

# The Commercial & Financial Chronicle

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VOL. 124.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1927.

NO. 3218.

## The Chronicle

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Terms of Subscription—Payable in Advance

Including Postage—	12 Mos.	6 Mos.
Within Continental United States except Alaska.....	\$10.00	\$6.00
In Dominion of Canada.....	11.50	8.75
Other foreign countries, U. S. Possessions and territories.....	13.50	7.75

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Terms of Advertising

Transient display matter per agate line.....	45 cents
Contract and Card rates.....	On request

CHICAGO OFFICE—In charge of Fred. H. Gray, Western Representative,  
 208 South La Salle Street, Telephone State 0413.

LONDON OFFICE—Edwards & Smith, 1 Drapers' Gardens, London, E. C.

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

Published every Saturday morning by WILLIAM B. DANA COMPANY.  
 President and Editor, Jacob Selbert; Business Manager, William D. Riggs;  
 Treas., William Dana Selbert; Sec., Herbert D. Selbert. Addresses of all, Office of Co.

### The Financial Situation.

President Coolidge fulfilled a general expectation by vetoing yesterday the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, and in so doing literally tore the bill to shreds. The difficulty with the bill, Mr. Coolidge declared, "is that it is not framed to aid farmers as a whole and it is furthermore calculated to injure rather than promote the general public welfare." It "upholds as ideals of American farming the men who grow cotton, corn, rice, swine, tobacco or wheat, and nothing else," gives them special favors at the expense of the farmers who have diversified their crops and kept the soil of their farms fertile and productive, and by raising the prices of a few products, "chiefly sectional," directly penalizes thousands of farmers whose products are chiefly of other kinds. More than this, although the bill purports to offer relief to the producers of cotton, wheat, &c., "the only persons who are guaranteed a profit are the exporters, packers, millers, cotton spinners and other processors."

Mr. Coolidge further insists that the bill involves Government price-fixing, and price-fixing, too, "on some of the nation's basic foods and materials." Such a policy, "once started, has alike no justice and no end. It is an economic folly from which this country has every right to be spared." A Federal board, chosen from persons nominated by certain farm organizations, is to be given "almost unlimited authority" to fix prices on the designated commodities, and to collect an equalization fee which is "not a tax for purposes of revenue in the accepted sense," but a tax "for the special benefit of particular groups." The effect of the system, if it were to be set up, would be to "raise the price of the specified agricultural commodities to the highest possible point," through the agency of a board which "will operate

without any restraints imposed by the anti-trust laws." By dumping low-priced American products abroad, the bill will directly subsidize foreign production "in competition with our own farmers in the markets of the world. We shall send cheap cotton abroad and sell high cotton at home." Further, while the bill appropriates \$250,000,000 in support of a system which violates the sound principles of free competition, it does not limit to that sum the volume of contracts that may be made by the proposed Federal board. "If the board had begun operating in the 1925 cotton crop," Mr. Coolidge declares, "when prices were around 20 cents a pound, and had then attempted to hold up the price on the 1926 crop at a level which induced the picking of the whole crop, the whole \$250,000,000 would have been spent and great commitments beyond that figure have been entered into."

Beyond these practical considerations of an economic or administrative order, Mr. Coolidge finds the bill unconstitutional. Attached to the veto message, and forming a part of it, is an opinion of Attorney-General Sargent in which the constitutional objections to the bill are stated. As set forth in a press summary, the constitutional objections to the measure are based upon the limitation which it would impose upon the appointing power of the President in requiring him to name a Federal board from men recommended by a nominating committee; the delegation of price-fixing to the board without prescribing any rule under which the prices should be determined; the failure of the courts to recognize price-fixing as a power conferred upon the Federal Government, and the infringement of the Constitutional provision which forbids the taking of property without due process of law, by the enforced contribution of citizens, through an equalization fee, to a process from which they might or might not derive profit. A late Washington dispatch quoted Senator McNary of Oregon as saying that he would not attempt to secure a vote with a view to passing the bill over the veto. The President is entitled to the gratitude of the entire country for interposing his veto and for his unsparing denunciation of the vicious provisions of the bill.

The decision on Monday by the United States Supreme Court in the Los Angeles & Salt Lake RR. valuation case is one of considerable importance, and also one likely under existing circumstances to prove beneficial, notwithstanding the decision was negative in character. The decision was in effect not a decision, but a declaration of lack of jurisdiction. The railroads were told that the court would not anticipate the probable results of action

by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, but if as a result of such action they suffered harm they could come to the courts for relief. The temporary setback which the market experienced as the result of the erroneous interpretation placed upon the decision was beneficial rather than the reverse. The market in railroad shares had gotten into an unhealthy condition in that the public was buying for advances without much regard to individual merit. Stocks which appeared to represent relatively poor properties had shot upward along with others holding strategic positions. The decision has checked this general advance and caused investors and speculators to be more discriminating in their purchases. In this it has been highly salutary.

The momentary effects were very severe. News was flashed from Washington, over the extensive system of stock house lines that reach almost every point in the United States, at about 1:40 p. m. on Monday, to the effect that the railroads had lost the Los Angeles & Salt Lake case. Within some two or three minutes a fairly buoyant market had been turned to precipitous rout, and over a period of about half an hour prices declined sharply under heavy trading. Drops of from one to two points between sales were made in the case of important share properties, and a stock with as established a position as Reading declined more than ten points. Within ten to fifteen minutes of the original flash of news a message followed that the decision should not be interpreted as a loss of the case, but rather as an announcement of lack of jurisdiction, and that essentially the position of the railroads had not been changed. Within another brief interval the decline was checked, and extensive recoveries, ensued leaving the closing level of the day not far from the opening.

The episode of Monday not only corrected unhealthy tendencies in speculation, but greatly increased the feeling of confidence in respect to the essentially sound position of the security markets. If the technical position had been highly dangerous, nothing could have stopped a reaction with the momentum of that of Monday, especially when the decision, however harmless, was actually disappointing. On Wednesday belief in the underlying soundness of the prevailing speculation was confirmed by the report of a further contraction in brokers' loans. The decline amounted to only \$1,944,000, but was the sixth successive weekly decline, and made the total shrinkage in brokers' loans \$99,927,000, the figure on Feb. 16 standing at \$2,718,634,000 and comparing with \$2,818,561,000 on Jan. 5. Money conditions also have continued distinctly easy, with rather a surplus of funds in Eastern centres, reflected in the call rate dropping to 3¾% for a time on Wednesday, though the rate advanced on Friday to 5% in anticipation of month-end requirements.

Stock market averages have not changed greatly during the week, although there has been something of a reversal of the recent trend, the railroad average declining and the industrial average gaining. Somewhat contrary to the movements of the preceding two weeks, the principal advances have been in the better established investment stocks. Commodity prices which have worked materially lower during recent weeks appear to be stabilizing, and there has been a fractional gain in copper. The bond average after a slight decline, following the tremendous volume of new security issues in recent weeks, is again steady with a strengthening tendency. The

week has been comparatively light in bond offerings. Car loadings are still below a million a week, but continue well ahead of those of last year, although most of the gain is in connection with coal shipments in anticipation of a possible strike. Loadings, of course, have never been above a million cars at this season of the year. There has been increased activity in steel and a number of other industries. January motor production showed a material advance over the exceptionally small figure for December, but is still below normal. There are, however, indications of materially increased buying in February. The ability of the industry to adjust production to sales has been impressive, and one of the causes of increasing confidence in the general business situation.

There were two constructive developments late in the week, one the announcement of the absorption by the International Telephone & Telegraph Co. of All America Cables Co., the latter having extensive cables and lines throughout Latin America, and the other the veto on Friday, already referred to, by President Coolidge of the McNary-Haugen bill. That financial interests approve of the veto was indicated by the strong way in which the market closed, including a number of stocks most dependent on agriculture.

The enveloping movement of the Southern or Nationalist forces of China for the possession of Shanghai proceeded swiftly during the week. Shanghai, or the Paris of the East as the city is frequently called, is a prize that various factions are contending for, as it carries with it the control of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 monthly in customs dues. The Southern forces, moreover, cannot afford to leave the city unconquered in their sweep northward toward Peking, as possession by opposing forces would render their situation highly precarious; the more so the farther north they proceeded. It is for this reason, and not merely because of the foreign settlements there, that such fierce attempts are being made by the Chinese factions for the capture or the retention of the city.

After the capture by the Cantonese of Hangchow, both the victorious troops and those of the defeated General, Sun Chuan Fang, converged on Sunkiang, 25 miles south of Shanghai. By the 21st, 20,000 of the defeated soldiers had already reached Sunkiang where plans were made by Marshal Sun for further resistance. The defeated troops, however, became restive and finally began to spread over the neighboring country and to loot it. Great anxiety prevails in Shanghai itself over the prospective arrival of these troops, as they could only with difficulty be kept from entering the foreign settlements. They constitute the most immediate menace to foreigners, as their looting expeditions, usually the only pay Chinese soldiers receive, would cause grave difficulties and a menacing problem.

With the practical dissolution of the local defensive forces under Marshal Sun Chuan Fang, the Northern Tuchuns are stepping into the breach. Marshal Chang Tso Lin, head of the alliance of Northern War Lords and the real power behind the Peking Government, promised on Feb. 21 to aid in defending the city. Such defense is decidedly in their own interest as retention of Shanghai would make the encroaching of the Nationalists on their own territory difficult if not impossible. Shantung (Northern) troops were reported in dispatches dated Feb. 24 to be pouring into Shanghai en route south to meet the

advancing Nationalists. According to the New York "Times" correspondent, 40,000 of these troops were already on hand to meet the 50,000 Southerners, and 30,000 more were expected shortly. Sentiment among the Chinese in the Yangtze Valley is almost universally in favor of the Nationalists and this will make the task of the Northern troops doubly hard.

In the international settlements in Shanghai preparations are going on apace for defense against the surging mobs of natives that will surely try to enter the proscribed area if any fighting is done in the streets of the native city. Aliens living outside the foreign quarters have been brought within its borders, says an Associated Press dispatch of Feb. 24, because of the arrival of large numbers of defeated, demoralized soldiers of the former defender, Marshal Sun Chuan Fang. Barbed wire entanglements have been erected around the foreign settlements and troops of all the nations are on hand to quell disturbances. In addition the Whangpoo River is lined with foreign men-of-war. It is thought there is little likelihood of any organized attack on the international settlement, as anti-foreign disturbances have been conspicuously absent.

