper, J. K. Livingston, insurance; Mason P. Rumney, Vice-President, Detroit Steel Products Co., and Huston Rawls, of Howe, Snow & Bertles, Inc., investment bankers. Mr. Hoyt, the new President, went to Detroit in 1917 from South Carolina, where he had enjoyed a successful experience in commercial banking, it is said. He became Vice-President and General Manager of the Industrial Morris Plan Bank upon its organization and in 1919 was made President of that institution, a position he held up to two years ago, when he was elected Vice-President of the First National Bank of Detroit, the office he recently resigned.

The directors of the Central Savings Bank of Detroit on Jan. 8 elected Laurence P. Smith, heretofore Vice-President of the institution, President, to succeed Harry J. Fox, who recently resigned the office. Mr. Smith, who is but 31 years of age, began his banking career eleven years ago at Bartlesville, Okla. The following year he went to Detroit and entered the service of the Central Savings Bank as a bookkeeper, where he rapidly advanced, holding successively in the intervening ten years since that time the positions of Manager of the bank's branch office at West Grand Boulevard and Grand River; Assistant Cashier and Vice-President, to which latter position he was promoted two years ago.

At the annual meeting of stockholders of Noel State Bank of Chicago, on Jan. 14, the following were added to the board of directors of said bank:
Sidney S. David, Treasurer David Fireproof Storage Warehouses;
John A. MacLean, Vice-President and General Manager, American Bolt Corporation;
Joseph Weissenbach, Weissenbach, Hartman, Craig & Okin.

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Minneapolis Trust Co. of Minneapolis on Jan. 8, B. S. Woodworth was elected Assistant Secretary of the company.

The American Exchange Bank of Milwaukee has been converted to the national system under the title of the American National Bank of Milwaukee, according to the Milwaukee "Sentinel" of Jan. 3. The officers and directors of the institution, it is said, remain the same, with the exception that Walter E. Manegold, formerly Assistant Cashier, has been promoted to the Cashiership.

The directors of the First Wisconsin National Bank, Milwaukee, made two important changes in the official staff of the institution at their annual organization meeting on Jan. 10. Following the custom in vogue among the larger financial institutions of the country, they created the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors, elevated Oliver C. Fuller, the President of the institution, to the new office, and then proceeded to elect Walter Kasten, heretofore First Vice-President of the bank, President, to succeed Mr. Fuller. Mr. Kasten, the new President of the First Wisconsin National Bank, was born and educated in Milwaukee. He is forty-four years of age. In 1897, at the age of eighteen, he started his banking career with the old Wisconsin National

Bank and worked up through every department, holding, among others, the positions of messenger boy, bookkeeper, Auditor, Assistant Cashier, Cashier and Vice-President. The following officers of the bank were re-elected by the directors: Vice-Presidents, H. O. Seymour, Edgar J. Hughes, Robert W. Baird, Henry Kloes, August, W. Bogk (also re-elected Cashier), F. K. McPherson, George C. Dreher, William K. Adams, A. V. D. Clarkson and L. G. Bournique; Assistant Vice-Presidents, A. G. Casper, Fred R. Sidler and George E. Fleischmann; Assistant Cashiers, Oscar Kasten, Franz Siemens, L. K. Houghton, H. G. Zahn, E. R. Ormsby, Fred Wergin and E. V. Kaiser; Manager Foreign Department, William C. Haas; Assistant Managers Foreign Department, H. Eskuche and William Zimmer; Manager Savings Department, R. C. Risch; Manager Commercial Service Department, R. E. Wright; Auditor, S. R. Quaden.

Following the disappearance of its Cashier, R. E. Adams, the People's State Bank of Lebo, Coffey County, Kans., was closed on Jan. 7, according to the Topeka "Capital" of the following day. The bank's last statement, it is said, showed combined capital and surplus of \$20,500 and deposits of \$156,000. A press dispatch from Emporia, Kan., on Jan. 8, printed in the Kansas City "Times," stated that in a letter received by T. E. Lewis, the Assistant Cashier of the closed bank, Adams had confessed to the embezzlement of \$30,000, the shortage which forced the institution to close its doors.

With further reference to the affairs of the Crittenden County Bank at Marion, Ark., the closing of which was noted in our Jan. 5 issue, page 39, the institution, according to a press dispatch from Marion under date of Dec. 31, which appeared in the Memphis "Appeal" of the following day, was to reopen for business on Jan. 2, reorganization arrangements having been completed. It was further stated in the dispatch that W. S. Danner of the plantation firm of Banks & Danner, would head the new institution in lieu of Louis Barton, former President, who retires from the banking field. Mr. Barton, it was said, played a conspicuous part in helping to place the institution on a sound basis and is a large stockholder in the new organization. Other officers in the new bank, it was said, would be E. Tolbatt, Vice-President; B. Rhodes, Cashier, and E. J. White (heretofore Cashier of the old bank), Assistant Cashier. The branches of the old bank at Earle and Crawfordville are to be discontinued, as under a State banking law now in force a bank may not have branches in other cities.

Failure of the Bank of Waynesville, Waynesville, Mo., was reported in the following press dispatch from Jefferson City, Mo., on Jan. 2, printed in the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of Jan. 3. The dispatch read:

The Bank of Waynesville, Waynesville, Pulaski County, Mo., with total resources of approximately \$547,068, has been closed by the board of directors, according to word received at the State Finance Department here late to-day (Jan. 2). No other details were received.

The capital stock of the bank was \$50,000, the surplus \$6,000 and total deposits amounted to approximately \$258,000, according to the last statement filed with the Department. The institution carried \$14,000 of State funds, according to records in the State Treasurer's office. J. R. Burchard was President and G. W. Lane Cashier, officials in the Finance Department said.

The bank was closed once before, in May 1921, records of the Department show, and was reopened in July 1921.

E. L. Bemiss, President of the Richmond Trust Co., of Richmond, Va., one of the most prominent of Richmond's business men, died on Jan. 4, after an illness of several months. He was 65 years of age. Besides directing the management of the trust company, Mr. Bemiss some years ago had charge of the construction and operation of the Virginia Electric Railway & Development Co., which was consolidated with the Richmond Traction Co., of which Mr. Bemiss also became President. At a meeting on the 15th inst. John Skelton Williams, heretofore Chairman of the Board of the Richmond Trust, was elected President and Chairman. The following officers were also elected: James D. Crump, Charles J. Anderson, W. H. Slaughter and S. M. Bemiss, Vice-Presidents; R. J. Willingham, Jr., Vice-President and Treasurer; Dean Maury, Secretary and Trust Officer; A. H. Vincent, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer; G. F. Brodie, Assistant Treasurer.

The Unaka & City National Bank of Johnson City, Tenn., and the Washington County National Bank have been consolidated, effective Jan. 1, the consolidated institution being known as the Unaka & City National Bank of Johnson City, with a capital stock of \$400,000 and surplus and profits of \$234,355. The bank is under the management of J. W. Ring,

Chairman of the Board; L. B. Shumate, President; Henry C. Black and W. B. Miller, Vice-Presidents; C. B. Hunter, Cashier, and J. O. Fleming, Assistant Cashier. The bank controls a branch bank operating under the same capital and surplus as the parent bank.

A consolidation of the Citizens' Bank of Rome, Ga. (capital \$50,000) and the Floyd County Bank of that place (capital \$50,000) was reported in a press dispatch from Rome on Dec. 29 which appeared in the Atlanta "Constitution" of Dec. 30. The resulting institution—the Citizens-Floyd Bank & Trust Co.—began business in the former home of the Floyd County Bank on Dec. 31. H. E. Kelley, who had headed the Floyd County Bank for many years, is President of the enlarged bank, while Wilson Hardy, heretofore President of the Citizens' Bank, is its Vice-President and Trust Officer. G. C. Byars, former Cashier of the Floyd County Bank, serves the new institution in the same capacity. The Citizens-Floyd Bank & Trust Co. has, it is understood, a combined capital and surplus of \$110,000.

Twelve thousand persons attended the formal opening of the handsome new banking quarters of the Second National Bank of Houston (formerly the Lumbermen's National Bank) on Saturday, Dec. 29. Souvenirs, in the form of carnations for the ladies and a pencil sharpener, pencils and a book picturing the interior of the bank for the men and children, were presented to visitors. An orchestra provided music during the reception. The building, formerly known as the Carter Building but now designated the Second National Bank Building, has been completely remodeled and handsomely fitted up to meet the needs of the bank. The Second National Bank is one of the largest banks in Houston. It has a capital of \$1,000,000, with surplus and undivided profits of \$830,000 and deposits in excess of \$11,000,000. S. F. Carter is President.

A very favorable report of its business for the calendar year 1923 has just been received from the Marine Trust Co. of New Orleans. Total resources of the institution as of Dec. 31 1923 were \$30,615,602, as compared with \$24,254,325 at the close of 1922. The principal items composing this total are, loans and discounts, \$17,575,047, as against \$14,769,383 the previous year; cash on hand and with banks, \$8,250,532, as compared with \$6,276,813, and bonds and securities (other than United States bonds and Treasury certificates), \$1,806,291, as against \$898,720 Dec. 30 1922. On the debit side of the statement, the outstanding feature is the deposits which are shown at \$25,397,840, as compared with \$20,164,385, an increase during the 12 months of no less than \$5,233,454, or over 25%. The Marine Trust Co. was organized but five years ago and none of its business is represented by the purchase or consolidation with previously existing banking institutions. Its officers are: L. M. Pool, President; J. A. Bandi, W. T. Marfield and F. Brenchley (Manager of the Foreign Department) and John Dane (Manager of the Bond Department), Vice-Presidents; W. J. Pillow, Cashier; G. Huber Johnson and A. F. Crozat, Assistant Cashiers; W. D. Kingston, Trust Officer and J. H. Weil, Assistant Bond Officer.

The San Francisco "Commercial News" in its issue of Dec. 20 stated that permission had been granted by the State Superintendent of Banks for California for the formation of a new financial institution to be known as the Franklin Bank & Trust Co. of Oakland with capital of \$1,000,000, and of which Carlos G. White, John Davison and W. V. Harrington, prominent men of Oakland, were the organizers. The new institution, it was said, would open in temporary quarters during the early part of January at the northeast corner of 13th and Franklin Streets, Oakland, and according to present plans would erect a building on that site in January 1925.

The new Wells Fargo Bank & Union Trust Co. of San Francisco came into being on Jan. 2, when the long contemplated union of the Wells Fargo Nevada National Bank and the Union Trust Co. was consummated. According to the San Francisco "Chronicle" of Jan. 3, flowers and greetings prevailed during the day and F. L. Lipman, President of the new bank, who, it is understood, carried through the scheme, was the recipient of congratulations on every side. Referring to the history of the institutions, the "Chronicle" said:

Wells, Fargo & Co. Bank came into being some 72 years ago, in 1852, and the Nevada National Bank was founded in 1875. There is sentiment behind

those institutions, and they have passed through glorious days in the history of California. The Union Trust Co. was founded in 1893. The Wells Fargo and Nevada consolidation was effected in 1904, with I. W. Hellman, Sr., as President, a post in which he remained until claimed by death in 1920. His son, I. W. Hellman, Jr., was President of Union Trust Co. for several years. The consolidation in no way affects the policies or banking methods heretofore employed by either institution. Patrons are offered the combined facilities.

The new institution, it is understood, has an authorized capital of \$9,000,000 and resources of \$120,000,000.

Resources of more than \$300,000,000, representing a gain of \$50,000,000 during the past year, are shown in the statement of the Bank of Italy issued at the close of 1923. A total of 485,136 depositors—one-eighth of the population of California—have accounts with the bank. Deposits aggregate \$277,000,000, an increase for 1923 that parallels the growth in resources. "This is one of the best years that our institution has enjoyed," said A. P. Giannini, President of the bank. "We have made progress not only with respect to our financial strength, but also in perfecting the organization's features of service. It is especially gratifying to feel that we have won the confidence of nearly half a million people a 1 that we are able to do something for them that is of real benefit." The growth in number of depositors for the current year has been approximately 85,000. At the close of 1922 there were 401,798, a figure that occasioned nation-wide comment at that time, and brought congratulatory wires from various banks throughout the United States. The present total, however, shows a gain of 21% over last year. With the addition of the new offices recently established, the Bank of Italy now has 75 branches in 52 California cities.

The Bank of Italy, San Francisco, has acquired by purchase the Hanford National Bank at Hanford, Cal., and will unite the institution with its local branch, according to a press dispatch from Hanford under date of Jan. 2, which was printed in the San Francisco "Commercial News" of Jan. 3. The acquired bank had combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of \$210,000.

At a meeting of the executives of the Montreal Trust Co., Montreal, on Jan. 8, A. D. MacTier, Vice-President of the Eastern Lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was elected a director.

The 68th annual report of the Bank of Toronto, covering the fiscal year ended Nov. 30 1923 shows very encouraging results for the period. Net profits for the 12 months were \$984,669 (being equal to 19.69% on the paid-up capital), which when added to \$1,061,241, representing balance brought forward from 1922, made \$2,045,911 available for distribution. After appropriating from this amount \$600,000 to pay the usual quarterly dividends at the rate of 12% per annum; \$100,000 reserved for Dominion Government taxes; \$25,000 transferred to officers' pension fund and \$150,000 written off bank premises, there was left the sum of \$1,170,911 to be carried forward to 1924 profit and loss account. Total assets are shown in the report as \$100,081,466, of which \$47,097,140 are immediately available resources, or equal to 53.58% of the bank's liabilities to the public. The institution's paid-up capital is \$5,000,000 and its rest fund \$6,000,000.

In the matter of the failed Home Bank of Canada, the Toronto "Globe," in its issue of Jan. 7 published the following statement issued to the press by Sir Thomas White, Canadian Minister of Finance during the war. Sir Thomas said:

In view of publicly made allegations to the effect that during my period of office as Minister of Finance disclosures were made to me which should have resulted in the closing of the Home Bank, I desire to make the following statement:

No facts were at any time brought to my attention while I was Minister justifying action on my part which would have brought about suspension of the bank.

In 1916 complaint was received by me on behalf of the three Western directors of the bank—Messrs. Crerar, Kennedy and Persse—with respect to three accounts of the bank, viz., the Frost timber account, the Pellatt account, and an account with the Prudential Trust Co. relating to the bonds of a New Orleans traction company. As the questions involved related to the legality of the account with the trust company and the taking of further security from the Pellatt land companies, I suggested that Mr. Z. A. Lash, K.C., should look into these matters and report to me. I have in my possession a letter from Mr. John Fisher, K.C., who acted for the three Western directors, expressing satisfaction at the selection of Mr. Lash for this purpose.

As the result of my action at this time, General Mason was displaced as General Manager and the board of directors of the bank harmonized and reorganized under the presidency of Mr. Haney.

It was reported to me that the reorganized board was satisfied that it would be found that the capital of the bank was intact and that there was no danger of loss to creditors or depositors. I was assured by letter on behalf of the three Western directors who had brought the three accounts to my attention that no external audit or inspection was necessary.

It was reported to me that Messrs. Crerar and Haney had visited British Columbia to inspect the Frost timber limits, and that they had advised that the security thereon held by the bank was adequate to cover the debt to the bank. The minute of the board in this connection was as follows:

"March 18 1916.

"The account of the A. C. Frost Co. again came up for discussion, and Messrs. Crerar and Haney reported that they had visited the Coast in accordance with minute of the board meeting 28th January 1916 and reported that they had come to the conclusion that there was ample security in the timber limit and properties held by the bank for the present indebtedness, and that in their judgment the whole of such indebtedness can be realized from said assets in from three to five years."

I was advised that Mr. Haney had visited New Orleans and reported favorably to the board as to the traction bonds account, and that no loss would result to the bank in connection therewith.

I was advised that all arrears of interest upon the Pellatt account had been paid up, and provision made for the reduction of the principal. Further security had been taken through the services of Mr. Lash which, in the opinion of the board, ensured that no loss would result to the bank on this account.

In August 1918 I received a complaint from a former official of the bank that interest upon the Frost timber account had been taken into profits for the fiscal year 1916-17, and that Mr. Haney was not keeping Mr. Lash informed as to the transactions of the bank. The latter statement was denied by Mr. Lash. With regard to the former statement, interest had been taken into account for the fiscal year mentioned, but this was not unlawful if the board believed, as they evidently did, in view of the Crerar-Haney report, that the timber limits were worth substantially more than the claims of the bank. From the end of the fiscal year 1917 until 1921 I am advised that no interest upon this account was taken into profits. A statement by the former official mentioned as to an account with one of the directors, Mr. Stewart, was proven to be without foundation. I called for and received copies of ledger entries verifying the statements of the board, and a statement that there were no arrears of interest upon any other accounts of \$250,000 and over.

By reason of the allegation contained in this complaint respecting the Frost timber account, it is now claimed that an investigation should have been made and the bank closed. An investigation at that time, at the instance of the Minister, would have resulted in the destruction of the credit of the bank, whether it was solvent or insolvent.

The fact that interest had been added to the Frost timber account constituted no sound ground for instituting an investigation, which would have had most serious consequences with respect to the Home Bank and the general financial situation. We were in the midst of the \$700,000,000 Victory Loan campaign of 1918, which extended over the autumn of that year, with payments by subscribers extending throughout many months of the following year. The loan was vital to the agricultural and business interests of Canada, whose products it financed; to the returned soldiers, whose gratuity of \$130,000,000 it supplied, and to the Government in connection with its immense war liabilities. It is now suggested that at such a time, or in the even more troubled period of unrest succeeding the armistice the then Minister of Finance should have taken action which would have resulted in the closing of the bank without having facts before him evidencing its insolvency.

In reply to the last complaint mentioned, I was furnished with a unanimous resolution of the board stating that in their opinion no loss would result upon the accounts in question; that dividends were not being paid out of interest added to the Frost account; that the net profits of the bank were more than double the dividends paid, and that the prospects of the bank were most favorable.

The Minister of Finance, under the Bank Act, is given no power to order the suspension of a bank. He can, it is true, institute proceedings, or order an investigation which may have that effect, but the judgment as to whether he will do so in a particular case must be his own, to be determined by the facts and circumstances before him.

Under no circumstances would I have allowed a bank to fail during the period in question. I had many difficult and dangerous financial situations to deal with during the war. At its outbreak, in view of the panic which prevailed, the Government, at my instance, placed itself behind the banks of Canada and gave public assurance that it would loan them such sums as they might require to meet the conditions of the war, and would take all further steps necessary to safeguard the financial situation during its continuance. At a later period I found it necessary to make a statement in the House to allay unrest caused by the agitation for the so-called conscription of wealth. If it had appeared to me that the bank was not able to meet its public obligations I should have taken steps to have it taken over by some other bank or banks, or, failing that, would have given it necessary assistance under the Finance Act of 1914. Such action would, in my view, have been justifiable in the public interest at that time.

It is not unusual for Ministers to receive complaints from ex-officials respecting financial or other institutions. If any Minister of Finance since Confederation took greater pains in connection with any such complaint than I did in the Home Bank case, I should like to have his name and the particular instance drawn to my attention.

When I left Ottawa in 1919 times were prosperous. All financial institutions were doing well. The Home Bank had an important and expanding business. Its deposits were large and growing, and there was no reason known to me why, with the legitimate profits which it might be expected to make, it should not be able to take care of any marginal losses which it might sustain upon any of the accounts which had been brought to my attention.

At no time was it suggested by the Western directors or anyone else that the bank was not able to meet its liabilities, or that it should be wound up.

I have no desire to hamper the depositors of the Home Bank, the condition of some of whom is deplorable, to seek relief in any way they deem expedient. I merely desire to place the facts before the Canadian public, whom I had the honor to serve, I believe, to the best of my ability as Minister of Finance during the war.

The directors of the Midland Bank, Ltd., of London, reported on Jan. 4 that, full provision having been made for all bad and doubtful debts, the net profits for the year ended Dec. 31 1923 amount to £2,210,972, which, with £788,967 brought forward, make £2,999,939 for appropriation as follows:

To interim dividend paid 14th July last and final dividend payable 1st February next, for the year 1923, at the rate of 18% per annum less income tax	£1,502,870
To reserve for future contingencies	300,000
To bank premises redemption fund	400,000
Leaving to be carried forward a balance of	797,069

For the year 1922 the dividend was at the same rate, £500,000 was reserved for future contingencies, £300,000 was placed to bank premises redemption fund and £788,967 was carried forward.

THE WEEK ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

There has been further manifestation of strength in the stock market. At first the Steel shares were the leaders of the upward movement, but later in the week the railroad shares registered substantial advances. During the two hours of trading on Saturday prices were irregular. The feature of the day was the strength manifested by the independent steel shares. In this group Bethlehem Steel crossed 55, with Republic Iron & Steel following closely in the upward movement. Motor shares were in strong demand, Willys-Overland preferred leading with an advance of two points to 87½. On Monday the market was under pressure from several sources owing chiefly to the big drop in the French franc in the foreign exchange market. Activities in some issues were responsible for moderate advances in a number of specialties, but the general movement of prices was toward lower levels. The notable feature of the day was the recession of 9 points in United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry, due to heavy selling during the opening hour. The downward reaction included many of the active speculative issues, several of these closing the day with a loss of from two to four points. In fact, it was the most severe setback the market has experienced in several weeks. The market improved on Tuesday. Weakness was again apparent in United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry, which declined four points from Monday's close. In the railroad group St. Paul led the upward swing with an advance of two points. General Electric moved apart from the other industrials, advancing about two points in the final hour. The feature of the late trading was the decline of 5½ points to 53½ in Continental Can. Just before the close this recovered to 55½.

Price movements were somewhat mixed during the greater part of the trading on Wednesday. Railroad stocks were in the foreground throughout the session. Conspicuous in this group were Pittsburgh & West Virginia RR. and Southern Railway. The latter was extremely active and closed at 42½. St. Paul and New Haven were also prominent, each going up one point over the preceding close. Oil shares were active. On Thursday movements were confused. Some active issues advanced from 1 to 6 points, while others receded nearly the same degree. The feature of the day was the steel and railroad shares, United States Steel leading the forward swing in that group to 101¾, a new high for the present movement. United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry was also prominent in the day's transactions, advancing about 6 points to 76. In the industrial group several of the active leaders were under pressure, particularly Studebaker shares. The movement of prices was again irregular as the session opened on Friday. Railroad shares continued to display considerable activity, especially Pittsburgh & West Virginia RR. This advanced three points to 45¾. United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry made a further advance to over 78 during the day's activities. The final tone was good.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for sterling exchange were 4 20¼ @ 4 21¼ for sixty days, 4.23 @ 4 24¼ for checks and 4 23¼ @ 4 24¼ for cables. Commercial on banks, sight, 4 22¼ @ 4 24; sixty days, 4 20¼ @ 4 21¼; ninety days, 4 19¼ @ 4 20¼, and documents for payment (sixty days), 4 20¼ @ 4 21¼. Cotton for payment, 4 22¼ @ 4 24 and grain for payment 4 22¼ @ 4 24.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for Paris bankers' francs were 4.45¼ @ 4.55¼ for long and 4.50¼ @ 4.60¼ for short. Germany bankers' marks are not yet quoted for long and short bills. Amsterdam bankers' guilders were 36.60 @ 36.71 for long and 36.96 @ 37.07 for short.

Exchanges at Paris on London, 90.35; week's range, 90.35 high and 96.10 low.

The range for foreign exchange for the week follows:

	Sterling, Actual—	60 Days.	Checks.	Cables.
High for the week	4 24 3-16	4 26 7-16		4 26 11-16
Low for the week	4 19 ¼	4 22 ¼		4 22 ¼

Paris Bankers' Francs—			
High for the week	4.62¼	4.69	4.70
Low for the week	4.20¼	4.26 ¼	4.27 ¼

Germany Bankers' Marks—			
High for the week	0.00000000023 ½	0.00000000023 ½	0.00000000023 ½
Low for the week	0.00000000023 ½	0.00000000023 ½	0.00000000023 ½

Amsterdam Bankers' Guilders—			
High for the week	36.99	37.41	37.46
Low for the week	36.43	36.85	36.89

Domestic Exchange.—Chicago, par. St. Louis, 15 @ 25c. per \$1,000 discount. Boston, par. San Francisco, par. Montreal, \$24.6875 per \$1,000 discount. Cincinnati, par.

THE CURB MARKET.

Trading in the Curb Market was fairly active, though price movements were erratic and for the most part changes were small. The undertone continues firm. The oil shares as usual dominate the market. Continental Oil was active and after loss of about two points to 45, advanced to 48½, with a final reaction to 47¾. Magnolia Petroleum lost five points to 155. Ohio Oil from 76 advanced to 79, reacted to 75¼ and sold upward again, resting finally at 77¾. Penn-Mex Fuel improved from 34½ to 39½. Prairie Oil & Gas, after early loss of some five points to 255, recovered to 263, the close to-day being at 259. Prairie Pipe Line sold down from 105½ to 104 and up to 108, closing to-day at 107. Solar Refining moved up from 185 to 197. Standard Oil (Ind.), after early improvement from 65¾ to 68½, reacted to 66¼ and finished to-day at 66½. Standard Oil (Ky.) rose from 109¼ to 118. Industrials with few exceptions show little change. Dubilier Condenser & Radio was conspicuous for strength and activity, advancing from 127½ to 145. Chicago Nipple "B" cdfs. sold up from 19½ to 21½ and at 21¾ finally. Durant Motors dropped from 34¼ to 30 and ends the week at 30½. Glen Alden Coal weakened from 78 to 76½, but recovered finally to 81½. Gold Dust Corp. dropped from 37¼ to 33, closing to-day at 33¼. Stutz Motor sold down from 13¾ to 11 and finished to-day at 11½. Trading was begun in Ward Baking securities, the common class "A" stock moving up from 52½ to 55, then down to 53½ and up again, the final figure to-day being 60. The common class "B" stock weakened from 20½ to 19½, recovered to 20¼ and closed to-day at 19¾. Maracaibo Oil convertible 7% bonds were conspicuous for an advance to 325, the close last week being at 280. The final sale was at 320.

A complete record of Curb Market transactions for the week will be found on page 303.

COURSE OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Bank clearings show an increase compared with a year ago, but the ratio of gain is small. 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, Jan. 19) aggregate bank clearings for all the cities of the United States from which it is possible to obtain weekly returns will show an increase of 1.6% as compared with the corresponding week last year. The total stands at \$8,615,218,359, against \$8,481,413,365 for the same week in 1922. At this centre there is a gain of 3.1%. Our comparative summary for the week is as follows:

Clearings—Returns by Telegraph. Week Ending Jan. 19.	1924.	1923.	Per Cent.
New York	\$3,999,000,000	\$3,880,065,799	+3.1
Chicago	542,661,577	562,511,125	-3.5
Philadelphia	404,000,000	432,000,000	-6.5
Boston	400,000,000	368,000,000	+8.7
Kansas City	108,052,023	125,914,893	-14.2
St. Louis	a	a	+2.0
San Francisco	146,100,000	143,200,000	+18.9
Los Angeles	134,557,000	113,138,000	+3.1
Pittsburgh	129,101,955	133,201,759	+11.9
Detroit	115,668,859	103,350,457	+5.4
Cleveland	88,047,660	93,117,510	-2.6
Baltimore	81,696,867	83,906,884	+7.7
New Orleans	68,659,307	63,724,693	+7.7
Twelve cities, five days	\$6,217,545,248	\$6,102,111,109	+1.9
Other cities, five days	961,803,385	966,566,695	-0.5
Total all cities, five days	\$7,179,348,633	\$7,068,677,804	+1.6
All cities, one day	1,435,869,726	1,413,735,561	+1.6
Total all cities for week	\$8,615,218,359	\$8,481,413,365	+1.6

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 Jan. 12. For that week there is an increase of 2.3%, the 1923 aggregate of the clearings being \$8,084,070,737 and the 1922 aggregate \$7,904,003,291. Outside of this city the increase is only 1.6%, the bank exchanges at this centre having increased 2.9%. 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 15.2%, in the New York Reserve District (including this city) of 2.9% and in the Cleveland Reserve

District of 0.2%. In the Philadelphia Reserve District there is a decrease of 0.3%, in the Chicago Reserve District of 2.4% and in the St. Louis Reserve District of 5.2%: In the Richmond Reserve District the totals are larger by 1.6%, in the Atlanta Reserve District by 6.2% and in the Dallas Reserve District by 10.9%. In the Minneapolis Reserve District there is a loss of 15.2% and in the Kansas City Reserve District of 12.9%. The San Francisco Reserve District enjoys a gain of 10.9%.

In the following we furnish a summary by Federal Reserve districts:

SUMMARY OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Table with columns: Week ending Jan. 12 1924., 1924., 1923., Inc. or Dec., 1922., 1921. Rows include Federal Reserve Districts (1st to 12th), 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—, 1924., 1923., Inc. or Dec., 1922., 1921. Rows are organized by Federal Reserve Districts (First to Sixth) and various cities within each district.

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1924., 1923., Inc. or Dec., 1922., 1921. Rows include Seventh Federal Reserve District (Michigan, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, etc.), Eighth Federal Reserve District (Indiana, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, etc.), Ninth Federal Reserve District (Minnesota, Duluth, Minneapolis, etc.), Tenth Federal Reserve District (Nebraska, Omaha, Lincoln, etc.), Eleventh Federal Reserve District (Texas, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, etc.), Twelfth Federal Reserve District (Washington, Seattle, Spokane, etc.), and Thirteenth Federal Reserve District (Pennsylvania, Altoona, Bethlehem, etc.).

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1924., 1923., Inc. or Dec., 1922., 1921. Rows include Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, etc.) and various cities in the United States (W. Va., Va., N.C., S.C., Md., D.C., Tenn., Ga., Fla., Ala., Miss., La., etc.).

a No longer report clearings. b Do not respond to requests for figures. c Week ending Jan. 9. d Week ending Jan. 10. e Week ending Jan. 11. * Estimated.

New York City Banks and Trust Companies.

All prices dollars per share.

Table listing various banks and trust companies with columns for Bid, Ask, and price. Includes entries like 'Banks - N.Y.', 'Trust Co.'s', and 'New York'.

* Banks marked with (*) are State banks. (2) Ex-10 dividend.

Auction Sales.—Among other securities, the following, not actually dealt in at the Stock Exchange, were recently sold at auction in New York, Boston and Philadelphia:

Table of auction sales listing items like '4.1 Corn Exchange Bank', '140 Singer Manufacturing Co.', and '25 Manhattan Mtge. & Dev. Corp.' with prices.

By Messrs. R. L. Day & Co., Boston:

Table of auction sales by R. L. Day & Co., listing items like '1 Webster & Atlas National Bank' and '10 Beacon Trust Co.' with prices.

By Messrs. Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table of auction sales by Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, listing items like '8 First National Bank' and '30 Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Co.' with prices.

By Messrs. Barnes & Lofland, Philadelphia:

Table of auction sales by Barnes & Lofland, listing items like '150 Manufactured Rubber Co.' and '10 Cumberland Co. Power & Light Co.' with prices.

National Banks.—The following information regarding national banks is from the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury Department:

Table of applications to organize received, listing banks like 'The First National Bank of Endicott, N. Y.' and 'The Brotherhoods' Co-operative National Bank of Portland, Ore.' with capital amounts.

LIQUIDATIONS.

Table of liquidations, listing banks like 'The Fort Dearborn National Bank of Chicago, Ill.' and 'The Commercial National Bank in Checotah, Okla.' with effective dates and liquidating agents.

APPLICATIONS TO ORGANIZE APPROVED.

Table of approved applications to organize, listing banks like 'The Pleasantville National Bank, Pleasantville, N. J.' and 'The First National Bank of East Rainelle, W. Va.' with capital amounts.

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:

Large table of dividends with columns for Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, and Books Closed. Includes sections for Railroads (Steam), Public Utilities, Banks, Trust Companies, Fire Insurance, and Miscellaneous.

Weekly Return of the Federal Reserve Board.

The following is the return issued by the Federal Reserve Board Thursday afternoon, Jan. 17, 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.

COMBINED RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JAN. 16 1924.

Table with columns for dates from Jan. 16 1924 to Jan. 17 1923 and rows for RESOURCES (Gold, Reserves, Bills, Securities) and LIABILITIES (F.R. notes, Deposits, Total liabilities).

WEEKLY STATEMENT OF RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF EACH OF THE 12 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS JAN. 6 1924

Table with columns for 12 Federal Reserve Banks (Boston, New York, Phila., Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneap., Kan. City, Dallas, San Fran.) and rows for RESOURCES and LIABILITIES.

RESOURCES (Concluded)—Two ciphers (00) omitted. Table with columns for cities: Boston, New York, Phila., Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneap., Kan. City, Dallas, San Fran., Total. Rows include Municipal warrants, Total earning assets, Uncollected items, Total resources, LIABILITIES, Deposits, Total deposits, Capital paid in, Surplus, All other liabilities, Ratio of total reserves to deposit, and Contingent liability on bills purchased for foreign correspondents.

STATEMENT OF FEDERAL RESERVE AGENTS ACCOUNTS AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS JAN. 16 1924.