A general strike was begun in Shanghai on Feb. 19 which a cautious observer described in a dispatch to the New York "Times" as "entirely of a political character." It was said to be ordered for three reasons—to show sympathy with the success of the Southern armies in Chekiang Province, to protest against the presence of foreign troops in Shanghai, and to show the power of the Chinese to apply passive resistance to the position of the foreigners. Some 80,000 natives went on strike, both Chinese and foreign enterprises being affected. The immediate result was the issuance of a proclamation by General Li Pao Chang, Commissioner for the defense forces in Shanghai, that any persons found inciting workers to strike or interfering with them would be summarily executed. The proclamation was enforced rigidly beginning Feb. 20, and a number of strike leaders were actually beheaded. It is assumed by observers that approximately 100 Chinese were put to death by General Li Pao Chang's orders during the following days. The strike, whether for this reason or because, as is claimed, it was originally intended to last only a few days, rapidly petered out. Regret was expressed by General Li for the executions.

Several Chinese warships in the river moved up toward the foreign settlements on Feb. 22 and fired a few shells apparently at an arsenal beyond the French concession. Several of the shells fell in the concession, doing slight damage. The firing was not repeated, nor has a real explanation been forthcoming as yet.

With the official announcement on Feb. 20 at Hankow that an agreement had been signed by Eugene Chen, Nationalist Foreign Minister, and Owen St. C. O'Malley, British Charge d'Affaires, Chinese efforts to recover foreign concessions or to ameliorate the conditions under which they have been held, enter a new phase. The agreement applies to Hankow only, but it is said the British settlement at Kinkiang is to be treated similarly. Announcement of the agreement was made in the House of Commons in London by Sir Austen Chamberlain on Feb. 21 and was heartily greeted. Under the terms of the agreement the Hankow concession

will be withdrawn from exclusive British control and placed under a joint commission for administration. The Chinese will participate actively in municipal affairs with increasing rights and responsibilities. Shanghai is not affected by the agreement in any way as the problem there is a different one arising from the fact that the settlement is held by numerous nations. Concerted action would be necessary and it would be extremely difficult to get all parties to agree. The British proposals regarding Hankow were also put before the Peking Government and for a time negotiations were in progress between Miles Lampson, the British Minister, and the Peking officials. No progress has recently been reported as to these negotiations as the Peking Government made objections similar to those of the Cantonese regarding the sending of British troops to Shanghai.

Interest in the Nicaraguan imbroglio shifted during the week from the prospect of local battles in the Central American republic to the attitude of Washington and London toward the developments. It was announced in Washington on Feb. 19 that a force of 1,600 marines had been dispatched from four bases to Nicaragua, thus augmenting the marine troops in that country to 2,000 men, some 400 being already on duty at Managua. The marines are being placed along the railroad from Corinto to Managua. The greater number will arrive at Corinto to-day on the transport Henderson, that vessel carrying 1,200 men. President Coolidge let it be known on the 18th, according to a dispatch to the New York "Times," that American marines were being rushed to Nicaragua because of reports that arms were being sent to the Liberal revolutionists there by land and sea, and because these reports were causing great anxiety to American residents in that country. The Department of State in making the announcement of the landing of additional troops added that "this action has the full consent and approval of the Nicaraguan Government." On Feb. 21 an Associated Press dispatch from Washington reported that "the American Government's determination to take a firmer hold on the situation is becoming hourly more apparent." It developed further that the American Legation guard at Managua had been moved from barracks in town to the Loma, the hill fort which commands the city. These moves are understood to have blocked definitely the progress of the Liberal forces under Sacasa, and growing signs of pessimism among these were reported.

The Diaz regime, at present in power, made overtures to Washington early in the week that an offensive-defensive alliance between the two countries would not be unwelcome. Encouragement was given by the Department of State and a proposal was then sent to Washington embodying, according to the correspondent of the New York "Herald Tribune," firstly, a guaranty by the United States of the sovereignty and independence of Nicaragua, and, secondly, a guaranty of the American rights acquired under the Bryan-Chamorro treaty—specifically, rights to build a canal across Nicaragua and to construct naval bases on the Gulf of Fonseca and the Little Corn Islands in the Atlantic. The treaty would be effective for 100 years, with rights for renewal. With the object of advancing Nicaragua's interests three protocols are added to the

general treaty, providing for financial rehabilitation, for national stability through a constabulary and for sanitation.

The British Government meanwhile, apparently concerned over the safety of its 200 nationals in Nicaragua, advised United States Minister Eberhardt at Managua through its envoy there that it contemplated sending a man-of-war to the western coast of that country. The cruiser Colombo, accordingly, was ordered from its headquarters at Bermuda and directed to sail for Nicaraguan waters. It was made plain at London that England has no desire to meddle in Nicaraguan affairs and that the dispatch of the cruiser was only for the purpose of taking aboard British nationals in the event that further street fighting made their protection necessary. The vessel was referred to as a "place of refuge." This action nevertheless aroused keen speculation here in view of the assurances previously given London by the American Government that it "would extend to British subjects the same measures of protection that it may afford to United States citizens." Secretary Kellogg, after making public the note from Minister Eberhardt, added that "Admiral Latimer has been instructed from the beginning to protect foreign as well as American lives and property and is doing everything he can to do so." "The notification," says the correspondent of the New York "Times" in a dispatch of Feb. 23, "came as a surprise not only in Congressional but also in State Department circles, and was regarded generally as introducing a new and perhaps serious complication into the situation. The British communication was regarded in some quarters as all the more surprising as it was delivered after Diaz had asked the United States to take virtual control of Nicaraguan affairs and when this Government, by further movement of ships and marines, as well as in other ways, was taking an even firmer stand in its Latin-American policy." The sending of the British cruiser was minimized by the Department of State, notes being made public showing that the British Government had expressed concern regarding the safety of its nationals as early as Feb. 19. The action was held to be "not unfriendly." Some protest also was made by Italian residents of Nicaragua, but there has been no intimation of active steps by the Rome Government.

In European capitals, according to a London dispatch to the New York "Times," great cynicism is expressed over the latest developments in the relations of the United States and Nicaragua. It is pointed out that this is due to the European custom of establishing protectorates in Egypt, Morocco, &c., after troops had been sent to those places for the ostensible purpose of protecting the lives and property of the nationals concerned.

Abrogation of Anglo-Russian trade agreements and severance of ordinary diplomatic relations are threatened in a note presented Wednesday by the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Austen Chamberlain, to M. Rosengolz, Soviet representative in London. The note is the sharpest that has yet been transmitted to Moscow and indicates increasing strain between Great Britain and Russia, occasioned almost entirely by the anti-British actions and propaganda of the Soviet officials. British notes, as pointed out in the present protest, have been sent to Moscow before now on the subject of the alleged non-observance of

the Anglo-Russian trade agreement and have had little or no effect. "The significance of the latest communication," says a dispatch to the New York "Times," "is in the plainness of its language, which would seem to render the breaking off of relations inevitable, unless its stipulations are observed."

Protest against the Soviet propaganda became imperative in England owing to the desire of the extreme right in the Conservative party for a complete break in relations. "The note," says the London representative of the New York "Herald Tribune," "is in the nature of a compromise between the extreme Conservatives, who have sought immediate severance of relations, and the more moderate group, headed by Premier Baldwin and Sir Austen Chamberlain, who have opposed the breaking off of the semi-recognition of Russia negotiated by the Labor Government in 1924." Cabinet members have expressed the opinion that Russia is fostering the present turmoil in China, but only passing reference to the Chinese situation is made in Sir Austen's note. The Foreign Secretary based his charges of violation of the Anglo-Russian agreement chiefly on addresses by Soviet leaders expressing hostility towards England. Four of these addresses are cited specifically in the note, all made late last year, and the speech by M. Bukharin before the Communist International of Moscow last November is pointedly quoted in illustration. Such activities are characterized in the note as "grievous outrages and injuries to British interests." Further controversy is deprecated and the demand made that the Moscow Government "refrain from interference with purely British concerns and abstain from hostile action or propaganda against British subjects." Resentment against Soviet propaganda directed against British institutions and interests has been growing for some time and was accentuated by the Russian connection with the British general strike and the coal strike. Bolshevik complicity in the anti-British movement in China evidently brought this feeling to a head.

Following the French offer to pay £6,000,000 yearly to the British Government, it was confirmed Tuesday that Premier Poincare had offered the American Government \$10,000,000 more than the \$20,000,000 required annually as debt service on the purchase of surplus war material. This would bring the total payments on war indebtedness to the \$30,000,000 provided for under the Mellon-Beranger agreement, even though that agreement has not been ratified. The Premier, according to a dispatch dated Tuesday to the New York "Times" made it clear in a letter to Vincent Auriol, read in the Chamber Finance Committee, that the basis of his war debt policy is equality of treatment for the United States and Great Britain. He showed that he had given nothing away that he could reasonably avoid giving away and had not infringed the rights of Parliament in any degree whatever. It was at the insistence of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, who found himself somewhat short on his budget estimates, that he had consented to the £6,000,000 payment, he said. That payment constituted no obligation for the future and prejudiced in no way whatever the attitude which the Chamber might wish to take later on with reference to ratification of the debt settlements. To America, said M. Poincare, he had made an analogous proposal and hoped it would be accepted.

The proposal will receive due consideration at the hands of the American Government, says an Associated Press report from Washington, but whether acceptance is likely has not been indicated. In some quarters it has been held that no authority existed for a refusal to accept payment on account. On the other hand, it is contended that inasmuch as the debt agreement, which fixes the total of the debt with interest, has not been ratified, it would be illegal for the Treasury to accept payments on account unless the agreement itself should be accepted. There has been no official expression of views on this phase of the situation. Meanwhile, it is pointed out in some circles here that Premier Poincare's action in the matter is shrewd and long-sighted in view of the fact that the \$400,000,000 engagement of France to this country for war supplies is due in 1929.

The re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Turkey and an exchange of ministers is provided for under accords signed in Constantinople late last week by Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol, American High Commissioner, and Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish Foreign Minister, according to an Associated news dispatch of Feb. 18. This accord with Turkey is merely a diplomatic stop-gap to take the place of the rejected Lausanne Treaty and does not require the approval of the Senate. The provision for the re-establishment of pre-war diplomatic relations will in all likelihood call for Congressional action, as it is understood in Washington that a diplomat with the rank of ambassador will be sent to Turkey. Such appointments require confirmation by the Senate. The accords otherwise renew the provisional commercial agreements between the two countries for one year. Under them, American trade will receive the same privileges as that of nations which ratified the Lausanne Treaty.