Federal Reserve Agent at—Table with columns for cities: Boston, New York, Phila., Cleve., Richm'd, Atlanta, Chicago, St. L., Mnnp., K. City, Dallas, San Fr., Total. Rows include Resources (Federal Reserve notes on hand, Federal Reserve notes outstanding, Collateral security for Federal Reserve notes outstanding), Liabilities (Net amount of Federal Reserve notes received from Comptroller of the Currency, Collateral received from Gold, Federal Reserve Bank Eligible paper), and Federal Reserve notes outstanding held by banks.

Weekly Return for the Member Banks of the Federal Reserve System.

Following is the weekly statement issued by the Federal Reserve Board, giving the principal items of the resources the liabilities of the 763 member banks from which weekly returns are obtained. These figures are always a week behind those for the Reserve Banks themselves. Definitions of the different items in the statement were given in the statement of Oct. 18 1917, published in the "Chronicle" of Dec. 29 1917, page 2523. The comment of the Reserve Board upon the figures for the latest week appears in our Department of "Current Events and Discussions," on page 265.

1. Data for all reporting member banks in each Federal Reserve District at close of business Jan. 9 1924. Three ciphers (000) omitted.

Federal Reserve District. Table with columns for cities: Boston, New York, Phila., Cleve., Richm'd, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Mnpls., Kan. City, Dallas, San Fran., Total. Rows include Number of reporting banks, Loans and discounts, Total loans and discounts, U. S. pre-war bonds, U. S. Liberty bonds, U. S. Treasury bonds, U. S. Treasury notes, U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness, Other bonds, stocks and securities, Reserve balance with F. R. Bank, Cash in vault, Net demand deposits, Time deposits, Government deposits, Bills payable and rediscounts with Federal Reserve Bank, Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations, All other.

2. Data of reporting member banks in Federal Reserve Bank and branch cities and all other reporting banks.

Three ciphers (000) omitted. Table with columns for cities: New York City, City of Chicago, All F. R. Bank Cities, F. R. Branch Cities, Other Selected Cities, Total. Rows include Number of reporting banks, Loans and discounts, Total loans and discounts, U. S. pre-war bonds, U. S. Liberty bonds, U. S. Treasury bonds, U. S. Treasury notes, U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness, Other bonds, stocks and securities, Reserve balance with F. R. Bank, Cash in vault, Net demand deposits, Time deposits, Government deposits, Bills payable and rediscounts with F. R. Bank, Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations, All other, Ratio of bills payable & rediscounts with F. R. Bank to total loans and investments, per cent.

* Includes Victory notes.

Bankers' Gazette

Wall Street, Friday Night, Jan. 18 1924.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The review of the Stock Market is given this week on page 282.

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 of stock sales with columns for Stock Name, Shares, Sales for Week, Range for Week (Lowest, Highest), and Range since Jan. 1 (Lowest, Highest). Includes categories like Railroads, Industrial & Misc., and various individual stocks.

Table titled 'STOCKS. Week ending Jan. 18.' showing sales for the week and range since Jan. 1. Columns include Stock Name, Shares, Sales for Week, Range for Week (Lowest, Highest), and Range since Jan. 1 (Lowest, Highest).

TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE DAILY, WEEKLY AND YEARLY.

Table showing daily, weekly, and yearly transactions at the New York Stock Exchange. Columns include Date, Stocks, Railroad & Bonds, State, Municipal & Foreign Bonds, and United States Bonds.

Table titled 'Sales at New York Stock Exchange' comparing weekly sales for 1924 and 1923, and yearly sales from Jan. 1 to Jan. 18, 1924.

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE EXCHANGES.

Table showing daily transactions at the Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore exchanges. Columns include Date, Exchange, Shares, and Bond Sales.

* In addition, sales of rights were: Saturday, 2,170; Monday, 1,335; Tuesday, 840; Wednesday, 440; Thursday, 766; Friday, 850.

Daily Record of U. S. Bond Prices.

Table showing daily record of U.S. bond prices for various series like First Liberty Loan, Second Liberty Loan, and Treasury bonds. Columns include Date, Price, and Yield.

Note.—The above table includes only sales of coupon bonds. Transactions in registered bonds were:

Small table showing registered bond transactions with columns for Date, Price, and Yield.

Foreign Exchange.—See page 282.

Quotations for U. S. Treas. Cfts. of Indebtedness, &c.

Table showing quotations for U.S. Treasury certificates of indebtedness. Columns include Maturity, Int. Rate, Bid, Asked, and other details.

The Curb Market.—The review of the Curb Market is given this week on page 282.

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK CURB MARKET.

Table showing daily transactions at the New York Curb Market. Columns include Date, Stock Name, and Price.

Note.—In addition there were sold during the week 23,100 rights.

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

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and rows for various stock prices per share.

Main table listing various stocks (e.g., Ann Arbor preferred, Atch Topoka & Santa Fe, Do prof., etc.) with columns for 'Sales for the Week', 'PER SHARE' (Lowest, Highest), and 'PER SHARE' (Lowest, Highest) for the previous year (1923).

* Bid and asked prices. z Ex-dividend. d Ex-rights.

New York Stock Record—Continued—Page 2

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see second page preceding

Table with columns: HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT. (Saturday Jan. 12 to Friday Jan. 18); Sales for the Week; STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE; PER SHARE (Range Since Jan. 1 1924, Lowest, Highest); PER SHARE (Range for Previous Year 1923, Lowest, Highest). Rows list various stocks like American Ice, American Locomotive, etc.

* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. c Ex 300% in stock. z Ex-dividend.

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see third page preceding

Table with columns: HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT. (Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday); Sales for the Week; STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE; PER SHARE Range Since Jan. 1 1924 (Lowest, Highest); PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1923 (Lowest, Highest). Rows list various stocks like Indus. & Miscell. (Con.) Par, Ray & Davis, Inc., etc.

* Bid and asked prices; no sales this day. x Ex-dividend.

Jan. 1 1909 the Erchange method of voting bonds was changed and prices are now "and interest"—except for income and defaulted bonds

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Interest Period, Price Friday, Week's Range, Bonds Sold, Range Since, and various bond descriptions like U.S. Government, Foreign Government, and Bonds.

No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. b Due April. c Due May. d Due June. e Due July. f Due Aug. g Due Oct. h Due Nov. i Due Dec. j Option sale.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Bond Description, Interest Period, Price (Friday/Jan. 18), Week's Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1, and Bid/Ask/Low/High/No. for various bond types like N.Y. Stock Exchange, Illinois Central, and others.

* 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 Due Oct. g Option sale.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Bond Name, Price, Week's Range, Range Since, Bid, Ask, Low, High, No., and Range. Includes sub-sections for 'BONDS. N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE' and 'INDUSTRIALS'.

* No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. b Due March. c Due April. 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

Table of New York Bond Record with columns for Bond Description, Interest, Price, Week's Range, Bonds Sold, and Range Since Jan. 1.

Quotations of Sundry Securities

All bond prices are "and interest" except where marked "T"

Table of Quotations of Sundry Securities including Standard Oil Stocks, Railroad Equipments, Public Utilities, Tobacco Stocks, and Sugar Stocks.

* No price Friday; latest bid and asked. a Due Jan. d Due Apr. e Due Mar. f Due May. g Due June. h Due July. k Due Aug. l Due Oct. p Due Dec. s Option sale

* Per share. * No par value. b Basis. d Purchaser also pays accrued dividend. f New stock. f Flat price. k Last sale. n Nominal. z Ex-dividend. y Ex-right. e Ex-stock dividend. s Sale price. c Canadian quotation.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICE—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Sales for the Week.

STOCKS BOSTON STOCK EXCHANGE

Range Since Jan. 1 1924.

PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1923.

Main table with columns for dates (Saturday, Jan. 12 to Friday, Jan. 17), sales for the week, stock names (Railroads, Miscellaneous, Mining), and price ranges (Lowest, Highest) for 1924 and 1923.

* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. s Ex-rights. b Ex-dividend and rights. z Ex-dividend. Ex-stock dividend. a Assessment paid. e Beginning with Thursday, May 24, trading has been in new shares, of which two new shares of no par value were given in exchange for one share of old stock of \$10 par value. In order to make possible comparisons with previous quotations, we have divided all these previous quotations by two.

Outside Stock Exchanges

Boston Bond Record.—Transactions in bonds at Boston Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, 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). Includes entries like Amer Tel & Tel 4s, Convertible 6s, Atl Gulf & W I S S L 5s 1959, etc.

Baltimore Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Baltimore Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, 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). Includes entries like Alabama Co, Amer Wholesale, Arundel Sand & Grav, etc.

Philadelphia Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Philadelphia Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, 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). Includes entries like Alliance Insurance, American Elec Pow Co, American Gas of N J, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range since Jan. 1 (Low, High). Includes entries like Phila & Western, Reading Company, Warrants W D I, etc.

Chicago Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Chicago Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, 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). Includes entries like Amer Pub Serv pref, American Radiator, American Shipbuilding, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1. Includes Western Knitting Mills, Wolf Mfg Corp, Wrigley Jr Co, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range since Jan. 1. Includes Amer Cotton Fabrie pf, Amer Gas & Elec, American-Hawaiian SS, etc.

Pittsburgh Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Pittsburgh Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range since Jan. 1. Includes Am Vitriol Prod, com, Am Wind Glass Mach, Preferred, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range since Jan. 1. Includes Delaour Beverage Corp, Del Lack West Coal, Duhllier Condenser & Rad, etc.

* Sold last week and not reported: \$1,000 Indep. Brewing 6s at 81 3/4.

St. Louis Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at St. Louis Stock Exchange Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range for Year 1923. Includes Boatmen's Bank, Nat. Nat'lons Bank, Nat. Bank of Commerce, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range for Year 1923. Includes Warrants stock purchase, Mesabi Iron Co, Midvale Co, etc.

New York Curb Market.—Below is a record of the transactions in the New York Curb Market from Jan. 12 to Jan. 18, 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 with columns: Stocks—Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range since Jan. 1. Includes Indus. & Miscellaneous, Acme Coal Mining, Acme Packing, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range since Jan. 1. Includes Lehigh Valley w l, Pan-Amer Pet & Trans, Former Standard Oil Subsidiaries, etc.

RAILROAD GROSS EARNINGS

The following table shows the gross earnings of various STEAM roads from which regular weekly or monthly return 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.

Main table with columns: ROADS, Latest Gross Earnings (Week or Month, Current Year, Previous Year), Jan. 1 to Latest Date (Current Year, Previous Year). Lists various railroads like Akron Canton & Y., Ala & Vicksburg, etc.

AGGREGATE OF GROSS EARNINGS—Weekly and Monthly.

Summary table with columns: Weekly Summaries (Current Year, Previous Year, Increase or Decrease %), Monthly Summaries (Cur. Yr., Prev. Yr., Current Year, Previous Year, Increase or Decrease %). Rows include Mileage, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November.

Note.—Grand Rapids & Indiana and Pitts. Cln. Oh. & 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.

Latest Gross Earnings by Weeks.—In the table which follows we sum up separately the earnings for the first week of January. The table covers 15 roads and shows 11.09% decrease over the same week last year.

Table with columns: First Week of January, 1924, 1923, Increase, Decrease. Lists earnings for 15 roads including Ann Arbor, Buffalo Rochester & Pittsburgh, Canadian Pacific, Duluth South Shore & Atlantic, Georgia & Florida, Great Northern, Mineral Range, Minneapolis & St. Louis, Mobile & Ohio, Nevada-California-Oregon, St. Louis-San Francisco, St. Louis Southwestern, Southern Ry System, Texas & Pacific, Western Maryland.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY AND PUBLIC UTILITY CO'S.

Large 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 numerous utility companies and their earnings.

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 utility companies including Nor Caro Public Serv, Northern N Y Util, Nor Ohio N Y Util, Nor West Ohio Ry & P, North Texas Elec Co, Ocean Electric, Pacific Pow & Light, Paducah Electric, Penn Central Light & Power Co & Subs, Pennsylvania Edison, Phila Co & Subsidiary, Natural Gas Cos, Philadelphia Oil Co, Philadelphia & West, Phila Rapid Transit, Pine Bluff Gas & Coke, Portland Ry & Lt & P, Puzet Sound Pr & Lt, Reading Transit & Lt, Republic Ry & Lt Co, Richm Lt & RR(Rec), Rutland Ry, Lt & Pr, Sandusky Gas & Elec, Savannah Elec & Pow, Sayre Electric Co, Second Avenue (Rec), 7th St Incl Plane Co, Sierra Pacific Elec Co, Southern Calif Edison, So Ind Gas & Elec, Southern Utilities Co, Southwestern Pr & Lt, Staten Islld Ed Corp, Tampa Electric Co, Tennessee Elec Pr Co, Texas Electric Ry, Texas Power & Light, Third Avenue Ry Co, United Electric Ry, United Gas & El Corp, United Lt & Rys & Subs, United Ry & Electric, Utah Power & Light, Utah Securities Corp, Vermont Hydro-Elec, Virginia Ry & Pow Co, Wash Water Pr Co, West Penn Co & Sub, Winnipeg Electric Ry, Waukegan Ry Pr Co, York Utilities Co, Youn & Ohio Riv RR.

a The Brooklyn City RR. i no longer part of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit System, the receiver of the Brooklyn Heights RR Co... b The Eighth Avenue and Ninth Avenue RR. companies were formerly leased to the New York Railways Co... c Includes Pine Bluff Co. d Subsidiary of American Power & Light Co. e Includes York Haven Water & Power Co. f Earnings given in milreis. g Subsidiary companies. h Given in pesetas. m Includes West Penn Co. n Includes Palmetto Power & Light Co. o Subsidiary of Southwestern Power & Light Co. * Earnings for 12 months. s Earnings for 5 months ending Nov. 30.

Electric Railway and Other Public Utility Net Earnings.—The following table gives the returns of ELECTRIC railway and other public utility gross and net earnings with charges and surplus reported this week:

Table with columns: Companies, Gross Earnings (Current Year, Previous Year), Net Earnings (Current Year, Previous Year). Lists companies like Commonw'th, Pow Corp, Interborough R T Syst, Subway Division, Elevated Division, N Y Railways, N Y Rapid Transit Corp, etc.



Number and Capitalization of Corporations Reporting to Transit Commission. [Exclusive of Hudson & Manhattan Railroad Co.]

Table with columns: Number, (a) Capitalization, (b) Capitalization. Rows include Rapid transit railways owned by City of N. Y., Rapid transit, street and electric railroads, privately owned, Street railroads, Street Coach corporations (Fifth Ave. Coach), Common carriers, The same, excluding inter-company items.

(a) As of June 30 1923, except as noted. (b) Represents the entire amount of bond and corporate stock issues under all contracts. Of a total issue of \$208,998,511 under contracts 3 and 4, \$186,000,000 has been estimated as applicable to portions of lines in operation by the division of statistics on the basis of expenditures and cash realized. (c) Excludes four companies that discontinued operation during the fiscal year 1920, also Hudson & Manhattan RR. Co.; includes Steinway Rys., receivers, Marine Ry., which discontinued operation June 10 1923, and the City of New York Department of Plant and Structures as operator of the Staten Island Midland. (d) Includes figures as of June 30 1922 for New York Consolidated and New York Municipal, pending the receipt of the annual report of the New York Rapid Transit Corp., the successor of the above-named companies. (e) Excludes the New York & Rockaway Beach, which was merged with the Long Island RR. Co. as of June 30 1922.

Changes in Capitalization During Year Ended June 30 1923.

Table with columns: Issued, Retired. Rows include Interboro. 3-yr. Secured Conv. 8% notes, do 10-yr. Secured Conv. 7% Gold notes, do 10-yr. 6% Gold notes, do Equipment Trust Certificates, New York Rys.: Central Crosstown 1st Mtge. 30-year 5s. matured but not paid, Twenty-third Street Impt. & Ref. 5s reacquired and held in sinking fund, Eighth Ave.: Mortgage matured, do Add'l loan on bond and mtge. on property (8th Ave. & 50th St.), Richmond Light & RR. Equip. Trust Cfs. matured City of N. Y., Dept. of Plant and Structures: Special revenue bonds, General fund.

Traffic Increases.—The traffic increase for the fiscal year 1923 upon all of the street railroad lines, which include the subways and elevated railroads, was a few million less than in the previous year. The figures do not include any of the traffic on steam railroad lines nor upon the electrically operated divisions of such roads. The major increase of the year was upon the rapid transit and surface lines operated by the Brooklyn companies. With total traffic for the year of 480,900,870 upon these lines, there was an increase of 36,153,641, or 8.13%. In 1922 the chief gain appeared upon the surface lines in Brooklyn, although in both instances the gain was much larger than in 1923. The principal change, however, reflected in the transportation figures for the fiscal year, appears in respect to the lines of the Interborough Rapid Transit Co. Up to last year, for a period of several years this company had shown substantial and in a few instances unusual, gains in traffic. In the 1922 fiscal year, however, due to a 25,000,000 passenger reduction upon the elevated lines, the company showed an increase of less than 6,000,000 for all lines over the previous year, the 1921 figures over 1920 having been 53,000,000. This year, however, the Interborough subway lines showed a gain of 31,674,957 passengers, or 4.91%, while the elevated lines of the same system, which in 1923 lost about 25,000,000 passengers, this year showed a gain of 7,484 passengers. This increase upon the elevated lines was due in part to congestion of traffic on other routes, which diverted many passengers to them, and in part to a campaign undertaken by the Interborough in behalf of the elevated railroads, when an increase of express service and other physical changes were made in passenger service.

The total traffic upon the rapid transit lines of both systems amounted in 1923 to 1,506,076,001, which was a gain of 67,836,082 passengers, or expressed in terms of percentages, of 4.72%. The total traffic for 1923 upon the street surface lines in the several boroughs amounted to 1,071,736,854, which was a gain of 18,767,963. The largest traffic—490,128,692—and the largest gain numerically—17,590,664—was in Brooklyn. This was a gain of 8%. In the Borough of Manhattan the surface road traffic of 383,209,500 represented a falling off from the year before of 5,148,267, or 1.33%. The next largest traffic was in the Borough of the Bronx, with 119,140,781, an increase of 4,461,261, or 3.89%. Surface traffic in the Boroughs of Queens and Richmond showed gains; that in Richmond representing a gain in per cent of 4.53. The percentage gain for all surface lines throughout the city was 1.78, and for all street railroad lines 3.48%. On an estimated population of 5,875,996 at the end of the fiscal year 1923, per capita riding was 439, against 430 in the previous year.

The following tables show (1) the number of revenue passengers reported by the several systems, the estimated populations of the City of New York and the average number of rides per capita for the fiscal years 1921, 1922 and 1923; and (2) the street railway traffic in 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, and for every year from 1910 to 1923 inclusive.

Street Railway Traffic in New York City, 1921-1923—Number of Revenue Passengers (Cash Fares)—[Excludes Hudson & Manhattan RR.]

Table with columns: Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1921, 1922, 1923, Increase of 1923 over 1922, Number, %. Rows include Subway & Elev. Lines: Interborough: Subway, Elevated, B. R. T.: Elev. & subway, Total, Street Surface Lines in: Boro. of Manhattan, Boro. of the Bronx, Boro. of Brooklyn, Boro. of Queens (a), Boro. of Richmond, Total, Grand total, Population (b), Fares per capita.

a Exclusive of Brooklyn Rapid Transit. b Estimated on basis of one-tenth of decennial increase, 853,165. d Indicates decrease.

Street Railway Traffic (Indicated by Number of Cash Fares in Thousands) in New York City, 1860-1923, With Partial Distribution by Boroughs.

[Excludes Hudson & Manhattan Railroad Co.]

Table with columns: Fiscal Year, Street Surface Railways: Man'h'n, Bronx, Bklyn., Queens, Rich'd., Rapid Transit, Grand Total, Per Cap. Rows include years 1860 through 1923.

x Excludes B. R. T.

Stock and Bond Issues Authorized by the Commission in 1923.

Table with columns: Companies, Class of Security, Date of Authorization, Amt. of Issue Authorized, Amount Applied for. Rows include Eighth Ave. RR, Richmond Rys., Inc., Ocean Electric Ry., B. R. T. Co. reorg. plan, Interb. Rap. Tran. Co., Total bonds, Total shares of no par stock.

National Biscuit Co., New York.

(Annual Report—Year ended Dec. 31 1923.)

President R. E. Tomlinson says in substance:

The only indebtedness is for raw materials, supplies and other incidental items incurred so recently that the accounts could not be audited and paid before the close of the year.

The increase shown in inventories over the preceding year is largely due to a protective supply of the paper-board container for biscuit now used in packing our product and further to the stocks essential for our new bakeries and for increased production covering increasing demand for our line of biscuit.

The volume of business for the year has shown a steady growth over that of the preceding year. As the new bakeries go into operation year by year, each one develops its own new business, thereby increasing the total volume of business of the company.

The new bakery at Philadelphia is designed to take care of increased business in the Philadelphia territory as well as a rapidly growing business in the Southern States along the Atlantic seaboard.

The new cracker bakery in Buffalo, N. Y., is nearing completion and we expect to have it running before next summer.

The real estate and building occupied by the Mansfield, Ohio, bakery, heretofore under lease, was purchased during the year. Gradually during the past six years the company has purchased nearly all of the bakeries that were formerly leased, or has replaced such bakeries with new buildings of modern construction, built and owned by the company.

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEARS ENDING DEC. 31.

Table with columns: 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920. Rows include Net profits, Preferred divs. (7%), Common dividends, Rate of Common divs., Balance, surplus, Previous surplus, Com. (stock) dividend.

Profit & loss, surplus \$11,492,561 \$7,275,609 \$22,983,724 \$21,089,097

BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31.

Table with columns: 1923, 1922. Rows include Assets: Plant, real estate, Machinery, &c., U. S. securities, Cash, Stocks & securities, Acc'ts receivable, Raw mat'ls., sup- plies, &c.; Liabilities: Preferred stock, Common stock, Accounts payable, Common dividend, payable Jan. 15, Ins. & carton fac- tory reserve, Tax reserve, Surplus.

—V. 117, p. 1671.

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

(Report for Fiscal Year ending Dec. 31 1923.)

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR CALENDAR YEARS.

Table with columns: 1923, 1922, 1921. Rows include *Net profit, Sundry items app. to prior periods, Undivided profits previous year, Total surplus, Deduct—Preferred dividends (7%), Common dividends, Stock div. in new Class B Com. stock paid on Common stocks.

Total undivided profits—\$16,955,098 \$4,915,222 \$12,122,425 * Net profits after deducting all charges and expenses of management and after making provision for interest, taxes (incl. Fed. and State income taxes), depreciation, advertising, &c Note.—Federal income, excess profits and war profits taxes on earnings for all years up to Dec. 31 1923 have been paid or set aside in the above statement in maximum amounts and pending tax adjustments should result in a substantial increase in the undivided profits account.

BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31.

Table with columns: 1923, 1922. Rows include Assets: Real est., bldgs., machinery, &c., Cash, Accts. receivable, Leaf tob., supplies, mid. prod., Inv. in non-com- petitive cos., Other accts. and notes receivable, Good-will, patents, &c., Prep. int., ins., &c.; Liabilities: Pf. stk., 7% cum., Common stock, New Class B Com- mon stock, Accts. payable, Accrued interest, taxes, &c., Reserve for deprec., & contingencies, Undiv. prof. after deduct'n of div. payable Jan. 1.

—V. 116, p. 1541.

Endicott-Johnson Corporation.

(Report for Year ended Dec. 31 1923.)

COMPARATIVE INCOME ACCOUNT FOR CALENDAR YEARS.

Table with columns: 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920. Rows include Gross sales a, Cost of sales & exps. b, Net profits, Provision for taxes, Profit-sharing plan, Add'l profit share, Workmen's compensa't'n, Pref. dividends (7%), Common divs. (10%), Retirement of Pref. stock, Balance, Previous surplus, Add'l prem. on Com. stk., Over-provided taxes, Disc't retired Pref. stk., Com. div. stock (10%), Balance of surplus.

a Balance of finished product and by-products to customers (net). b Including all manufacturing, selling, and administration expenses, depreciation and interest charges (less miscellaneous income).

Dueber Hampden, Inc., Canton, Ohio.—Stock Offered. An issue of 150,000 shares of capital stock was recently offered at \$20 per share by C. B. Morganthaler of Cleveland.

Consolidated Balance Sheet June 30 1923. Assets—Cash \$43,850; U. S. Liberty bonds 9,900; Accounts receivable 192,988; Notes receivable 232,953; Inventories 2,038,548; Fixed assets 2,266,321. Liabilities—Notes payable \$441,045; Accrued interest 1,733; Accts. pay. unpaid payroll 31,498; Res. for disc. 11,841; Res. for conv. of Dueber-Hampden stock 26,000; Capital stock 3,000,000; Capital surplus 1,240,770.

Duquesne Light Co.—Listing—Earnings.—The Pittsburgh Stock Exchange on Jan. 14 listed \$15,000,000 1st Pref. stock, 7% Cumulative, Series "A."

Income Account for Nine Months Ended Sept. 30 1923. Gross earnings \$14,236,225; Operating expenses, taxes (incl. Fed. tax.) \$8,483,940; Net earnings \$5,018,660; Gross income \$5,885,513; Deduct—Rent for lease of electric properties, \$330,902; interest on funded debt, \$1,803,599; interest accrued on unfunded debt, \$57,640; Net income for period \$3,590,125; Surplus Jan. 1 1923 6,542,461.

Comparative General Balance Sheet. Sept. 30 '23, Dec. 31 '22. Assets—Fixed capital 52,734,650; Construction work in progress 4,628,787; Investments 10,101,913; Cash 9,237,122; Notes receivable 1,235,261; Materials & supp. 2,219,550; Deferred accounts 3,143,438. Liabilities—Common stock 18,226,000; 1st pref. 7% stock 15,000,000; Preferred stock 78,400; Mat. fd. dt. & int. 160,704; Deferred credits 334,610; Surplus 4,765,980.

x Called May 1 1923.—V. 117, p. 898.

East Bay Water Co., Oakland, Calif.—Bonds.—The company has asked the California Railroad Commission for authority to issue \$3,000,000 6% bonds to finance San Leandro Dam and water development project in Contra Costa Hills east of Oakland.—V. 116, p. 1417.

Eastern New Jersey Power Co.—Proposed Merger.—See Utilities Power & Light Corp. below.

Elgin National Watch Co.—Obituary.—President Charles H. Hulburd died Jan. 14.—V. 117, p. 1891.

Elizabethtown Consolidated Gas Co.—New Directors.—Robert W. Kean and Phillip J. Roosevelt have been elected directors.—V. 116, p. 520.

Ely & Walker Dry Goods Co., St. Louis.—Ann. Report.—Years ended Nov. 30—1922-23, 1921-22, 1920-21, 1919-20.

Ann. Report table for Ely & Walker Dry Goods Co. showing Gross sales, Net sales, Earnings after Federal & all other tax provisions, and Balance, surplus.

Balance Sheet Nov. 30. 1923, 1922. Assets—Factory lands & bldgs., mach'y & equipment; Investments; Inventories; Accts. & notes rec.; Cash.

Balance Sheet table for Ely & Walker Dry Goods Co. showing Assets and Liabilities for 1923 and 1922.

a Accounts and notes receivable, \$9,723,098; less reserve for doubtful debts, \$323,717. b Partially secured by deposit of company's stock.—V. 117, p. 2895.

Emerson Shoe Stores Co.—Transfer Agent.—The Guaranty Trust Co. has been appointed transfer agent for 50,000 shares of Class "A" Common stock and 50,000 shares of Class "B" Common stock.—V. 118, p. 207.

Famous Players-Lasky Corp.—New Director.—Frank Bailey, who was connected with the Title Guarantee & Trust Co. for 38 years and resigned as President on Jan. 1, retaining membership

and Vice-Chairmanship of their board, has been elected a director of the Famous Players-Lasky Corp., in place of Theodore F. Whitmarsh, who has resigned on account of his election as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.—V. 118, p. 89.

Fisk Rubber Co.—Listing.—The Boston Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of 237,371 shares 1st Preferred stock, par \$100.—V. 118, p. 208.

Fuller Brush Co., Hartford, Conn.—Sales, &c.—Total sales for 1923 were \$14,874,734, an increase of 30% over 1922. President Alfred C. Fuller says: "During the present year we shall spend nearly \$500,000 in national advertising and our goal for 1924 is \$20,000,000 in sales."—V. 117, p. 2895.

General Electric Co.—Orders Received.—Table showing 3 months ended Dec. 31 and 12 months ended Dec. 31 for 1923 and 1922, including income percentages.

General Motors Corp.—Acquires Spring Concern.—The corporation has acquired the property and assets of the Armstrong Spring Co. of Flint, Mich. The plant will be operated as the Armstrong Spring Division of General Motors, with R. T. Armstrong as Gen. Mgr. Colin Campbell has resigned as General Sales Manager of the Chevrolet Motor Division.—V. 118, p. 208, 89.

Glidden & Co., Cleveland.—To Pay Back Divs. in Preferred Stock.—The stockholders on Jan. 18 authorized the issuance of new Prior Preference stock in the ratio of 116 shares for each 100 shares of old Preferred now outstanding, thus clearing up all back dividends, up to April 12 1924. For full details see V. 117, p. 2776.

Goff & Sons, Inc.—Protective Committee.—The protective committee for the holders of the 7% 1st Mtge. Serial Gold bonds consists of the following: Luther C. Baldwin, Webster Knight, J. J. Bodell, L. C. Gerry, with Arthur M. Allen, Sec. and Hinckley, Allen, Tillinghast & Phillips, Providence, R. I., counsel. Depositary, Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., Providence.—V. 118, p. 208.

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.—Extra Dividends.—An extra dividend of 2% has been declared in addition to the regular quarterly dividend of 2%, both payable Feb. 15 to holders of record Feb. 8.—V. 114, p. 1186.

Great Lakes Steamship Co.—To Reincorporate in Del.—The stockholders will vote Jan. 22 on forming a new corporation, the Great Lakes Steamship Co., Inc., of Delaware, with 120,000 no par value capital shares. It is proposed to give two of these shares in exchange for each share (par \$100) in the present company. Present company has capital of 60,000 shares. Basil C. Ayelsworth has been elected a director.—V. 110, p. 2661.

Great Western Sugar Co.—Common Dividend Increased.—A quarterly dividend of \$2 per share has been declared on the Common stock, par \$25, payable April 2 to holders of record March 15. This compares with quarterly dividends of \$1 per share paid on the Common stock from Jan. 1923 to Jan. 1924, inclusive.

To Offer Block of Stock.—Clark, Dodge & Co., Dominick & Dominick and Bernhard, Schiffer & Co., New York, will shortly offer a block of 42,000 shares of Common stock which has been acquired from private holders.

Production and Earnings Fiscal Years ended Feb. 28. Table showing Sugar produced (100-lb. bags), Federal taxes, and Net after applying taxes for 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923.

The consolidated balance sheet as of Dec. 31 1923 follows: Assets—Cash, \$5,715,219; U. S. Treasury certificates and notes, \$6,893,250; stocks and bonds, \$754,530; accounts receivable, \$1,605,158; notes receivable, \$125,296; refined sugar and by-products on hand from previous years, \$2,196; beet seed and supplies on hand, \$3,464,842; advances and other suspense items, \$47,578; expenses applicable to current year (\$26,568,645), less amount received for 1923-24 production sold to date (\$10,945,155); \$15,623,489; plants, railroad, real estate and equipment (after reserva for depreciation), \$27,322,322; stock purchased for employees, \$73,197; total assets, \$61,627,078. Liabilities—Accounts payable and payroll, \$1,329,514; Preferred stock, \$15,000,000; Common stock, \$15,000,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$30,297,564; total liabilities, \$61,627,078.—V. 117, p. 1345.

Hartman Corporation.—New President, &c.—Martin L. Straus, formerly Vice-President, has been elected President, succeeding Max Straus. S. E. Kohn has been elected a Vice-President and a director. Max Straus continues as a director.—V. 118, p. 209.

Hayes Wheel Co.—15 Years of Wheel Production.—In an advertisement Jan. 9 the company stated in part: Among the automotive companies which include Hayes Wheels as standard equipment appear the names of Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., Nash Motor Co., Willys-Overland Co., Durant Motors and Gardner Motors.

Number of Wheels Produced by Hayes Wheel Co. During 15 Years in Business. Table showing Year, No. of Wheels, and Total for 1909-1913.

Total 31,178,590. Hayes Motor Truck Wheel Co., St. Johns Plant, 2,451,692. Hayes Wheel Co., Ltd., of Canada Plants, 1,281,975.

Total number of wheels, 34,912,257. Total number of sets, 8,728,064. Comparing the total output of 34,912,257 wheels or 8,728,064 sets with the 19,356,447 passenger cars and trucks produced during a like period shows that 45% of all cars and trucks, during the entire 15 years of Hayes manufacture, have been Hayes wheel equipped.—V. 117, p.2547, 2116.

Hudson Motor Car Co.—Shipments and Values.—The following table of cars shipped and the values is taken from the company's bulletin of Jan. 1 1924.

Cars Shipped and Values for Stated Periods. Table showing Cars Shipped and Values for 1910 through 1916.

x Fiscal years to May 31. y Six months to Nov. 30. z Fiscal years to Nov. 30. The directorate has been reduced from 11 to 10 members, with the resignation of B. O. Bezner.—V. 118, p. 199.