Japanese acceptance and Italian rejection of the proposal made by President Coolidge for a supplementary naval limitation conference, to be held at Geneva, were received early in the week. A cordial note was struck by the Japanese reply, the statement saying that "the Japanese Government fully shares with the American Government the views expressed in that memorandum on the desirability of an agreement calculated to complete the work of the Washington conference for the prevention of competitive naval building. They cordially welcome the initiative taken by the American Government for the institution among the five Powers of negotiations looking to such a desirable end. They will be happy to take part in these negotiations through their representatives invested with full powers to negotiate and to conclude an agreement on the subject." The acceptance complied closely with forecasts of the Japanese attitude made in the Parliament at Tokio and no surprise was expressed for this reason at the intimation contained in the note of acceptance, that Japan would not agree to the application of the 5-5-3 capital ship ratio in any tonnage limitation agreement for cruisers and auxiliary vessels which might be reached at Geneva. Stipulation was also made by Japan that the meeting of the Powers take place after June 1, owing to the length of time required for preparation and for the journey from Tokio to Geneva. The first reservation is an important one as the maintenance of the 5-5-3 ratio was suggested in the American memorandum as practicable for types of vessels

not covered by the present agreement, even though rigid proposals to this effect were expressly avoided.

Italian rejection of the proposal follows that of France and this also had been previously intimated. Italy disclaims any part in the naval armament race, pointing out that "her actual military expenses, and, above all, her naval budget, in which there is appropriated 300,000,000 lire annually, equal to about \$13,000,000, for her naval construction, demonstrated clearly that the far-reaching building programs alleged in the message certainly cannot refer to Italy." The note further mentions that the favorable geographical position of this country, which has enabled us to reduce our armaments to a minimum, finds its reverse in the Italian situation. The Government at Rome therefore feels that it "cannot expose itself without grave risks to a binding limitation of its maritime armaments, which are already insufficient to the needs of its defense."

A new tariff bill, prepared with great speed by M. Bokanowski, the French Minister of Commerce, will be introduced in the French Parliament at Paris on March 1. Raw materials bought from the United States are for the most part reduced or unaffected, says a dispatch to the New York "Times." On the other hand, a general and in many cases a material increase has been applied to American manufactured articles, thereby making the sale of these, already difficult, more problematical than ever. M. Bokanowski talks of obtaining ratification by both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies before Easter, but others believe it may take anywhere from two to six months. No question can be raised as to the right of France to increase her customs duties, but as the immediate effect of the new tariff will be to prevent a decrease in the cost of living, or perhaps even to raise it, it is not unlikely that the loudest protests will be made by Frenchmen themselves. It is certain that all American fabricated articles will cost more, as also will the goods of other nations. Chief among the motives inspiring the new rates is the desire of the Government to cover the 500,000,000 franc loss sustained by the budget when Premier Poincare agreed to drop a proposed business turnover tax on French exports. The new tariff is counted upon not only to make up this sum but to bring in several hundred million francs additional. The framers of the bill expect that there will thus, incidentally, be further aid extended to French manufacturers. A greatly increased production by machinery has resulted from the return of Alsace-Lorraine and the rebuilding and expansion of the Northern industries destroyed during the war and it is largely to meet the demands of the new industries for protection that the new tariff is projected.

A treaty of conciliation between Italy and Chile was signed Thursday in Rome by Premier Mussolini and the Chilean Ambassador, Senor Villegas, according to a dispatch to the New York "Times." The treaty is for ten years and is automatically renewable for a further period of five years. It is the twelfth treaty of arbitration and friendship that Italy has signed since August 1923, but possesses special interest because it is the first one entered into with a country in the Americas. The Italo-Chilean treaty provides that any question arising between the two countries which cannot be solved by the ordinary processes of diplomacy will be submitted to a special arbitral panel.

commission nominated for this purpose. This commission, the treaty states, shall be nominated six months after the signing of the treaty and shall be composed of five members, of whom one is to be chosen by each of the signatories, and the other three by negotiations between the two contracting parties. The five members are to nominate the Chairman by common agreement. The purpose of the permanent commission is to examine all questions arising between the two countries and to suggest methods of solution. The commission, except in certain special cases, will make its decisions by majority vote and must issue its report within six months of the question being submitted to it. Its reports, which can only be published by the common consent of both parties, have not the value of arbitral awards, but can be either accepted or rejected by the contracting parties.

No changes have been noted in official discount rates at leading European centres from 7% in Italy, 6% in Belgium and Austria, 5½% in Paris and Denmark, 5% in London, Berlin and Madrid, 4½% in Sweden and Norway and 3½% in Holland and Switzerland. Open market discount rates in London were advanced to 4 7-16% for short bills, as against 4¼@4 5-16% last week, while three months' bills moved up to 4¾@4 7-16%, against 4 3-16@4¼% last week. Call money at the British centre continues strong and went to as high as 4½%, then reacted and closed at 4%, which compares with 3½% a week ago. In Paris the open market discount rates continue to be quoted at 4½% and in Switzerland at 2¾%, the same as the preceding week.

Another small decline in gold was shown by the Bank of England in its return for the week ended Feb. 23, namely £28,474. Total gold holdings therefore now aggregate £150,147,937, against £144,493,468 last year and £128,587,157 the year previous (before the transfer to the Bank of England of the £27,000,000 gold formerly held by the redemption account of the Currency Note issue). Note circulation increased £416,000 and the reserve of gold and notes in banking department consequently decreased £444,000. The proportion of reserve to liability advanced to 28.62% from 28.16%, the ratio last week. Other important changes were: Loans on Government securities increased £152,000, while loans on "other" securities fell off £3,178,000. Public deposits showed a gain of £326,000, but "other" deposits decreased £3,805,000. Notes in circulation now stand at £130,603,000, as compared with £141,138,190 at the corresponding period last year and £124,803,065 in 1925. The Bank of England still maintains its official discount rate at 5%. We furnish below comparisons of the different items of the Bank of England report for a series of years:

## BANK OF ENGLAND'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1927. Feb. 23.	1926. Feb. 24.	1925. Feb. 25.	1924. Feb. 27.	1923. Feb. 28.
Circulation.....	£136,603,000	£141,138,190	£124,803,000	£125,579,195	£123,940,440
Public deposits.....	17,833,000	16,065,199	16,143,995	13,106,064	20,907,446
Other deposits.....	98,477,000	106,176,402	105,542,656	110,436,459	110,548,375
Government securities	29,965,000	38,242,828	41,926,830	51,197,182	47,282,880
Other securities.....	71,250,000	79,056,415	74,399,631	68,221,849	79,107,430
Reserve notes & coin	33,294,000	23,105,278	23,534,092	22,277,130	23,313,843
Coin and bullion.....	£150,147,937	£144,493,468	£128,587,157	£128,106,600	£127,504,283
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....	28.62%	18.89%	19¾%	18.03%	17¾%
Bank rate.....	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%

a Includes, beginning with April 29 1925, £27,000,000 gold coin and bullion previously held as security for currency note issues and which was transferred to the Bank of England on the British Government's decision to return to gold standard.

b Beginning with the statement for April 29 1925, includes £27,000,000 of Bank of England notes issued in return for the same amount of gold coin and bullion held up to that time in redemption account of currency note issue.

The important changes in the Bank of France's weekly statement as of Feb. 23 were the reduction of 456,489,850 francs in note circulation and of 900,000,000 francs in the Government's indebtedness to the Bank. The total of notes in circulation was therefore reduced to 51,696,645,860 francs, as compared with 50,991,063,485 francs last year and with 40,791,722,790 francs in 1925. Advances to the State are down to 29,600,000,000 francs against 34,500,000,000 francs at the corresponding time last year and 21,900,000,000 francs in 1925. Gold holdings remain unchanged at 5,547,828,350 francs. In 1926 gold amounted to 5,548,228,808 francs, and in 1925 to 5,545,789,833 francs. Other changes of importance were: Silver increased 104,455 francs, bills discounted 176,125,253 francs, and Treasury deposits 57,760,703 francs, while on the other hand general deposits fell off 502,797,539 francs. Comparisons of the various items in this week's return with the statement of last week and with corresponding dates in 1926 and 1925 are as follows:

## BANK OF FRANCE'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Gold Holdings—	Changes for Week. Francs.	Status as of—		
		Feb. 23 1927. Francs.	Feb. 24 1926. Francs.	Feb. 25 1925. Francs.
In France.....	Unchanged	3,683,507,443	3,683,907,900	3,861,468,926
Abroad.....	Unchanged	1,864,320,907	1,864,320,907	1,864,320,907
Total.....	Unchanged	5,547,828,350	5,548,228,808	5,545,789,833
Silver.....	Inc. 104,455	341,916,860	328,693,009	305,746,188
Bills discounted.....	Inc. 176,125,253	3,227,800,309	3,371,954,196	5,101,098,672
Trade advances.....	Dec. 29,123,761	1,966,848,659	2,462,888,779	2,973,735,959
Note circulation.....	Dec. 456,489,850	51,696,645,860	50,991,063,485	40,791,722,790
Treasury deposits.....	Inc. 57,760,703	93,341,988	53,076,899	13,376,082
General deposits.....	Dec. 502,797,539	4,752,080,590	2,960,298,823	2,014,189,589
Advances to State.....	Dec. 900,000,000	29,600,000,000	34,500,000,000	21,900,000,000

The Reichsbank in its statement for the second week of the month reported a reduction of 224,300,000 marks in note circulation as against an increase of 9,897,000 marks in other daily maturing obligations and of 6,451,000 marks in other liabilities. Note circulation now amounts to 3,059,392,000 marks, compared with 2,419,906,000 marks at the same time last year and with 1,760,016,000 marks on Feb. 14 1925. On the asset side of the account the major portion of the items showed decreases. Gold and bullion holdings declined 316,000 marks and deposits abroad fell off 14,604,000 marks. Reserve in foreign currencies decreased 92,309,000 marks, while holdings of silver and other coin rose 10,622,000 marks. Holdings of bills of exchange and cheques diminished 110,567,000 marks, but notes on other banks increased 4,689,000 marks. Advances decreased 31,692,000 marks while "other" assets increased 11,621,000 marks. Gold and bullion now stands at 1,834,285,000 marks, against 1,307,236,000 marks last year and 865,790,000 marks in 1925. Below we give a detailed comparative statement back to 1925:

## REICHSBANK'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Assets—	Week.	Changes for		
		Feb. 15 1927. Reichsmarks.	Feb. 15 1926. Reichsmarks.	Feb. 14 1925. Reichsmarks.
Gold and bullion.....	Dec. 316,000	1,834,285,000	1,307,236,000	865,790,000
Of which depos. abrd'd.....	Dec. 14,604,000	92,868,000	168,004,000	198,653,000
Res'v in for'n curr.....	Dec. 92,309,000	201,110,000	432,397,000	288,593,000
Bills of exch. & checks.....	Dec. 110,567,000	1,267,771,000	1,320,752,000	1,574,830,000
Silver and other coin.....	Inc. 10,622,000	136,044,000	90,333,000	63,338,000
Notes on oth. Ger. bks.....	Inc. 4,689,000	11,944,000	28,154,000	25,888,000
Advances.....	Dec. 31,692,000	16,141,000	9,269,000	31,556,000
Investments.....	Unchanged	88,885,000	233,887,000	110,062,000
Other assets.....	Inc. 11,621,000	609,739,000	784,115,000	1,629,414,000
Liabilities—				
Notes in circulation.....	Dec. 224,300,000	3,059,392,000	2,419,906,000	1,760,016,000
Oth. daily matur. oblig.....	Inc. 9,897,000	553,252,000	872,617,000	929,260,000
Other liabilities.....	Inc. 6,451,000	209,614,000	605,025,000	1,486,278,000