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, Jan. 18 1923.

COFFEE on the spot has been rather quiet and at times more nominal than anything else. No. 7 Rio, 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ to 11c.; No. 4 Santos, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; fair to good Cucuta, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Medellin, 22 to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Futures showed a downward trend. Rio exchange fell. Not a little profit-taking was one of the features of the trading here. March on the 16th inst. dropped to 9.95c. and September to 9.35c. This was about 50 points below the recent "high." Trade interests have been selling. Some of this is put down as hedging. Rio exchange on the 16th inst. dropped 1-16d., while dollar exchange advanced 50 reis. Rio coffee prices were up 250 to 400 reis, but Santos was so irregular that the changes ranged from a decline of 275 reis to an advance of 100 reis. At times there was more or less covering. At others there seemed to be a certain amount of support, supposedly by Brazilian interests. Europe has been selling at times. Scattered local liquidation has been something of a feature. On the 15th inst. Rio was down 325 to 400 reis and Santos 675 to 900 reis. At the same time the stock at Santos is only 712,000 bags against 2,165,000 a year ago. At Rio it is but 828,000 against 1,409,000 at this time in 1923. European reports say in some cases that there is an excellent demand for all grades. Europe, it is said, pays higher prices for the more desirable grades than America. The consumption of Rio coffee increased greatly in 1923, probably because of its being the cheapest coffee. To-day futures advanced some 10 points net after a weaker opening. Local shorts covered later. Early advices were of a rather sharp break in Brazilian term markets and lower cost and freight prices, with Rio exchange 7-32d. higher at 6 7-32d. and the dollar rate down 300 reis to 9\$200. Later came news of a reaction of 5-32d. in Rio exchange, bringing it down to 6 1-16d. with a rally of 200 reis in the dollar rate. Futures here wind up 26 to 34 points lower than last Friday.

Spot (unofficial) c. 10 | May c. 9.64 @ 9.66 | September c. 9.29 @ 9.30
March 9.94 @ 9.97 | July 9.49 @ 9.51 | December 9.19 @ 9.21

SUGAR.—Raw has been quiet of late with larger offerings early in the week at 5c. for Cuba c.&f. for January and early February shipment. It was intimated even then that 5 cents might be shaded by 1-16c. The number of centrals grinding was put at 150 against 121 a year ago. Later on Cuba was offered, it was stated, at 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. c.&f. for January shipment. But refiners were holding aloof. Rumors were afloat that sales had been made for late January and early February shipment at 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. c.&f., though they could not be confirmed. They illustrated in a way, however, the rather weaker tone that characterized the market, and such a price on its face seemed to many not in itself at all improbable. The receipts at United States Atlantic ports for the week were 33,770 tons against 13,247 tons in the previous week, 30,714 in the same week last year and 61,870 two years ago; meltings, 36,000 tons against 14,000 in the previous week, 30,000 in the same week last year and 49,000 two years ago; total stock, 24,451 tons against 26,681 tons in the previous week, 28,828 in the same week last year and 44,988 two years ago. The receipts at the Cuban ports for the week were 102,153 tons against 56,531 last week, 87,696 in the same week last year and 28,932 two years ago; exports, 53,175 tons against 36,760 last week, 60,933 in the same week last year and 13,259 two years ago; stock, 90,911 tons against 41,933 last week, 76,106 in 1923 and 37,466 two years ago. Centrals grinding numbered 147 against 129 last week, 108 in the same week last year and 67 two years ago. It is contended that the British trade is ill supplied while at the same time its business is improving. It makes a better showing to all appearance than trade on this side of the water. Great Britain has yet to supply itself for January. It also appeared rather anxious recently on the matter of shipments for February and March. British quotations have at times shown more stamina than American. To-day futures were without marked net change. On the spot small sales of raw were reported at 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. Sales of some 20,000 bags of late, it turns out, were actually made at 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. To-day bids, however, were not generally over 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. The cables reported sales of Brazils afloat nearby at 26s. 9d. c.i.f. U.K. Refined was quiet at 8.60c., though some were quoting as low as 8.25c., with the proviso that the delivery must be by or before Feb. 2. Some are taking limited orders for delivery next week at 8.40c. To-day the number of centrals grinding

was stated at 152 against 127 a year ago. Futures close 5 points higher than a week ago.

Spot (unofficial) c. 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ | March c. 4.75 @ 4.76 | July c. 4.89 @ 4.90
January 4.93 @ 4.94 | May 4.82 @ 4.83 | September 4.95 @ 4.97

LARD on the spot has been in moderate demand and steady. Prime Western, 13.05c.; refined to Continent, 13.75c.; South America, 14c.; Brazil, 15c. Futures were held back on the 12th inst. despite the rise in corn. As on the day before the neutralizing factor was selling by packers. Exports, however, continued to be large with hogs at one time advancing. The East bought in Chicago. So did packers later, as well as shorts. Liverpool advanced 3d. to 1s. Exports continued large. The tone was strong on the 17th though a previous decline was not regained. Hog production, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has passed the crest in the surplus producing region and a downward movement is well under way, according to the results of a survey in December 1923. It showed a decrease of 8.7% in the number of sows farrowing in the fall of 1923 from the fall of 1922 for the United States. A decrease of 6.1% in the corn belt is shown. In the June 1923 pig survey, farmers stated they intended to breed 28% more sows for fall farrowing in 1923 than in the fall of 1922; the intended increase in the corn belt at that time was shown as 25%. While the survey shows that the sows farrowed in the fall of 1923 decreased 8.7% for the United States and 6.1% in the corn belt from the previous year, the actual pigs saved were reported as having decreased only 6.8% for the United States and 3.8% for the corn belt. A decrease of 1.2% in numbers of sows bred or intended to be bred for spring farrowing in 1924 in the United States and a decrease of 5.4% in the corn belt from sows farrowed in the spring of 1923 is also reported. To-day prices were lower with corn also lower, and a certain amount of liquidation. For the week there is a decline, however. General selling and bearish hog news have been outstanding features taking the week as a whole. The receipts of hogs at the West on a single day were over 200,000. And continuance of such arrivals was expected. The fortnightly stocks at Chicago increased about 1,250,000 pounds. At one time Liverpool was weak. All this offset liberal exports and prices at the ending to-day were 30 to 40 points lower than last Friday.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF LARD FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
January delivery	cts. 12.20	12.02	11.87	11.90	11.95	11.82
March delivery	12.07	11.90	11.77	11.70	11.82	11.72
May delivery	12.12	11.97	11.82	11.80	11.90	11.80

PORK quiet; mess, \$24 75; family, \$29 to \$30; short clears, \$28 to \$32. Beef dull; mess, \$16 to \$17; packet, \$17 to \$18; family, \$21 to \$23; extra India mess, \$33 nom.* No. 1 canned corned beef, \$2 35; No. 2, \$4; 6 lbs., \$15; pickled tongues, \$55 to \$65 nom. per bbl. Cut meats inactive; pickled hams, 10 to 20 lbs., 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; pickled bellies, 6 to 12 lbs., 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 11c. Butter, creamery firsts to high scoring, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Cheese, flats, 22c. to 27c. Eggs, fresh gathered trade to extras, 29c. to 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

OILS.—Linseed quiet but steady. Spot oil has been in fair demand. Later on the demand improved a little and prices were firmer. Spot carloads, 91c.; tanks, 86c.; less than carloads, 95c.; less than 5 bbls., 98c.; boiled, tanks, 87c.; carloads, 94c.; 5 bbl. lots, 97c.; less than 5 bbls., \$1 00. Later on prices were advanced 1c. by leading crushers to 92c. a gallon for raw oil in carlots, cooperage basis. Coconut oil, Ceylon, bbls., 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Corn, crude, tanks, mills, 10c.; edible, 100 bbl. lots, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 14c. Olive, \$1 12. Cod, domestic, 66c. to 68c.; Newfoundland, 69c. to 72c. Lard, prime, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; extra strained, New York, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Spirits of turpentine, \$1 02. Rosin, \$5 90 to \$7 85.

The total sales of cotton seed oil to-day were 18,102 bbls., including switches. P. crude S. E., 9.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sales. Closing prices were as follows:

Spot 11.10 @ 11.50 | March 11.29 @ 11.31 | June 11.65 @ 11.75
January 11.10 @ 11.25 | April 11.47 @ 11.49 | July 11.80 @ 11.82
February 11.05 @ 11.15 | May 11.61 @ 11.63 | August 11.85 @ 11.98

PETROLEUM.—Further advances in crude oil of 10 to 25 cents have been features, with output lessened and the demand fair at the rise. Gasoline was advanced 1 to 2c. Kerosene has sold to only a light or at best moderate extent. Exporters shy at the present price. Prime white was quoted at 8c. delivered in tank cars to the local trade. Of prime and water white the supply is said to be rather small. Bunker oil has been steady with a better demand at \$1 35 f.o.b. terminal; in Philadelphia, \$1 60; Gulf, \$1 25. This seems to presage a rise here. On Jan. 14 the Standard Oil Co. of New York and the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey announced advances of 2 cents in gasoline. This is the first increase since February 1923, when gasoline was quoted here at 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. wholesale, and then started a decline which did not end until the price touched 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. a gallon at the close of 1923. The price now is 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and the retail price about 20c. The increase is effective in all the territory served by

both companies, which comprises all of New England States and the Middle Atlantic States. The advance in gasoline and kerosene follows the recent sharp advance in crude oil due to the falling off in production of crude oil in this country since last September. Production of crude for the entire country dropped from 2,280,000 barrels in the first week of September 1923 to 1,884,000 barrels reported in the first week of 1924. The tendency of production is still downward, and if this continues consumption will perhaps overtake production in six months. The rise stimulates foreign markets and efforts to increase production in South America. Pennsylvania crude oil was advanced 10 cents a barrel on Monday, this increase being the sixth since Dec. 14. Bradford district Pennsylvania crude is now \$3 75 a barrel against \$2 60 prior to Dec. 14. It is now on a level with that in May 1923. Corning crude oil advanced 10c. to \$1 65. Other grades of Eastern crude were unchanged. The Humble Oil & Refining Co. advanced Mexia crude oil 5 cents a barrel to \$1 40. The Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey advanced bunker fuel oil 10c. a barrel to \$1 45 f.o.b. New York Harbor refinery. The Atlantic Refining Co. announced an advance of 1c. a gallon in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The Texas Co. has already met the advance of 2 cents by the New York and New Jersey companies.

According to advices from Boston, new gasoline prices effective Jan. 15 were 16 1/2c. a gallon tank wagon and 19c. at filling stations in Massachusetts and 1 cent higher elsewhere in New England. Prices do not take into consideration State taxes, but are companies' figures. The Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey on the 17th inst. advanced the price of export gasoline 1c. a gallon, bringing new Navy in bulk up to 12 1/2c. a gallon. New York prices: Gasoline, cases, cargo lots, 26.40c.; U. S. Navy specifications, 12.50c.; naphtha, cargo lots, 14c.; 63-66 deg., 16c.; 66-68 deg., 17.50c.; kerosene, in cargo lots, cases 17.15c.; petroleum refined tanks, wagons to store 15c.; motor gasoline garage steel bbls., 17 1/2c. Governor W. H. McMaster of South Dakota instructed the State highway supply station at Mitchell. So. Dak., to sell gasoline at 16c. a gallon, following the announcement of an increase of 2c. a gallon to 22c. by the Standard Oil Co. The Governor sent a carload of gasoline to the State station there, resuming the price war which he started against the Standard Oil Co. last summer when that firm raised prices. Tulsa wired on Jan. 15 that gasoline prices in Group 3 scored an advance of 1/4 cent under the new strength given by the New York, New Jersey, Atlantic and Louisiana tank wagon advances. The 68-70 grade is quoted at 14c. to 14 1/4c. New Navy was up on that day 1/4c. Twelve wells completed in the Burbank area have averaged since the shutdown ended on Jan. 10 some 10,000 bbls. a day, but they will only increase the output of the field 5,000 bbls. for the week ending Wednesday. The Sun Oil Co. to-day bought the Tulsa Oil Products Co. stations here, giving it an entry here. Its Cleveland, Okla., refinery will supply them with products.

Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas—		Mid-Continent—	
Under 28 Magnolia.....	\$.57	39 and over.....	\$1.50
28-30.9.....	.75	33-39.9 deg.....	1.25
31-32.9.....	1.00	33 deg. & below.....	1.00
33-35.9.....	1.25	Caddo.....	
39 and above.....	1.50	35-37.9 deg.....	1.25
Below 30 Humble.....	1.00	38 and over.....	1.35
33-35.9.....	1.25	32-34.9 deg.....	1.15
36-38.9.....	1.40	Below 32 deg.....	1.00
39 and above.....	1.50		
Pennsylvania.....	\$3.25	Ragland.....	\$0.85
Corning.....	1.65	Corsicana, light.....	1.25
Cabell.....	1.60	Lima.....	1.83
Somerset, light.....	1.80	Indiana.....	1.63
Wyoming.....	1.40	Princeton.....	1.62
Smackover, 26 deg. 1.00		Canadian.....	2.23
		Bull-Bayou.....	32-34.9 1.00
		Illinois.....	\$1.62
		Orychton.....	1.15
		Plymouth.....	1.19
		Mexia.....	1.40
		Calif. 35 & above.....	0.76
		Gulf Coastal.....	1.50

RUBBER was lower early in the week with trade quiet. Later on there was an advance on a rather better demand. Prices, however, are about unchanged with those of a week ago. First latex crepe, spot, February, 26 1/2c.; March, 26 3/4c.; April-June, 27c.; July-September, 28c. Ribbed smoked sheets, spot, February, 26 1/8 @ 26 1/4c.; March, 26 3/4c.; April-June, 26 3/4c.; July-September, 27 3/4c.

HIDES have been more active at the River Plate. Here prices have been firm with a moderate business. Bogata, 19c.; Orinoco, 17c.; country, 7 to 9c. Of River Plate frigorifico 36,000 were reported sold to United States buyers. Some 24,000 Argentine frigorifico steer sold at \$42 75, or 15 9-16c. c. & f.; 12,000 Montevideo steers, including 4,000 Artigas at 16 7-16c., 4,000 Uruguay steers at \$45, or 15 5-16c. and 4,000 Swift Montevideo steers at \$45 25, or 16 3/8c. c. & f. Santa Martas, it is stated, sold at 18c. here and Savanillas at 17c. Tanners want heavy weights. A sale was reported of a carload of New York State hides all weights, at 8c. City packer firm. A Jersey City packer sold a lot of Jan. branded hides at 11 1/2c. for Colorados and 12 1/2c. for butt brands.

OCEAN FREIGHTS.—Charters have been in fair demand and steady. A good business was done at one time in oil and sugar. For coal and grain tonnage the demand has been slack.

CHARTERS included grain from Vancouver to Genoa or Marseilles, 42s. 3d. February; coal from Atlantic range to Marseilles at \$3 25 January loading; sugar from Cuba to Vancouver, \$4 25 Feb. 5 cancelling; cotton from New Orleans to Murmansk, lump sum basis of \$32.50 January loading; case oil from Port Arthur to four ports of Porto Rico basis, 30c. per case prompt loading; 70,000 barrels Panuco crude from Tampico to Philadelphia, 30c. a barrel January loading; lubricating oil from U. S. Gulf to London or Ghent, 3s. per ton; gasoline from Philadelphia to United Kingdom or Continent, 30s. January loading; grain from North Pacific to United Kingdom and the Continent, 40s. February loading; from Atlantic

range to Marseilles or Genoa, 3s. 9d. February loading; coal from Atlantic range to west Italy, \$3 10 one port, \$3 20 two ports, January loading; coal from Philadelphia to Rio de Janeiro, \$3 15 prompt loading; coal from Hampton Roads to Kingston, Jamaica, \$2 25 January loading; time charter, 2,291-ton steamer, one round trip in intercoastal trade, \$1 50 January loading; sugar from Cuba to Marseilles, 23s. 6d. Jan. 25 to Feb. 8 cancelling; grain from Atlantic range to four ports in Denmark, 20 1/2c. February; rye from Novorossick to Denmark four ports, 19s. 6d., with option oil cake, 21s. Jan. 1; coal from Hampton Roads to Montevideo or La Plata, \$3 20 February loading; lumber from U. S. Gulf to River Plate, \$14 50 January loading; grain from San Lorenzo to United Kingdom or Continent, 27s. Jan. 15-Feb. 5; grain from Philadelphia to Mediterranean, 3s. 10 1/2d. January loading; grain from Vancouver to United Kingdom or Continent, 38s. 9d.; if Antwerp, 36s. 6d. March-April; six months time charter in West Indian trade one round trip, \$1 25 delivery Cuba January; coal from U. S. Atlantic port to Genoa, \$3 January loading; from Mobile to Havana, \$1 60 January loading; sugar from Cuba to Liverpool or Greenock, 21s. 6d. Feb. 1-15; lumber Gulf to Buenos Aires, \$14 50, option of Bahia Blanca, \$16 February loading; lumber from North Pacific to two ports of Japan, \$14 75 January-February; from North Pacific to Japan, \$15 January loading; grain from Atlantic range to United Kingdom or Bordeaux-Hamburg range, 3s. 6d. February loading; grain from Atlantic range to Marseilles or Genoa at 3s. 10 1/2d. January loading; coal from Wales to River Plate, 12s. 6d. January loading; sugar from Cuba to Liverpool, 20s. 6d.; Greenock, 20s. January loading; sugar from Cuba to Vancouver \$4 20 January-February loading.