Contraction in open market operations, accompanied by signs of lessened activity in rediscounting, featured the weekly statements of the Federal Reserve banks that were issued at the close of business

on Thursday. For the combined System rediscounting of bills secured by Government obligations fell off \$20,600,000. In "other" bills, however, expansion of \$22,000,000 was shown, so that total bills discounted for the week increased \$1,400,000, to \$397,929,000, which compares with \$540,083,000 at this time a year ago. Holdings of bills bought in the open market fell off \$34,800,000. Total bills and securities (earning assets) declined \$39,900,000, while unusually heavy shrinkage was shown in deposits, namely, \$127,700,000. Member bank reserve accounts decreased \$122,900,000. The amount of Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation increased \$22,900,000. A small loss in gold occurred, namely, \$7,000,000. The New York Bank, on the other hand, showed an addition to gold holdings of \$23,400,000. Rediscounting of Government secured paper at the local Reserve Bank fell \$18,100,000, while other bills increased \$5,800,000, with the net result of the week's dealings a decline of \$12,300,000 in total bills discounted. A drop of \$36,700,000 was indicated in bill buying in the open market. Here also reduction was recorded in all of the following items: Total bills and securities \$56,600,000, deposits \$66,900,000 and member bank reserve accounts \$61,500,000. The amount of Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation increased \$7,200,000. Shrinkage in the deposit accounts induced advances in the ratios of reserve in both local and national statements. For the banks as a group the reserve ratio rose 1.7%, to 80.1%; at New York the increase was appreciably larger—5.5%, to 88.0%.

Last Saturday's return of the New York Clearing House banks and trust companies again revealed a deficiency in the required legal reserves, in amount of \$7,587,620. This followed entirely from the drawing down of the reserves held with the Federal Reserve Bank, which item diminished \$37,687,000. There was a decrease in net demand deposits of \$54,787,000, but an increase in time deposits of \$4,501,000, to \$686,412,000. The total of demand deposits is \$4,306,904,000, which is exclusive of \$24,963,000 in Government deposits. Loans increased \$5,311,000. Cash in own vaults of members of the Federal Reserve Bank declined \$8,546,000, to \$42,769,000. This, however, does not count as reserve. State bank and trust company reserves in own vaults fell \$950,000, but the reserves of these institutions kept in other depositories rose \$771,000. Notwithstanding the reduction in deposits, the drawing down of reserves at the Federal Bank led to the wiping out of last week's excess reserve of \$23,327,990, and its replacement by a deficit of \$7,587,620. The computation is on the basis of legal reserve requirements of 13%, against demand deposits for member banks of the Federal Reserve, but do not include the \$42,769,000 of cash in vault held by these members on Saturday last.

Call money this week fluctuated a little more than has been customary for a month past. The rate was 4% when the market opened on Monday, notwithstanding that last Saturday's New York Clearing House bank statement showed a deficiency in legal reserve. After the holiday the rate dipped to 3¾%, where it ruled most of Wednesday. On Thursday it was 4% again and yesterday it rose to 5% for borrowings over the week-end, renewals still continuing at

4%. The higher rate yesterday restrained speculative activity to some extent. It is thought that the flurry will pass quickly as banks throughout the country are well supplied with funds. Time money was steady all week with light demand and plenty on offer. A slightly firmer tone prevailed Friday with considerable calling of demand loans by the banks. Brokers' loans showed a further slight decrease in the return of the Federal Reserve Board for Feb. 16. A change in the Federal Reserve rediscount rate of 4% was neither made nor expected. No important gold movements were reported.

Regarding specific rates for money, loans on call ranged this week, as already indicated, between 3¾ and 5%, as against 3¾@4½% last week. Monday there was no range, all loans being negotiated at 4%, the only rate named. Tuesday was a holiday (Washington's Birthday). Easier conditions prevailed on Wednesday, when the low was reduced to 3¾%; renewals, however, remained at 4% and this was the high. Thursday's range was again at 3¾@4% with 4% the renewal quotation. Firmness set in on Friday, incidental to preparations for the month-end settlements, and the call loan rate, after renewing at 4%, rose to 5%.

For fixed date funds the market was inactive, with money in fairly liberal supply up to the close of the week, when there was a tightening on increased inquiries and lessened offerings. The range of quotations was not changed from 4¾@4½% for all periods from sixty days to six months, the same as a week ago, but on Friday 4½% was the trading rate.

Commercial paper continues to be quoted at 3¾@4% for four to six months names of choice character with names not so well known still requiring 4¼%. New England mill paper and the shorter choice names are still passing at 3¾%. A good demand was recorded but the volume of business transacted was small, owing to scarcity of offerings. Out-of-town and local banks were in the market as buyers.

Banks' and bankers' acceptances in the outside market remain at the levels of the previous week, with trading quiet and featureless. Nothing in the way of news developments of importance transpired. Owing to scarcity of prime names, the aggregate turnover was of small proportions. For call loans against bankers' acceptances, the posted rate of the American Acceptance Council remains at 3¾%. The Acceptance Council makes the discount rate on prime bankers' acceptances eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve banks 3⅝% bid and 3½% asked for bills running 30 days, 3¾% bid and 3⅝% asked for 60 days and 90 days, 3⅞% bid and 3¾% asked for 120 days and 4% bid and 3⅞% asked for 150 and 180 days. Open market quotations follow:

SPOT DELIVERY.			
	90 Days.	60 Days.	30 Days
Prime eligible bills.....	3¾@3¾	3¾@3¾	3¾@3¾
FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.			
Eligible member banks.....	3¾ bid		
Eligible non-member banks.....	3¾ bid		

There have been no changes this week in Federal Reserve Bank rates.

Sterling exchange moved narrowly, with trading dull and listless much of the time and the aggregate turnover small. In the early part of the week intervention of a legal holiday (Washington's Birthday) served to accentuate the inactivity and for a while the market was almost stagnant. In keeping with

this, whatever business was transacted was put through within a range of 3-32, or 4 84 17-32 to 4 84 5/8 for demand bills. Later on, a slightly firmer tone developed, on improved buying, which sent rates up another 1-16 of a cent to 4 84 11-16. This sudden accession of strength was attributed to another turn in the movement of money rates, this time in favor of London, starting funds once more moving toward the British capital. Less than two weeks ago, dealers found it unprofitable to place even short term funds in London. On Thursday it was reported that two months' bills were quoted in London at 4 3/8%, which compares with 4 3-16% recently, while the longer maturities have advanced to 4 7-16%, against 4 1/8% previously. Call money in London likewise advanced, ruling as high as 4 1/4%, while in New York there was, for a time, a decline to 3 3/4%. All of this confirms current comment that the relative trend of money rates in London and New York is for the time being the predominating factor in the course of sterling exchange values. There has also, however, been a marked falling off in the volume of selling, which previously acted to depress sterling rates. In banking circles it was intimated that this is probably due to the fact that outstanding obligations incurred during the British coal strike are pretty thoroughly liquidated by now. What was interpreted as an easing in the acute strain at present existing in diplomatic relations between Great Britain and China, also exerted some influence on the upward trend in the sterling market, although it has not caused dealers to relax their vigilance. The general disposition still is to await the outcome of the struggle now going on for supremacy in China before taking any definite position. No gold engagements have been reported this week and it was noted with much interest that none of the £400,000 gold offered in the London open market this week was taken by American buyers. India and the Continent took the bulk of the metal offering. It was not stated officially whether New York's failure to acquire the gold was due to advance in the price or to the lack of facilities for shipping the metal. At the close of the week a slight flurry, due to month-end demands, sent the New York call money rate up to 5%, but this apparently had no effect on the position of sterling.

As to the day-to-day rates, sterling exchange on Saturday last was quiet, but steady, and not changed from the level prevailing on Friday, viz.: 4 84 17-32 for demand and 4 85 1-32 for cable transfers. On Monday a slightly firmer undertone developed, but the market was of a pre-holiday type and exceptionally dull; quotations for demand bills ranged between 4 84 9-16 and 4 84 19-32, and for cable transfers at 4 85 1-16@4 85 3-32. Tuesday was a holiday (Washington's Birthday). Sterling rates were well maintained on Wednesday, although there was no increase in activity; an advance to 4 84 5/8 occurred for demand bills, with the low still at 4 84 9-16; and cable transfers at 4 85 1-16@4 85 1/8. Further improvement took place on Thursday on better buying, incidental to a change in money conditions in favor of the London market; consequently sterling exchange rates were marked up another fraction to 4 84 19-32@4 84 21-32 for demand and to 4 85 3-32@4 85 5-32 for cable transfers. Friday's market was quiet but firm and the day's range for demand was 4 84 5/8@4 84 11-16 and for cable transfers 4 85 1/8@4 85 3-16. Closing quotations were 4 84 11-16 for demand and

4 85 3-16 for cable transfers. Commercial sight bills finished at 4 84 9-16, sixty days at 4 80 9-16, ninety days at 4 78 7-16, documents for payment (sixty days) at 4 80 13-16, and seven-day grain bills at 4 84 5-16. Cotton and grain for payment closed at 4 84 9-16.

As stated above, no gold engagements were reported this week for the New York market. American interests secured none of the gold offered on the open market in London, practically all of it going to India and the Continent. The Bank of England exported small amounts of gold in sovereigns to Spain, India and Egypt.

Continental exchange came in for some rather wide movements this week, although here also trading was decidedly "spotty" at times and generally lacking in interest. Italian lire attracted considerable attention, first by an advance of some 7 or 8 points, to 4.41 1/2, then a slump which carried the quotation down to 4.34. The early strength was attributed to brisk buying that was said to indicate widespread confidence in the recently announced program of deflation in Italy. The subsequent weakness was the result of realizing sales. French francs continued to rule within narrow limits on quiet trading; the extremes were 3.90 1/4 and 3.90 7/8 for sight bills. The tone of the market is steady and apparently support is still being proffered. It is learned that a good deal of the support for francs during recent weeks has been secured by means of foreign orders for French securities. It develops that Government of France long-term bonds are being bought for foreign account and that therefore capital is flowing in freely from other countries where money for investment is in liberal supply. Premier Poincare's declaration that stabilization of the franc at this time is impossible and his refusal to give out any information as to when it would be attempted, had somewhat of a dampening influence on market sentiment.