COAL was quiet and steady on soft coal for a time. The demand for anthracite early in the week was rather slow. Seaboard bituminous markets were disappointing. Later in the week buying of bituminous became brisk while anthracite remained quiet. The weather here to-day was mild. It has not been severe here at any time this week, though cold at the West, where much soft coal is used.

FURS have been firmer. Muskrat are scarce Edmonton reports. An advance of 5% has been announced by some of the larger receiving houses here over prices previously quoted on skunk, muskrat, opossum, red fox, etc. Mink remains unchanged. Raccoon Eastern section stock is about 5% lower. Western qualities are slightly higher.

TOBACCO has been in moderate demand with prices steady. No striking features have developed. It is still an affair of routine trade or something little better. In other words, practically the same conditions exist that have for some time past. The feeling in the trade continues to be hopeful of better things as the year advances. Stocks in manufacturers' hands are supposed to be only moderate. In first hands here they are declared to be anything but burdensome. Crops of Cuban and Sumatra tobacco in recent years, it is declared, have fallen off sharply. Supplies of foreign tobacco, it is insisted, are down to an unusually low stage. The outlook for business is considered very satisfactory. At the same time recent Havana advices say that there is an absence of foreign buying there and that trade was quiet.

COPPER has met with a better inquiry, but prices do not show much change. Most of the demand is for the second quarter. There were rumors early in the week that some copper was available at 12 3/4c. However, most producers quoted 12 1/2 to 12 3/4c. for electrolytic.

TIN in good demand and higher. The price is now the highest seen for many months. Some attribute the steady advance to the fact that the surplus of the Far Eastern pool has dwindled to such an extent as to be no longer a menace to speculation. Spot here was 49 1/2c. Later on spot straits were obtainable, it was said, at 48 7/8c., with London down £1. Large Strait shipments for the first half of the month are supposed to have depressed London with a reaction on New York. Futures were selling late in the week at 48 3/4c. here.

LEAD firm and in rather good demand. February output is reported to be sold out. Prompt lead at New York ranges from 8 3/4 to 8 1/2c. and East St. Louis from 8 1/2 to 8 1/4c.

ZINC eased a little early in the week with business quiet. Spot New York, 6.72 1/2 to 6.75c.; East St. Louis, 6.37 1/2 to 6.40c. Zinc ore was advanced at one time during the week to \$43 to \$44.

STEEL has shown a somewhat firmer tone. New business is larger. The output therefore is increased in some directions. The U. S. Steel Corp. is still supposed to be running at about 85%, others at 75%. The composite price shows a slight advance. It may be added that the average output at 75% shows an increase as compared with late 1923 of about 5%. The demand from railroads is increasing. Building and automobile buying has recently been on a liberal scale. Railroads are buying cars freely. Even China is inquiring for some few hundred cars. Sheets show more steadiness. It is said that there is now practically no cutting of sheet quotations and independents are running at about 80%. In connection with the possibility of a coal strike on April 1, it is said that the steel concerns of the country have accumulated large supplies of soft coal. Besides, the non-union fields could help out as they did in 1922. Not much export business has been done, nor is there any great improvement expected for several months. Japanese oil interests recently bought about 12,000 tons of tin plate and Japanese gas companies 1,000 tons of pipe. It is believed that more business would have been done but for the decline in the Far Eastern exchange. Japanese exchange at one time dropped noticeably.

PIG IRON has advanced with enough increase in the inquiry to attract attention. Consumers, too, it is said, are sending in requests to hurry up deliveries on old contracts. Some of them are also ordering more iron. In not a few instances, it is believed that they have held aloof so long that their supplies have become much depleted. In

the Chicago district prices advanced 50 cents on the 16th inst. except on charcoal iron. In the Valley district they were raised 50 cents on foundry and malleable iron.

WOOL has been quiet but steady, with stocks small. The future of prices for wool is contingent on the trade and prices for goods.

Washington wired Jan. 14: "The wool disposals of the British-Australian Wool Realization Association during December amounted to 66,470 bales, according to London advices to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

At Wellington, N. Z., on Jan. 15 32,000 bales were offered and all but 2,000 bales sold. American operators bought super lots and lambs on a big scale, taking super merinos up to 33d.

COTTON

Friday Night, Jan. 18 1924.

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 169,448 bales, against 136,603 bales last week and 135,224 bales the previous week.

Table with 7 columns: Receipts at—, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Total. Lists receipts for various ports like Galveston, Houston, New Orleans, etc.

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 4 columns: Receipts to Jan. 18., 1923-24., 1922-23., Stock. (1924., 1923.). Compares current week's performance with the previous year.

In order that comparison may be made with other years, we give below the totals at leading ports for six seasons:

Table with 6 columns: Receipts at—, 1924-1923, 1922., 1921., 1920., 1919. Shows totals for six seasons at various ports.

The exports for the week ending this evening reach a total of 203,056 bales, of which 68,925 were to Great Britain, 40,731 to France and 93,400 to other destinations.

Table with 4 columns: Exports from—, Week ending Jan. 18 1924., From Aug. 1 1923 to Jan. 18 1924. Details weekly and seasonal export figures.

NOTE.—Exports to Canada.—It has never been our practice to include in the above table exports of cotton to Canada...

For the five months ending Dec. 31 1923 there were 77,511 bales exported, as against 89,801 bales for the corresponding four months in 1922.

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.

Table with 8 columns: On Shipboard, Not Cleared for—, Jan 18 at—, Great Britain, France, Germany, Other Cont'n't., Coast-wise, Total, Leaving Stock. Lists cotton on ships at various ports.

*Estimated.

Speculation in cotton for future delivery has been fitful and erratic at lower prices. A rise of 75 to 100 points came on Tuesday with the American consumption in December larger than expected, exports of 550,000 bales above the total up to that date last year, spots firmer and the technical positions here and in Liverpool apparently much stronger. Wet weather in the Southwest put up October. But on Wednesday cotton had a lull after its tempestuous Tuesday. In the afternoon it broke 50 to 75 points. Liverpool was not stimulating. Short covering, after an early advance, died down. The goods trade was still unsatisfactory. That was stressed. Liverpool, Wall Street, uptown, the West, Florida and the South sold generally. The trade bought, but not on a large scale. Speculation after a stormy six to eight months acted a bit tired. Yet the actual consumption of lint cotton in the United States in December was 461,560 bales, against previous estimates of 382,000 to 400,000, 531,631 in November, 529,342 in December 1922 and 510,925 in December 1921. The total thus far is 2,510,472 bales of lint cotton, against 2,662,669 up to the same time in 1922, 2,484,959 for a like period in 1921, 1,967,585 in 1920 and 2,547,390 in 1919. The decrease during this season up to Dec. 31, it was pointed out, was only 152,000 bales. This impressed not a few. Moreover, manufacturing establishments on Dec. 31 held 1,623,453 bales, against 1,438,813 on Nov. 30 and 1,917,231 on Dec. 31 1922 and 1,738,138 in 1921. Public warehouses and compresses held on Dec. 31 only 3,526,164 bales, against 3,770,542 bales on Nov. 30, 4,069,470 bales on Dec. 31 1922 and 5,206,663 in 1921. In other words, the mill and warehouse stocks on Dec. 31 1923 were only 5,149,617 bales, against 5,986,701 bales on Dec. 31 1922 and 6,944,434 on Dec. 31 1921. This meant a decrease compared with Dec. 31 1922 of 837,084 bales. That was big enough decrease to excite comment. Compared with Dec. 31 1921 the decrease is 1,794,617 bales. The Amoskeag Mills at Manchester, N. H., are running on full time and even at night in some of its mills. To many the number of active spindles turned out to be larger than had been generally expected. The total was 34,044,870 on Dec. 31, against 34,101,452 on Nov. 30, a decrease in a month of only 56,582 spindles. It was considered negligible. It is true that a year ago the total was 34,976,103. Prices were 7c. lower then. Liverpool on the 15th inst. was very steady early and its spot sales were 6,000 bales. That looked large contrasted with recent daily totals. The spot demand there was better, if the results were not decisive. But it was iterated and reiterated in advices at that time that the tone was better. Liverpool declared itself impressed by the December consumption in this country. It fell off only 70,000 bales. More than double this decrease has been very generally expected. The number of cotton spindles in operation changed, as we have seen, but little. Sooner or later a sharp reduction will have to be made. But the mills seem to be postponing the inevitable as if reluctant, despite the slowness of trade and accumulating stocks of goods to make a real and decisive start. There would seem to be a disposition to "let the other fellow do it." That appears to be the feeling both at home and abroad. Yet there are predictions of a sharper decrease in the American consumption this month.

However this may be, New York of late has had an inspected stock of 165,500 bales, the largest for years past. And spinners in many cases, it is supposed, have protected themselves for some months to come and find it difficult to sell goods on a higher basis of cost than 30c. for the raw material. Liverpool has at times been selling here, and its market latterly has been irregular or positively weak under the political situation in England. Now and then it has been strengthened by a decline in sterling exchange.

Meanwhile there is still not a little bullish sentiment here, based on the fact that there have been three short crops in succession, that supplies are small and fears of a sharp falling off in the next seven months. Stocks are considered absolutely inadequate to meet the coming drafts on them from American and foreign consumers. Recently the exports have mounted to a point, as we have seen, more than half a million bales above the total of the corresponding period last year. Some have computed that not more than 4,000,000 bales are available in this country, whereas after Jan. 1 last year the exports and consumption in this country were nearly 6,000,000 bales. Of course, this means that sooner or later there must be a slowing down by the mills. Meanwhile the fact is stressed that the consumption thus far has been larger than was expected. And while it is predicted that January may see a much greater decrease than 70,000 bales in the American consumption there are those who are wondering what will happen if this prediction goes awry. Meanwhile Liverpool advices at one time took the ground that the political situation in that country had been discounted. This, of course, refers to the imminence of a

Labor Ministry, following it was predicted a vote of want of confidence in the Baldwin Ministry. The conference of Allied experts to consider the subject of Germany's currency, the balancing of its budget and the ultimate question of reparations inspires some with the hope that the beginning of the end of the long period of European unsettlement growing out of these vexed matters is not many months off. At times of late the stock market both in New York and London has been in a more hopeful mood. There was at one time some recovery in foreign exchange. France is to increase its taxes some 20%, apparently with a view of helping to stabilize the franc. And the campaign in favor of tax reduction in this country is being pushed. Thus the broad foundations of a better state of business are being gradually laid both at home and abroad. Reflective men do not lose sight of these things.

On Thursday came a break of anywhere from 20 to 70 points, in which the old crop showed the most weakness. The depressing factors were reports of a cut in Amoskeag gingham from 16c. to 12½c., a decline in bleached goods of ½c. in Worth Street, rumors of large ginning—here given merely for what they are worth—considerable belated hedge selling, declining spot markets and general liquidation, and other selling attributed to Wall Street, the West, the South, Florida resorts and others. It was said, too, in a Boston dispatch that there was to be further curtailment. It does not appear to have been anything on a very large scale. Some mills in the Blackstone Valley were said to be reducing their output. Also, where mills are running on full time it is declared in many cases they are piling up stocks of goods because of slowness of trade. Finally, there was a report that a receivership had been appointed for the Nemours Trading Co. of Wilmington, Del. This certainly did not help matters. Exports that day were 111,640 bales. But this had no effect, although, according to our compilations, the exports for the season thus far have increased 600,306 bales over the total of a year ago. Finally, Liverpool was depressed partly in sympathy with New York and partly because of nervousness over the political outlook and a report that a big British railroad strike had been ordered for Sunday at midnight. Spot markets declined with a lessened demand.

Houston wired that plans are being made for the shipment of cotton direct from Gulf ports to Russia by a delegation of Russian textile operators who were here on Jan. 11 representing the All-Russian Textile Syndicate, a corporation chartered under the laws of New York and having headquarters here. The syndicate already has purchased a large quantity of cotton in New Orleans and the first boat will leave New Orleans for Murmansk with cotton in about three weeks, according to the commission.

To-day prices declined at first, owing to further liquidation, expectations of bearish week-end statistics, persistent talk of a large ginning, dullness of cotton goods and of spot cotton, a decline in foreign exchange, and finally, fears of a spread of curtailment. Fall River's sales for the week were 50,000 pieces. That showed some increase, but not much. Later on, however, contracts became scarcer. It was suspected that the crest of urgent long liquidation may have passed after very drastic selling this week and a very marked decline recently. In the main, however, the advance was traceable more to a better technical position than to anything else. Closing prices show a decline for the week of 80 to 85 points on the old crop with October up 12 points. Spot cotton-closed at 33.20c. for middling, a decline for the week of 115 points.

The following averages of the differences between grades, as figured from the Jan. 17 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. 24 1924.

Middling fair.....	1.81	or	*Middling "yellow" stained.....	2.65	off
Strict good middling.....	1.48	or	"Good middling "blue" stained.....	1.25	off
Good middling.....	1.16	or	"Strict middling "blue" stained.....	1.76	off
Strict middling.....	.70	or	"Middling "blue" stained.....	2.64	off
Strict low middling.....	.98	off	Good middling spotted.....	.50	off
Iow middling.....	2.20	off	Strict middling spotted.....	.05	off
*Strict good ordinary.....	3.68	off	Middling spotted.....	.83	off
*Good ordinary.....	5.00	off	*Strict low middling spotted.....	1.91	off
Strict good mid. "yellow" tinged.....	.21	on	Iow middling spotted.....	3.10	off
Good middling "yellow" tinged.....	.22	off	Good mid. light yellow stained.....	.82	off
Strict middling "yellow" tinged.....	.74	off	*Strict mid. light yellow stained.....	1.40	off
*Middling "yellow" tinged.....	1.75	off	*Middling yellow stained.....	2.13	off
*Strict low mid. "yellow" tinged.....	2.97	off	Good middling "gray".....	.30	off
*Iow middling "yellow" tinged.....	4.17	off	*Strict middling "gray".....	.81	off
Good middling "yellow" stained.....	1.35	off	*Middling "gray".....	1.44	off
*Strict mid. "yellow" stained.....	1.95	off	* These grades are not deliverable.		

The official quotation for middling upland cotton in the New York market each day for the past week has been:

Jan. 12 to 18—	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Middling upland.....	34.35	34.05	34.35	33.80	33.10	33.20

NEW YORK QUOTATIONS FOR 32 YEARS.

The quotations for middling upland at New York on Jan. 18 for each of the past 32 years have been as follows:

1924.....	33.20	1916.....	12.50	1908.....	12.25	1900.....	7.75
1923.....	28.15	1915.....	8.50	1907.....	10.80	1899.....	6.12
1922.....	17.95	1914.....	12.90	1906.....	12.25	1898.....	5.88
1921.....	17.60	1913.....	12.90	1905.....	7.25	1897.....	7.19
1920.....	39.75	1912.....	9.50	1904.....	14.10	1896.....	8.19
1919.....	29.05	1911.....	14.90	1903.....	8.95	1895.....	5.75
1918.....	31.75	1910.....	13.85	1902.....	8.31	1894.....	8.06
1917.....	17.35	1909.....	9.80	1901.....	9.88	1893.....	9.50

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

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday to Friday) and months (January to December), showing market data for various commodities.

from all India ports for the week and for the season from Aug. 1, as cabled, for three years, have been as follows:

Table showing receipts of Bombay cotton from all India ports for the week and for the season from August 1, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22.

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.—Reports to us by telegraph from the South this evening indicate that the weather has been unfavorable for farm work in the Central Gulf States and in Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma because of cold, wet weather.

Table with columns for location (Galveston, Texas, Abilene, Brownsville, etc.), Rain (days, rainfall), and Thermometer (high, low, mean).

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 at various points (New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, etc.) for Jan. 18 1924 and Jan. 19 1923.

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 showing weekly receipts from plantations at various ports (1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22) and interior towns.