German and Austrian exchanges remain inactive and at nominal levels. Belgian currency has been steady and unchanged. Of the group of exchanges comprising some of the minor Central European countries, Rumanian lei registered the only change of moment, showing a further advance to 0.61 1/2, or 2 points over the close of last week. Polish zloties are still ruling at or near 11.50, while Finmarks have not been changed from 2.52 1/2. Greek exchange was inclined to be heavy and remained at or near 1.28 throughout.

The London check rate on Paris finished at 123.99, against 123.81 1/2 last week. In New York sight bills on the French centre closed at 3.90 1/4, against 3.90 7/8 cable transfers at 3.91 1/4, against 3.91 7/8, and commercial sight bills at 3.89 1/4, against 3.89 7/8 a week ago. Antwerp belgas closed the week at 13.90 for checks and at 13.91 for cable transfers, against 13.89 1/2 and 13.90 1/2 the week preceding. Final quotations on Berlin marks were 23.70 for checks and 23.71 for cable transfers, in comparison with 23.69 and 23.70 a week earlier. Austrian schillings continue to be quoted at 14 1/8. Italian lira finished at 4.37 for bankers' sight bills and at 4.38 for cable transfers, in comparison with 4.33 1/2 and 4.34 1/2 at the close of last Friday. Exchange on Czechoslovakia closed at 2.96 3/8 (unchanged); on Bucharest at 0.59 3/4, against 0.59 1/2; exchange on Poland finished at 11.55, against 11.50,



and on Finland at 2.52½ (unchanged). Greek drachmae finished at 1.28 for checks and at 1.29 for cable remittances, the same as last week.

As to the Continental exchanges on the countries neutral during the war, movements have not been particularly interesting, save for the erratic behavior of Spanish pesetas and Norwegian krone. The first named were strong and dealt in heavily, especially abroad. Quotations opened at 16.84, were gradually pressed down on realizing sales to 16.74, then rallied again on a fresh accession of speculative buying. Spain continues to take gold from the Bank of England in small amounts, while it is reported that a good deal of the Spanish capital that was expatriated during the trouble with Morocco is being returned. Some doubt is entertained as to whether the peseta can be maintained at its present high level; yet it seems reasonable to believe that the outlook is increasingly favorable. Increase in protective import duties has materially reduced Spanish importations, while exports of fruit and other commodities are very heavy at this time of the year. Improvement in Spain's budgetary position as well as the prospect for consolidation of the internal debt, have all figured in the rise in the value of the peseta. Norwegian krone established a new high level on the current upswing and touched 25.94, which is only .86 point under the normal par of 26.8, as a result of good buying induced by the optimistic utterances of the President of the Norges Bank in advocacy of action hastening a return to the pre-war gold parity for the Norwegian crown. Dutch guilders were slightly firmer, but not particularly active. Swiss francs were inactive and still ranged around 19.22½. Danish and Swedish currencies were neglected and continue to rule at close to 26.65 and 26.69, respectively.

Bankers' sight bills on Amsterdam closed at 40.03, against 40.01; cable transfers at 40.04, against 40.02, and commercial sight bills at 40.02, against 40.00 last week. Closing rates on Swiss francs were 19.22½ for bankers' sight bills and 19.23½ for cable transfers, which compares with 19.22½ and 19.23½ a week earlier. Copenhagen checks finished at 26.65 and cable transfers at 26.66, against 26.64 and 26.65. Checks on Sweden closed at 26.69½ and cable transfers at 26.70½, against 26.68 and 26.69, while checks on Norway finished at 25.89 and cable remittances at 25.90, in comparison with 25.72 and 25.73 a week ago. Spanish pesetas closed the week at 16.78 for checks and at 16.79 for cable transfers. Last week the close was 16.84 and 16.85.

In South American exchange, attention centred upon the advance in Argentine pesos, which soared to new heights, touching 42.04, or a gain of 27 points in a week, and the highest point since 1919; the gold peso is also at a new high record. Brisk buying incidental to the export movement of grain from that country was the principal factor in the strength, although improvement in the financial outlook and talk of the nearing of the time when stabilization and a return to the gold standard is to be an accomplished fact, also helped. Argentine paper pesos closed at the top at 42.04 for checks and at 42.09 for cable transfers, as compared with 41.77 and 41.82. Brazilian milreis ruled steady, but not essentially changed; the close was at 11.85 for checks and at 11.90 for cable transfers, against 11.87 and 11.92 last week. Chilean

exchange was strong and for a time rose to 12.10, then reacted and finished at 11.91, against 11.92. Peru closed at 3.64½, against 3.64.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable outlook regarding the upheaval in China, Far Eastern exchange has remained fairly stable. The so-called silver currencies ruled strong, in spite of the sharp ups and downs in the silver market, though closing easier. Japanese yen remain at 48.95@49, while the Indian currencies were also unchanged. Hong Kong closed at 50 3-16@ 50 3/8, against 50 13-16@51 1/2; Shanghai at 63 1/4@ 63 1/2, against 65@65 1/2; Yokohama, 48.95@49 (unchanged); Manila, 49.75@49.88, against 49.50@ 49.60; Singapore, 56 1/8@56 3/8, against 56 1/8@56 1/2; Bombay, 36 3/8@36 1/2, against 36 1/2@36 5/8, and Calcutta, 36 3/8@36 1/2, against 36 1/2@36 5/8.

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES CERTIFIED BY FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS TO TREASURY UNDER TARIFF ACT OF 1922, FEB. 19 1927 TO FEB. 25 1927, INCLUSIVE.

Country and Monetary Unit.	Noon Buying Rate for Cable Transfers in New York. Value in United States Money.					
	Feb. 19.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 22.	Feb. 23.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 25.
<b>EUROPE—</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Austria, schilling	.14080	.14072		.14076	.14081	.14087
Belgium, belga	.1390	.1390		.1390	.1390	.1390
Bulgaria, lev	.007250	.007259		.007262	.007255	.007227
Czechoslovakia, krone	.029620	.029619		.029620	.029619	.029619
Denmark, krone	.2665	.2665		.2665	.2665	.2665
England, pound sterling	4.8501	4.8501		4.8503	4.8509	4.8511
Finland, marka	.025208	.025200		.025204	.025210	.025212
France, franc	.0392	.0391		.0391	.0391	.0391
Germany, reichsmark	.2370	.2370		.2370	.2370	.2370
Greece, drachma	.012912	.012922		.012917	.012903	.012900
Holland, guilder	.4002	.4003		.4003	.4003	.4004
Hungary, pengo	.1752	.1754		.1754	.1753	.1754
Italy, lira	.0437	.0442		.0436	.0435	.0437
Norway, krone	.2572	.2572		.2590	.2583	.2587
Poland, zloty	.1129	.1136		.1125	.1132	.1134
Portugal, escudo	.0512	.0509		.0509	.0510	.0511
Rumania, leu	.005971	.006024		.006106	.006044	.005978
Spain, peseta	.1682	.1678		.1682	.1677	.1678
Sweden, krona	.2669	.2668		.2669	.2669	.2669
Switzerland, franc	.1923	.1923		.1923	.1923	.1923
Yugoslavia, dinar	.017599	.017607		.017600	.017597	.017608
<b>ASIA—</b>						
China			HOLIDAY			
Chefoo, tael	.6700	.6658		.6617	.6583	.6592
Hankow, tael	.6600	.6550		.6517	.6500	.6492
Shanghai, tael	.6428	.6350		.6338	.6296	.6286
Tientsin, tael	.6725	.6683		.6650	.6608	.6617
Hong Kong, dollar	.5048	.5013		.5011	.4989	.4988
Mexican dollar	.4672	.4625		.4625	.4581	.4584
Tientsin or Pelyang, dollar	.4538	.4513		.4508	.4508	.4471
Yuan, dollar	.4513	.4488		.4483	.4483	.4446
India, rupee	.3630	.3626		.3622	.3622	.3623
Japan, yen	.4886	.4885		.4888	.4889	.4888
Singapore(S.S.), dollar	.5583	.5592		.5592	.5592	.5592
<b>NORTH AMER.—</b>						
Canada, dollar	.998401	.998373		.998392	.998378	.998369
Cuba, peso	1.000750	1.000688		1.000750	1.000813	1.000813
Mexico, peso	.470333	.470333		.470333	.470167	.470500
Newfoundland, dollar	.996250	.996375		.996188	.996188	.996188
<b>SOUTH AMER.—</b>						
Argentina, peso (gold)	.9496	.9505		.9522	.9530	.9536
Brazil, milreis	.1186	.1185		.1185	.1187	.1185
Chile, peso	.1199	.1200		.1200	.1200	.1199
Uruguay, peso	1.1075	1.0163		1.0175	1.0165	1.0164

The New York Clearing House banks, in their operations with interior banking institutions, have gained \$4,003,266 net in cash as a result of the currency movements for the week ended Feb. 24. Their receipts from the interior have aggregated \$5,005,966, while the shipments have reached \$1,002,700 as per the following table:

CURRENCY RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS BY NEW YORK BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

Week Ended February 24.	Into Banks.	Out of Banks.	Gain or Loss to Banks.
Banks' interior movement	\$5,005,966	\$1,002,700	Gain 4,003,266

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

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

Saturday, Feb. 19.	Monday, Feb. 21.	Tuesday, Feb. 22.	Wednesd'y, Feb. 23.	Thursday, Feb. 24.	Friday, Feb. 25.	Aggregate for Week.
\$ 80,000,000	\$ 102,000,000	Holiday	\$ 109,000,000	\$ 81,000,000	\$ 89,000,000	Cr. 461,000,000

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

The following table indicates the amount of bul-  
lion in the principal European banks:

Banks of	Feb. 24 1927.			Feb. 25 1926.		
	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
England	£ 150,147,937	£	£ 150,147,937	£ 144,493,468	£	£ 144,493,468
France a	147,340,268	13,640,000	160,980,268	147,356,316	13,120,000	160,476,316
Germany b	87,070,850	c994,000	88,065,450	49,731,700	994,600	50,726,300
Spain	103,049,000	27,386,000	130,435,000	101,475,000	23,351,000	124,826,000
Italy	45,745,000	4,215,000	49,960,000	25,679,000	3,410,000	29,089,000
Netherl'ds	34,520,000	2,350,000	36,870,000	36,069,000	2,187,000	38,256,000
Nat. Belg.	17,816,000	1,120,000	18,936,000	10,954,000	3,652,000	14,606,000
Switzerl'd.	17,791,000	3,081,000	20,872,000	17,079,000	3,715,000	20,794,000
Sweden	12,400,000		12,400,000	12,758,000		12,758,000
Denmark	11,204,000	843,000	12,047,000	11,624,000	825,000	12,449,000
Norway	8,180,000		8,180,000	8,180,000		8,180,000
Total week	635,264,055	53,629,600	688,893,655	565,399,484	51,254,600	616,654,084
Prev. week	634,339,129	53,579,600	687,918,729	575,784,142	54,146,600	629,930,742

a Gold holdings of the Bank of France this year are exclusive of £74,572,866 held abroad. b Gold holdings of the Bank of Germany this year are exclusive of £4,643,400 held abroad. c As of Oct. 7 1924.

### The French War Debt Proposals.

A new turn was given to the question of the French war debts by the announcement, on Feb. 17, of the intention of the French Treasury to pay to Great Britain, during the present British financial year, the sum of £6,000,000, one-half on Sept. 15 next and one-half on March 15 1928, on account of the war debt owed to Great Britain by France. It was further intimated at the same time that a somewhat similar payment would probably be made to the United States, and the intimation was presently confirmed by an announcement that M. Poincare had offered to pay to the United States this year \$10,000,000, in addition to the \$20,000,000 of interest due, and in part paid, on the indebtedness for war supplies purchased by France from the United States in 1920.

It will be recalled that the agreement of July 12 1926 between M. Joseph Caillaux and Mr. Winston Churchill, for the consolidation and payment of the French war debt to Great Britain, provided for payments of £4,000,000 the first year, £6,000,000 the second year, £8,000,000 the third year, £10,000,000 the fourth year, then £12,000,000 annually for twenty-six years, and £14,000,000 annually for the remaining thirty-one years. Shortly before the conclusion of the agreement the then French Minister of Finance, M. Raoul Peret, yielding to a representation from Mr. Churchill that the British budget would welcome some relief, had consented to a payment on account of £4,000,000, and this sum was recognized later as the first year's payment under the Caillaux-Churchill agreement. The further payment of £6,000,000, announced on Feb. 17, thus completes the payments which would be due under the agreement for the first two years.

The interesting feature of this transaction is the fact that the Caillaux-Churchill agreement has not yet been ratified by the French Parliament, and the French Treasury, in announcing the proposed second payment, has taken care to stipulate that the payment is to be made "without pre-judging the question of ratification." A similar interest attaches to the proposal to pay an additional \$10,000,000 to the United States. The Mellon-Berenger agreement,

concluded on behalf of the United States by the World War Foreign Debt Commission, called for the payment by France of \$30,000,000 for each of the first two years. Included in the debt as funded was the item of somewhat more than \$407,000,000 due for war supplies, on which France has been paying interest regularly to the amount of \$20,000,000 annually, so that the payments called for in the first two years under the debt agreement actually exceed by only \$10,000,000 the annual amounts which France has been paying regularly. The Mellon-Berenger agreement, however, although ratified by the House of Representatives, has been held up in the Senate pending action by the French Parliament. It is to be presumed, therefore, although a direct official statement to that effect does not appear to have been made as yet, that the additional payment of \$10,000,000 will be tendered by France with the proviso that neither the tender nor the acceptance of the amount shall be regarded as prejudicing any action that France may take later in the matter of the pending settlement. Such a proviso would be natural if Great Britain and the United States are to be put upon a parity in relation to the ultimate settlement of the French war debts to those Governments.

The course which the French Government has taken opens an interesting field of speculation. Prior to the conclusion of the Mellon-Berenger agreement, the item of \$407,000,000 for war supplies stood as a separate charge against France, and the interest payments of \$20,000,000 annually were applicable to that account alone. They did not affect in any way the account containing the principal and accrued interest of the amounts borrowed by France from the United States during and shortly after the war. The merging of the war supplies item in the principal of the consolidated debt was one of the features of the Mellon-Berenger agreement, and the \$30,000,000 which France was to pay in each of the first two years, like the subsequent larger payments, was to be applied toward the extinguishment of the consolidated debt of which the item for war supplies formed a part.

As the debt agreement has not been ratified by either party, France has continued to pay the interest due on the item of war supplies, and the books of the United States Treasury, presumably, have not been changed. The interesting question now arises as to whether M. Poincare, in proposing an additional payment of \$10,000,000, assumes that the agreement will ultimately be ratified, or at least so much of it as provides for consolidating the debt, and that the entire \$30,000,000 paid during the present year will eventually be allowed to count in fact, although legally not in form, as a payment of the first year's installment called for by the agreement; or whether, since the agreement has not been ratified, only the \$10,000,000 of additional payment will be credited to the account of the consolidated debt, whatever the terms of payment may finally turn out to be. As the Mellon-Berenger agreement gives to France the privilege of deferring for three years, if it wishes, the whole or any part of the payments, in excess of \$20,000,000, due in any of the first six years, such partial payment as is now proposed would seem to be permissible, provided, of course, that the unratified agreement is to be regarded as governing the debt question.

On the other hand, it has been suggested that M. Poincare, finding it politically inexpedient to bring the American debt agreement before Parliament for

discussion at the present time, is playing for time, in part as a means of easing the financial problem of France, and in part with the hope of securing some modification of the terms of settlement later. The principal of the indebtedness of \$407,000,000 for war supplies falls due in August 1929, and the payment of that sum, if it were to continue to stand alone, would doubtless be a considerable undertaking for the French Treasury. From the point of view of this particular item, it is obviously to the advantage of France to ratify the Mellon-Berenger agreement, or at least to make sure, if modification of the agreement is asked for, that the item shall lose its identity in the total of the consolidated debt.

The possibility of securing any modification of terms, however, is not exactly what it was a short time ago. The War Debt Commission has gone out of existence, and it cannot be reconstituted without an Act of Congress. Any future discussion of changes in the pending debt settlement, accordingly, would apparently have to be conducted through the regular diplomatic channels, and while a recourse to diplomacy presents no difficulty in itself, any agreement involving a change in terms might have the effect of scrapping the pending agreement which the House has ratified, and on which the Senate has deferred action, and in any case could hardly fail to reopen the whole controversy over the debts in Congress, and perhaps in the country. In view of the persistent agitation carried on by the advocates of cancellation, and the misrepresentations of the facts of the case that continue to be made, a re-opening of the issue on the eve of a presidential campaign would be unfortunate. As the matter stands at the moment, however, with the present Congress about to expire and an extra session unlikely, M. Poincare would seem to have succeeded, if such was his intention, in postponing until fall a debate on the debt question in Parliament, by which time his financial program should be still further advanced, and in deferring until next winter, when the new Congress will meet, any proposals of modification that he may have in mind to make.

It is hardly probable that the Treasury Department will decline to accept a payment of \$10,000,000 on account of the French debt, or that the Administration will refuse its assent to a stipulation that the payment shall not be regarded as a pre-judgment of the decision which France may eventually make regarding the debt settlement as a whole. The United States is well aware of the political as well as financial difficulties of the Poincare Government, and it has shown no disposition to press for a ratification of the Mellon-Berenger agreement while France was absorbed in the great task of ordering its financial house. The fact that debt payments aggregating more than \$39,000,000 can be offered to Great Britain and the United States at the present time is itself a striking testimony to the success with which M. Poincare has been able to set in operation his plans of financial and economic reform.

Whether, in making the recent proposals, the Poincare Government may not have invited a controversy with Parliament by assuming to act without due Parliamentary authority, is a question about which we may know more in a few days. The matter is still under consideration in committee, and it is possible that the questions of national defense and electoral reform, both of which are being

pressed upon the attention of the Chambers, may influence opinion in Parliament regarding the new debt policy. It is reasonable to assume, however, that M. Poincare, who is an eminent lawyer as well as a skilful politician and statesman, has respected the proper limits of executive authority, and that his reported contention that the Government may rightfully make payment, in its discretion, of any debts due by the Republic, provided it can find the money with which to pay, will turn out to be well grounded in French parliamentary law and practice. The British and American public will probably see in the transaction a welcome evidence of a purpose on the part of France to pay its war debts to the measure of its ability, leaving to time and diplomacy the adjustment of terms on a basis honorable to debtor and creditors alike.

### *Billionaires.*

That there is one billionaire in the United States, possibly two or three, and others in the making, does not disturb the equanimity of the people. No political crusade, as a consequence, comes into being. Even Congress is comparatively silent on the fact. We are evidently progressing, for "Big Business" is losing the quality of a menace. The door of opportunity is enlarging and swinging wide. The goal of a million has been multiplied ten hundred times; and no one cares to say any more, "no man can make a million dollars honestly." There are no bread lines worth the mentioning. Great financial minds unite in declaring that present prosperity will continue through the year—with possibly a slight slackening in trade in some lines. And yet one man, or at least one man, his wife, and child, owns an industry he can sell for a billion dollars. Fourteen or fifteen millions of persons have directly contributed to the assembling of this fortune by purchasing his product. They are not dissatisfied customers. His keen instinct saw the value of catering to the middle class ability to buy, with dependable goods at low prices. His genius saw the profits in mass production. In his particular field he allowed no one to approach him, though competitors catering to other classes soon sprang up about him. No one now cares to say he has not made his billion dollars honestly.

There are interesting and important considerations in connection with this supreme fact in our financial history. They are political, economic, social. The other great fortune believed to be a billion came about in another way. In point of time it paralleled to a great extent the first mentioned. Strangely enough, these two colossal fortunes are intimately associated with the making of the single product—gasoline. The explosive engine is the heart of the automobile. The refining of crude oil is the key to the Standard Oil Companies. This other billion has had to meet political opposition. The original Standard Oil Co., said to have been the "most scientifically organized and efficiently administered" corporation ever formed, was ordered dissolved by law of Congress. But the segregated companies were not destroyed, their stock values increased, the larger of these constituent companies in trade pursued the same policies of conservation of natural resources, intensive development of by-products, and unified economy of service as before. The politico-governmental onslaught proved a dud. In increasing numbers the people used the chief product that

entered into life in multiplying ways—and by tens of millions the people contributed to the upbuilding of this fortune now being held and dispensed by a single benevolent hand. Competitors known as “independents” were not deterred. Crude oil anywhere is black gold, and no one knows what day a new field will be discovered. Its rival in the world of light, heat and power is electricity, but it shows no sign of being vanquished. So much for the other billion, which in the faroff way of disease research has been, perhaps, the greatest boon that has ever descended on mankind.