The above statement shows: (1) That the total receipts from the plantations since Aug. 1 1923 are 5,753,899 bales; in 1922 were 5,088,497 bales, and in 1921 were 4,151,400 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 showing Cotton Takings (Week and Season) and Visible supply (Week and Season) for 1923-24 and 1922-23.

*Embraces receipts in Europe, from Brazil, Smyrna, West Indies, &c. a This total embraces the total estimated consumption by Southern mills, 2,017,000 bales in 1923-24 and 2,056,000 bales in 1922-23—takings not being a available—and the aggregate amounts taken by Northern and foreign spinners 6,764,842 bales in 1923-24 and 7,451,669 bales in 1922-23, of which 4,407,442 bales and 4,169,191 bales American. b Estimated.

INDIA COTTON MOVEMENT FROM ALL PORTS.—The receipts of India cotton at Bombay and the shipments

According to the foregoing, Bombay appears to show an increase compared with last year in the week's receipts of 35,000 bales. Exports from all India ports record a decrease of 9,000 bales during the week, and since Aug. 1 show a decrease of 23,550 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, Egypt receipts and shipments for 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22.

Note.—A cantar is 99 lbs. Egyptian bales weigh about 750lbs. This statement shows that the receipts for the week ending Jan. 16 were 90,000 cantars and the foreign shipments 33,000 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.—Our report received by cable to-night from Manchester states that the market in both cloths and yarns is quiet. Merchants are not willing to pay present prices. 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 various cotton goods (32s Cop Twists, 8 1/4 lbs. Shirts, etc.) for 1922-23 and 1921-22.

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 showing cotton freight rates for various destinations (Liverpool, Manchester, Antwerp, etc.) with High and Standard density rates.

SHIPPING NEWS.—As shown on a previous page, the exports of cotton from the United States the past week have reached 203,056 bales. The shipments in detail, as made up from mail and telegraphic returns, are as follows:

Table showing shipping news for various ports (NEW YORK, GALVESTON, etc.) listing ship names, destinations, and dates.

GALVESTON—(Concluded).		Bales.
To Ghent—Jan. 15—Polybius, 1,286	Jan. 16—Lowther	3,790
Castle, 2,504		3,239
To Gothenburg—Jan. 16—Tasmanic, 3,239		6,339
To Bremen—Jan. 16—Tomalina, 6,339		1,940
To Naples—Jan. 16—Scantic, 269		683
To Rotterdam—Jan. 15—Saucon, 1,900		1,250
NEW ORLEANS—To Venice—Jan. 12—West Totant, 683		22
To Trieste—Jan. 12—West Neris, 22		358
To Montevidéo—Jan. 12—Yoro, 258; Frednes, 100		16,378
To Vera Cruz—Jan. 12—Kamesit, 8,349	Jan. 15—Deilian, 8,029	6,056
To Manchester—Jan. 11—Kamesit, 1,159	Jan. 15—Deilian, 4,897	8,678
To Havre—Jan. 12—Niagara, 5,104	Jan. 16—Coldbrook, 3,574	1,224
To Rotterdam—Jan. 16—Sparndam, 1,224		100
To Antwerp—Jan. 16—Coldbrook, 100		800
To Ghent—Jan. 16—Coldbrook, 800		5,344
To Bremen—Jan. 16—Evergreen City, 5,344		197
To Hamburg—Jan. 16—Evergreen City, 197		1,063
HOUSTON—To Liverpool—Jan. 11—Nieto de Larrinaga, 1,063		5,334
Jan. 12—Asian, 5,312; Colorado Springs, 5,334		11,909
To Manchester—Jan. 11—Nieto de Larrinaga, 450	Jan. 12—Colorado Springs, 447	897
To Havre—Jan. 12—Lowther Castle, 1,700	Jan. 13—Utah, 4,444	10,727
Jan. 16—Saucon, 4,583		250
To Antwerp—Jan. 12—Lowther Castle, 250		1,452
To Ghent—Jan. 12—Lowther Castle, 1,452		3,145
To Genoa—Jan. 13—Scantic, 3,145		100
To Naples—Jan. 13—Scantic, 100		1,113
To Rotterdam—Jan. 16—Saucon, 1,113		9,217
To Bremen—Jan. 16—Clemence O. Morse, 9,217		344
BOSTON—To Liverpool—Jan. 5—Daytonian, 344		1,680
CHARLESTON—To Liverpool—Jan. 12—Ophis, 1,680		1,050
MOBILE—To Havre—Jan. 17—Hastings, 1,050		1,300
NORFOLK—To Liverpool—Jan. 12—Deer Lodge, 300	Jan. 15—London Corporation, 1,000	650
To Manchester—Jan. 12—Manchester Hero, 50	Jan. 15—Conehatta, 600	5,851
To Bremen—Jan. 12—Bayern, 5,851		1,075
SAN FRANCISCO—To Japan—Jan. 11—President Taft, 1,075		100
To China—Jan. 11—President Taft, 100		1,608
SAVANNAH—To Liverpool—Jan. 12—Western Ocean, 1,608		1,667
To Manchester—Jan. 12—Western Ocean, 1,667		6,887
To Bremen—Jan. 12—Idarwald, 6,887		6,880
To Hamburg—Jan. 12—Idarwald, 680		6,000
WILMINGTON—To Genoa—Jan. 12—Ansaldó VII, 6,000		203,056
Total		

LIVERPOOL.—By cable from Liverpool we have the following statement of the week's sales, stocks, &c., at that port

	Drc. 28.	Jan. 4.	Jan. 11.	Jan. 18.
Sales of the week	11,000	19,000	29,000	25,000
Of which American	5,000	11,000	15,000	15,000
Actual export	3,000	5,000	3,000	5,000
Forwarded	40,000	50,000	67,000	61,000
Total stock	571,000	655,000	691,000	706,000
Of which American	341,000	412,000	440,000	460,000
Total imports	95,000	146,000	104,000	90,000
Of which American	62,000	111,000	61,000	71,000
Amount afloat	362,000	355,000	329,000	324,000
Of which American	255,000	232,000	201,000	203,000

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:

Spot.	Saturday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.
Market, 12:15 P. M.	Quiet.	Quiet.	Quiet.	More demand.	Quiet.	Quiet.
Mid. Up'ds	19.09	19.11	19.06	19.42	19.04	18.83
Sales	3,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	5,000
Futures. Market opened	Barely steady.	Quiet, 1 to 7 pts. advance.	Steady, 9 to 19 pts. advance.	Steady, 21 to 29 pts. advance.	Quiet, 25 to 30 pts. decline.	Quiet, 6 to 22 pts. decline.
Market, 4 P. M.	Steady, 14 to 18 pts. decline.	Easy, 1 to 13 pts. decline.	Steady, 16 to 25 pts. advance.	Steady, 16 to 23 pts. advance.	Barely st'y, 17 to 29 pts. decline.	Easy, 7 to 35 pts. decline.

Prices of futures at Liverpool for each day are given below:

Jan. 12 to Jan. 18.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
	12½ p. m.	12½ p. m.	4:00 p. m.	12½ p. m.	4:00 p. m.	12½ p. m.
January	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
February	19.35	19.36	19.22	19.31	19.38	19.67
March	19.40	19.42	19.28	19.37	19.45	19.72
April	19.36	19.39	19.26	19.36	19.44	19.69
May	19.34	19.38	19.25	19.35	19.44	19.67
June	19.23	19.28	19.13	19.25	19.34	19.55
July	18.89	18.95	18.80	18.92	19.01	19.22
August	18.07	18.13	18.00	18.15	18.23	18.45
September	16.89	16.93	16.88	17.07	17.13	17.38
October	16.15	16.21	16.16	16.35	16.41	16.65
November	15.79	15.86	15.81	16.00	16.06	16.30
December	15.66	15.73	15.68	15.87	15.93	16.17

BREADSTUFFS

Friday Night, Jan. 18 1924.

Flour has been quiet but steady. Mills have tried to advance prices. Buyers have balked. They bid old prices. Mills were disinclined to sell at such quotations as wheat had recently advanced. But as usual, buyers found a loophole. A mill here and there accommodated them; they were evidently glad to. But as a rule it was to all appearances a pretty steady market, with neither side inclined to give way. The result was the old monotonous state of affairs, namely little business. Exporters bought small lots recently somewhat more freely. Germany was supposed to be buying. But it was Canadian flour, not American. In the aggregate, if common rumor is to be credited, there was quite a good business. It did the mills of this country no good. Possibly, if they are going to work on low grade Canadian wheat, they will give a better account of themselves in the export trade. It seems by no means impossible. At Minneapolis there has been only a slight improvement. The mills are running at a capacity, one report said, of a little over 45%. Shipments last week were 231,000 bbls,

against 223,000 in the previous week and 383,000 last year. Receipts are small at that point and local stocks there have been steadily decreasing. In three days of last week they fell off 275,000 bbls., whereas in the same time last year there was an increase of 600,000 bbls. The fact that wheat does not advance sharply and hold the rise is one argument of buyers against purchasing flour on a liberal scale at this time. Here whatever export business is being done is going mostly to Canadian mills or else to American mills which have been grinding Canadian wheat in bond. At the same time there is now and then a small trade for export in American winter and also in some of the low grades. The "North-western Miller" said: "The past week saw a slight improvement in the rate of flour mill operation, the spring wheat mills averaging 47% of capacity. Domestic demand for flour is almost everywhere reported as quiet, with prices held firmly. Mills are not pressing sales and buyers are showing little inclination to make forward purchases; the volume of flour buying for current needs is on the whole satisfactory, with rather more business being done than was the case during December." Stocks of flour at New York, as reported by the leading railroads, amount to 1,548 cars at the terminals, compared with 1,601 cars a week ago and 1,766 two weeks ago.

Wheat advanced a fraction early in the week, with corn up and acting as a mild stimulant. The United Kingdom reported a better demand for Canadian wheat. The quality of the new Argentine wheat is said to be somewhat disappointing. The recent severe weather may have done some injury to the American crop. Receipts have recently been small. The world exports last week promised to run 1,000,000 bushels ahead of those of the previous week. Later on, wheat was stronger, largely under the impulse of rising prices for corn, which within a week had run up nearly 4c. Shorts covered. Naturally, they were nervous. Even an increase in Argentine crop estimates, showing the yield to be some 66,000,000 bushels larger than last year, fell flat. Corn was uppermost. It is not strange, considering the fact that it was advancing at about the rate of 1c. a day. Wheat, to be sure, was rather sluggish. Corn had not the power to lift wheat very much. It simply had a tendency to steady it. Also, there was a better cash demand for wheat at the leading terminals, something which was naturally not without its influence. The technical position, too, was rather stronger. On the other hand, the statistics were considered against it. The visible supply in North America has mounted to 154,000,000 bushels. This does not include bonded stocks at a number of points not included in the visible supply figures. Moreover, foreign exchange has been declining. That would naturally militate against export business, let alone any upward tendency of prices. Indeed, at one time they ran off quite readily. On the 14th inst. May from \$1.10 reacted to \$1.08½; July from \$1.08 to \$1.06½, and so on. Weakness in stocks at one time had a certain effect, not to mention the break in cotton, and the disturbed financial outlook in Europe. Francs were down to the lowest on record. The matter was considered so grave that the French Cabinet had a meeting to discuss it. The visible supply in the United States decreased last week no less than 2,238,000 bushels, against only 389,000 for the same week last year. But the total is still 72,566,000 bushels, against 40,193,000 a year ago. At one time prices were steadied partly by reports that there was a lack of snow covering for winter wheat, while at the same time temperatures were falling. To-day prices declined under liquidation. Argentina is shipping on a larger scale. The total this week is 2,842,000 bushels. It is said that some exporters have been reselling Manitoba. One view was that it was on a small scale, however. And primary receipts are still small. A considerable reduction in the visible supply is expected this week. It is cold at the West. In the South-west there is not much snow. Final changes for the week show a decline of ½ to 5/8c.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW YORK.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
No. 2 red	cts. 124	123½	125	125¼	125¼	124¾

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF WHEAT FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
May delivery in elevator	cts. 109¾	108¾	109¾	109¾	109	108¼
July delivery in elevator	107½	106½	107½	107½	107¼	106¾
September delivery in elevator	106½	106¼	106½	106½	106½	106

Indian corn advanced on the 12th inst. into new high ground. Stop orders were reached and naturally hastened the rise of close to 1c. Prices show much of the strength exhibited a year ago. Then, it is recalled, they began to rise at about this time and continued to move upward until the new crop was secured. It benefits farmers directly now as it did a year ago. Corn pays the raiser. That is a very general conclusion. The bulk of the crop is still in the hands of the farmer. It is not an aggravating story—a kind of feast of Tantalus—of higher prices after the crop is out of the hands of the farmer and with others getting the benefit. Of course, it all adds to the buying power of the West. Cash corn, it is true, was not active at the terminal markets. The corn is intercepted by feeders in the interior. They are buying heavily. What is more, they may, as a rule, higher prices than those current at the terminals. For once the terminals are in a sense left out in the cold. Cash corn at Chicago advanced on the 12th inst. ½ to 1c. on dry corn. Lower grades did not change; the basis was ½c. lower compared with May. Country offerings were small. Export demand

The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports Saturday, Jan. 12, was as follows:

GRAIN STOCKS.					
United States—	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Barley, bush.
New York.....	591,000	93,000	585,000	369,000	278,000
Boston.....	2,000	6,000	27,000	4,000	-----
Philadelphia.....	521,000	315,000	145,000	75,000	2,000
Baltimore.....	792,000	233,000	92,000	95,000	4,000
New Orleans.....	258,000	467,000	131,000	27,000	4,000
Galveston.....	606,000	-----	-----	48,000	-----
Buffalo.....	4,522,000	206,000	1,528,000	1,280,000	140,000
" afloat.....	3,137,000	-----	276,000	1,256,000	346,000
Toledo.....	1,615,000	61,000	336,000	39,000	2,000
" afloat.....	304,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
Detroit.....	44,000	37,000	89,000	30,000	-----
Chicago.....	16,685,000	2,763,000	3,169,000	1,400,000	376,000
Milwaukee.....	377,000	350,000	1,826,000	506,000	165,000
Duluth.....	5,862,000	795,000	1,428,000	6,182,000	185,000
Minneapolis.....	17,202,000	642,000	5,024,000	7,494,000	924,000
Sioux City.....	271,000	170,000	505,000	20,000	7,000
St. Louis.....	1,685,000	1,062,000	630,000	19,000	5,000
Kansas City.....	12,884,000	858,000	1,385,000	175,000	483,000
St. Joseph, Mo.....	964,000	347,000	207,000	13,000	3,000
Peoria.....	57,000	18,000	206,000	-----	-----
Indianapolis.....	611,000	202,000	292,000	4,000	-----
Omaha.....	3,582,000	710,000	1,673,000	343,000	123,000
Total Jan. 12 1924.....	72,566,000	9,335,000	19,534,000	19,379,000	3,047,000
Total Jan. 5 1924.....	74,804,000	9,703,000	20,621,000	19,316,000	3,143,000
Note.—Bonded grain not included above: Oats, New York, 520,000 bushels; Boston, 173,000; Baltimore, 4,000; Buffalo, 208,000; Buffalo, afloat, 578,000; Duluth, afloat, 4,000; total, 1,487,000 bushels, against 3,019,000 bushels in 1922; Barley, New York, 268,000 bushels; total, 268,000 bushels, against 1,660,000 bushels in 1922. Wheat, New York, 2,876,000 bushels; Boston, 704,000; Philadelphia, 1,739,000; Baltimore, 1,107,000; Buffalo, 3,345,000; Buffalo, afloat, 11,641,000; Duluth, 403,000; Toledo, 35,000; Toledo, afloat, 3,554,000; on Lakes, 199,000; total, 30,603,000 bushels, against 29,722,000 bushels in 1921.					
Canadian—					
Montreal.....	1,432,000	23,000	1,192,000	214,000	262,000
Ft. William & Pt. Arthur.....	40,447,000	-----	4,687,000	-----	-----
" afloat.....	3,034,000	-----	298,000	-----	-----
Other Canadian.....	6,621,000	-----	3,676,000	534,000	820,000
Total Jan. 12 1924.....	50,934,000	23,000	9,853,000	1,881,000	1,873,000
Total Jan. 5 1924.....	48,322,000	22,000	10,048,000	1,824,000	2,026,000
Total Jan. 13 1923.....	35,409,000	362,000	4,645,000	210,000	3,856,000
Summary—					
American.....	72,566,000	9,335,000	19,534,000	19,379,000	3,047,000
Canadian.....	50,934,000	23,000	9,853,000	1,881,000	1,873,000
Total Jan. 12 1924.....	123,500,000	9,358,000	29,387,000	21,260,000	4,920,000
Total Jan. 5 1924.....	123,126,000	9,725,000	30,669,000	21,140,000	5,196,000
Total Jan. 13 1923.....	75,602,000	19,178,000	35,771,000	10,982,000	6,997,000

WEATHER BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK ENDING JAN. 15.—The general summary of the weather bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture, indicating the influence of the weather for the week ending Jan. 15, is as follows:

Succeeding the cold weather of last week there was a reaction to higher temperatures quite generally during the week ending Jan. 15, although it was colder than normal during most of the week in the South and in much of the interior of the country, where the weekly mean temperatures ranged mostly from 2 deg. to 6 deg. below normal. The week averaged warmer than normal from the Ohio Valley and Lake region eastward, and also in parts of the South Atlantic area. It was especially warm for the season in the more northeastern States, where in some districts the temperatures averaged from 10 deg. to 13 deg. above normal. It was moderately warm for the season also in the Pacific Coast districts and far Northwest Georgia. Freezing temperatures extended as far south as south central Georgia, to the coast in the East Gulf section, and to San Antonio, Tex., in the West Gulf district. Freezing was reported also from the interior of central and northern California and along the North Pacific Coast. The lowest temperature reported for the week was 20 deg. below zero in extreme northeastern Iowa and southwestern Wisconsin on the 13th and 14th.