A monopoly is hard to create and still harder to maintain. Our politics told us, at one time, that the rights of man were endangered by huge aggregations of capital, by consolidations of operating industries, by concentrated control, into the hands of a few men, of natural resources and the services of labor. In some instances, under a law made to fit the occasion, the Government engaged in prosecutions, winning part-time, and ordering dissolutions; losing often because of failure to prove the charge of undue oppression through preponderating control. In both the anti-trust statute and the Federal Trade Commission law modifications have been compelled by natural conditions until to-day the monopolistic character of consolidated business has ceased to be a matter of proof, in general, and is no longer a political question of moment. It is reported that in the case of the first billionaire and billion mentioned above, that from two-thirds of the total manufacture the annual output and sale has descended to one-third. No artificial law is responsible for this—it is merely the result of natural selection on the part of the buyers. In the case of the other billion mentioned, while the natural increase of well-conducted and, in a sense, associated companies, has been large (often stock dividends being declared, the increase augmenting the stocks supposedly held in a single ownership), still enormous independent companies able to hold their own against all comers have followed close; while vast sums of the earnings of the billionaire holdings of at least one of these great fortunes have gone out of business altogether into benevolences that have no connection with trade or production. So that politics and political agitation have ceased for want of something to feed on; and in the large, it stands proven that government is not fitted to control, is a failure thereat, and is a defeated contender.

In the economics involved we confront a different question and one not easily solved. There is too much of the human element engaged for easy judgments. Like the social side of the matter, whatever good and evil is the outgrowth, it is because as a people we have willed it so. These two products that are the foundation of two of the greatest fortunes ever constructed on earth are in themselves distinct and indisputable benefits. In an early day, by months of laborious toil, we “crossed the plains” by ox-team and covered wagon. To-day, in five or six days, as against the previous thirty or forty days, we literally rush across, on rails, in comfortable cars, or in our private vehicles, stopping when and where we please. Yet the rails would suffice us if we had no other method. This one comparison suggests the inquiry: Have we in our manufactures kept pace with our developing needs, or have we by outstripping the growth of our other productive industries created untimely needs that largely control us; and have we become lopsided in manufactures, and

even outstripped our necessities by luxuries that tend to become needs?

The question is not an idle one, though it is not to be hastily dismissed or easily answered. If it is a fault, it is our own fault. We have much of cooperation and collectivism as a cure for political and economic ills. But as one mind we have received and embraced the creation and services of two industries, voluntarily and somewhat ecstatically, that in a single generation have produced two billionaire fortunes. The monopoly charge is exploded by the facts, but what of the unevenness of the advance in manufactures and manufactured products? We are evidently not conserving oil in the one case, using it, and even wasting it, lavishly, thoughtlessly; we are at the same time wasting our substance to an enormous amount every year in the making and using of a personal vehicle of transportation—and, mark, to a total cost, wise and otherwise, of fourteen billions of dollars annually. What is the point? It is this: We make possible these billionaire fortunes by our own extravagant living. We throw the productive machinery of life out of gear by our own inordinate desires for what we deem the best of everything in the shortest time. We are ourselves the authors of monopolies and near-monopolies, and have no right to complain, in so far as they *are* evil.

Here enters the social question. All business is a unit. But the parts that make up the whole may be, must be, unequal. In an advancing civilization our wants are apt to grow faster than our needs. And such is our inventive capacity as a people that we are able to forestall the losses and deprivations of our too extravagant living and our too rapid consumption of our resources by the creation of what we term substitutes. But if we burn the candle at both ends we are not sure of the future. Again, like children, we soon tire of our toys. Thus, we are not forbidden the conclusion that in the same lines the billionaire businesses we have been discussing will not be duplicated in another quarter century. This carries with it the slow erosion of the fortunes already made, by the lessened momentum and by the cost of change and re-investment in other lines. If possible conditions of the kind are more economic than social, they still raise the question of the proper mode of living in duty to those who are to come after the present generation. Our social debauch in using and spending the labors of the two preceding decades *must* lessen the pleasures and comforts of the next.

Again, whatever evils grow out of great consolidated fortunes are our own fault. Carried away by a feverish “prosperity” we do not count its costs. It is we who are not honest with ourselves, not the billions that are not honest. The larger the rolling snowball the more snow it takes up, the more profits adhere to the single gigantic enterprise. Of what avail to consider this a social question—is each man to be expected to order his own personal life according to general economic and social principles? Yes; it will come to that in the end, if we conquer the forces in and around us and are not conquered by them. Billionaires have so much money they do not know what to do with it. It is a personal burden. And the strength is two-fold. We do not need to contribute to a social state of extravagant living, of unequal production, use and enjoyment of resources or manufactures, in order to make the most and best of life; and we do not need to set the goal of business success at a billion or a million in order to attain to

personal independence and in order to contribute each a full share to the general advance. The appearance of two billionaires on earth outrivalling Croesus and almost shaming Midas, is an event of tremendous economic and social significance and a lesson for all mankind to study.

### *The Chinese Situation.*

The Chinese situation continually assumes new conditions, while it remains one of the most important problems before the world to-day. An intelligent Chinese gentleman, speaking in New York the other evening to a group of influential citizens, described the powerful hold and rapid spread among the people of China of the spirit of Nationalism which is now organized and finding eager response, he closed, saying: "If the people get out of control we shall have the devil to pay."

The mass of population is simply tremendous. With its peculiar solidarity it has been hard to reach and impossible to move. Many times the country has been conquered and overrun, but always its conquerors have been in time absorbed and the nation has gone its way with its history uninterrupted and its life little affected. To-day, after nearly a quarter-century of revolutionary disturbance, it is said that the people at large know little about the upheaval and are pursuing their ordinary occupations as usual.

Meanwhile a new day has come. Powerful forces are at work. An awakening has begun; new ideas with new principles and new aims are introduced and pressed with an active propaganda. Already there are signs of a national movement which is sure to manifest itself in the various issues pending with the outside world as well as with the contentions among her own leaders.

The questions, therefore, with which the Western nations have to deal are far more serious than those of the past. Those could, if need be, always summarily be settled. These cannot; and the difference is epochal. They pertain to the relations of two hemispheres and two distinct civilizations. For the first time these are really face to face. East is East and West is West; and as two strong men they meet. Their understanding must be complete, their relations mutual, their settlements equitable and right, or there can be no settlement, and civilization itself would once more perish.

This, then, is the situation. It is not the result of Soviet propaganda, sweatshop conditions in foreign controlled factories, shooting of Chinese in Shanghai, or clashing ambitious chieftains. All these, doubtless, have contributed. Nor is it simply a question of extra-territorial courts, release of the customs, return of the concessions or withdrawal of warships and troops. What has been called "a stupendous transformation" is taking place. The mass of China's population, long stagnant and apathetic, is awakening, and while chaos seems to prevail it witnesses to the completeness of the change that has come. For better or worse China has entered upon a new era. A new condition is created; a new force is at work. The various foreign questions are but symptoms. Current events are not to be interpreted as anti-foreign; they are pro-Chinese and as is said by those among us who are best informed, are anti-foreign only so far as foreign influence is believed to be hostile to the new spirit of Chinese nationalism. That is the force that has to be reckoned with. Its reality and its strength cannot be questioned; its guidance

and control will be the determining factor. Whether or not the individual leaders will arise from the relatively small group of broadly educated men, that group will unquestionably furnish its supply as it to-day constitutes the "New China" so strikingly evident.

Several of these men occupying positions of high importance under the lead of Dr. T. T. Lew, of Peking University, have combined to give a succinct view of the situation as seen through Chinese eyes, which had special importance as presenting China to-day.\* We are glad to call attention to their account of the situation.

China is suffering from her own weakness, witnessed by her inefficiency, her lack of resources and her divisions. In recent times she has passed through four important stages. She made the first change in the middle of the last century, when, awakened by the power of the West she sought to introduce something of modern mechanical science. Her defeat by Japan in the subsequent war revealed the insufficiency of machines unless there are men trained to use them, and this started the movement for the New Learning to supersede her old system. Then, in 1900, the Boxer struggle turned attention to the need of a change of government. The revolution soon followed with the establishment of the Republic. But that proved autocratic and by 1911 it was apparent that the change from the monarchy was not sufficient, and the present movement began seeking wider views of life and what is termed China's Renaissance. This aims at progress, as the leaders think, all along the line, in everything that concerns society and the individual, as well as in the Government.

The chief obstacles in the path of the movement are the dense ignorance of the people, the deep-rooted superstitions and great poverty in the presence of undeveloped resources and of skilled labor, necessary to work them. To these may be added the tuchuns, or upwards of forty provincial governors whom Wang shi Kai, the Premier in 1911, established to enable him to hold fast to existing conditions when the Republic was about to fail. These officials remain, and in the prolonged break-up of the central government have assumed increased authority and are a divisive element. Foreign concessions in various ways are hampering; they curtail the Government's necessary revenue, provide a retreat for the escape of wrongdoers and permit an economic exploitation which is rapidly taking the place of political aggression, and is more subtle and dangerous.

But China is making definite progress. Her new sense of nationality makes possible a new appreciation of the comity and regard of the nations. This is held in abeyance through the breakup of the central Government; but that must in some form soon be restored and the way opened for mutual understanding and goodwill.

She is ready and seeks the reorganization of her civilization, with a critical and intelligent use of that of the West. She accepts the worth of scientific truth and theory, and seeks a full share in the use of both, and is prepared, so far, to modify her personal and social life as will add what is best in the modern world to what has proven good and beautiful in her cherished past.

To this end she is rapidly establishing both vocational and popular schools. To promote this she is

\* "China To-day," by Dr. T. T. Lew, Prof. Hu Shih, Prof. Y. Y. eu, and Dr. C. C. Yi.—Doran.

taking advantage of her widespread system of secret societies of many kinds. These are so great and so influential that in the disturbed state of the opening century the astute Prime Minister Li Hung Chang called to his aid no less than eighty of these societies having ramifications throughout the Empire. Teachers, who are the great need, they are trying to supply from the schools themselves, and volunteers are offering from all who have already acquired any knowledge. The present generation is drilled in slogans of the doings of other nations, and Nationalism is taught in this way everywhere.

In the face of the classical language cherished by the scholars the Kuo-yu, or the "mandarin" dialects, became the real national language; and now the Bwi Hwa, "plain language," puts knowledge in the hands of all. The mandarin has a great literature and a vogue which well qualifies it for the national position, and in modified form it is spreading far and wide. The Government is aiding to introduce the new phonetic form.

The chief characteristic of the new movement is its thoroughness. It tolerates no compromise and no ignorance of facts. It breaks with tradition and all conventions. It introduces foreign literature; it would re-write history; and would prepare for a new internationalism based on community of thought, of

interests, of goodwill, and of life. It needs hardly be said that this opens the way for Christianity. The Bible, translated into the vernacular, is gaining a new acceptance. It is widely spread and is steadily pouring into the country. It is producing a new literature and is deepening Christian experience, especially in the minds of students. The Christian attitude toward man and life is coming to be recognized as the highest and best. More than a century of Christian missions has a fruitage far more extensive than is to be measured by the 6,000 Protestant churches and their 360,000 communicants. In the clashing of armies they may suffer, but as in the Boxer outbreak the blood of the martyrs proved the seed of the Church, so again, out of the steadfastness and, if need be, the sacrifice of the leaders, may come results which will make the whole world glad.