Precipitation was moderately heavy to heavy in the Ohio and middle and lower Mississippi valleys, as well as in Tennessee and some adjoining sections to the south. Moderate amounts were reported from the Lake region eastward, with considerable snowfall in some sections, but from the Great Plains westward precipitation, as a rule, was light, with little or none in the far Southwest, including most of California, and the Western Plateau districts. Cloudy weather prevailed generally in the more northern States from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, but there was much sunshine in the Southwest, and less cloudy weather in the Southeast than had recently obtained. In the far Southwest the week was practically cloudless.

The weather was unfavorable for farm work in the Central Gulf States, and in Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma, because of too much soil moisture or cool weather. It was more favorable in western Texas, where plowing made fairly good progress, while more sunshine and less rain were favorable for outdoor work in the Southeast, including the South Atlantic States. Late reports from the freeze of last week in the Southern States indicate that rather widespread and heavy damage resulted, particularly to truck crops.

There was not much outdoor work accomplished in the Ohio Valley States, principally because of wet fields, though conditions were rather favorable for outdoor operations in the Middle Atlantic Coast section, and good logging weather prevailed in the western Lake region and extreme upper Mississippi Valley. The week was rather cold for work in most of the Great Plains area and Rocky Mountain districts, and was rather hard on stock in the latter area because of low temperatures and snow-covered range. The snow melted quite generally in the far Northwest, with milder weather and chinook winds, but it was still cold in the Western Plateau districts. Only light rains fell in California, where severe drought has obtained; these were beneficial, but more moisture is badly needed in that State, where ranges are poor and stock suffering.

SMALL GRAINS.—At the close of the week winter wheat and other grain fields had only a very light snow cover in the Ohio Valley area, although there was a fairly good covering the latter part of the week in parts of Ohio and Illinois. Temperatures were variable, with alternate freezing and thawing, which was somewhat unfavorable, and some injury was reported from the severe cold of the preceding week. There was heavy damage to wheat by washing in portions of West Virginia.

There was an appreciable snow cover in Missouri and wheat apparently continued in good condition in that State, while fields were generally protected in Iowa and Nebraska. The ground was mostly bare in Kansas, where wheat has been frozen to the ground in most sections, but the crowns and roots of plants remained vital, and there is ample soil moisture. There was little or no growth in the extreme lower Great Plains, with some slight injury by alternate freezing and thawing in Oklahoma. Grain fields in the Rocky Mountain districts and in the northwestern Great Plains were fairly well protected by snow, except in the North Pacific States. More moisture is still badly needed in California, where much barley has not yet been sown and wheat is making slow progress. Conditions continue mostly favorable for winter grain crops in the Middle and North Atlantic Coast States, but oats were rather widely and badly frozen during the cold wave of last week in the Southern States, except in the West Gulf section.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE

Friday Night, Jan. 18 1924.

A little more activity developed in markets for textiles during the past week, this being particularly true in regard to cotton goods. While business has not been what could be termed as good, converters and printers claim that they are

being asked more freely about what they have to sell. Competition for business covering nearly all fabric lines, however, is keener than it has been for years. Production appears to be ample, for the time being at least, to satisfy the requirements of the trade. There are some mills making novelties and highly styled goods that are said to be sold ahead for some time, and are running at full capacity, while in the same manufacturing centres there are mills running on short time making staple and semi-staple standard fabrics. The fact that selling agents for cotton mills have found it impossible to sell goods freely when prices are marked up to a parity with cotton above the 30-cent level has been shown by a reduction of ½c. a yard in bleached cotton, unbranded, during the week. Also, by the naming of prices on flannel-ettes on the same price basis as a year ago, when cotton was lower. Resistance to higher dry goods prices nevertheless is not confined to cotton goods alone, but is seen as well in woolen goods, silks and linens. A feature of interest during the week has been the twentieth annual convention of national dry goods wholesalers held in this city and which ended on Thursday. The adjournment followed the adoption of resolutions marking three important moves in an effort to solve the difficulties of the dry goods distributing trade, namely the appointment of a committee and the appropriation of \$5,000 to inaugurate a research bureau to seek the co-operation of the Harvard University Bureau of Business Research with the view of investigating dry goods sales turnover and distributing costs, the appointment of a committee to investigate prison labor competition in the garment industry, and the approval of the Government endeavors to reduce taxation.

DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS: A broader inquiry was noted for domestic cotton goods during the past week, though sales for the most part were confined to small lots, as buyers continued to show resistance to the high prices. Competition for business continues keen, and slight price concessions have been recorded in a number of directions. In about every line there are mills that need business, as advance orders have not been of large enough proportions to go around, with the result that curtailment of production on an increased scale is closed to hand unless more volume trade is soon forthcoming. The downward tendency of raw cotton prices during the week encouraged many buyers to defer purchases in the hope of being able to obtain what they need on a more favorable price basis. The willingness of some large converters to liquidate their stocks of plain gray goods at concessions, and the difficulty the trade is experiencing in getting sheetings and other staples up to a cotton market basis indicate how hard the cotton manufacturers and merchants are being pressed. However, as cotton speculation is still based on the assumption that all the cotton raised during the past season can be sold above 30c. a pound until a new crop becomes available, it is not likely that there will be any slashing of prices for the manufactured products for some time to come at least. An encouraging feature during the week has been the improvement noted in the call for many of the wash fabrics and for some of the staple, highly styled percales, cretonnes and ginghams. Print cloths, 28-inch, 64 x 64's construction, are quoted at 8¼c., and 27-inch, 64 x 60's, at 7¾c. Gray goods in the 39-inch, 68 x 72's, are quoted at 12c. and 39-inch, 80 x 80's, at 15c.

WOOLEN GOODS: Markets for woollens and worsteds developed a firmer undertone during the week. The improved tone has been attributed by sellers to the growing feeling in the trade that prices on the new heavy weight openings will show advances over current offerings, and that prices are now as low, if not lower, than will be obtainable within the near future. Merchants have been encouraged by the particular activity in the jobbing trade during the week, which they expect will assume larger proportions as the session progresses, as many buyers who have been holding off as long as possible now find themselves in a position where they are greatly in need of merchandise. In the men's wear division, where the improvement has been the most noticeable, it is found that buyers are leaning more to the fabrics which can be used all the year round rather than the staple lines of light and heavy weight goods.

FOREIGN DRY GOODS: Markets for linens also developed a firmer tone during the week, as there has been more interest on the part of buyers who purchase moderate sized lots. The buying of household lines has been stimulated by the fact that they are relatively cheaper than cottons. In regard to dress linens, they continue in good demand from cutters-up and jobbers. Importers who have completed assortments are commencing to prepare for the marketing of the fall 1924 lines and are sending salesmen to their respective territories. Burlaps ruled quiet and easy during the early part of the week, owing to the erratic fluctuations and weakness in sterling exchange. During the latter part of the week, however, consumers displayed more interest and prices steadied. The strength of the Calcutta market also had a stimulating effect on local sentiment. Light weights are quoted at 5.45 and heavies at 7.90c.

WEST YORK (P. O. York), York County, Va.—BOND SALE NOT COMPLETED—BONDS RE-OFFERED AND SOLD.—The sale of the \$25,000 4½% improvement bonds to West & Co. of Philadelphia, reported in V. 117, p. 2353, was not completed. The bonds were re-offered and sold to Graham, Parsons & Co. of Philadelphia, as reported in last week's issue, page 233.

WILDROSE SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 90 (P. O. Wildrose), Williams County, No. Dak.—BOND OFFERING.—D. A. Tinholt, Clerk Board of Education, will receive bids until 10 a. m. Jan. 29 for \$15,000 funding and \$15,000 building 5% bonds. Denom. \$1,000. Date Oct. 1 1923. Principal and semi-annual interest payable at the First National Bank, Minneapolis. Due Oct. 1 1943. A certified check for 5% of bid (for each issue) required.

WINNETT, Fergus County, Mont.—BOND OFFERING.—Sealed bids will be received until 8 p. m. Feb. 5 by R. H. Wiedman, City Clerk, for \$20,000 6% refunding bonds. Date Feb. 1 1924. Interest annually. Due in 20 years, optional after 10 years. A certified check for \$500 required.

WITTENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8, Mercer County, No. Dak.—NO BIDS RECEIVED.—No bids were received for the \$2,000 7% school-building bonds offered on Jan. 7 (V. 117, p. 2917).

WOBURN, Middlesex County, Mass.—TEMPORARY LOAN.—The Old Colony Trust Co. of Boston has been awarded an issue of \$300,000 temporary loan notes on a 4.14% discount basis plus a \$5 25 premium. Date Jan. 14 1924. Due Dec. 15 1924.

YONKERS, Westchester County, N. Y.—BOND SALE.—The following issues of 4½% bonds, offered on Jan. 17—V. 118, p. 111—have been awarded to F. E. Calkins & Co. of New York at 103.388, a basis of about 4.24%:

\$1,000,000 school bonds. Due yearly on Feb. 1 as follows: \$26,000 1926 to 1950, incl., and \$25,000 1951 to 1964, inclusive.
450,000 local improvement bonds. Due yearly on Feb. 1 as follows: \$12,000 1925 to 1934, incl., and \$11,000 1935 to 1964, incl.
316,000 refunding bonds. Due yearly on Feb. 1 as follows: \$16,000 1925 to 1940, incl., and \$15,000 1941 to 1944, incl.
Denom. \$1,000. Date Feb. 1 1924.

Financial Statement (As Officially Reported)

Assessed valuation 1923	\$208,179,103 00
Total bonded debt (including these issues)	*15,834,453 33
Less water works bonds	\$2,495,500
Bonds to be refunded by this issue	316,000
	2,811,500 00
Net bonded debt	\$13,022,953 33

*Included in this item are \$1,095,000 local improvement bonds which, although general obligations of the city, are payable from special assessments against specific property.
Population 1923 (estimated) 110,000.

CANADA, its Provinces and Municipalities.

GREATER WINNIPEG WATER DISTRICT.—BOND SALE.—An issue of \$2,000,000 5% gold bonds has been awarded to Wood, Gundy & Co. of New York. Denom. \$1,000. Date Jan. 1 1924. Prin. and semi-ann. int. (J. & J.) payable in U. S. gold at the office of the agency of the Bank of Montreal in New York or in Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal. Bonds may be registered as to principal.

Financial Statement

Assessed valuation for taxation	\$173,835,820
Total debenture debt	17,073,112
Less—Sinking fund	908,777
Net debenture debt	\$16,164,335
Population, 246,476. Area, 52.34 square miles.	

OTTAWA, Ont.—BOND SALE.—The following 5½% coupon (with privilege of registration) bonds offered on Jan. 10—V. 117, p. 2917—have been awarded to a syndicate composed of the First National Bank, Kissel,

Kinalcutt & Co., Wm. R. Compton Co., Redmond & Co., Paine, Webber & Co. and Aemilius Jarvis & Co. for \$1,883,047 67, equal to 103.65: \$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. Prin. and semi-ann. interest (J. & J.) payable in Ottawa, Toronto or Montreal, or at the National Bank of Commerce in New York in gold. Due July 1 1924-1953. These bonds are now being offered by the above syndicate to investors at prices to yield 5 to 5.20%, in an advertisement on a previous page of this issue.

The bids were as follows:

Aemilius Jarvis & Co., Ltd.; First National Bank of N. Y.; Kissel, Kinnicut & Co., W. R. Compton Co. and Paine, Webber & Co.	103.66
Wood, Gundy & Co. and National City Co.	103.209
Kerr, Flemming & Co. and Lee, Higginson & Co.	103.12
R. A. Daly & Co., Hanson Bros. and Bank of Nova Scotia	103.095
A. E. Ames & Co.	102.885
R. C. Matthews & Co., Halsey, Stewart & Co., Blair & Co.	102.65
C. H. Burgess & Co.	102.61
Dominion Securities Corp. and Dillon, Read & Co.	102.57
W. A. Mackenzie & Co.	102.474
Nesbitt, Thomson & Co.	102.464
Gairdner, Clarke & Co., McLeod, Young, Weir & Co. and Bell, Gouinlock & Co.	102.33
Miller & Co., New York	102.13

Financial Statement

Assessed valuation for taxation, 1924	\$143,777,257 00
Exemptions, not included	58,065,932 00
Value of municipality's assets, Dec. 1922	23,000,000 00
Gross debenture debt, including this issue	23,008,005 69
Less: Water works debt	\$3,831,037 72
Electric light debt	976,134 49
Special assessment debt	5,491,269 49
General debt sinking fund	*3,013,227 00
Net debenture debt	\$9,696,336 99

*There is also on hand sinking funds totaling \$2,331,583 68 applicable to water, electric light and special assessment debt, not incl. in above figure. Tax rate, 1923, 28 mills. Area, 5,295 acres. Population, 116,205. These bonds, issued for civic hospital, water works and other municipal improvement purposes, constitute direct obligations of the entire city of Ottawa.

TORONTO, Ont.—DEBENTURE SALE.—A syndicate composed of Lee, Higginson & Co., Banket's Trust Co., Spencer Trask & Co., E. H. Rollins & Sons, R. A. Daly & Co. and Kerr, Fleming & Co. has been awarded an issue of \$3,000,000 4½% gold long-term debentures at 91.011. Canadian funds, a basis of about 5.08%. Date Sept. 1 1913. Prin. and interest payable in gold in New York. Due Sept. 1 1953.

WINDSOR, Ont.—DEBENTURE OFFERING.—Sealed tenders addressed to M. Dickson, Clerk, will be received up till noon, Jan. 21, for the purchase of the following debentures of the City of Windsor: \$18,385 88 5½% local improvement, 20 years, annual installment. 100,000 00 5% park land purchase, 30 years, annual installment. 60,901 34 5½% local improvement, 20 years, annual installment. 110,113 53 5½% industrial and technical school, 10 years, annual installment. 12,740 82 5½% industrial and technical school, 10 years, annual installment. 16,000 00 5% fire equipment, 10 years, annual installment. 51,628 16 5% industrial and technical school, 30 years, annual installment. 454,838 56 5½% local improvement, 10 years, annual installment. 25,500 00 5% public school, 20 years, annual installment. 150,000 00 5½% water works, 20 years, annual installment. 31,005 99 5½% local improvement, 20 years, annual installment. Int. semi-ann. Tenders must be for each block separately. Debentures and coupons payable at Windsor. Delivery of debentures to be made to purchaser at Windsor and may, as far as practicable, be made of the denomination of \$1,000 each. Tenderers are requested to give name of legal firm to pass on legality of by-laws.

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BOND CALL

\$3,000,000

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Highway Improvement
Bonds

The State Administrative Board will receive sealed bids at its office in the City of Lansing, Michigan, until the twenty-ninth day of January nineteen hundred twenty-four, up to ten o'clock A. M. Central Standard Time of said day, for the sale of all or any part of three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of State of Michigan Highway Improvement coupon bonds in denominations of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) each to be issued by the State Administrative Board of the State of Michigan, pursuant to the provisions of Act number twenty-five of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan, Extra Session of nineteen hundred nineteen as amended. Said bonds will be dated February 15, 1924 and will mature February 15, 1944 and will bear interest at the rate of four, four and one-quarter or four and one-half per centum per annum, payable semi-annually.

Both principal and interest are payable at the office of the Treasurer of the State of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan, or at the office of the fiscal agent of the State of Michigan, in the City of New York.

Coupon bonds may be exchanged for fully registered bonds if desired. A certified check in a sum equal to one per cent of the amount of the bid payable to the order of the State Treasurer of the State of Michigan must be submitted with each bid.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(Signed) FRANK E. GORMAN,
State Treasurer.