Meanwhile we may rejoice that America has uttered no harsh word and issued no ultimatum. If her only role is "to bring first aid," we must hope that it will not be when the patient is dead. Something prompter, more open-handed and gracious, even if it should have to be original, would certainly be more in keeping with the situation and our own self-respect. According to late news, England is to-day once more leading the way.

### Railroad Gross and Net Earnings for the Calendar Year 1926

There is no occasion for fault-finding with the returns of the earnings of United States railroads for the calendar year 1926, either as regards the gross results or the net results. In making this statement we have reference more particularly to the collective showing for the whole body of roads in the United States, though as a matter of fact the remark applies equally well to the different geographical divisions of the country—with the South, however, a prominent exception—and to the leading roads and systems in the different parts of the country, a few of the systems in the South again forming conspicuous exceptions. For the twelve months of 1926 our compilations show that what are known as Class 1 roads—that is, roads with operating revenues in excess of \$1,000,000 per annum—earned \$266,086,139 more than in the twelve months of 1925, being an increase of 4.3%, and that this was attended by an augmentation in expenses of only \$137,090,567, or 3.0% yielding, therefore, an increase in net earnings (before the deduction of the taxes) in amount of \$128,995,572, or 8.0%. The totals for the two years are as follows:

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (185 Roads)—	1926.	1925.	(Inc. (+) or Dec. (—).
Miles of road.....	236,891	235,809	1,082+0.4%
Gross earnings.....	\$6,435,539,259	\$6,169,453,120	+\$266,086,139+4.3%
Operating expenses.....	4,704,030,129	4,566,939,562	+137,090,567+3.0%
Ratio of expenses to earnings	73.09%	74.02%	-----
Net earnings.....	\$1,731,509,130	\$1,602,513,558	+\$128,995,572+8.0%

What is particularly gratifying about this exhibit is that the gains here recorded for 1926 follow very substantial gains in 1925 over 1924. Our tabulations for 1925 showed \$199,593,392 gain in gross, or 3.34%, accompanied by only a relatively slight addition to the expenses, namely \$23,702,217, or no more than 0.52%, thus leaving \$175,891,175 gain in net, or 12.32%. If we combine the \$128,995,572 increase in net for 1926 with the \$175,891,175 increase in 1925, we get a gain for the two years combined in the sum of over \$303,000,000. And the showing is made all the more noteworthy when we consider that there were larger or smaller increases

in each of the four years preceding, the record of improvement extending all the way back to and including 1921. In 1924 the addition to the net was only \$14,807,030, but that was really more noteworthy than the much larger gains of the two succeeding years, since it was made in face of a falling off of no less than \$371,687,892 in gross, 1924 having been the year of the Presidential election when the country's industries suffered a severe setback and business underwent sharp contraction. In 1923, which was perhaps the very best year the railroads have ever had, the addition to the net was \$249,725,296, and this followed \$190,100,146 increase in 1922 over 1921 and \$556,503,286 gain in 1921 over 1920.

This last-mentioned increase in the net (for 1921) constitutes the most striking feature in the whole series of gains in net, inasmuch as the post-war slump in business occurred in that year and gross revenues suffered a shrinkage in that year of no less than \$664,027,980. In other words, the net earnings were enlarged by \$556,503,286, notwithstanding this huge falling off in the gross revenues of the carriers. But 1921 marked the inauguration of a new policy in the conduct and administration of the properties. The railroads were once more back under private control and in the hands of their owners.

The profligacy and extravagance that had characterized Government operation and control, which terminated in 1920, instantly ceased. It had to cease. For under Government control the railroad system of the United States had been brought to the verge of bankruptcy—even the strongest railroad systems of the country having been reduced to a pitiable plight—and had not the unfortunate policy pursued under Government management been changed, and absolutely abandoned, the condition of bankruptcy would have become a permanent one. And with the Government no longer at hand to make good the losses, what the result would have been can be easily imagined.

The problem which confronted the managers of the railroads now that they were once more responsible to their owners, and charged with the duty of administering the roads in accordance with sound business methods, was one of the most difficult ever committed to mortal men. And that they have proved equal to the task is occasion, not alone for gratification, but for devout thankfulness, since it is no exaggeration to say that failure in the endeavor would have involved the country in wreck and ruin. Instead of the era of prosperity through which we have been passing—and it has been a very prosperous period notwithstanding the severe shakedown of 1921 and the setback of 1924—we would have witnessed scenes of widespread disaster, if not absolute chaos, since the \$20,000,000,000 or more invested in the railroads would have been rendered worthless and valueless. As it is, a complete transformation has been effected in railroad conditions and railroad prospects. The steady and uninterrupted growth of operating efficiency which has marked the conduct of railroads during the last six years constitutes, as we remarked in our previous review, one of the greatest achievements in the annals of American railroading.

It is well to correct at this point a mistaken impression which is quite common. One hears much of the roads having carried the largest tonnage on record, a stock phrase that is quite misleading, and the notion is becoming prevalent that the transformation which has been wrought in the status of the railroads and their outlook is due to the enlarged volume of traffic they are handling. Nothing of the kind. The change follows entirely from the increased economy and efficiency with which the roads are being operated. Their traffic since surrender of Government control has increased somewhat, but hardly enough (speaking of the roads as a whole) to warrant special mention. Economies of operations, resulting in curtailment of expenses on a huge scale, have been the magic wand that has brought about the transformation. The yearly records of the gross earnings tell a tale in that respect which is most illuminating. There have been years of strikingly large gains in gross earnings, but these have in the main served mainly to make good previous losses. The experience of the last two years furnishes a case in point. We have already seen that the gross in 1926 increased \$266,086,139 and that this followed \$199,593,392 increase in 1925, but the two together make not quite \$466,000,000, and they follow \$371,687,892 loss in 1924. Similarly the big increase of \$733,687,222 in 1923 was preceded by a falling off in the gross, two years before, in 1921, only a little less striking, namely, \$664,027,980. To furnish a graphic illustration of what has been accomplished for the good of the roads, and no less for the good of the public, since the return of the roads to private control, we insert here a comparison as to both gross and net between the figures for 1926 and those for 1920, the latter the last year of Government control.

U. S. Railroads—	1926.	1920.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—).
	\$	\$	\$
Gross revenues	6,435,539,259	6,204,875,141	+230,664,118
Operating exp.	4,704,030,129	5,742,952,365	-1,038,922,236
Ratio of exp. to earnings	73.09%	92.55%	
Net earnings	1,731,509,130	461,922,776	+1,269,586,354

The foregoing tells its own story. Gross earnings for 1926 at \$6,435,539,259 compare with \$6,204,-

875,141 for 1920, giving an increase for the six years of only \$230,000,000, or less than 4% for the whole period. On the other hand, net earnings now are nearly four-fold what they had been in 1920, having risen from \$461,922,776 in that year to \$1,731,509,130 in 1926. The ratio of expenses to earnings in 1926 (not including taxes) was only 73.09%, while in 1920 it was almost 93% and thereby a saving in expenses was effected aggregating over a billion dollars. In other words, in 1920, nearly 93 cents out of every dollar earned was spent in running the roads (entirely apart from what was needed to pay taxes) while in 1926 73.06 cents sufficed for the purpose—and with the roads very much better run, too.

Dealing now with the conditions prevailing during 1926, the particular year which we are reviewing, it would be a mistake to suppose that conditions had been entirely favorable during that period of 12 months. It was unquestionably a year of great activity, at least as far as the basic industries are concerned, and yet not to the extent generally supposed. At the same time there were some serious drawbacks which affected adversely special groups of roads and distinct sections of the country. In at least the first two months of the year, the anthracite carriers suffered very heavy losses by reason of the strike in the hard coal regions. The strike had been in progress since the first of September of the previous year. It lasted until near the end of February in 1926. It was not until Feb. 12 1926 that terms for a settlement between the miners and the coal operators were agreed upon and signed, and not until Feb. 18 that there was actual resumption at the mines. While the strike was in progress all the different anthracite roads, like the Lackawanna, the Lehigh Valley, the Delaware & Hudson, the Reading, the Central of New Jersey, the New York Ontario & Western, the New York Susquehanna & Western, the Lehigh & New England and the Central New England, suffered very heavy losses in both gross and net earnings. After the resumption of work, mining was carried on with redoubled energy and the last four months of the year, namely September, October, November and December, these anthracite carriers had a distinct advantage in the fact that then they were comparing with the time in the previous year when they had sustained such heavy losses by reason of the strike, which losses they were now retrieving, but this last relates to a different period of the year to which we shall allude again further along in this article.

Another drawback under which the roads, or at least some of them, labored during the early part of the year, was the partial crop shortage of 1925. This operated to diminish the crop tonnage of the early months of 1926. In this we have particular reference to the winter wheat shortage of 1925. The wheat crop of the United States in that year was only 676,429,000 bushels, against 864,428,000 bushels in 1924, and the greater portion of this loss was sustained by the wheat-growing States of the Southwest. For instance, in Kansas, the winter wheat crop was only 77,388,000 bushels against 159,964,000 bushels the previous year; in Oklahoma 27,191,000 bushels against 58,944,000 bushels and in Texas no more than 6,552,000 bushels against 25,252,000 bushels. As it happened however, the 1926 winter wheat yield again proved bounteous and in the later months of 1926 this served as an advantage in the same territory and to the roads running through it, the 1926 crop in Kansas proving 150,084,000 bushels, that of Okla-

homa 73,745,000 bushels and that of Texas 32,796,000 bushels. On the other hand, however, the 1926 spring wheat crop in the northwest was heavily reduced as the result of unpropitious weather conditions and that constituted an adverse feature in that part of the country and to the roads serving it or connecting with it. North Dakota raised only 77,224,000 bushels of spring wheat in 1926 against 112,378,000 bushels in 1925 and 133,450,000 bushels in 1924; South Dakota 10,315,000 bushels in 1926 against 30,397,000 bushels in 1925 and 33,580,000 bushels in 1924; Minnesota 24,588,000 bushels in 1926, against 27,209,000 bushels in 1925 and 34,313,000 bushels in 1924, and Montana 38,393,000 bushels against 31,773,000 bushels and 41,197,000 bushels respectively in 1925 and 1924.

More serious, however, than the diminution in the size of the crop in one section of the country or another, was the low prices prevailing for agricultural products throughout the whole year. It thus happened that some farmers suffered in a double way. The shortened winter wheat yield of 1925 left a diminished surplus for export in 1926 and, as it happened, there was likewise a diminished demand for our wheat, one reason for this being the huge crop raised in Canada in 1925. As already said, this unhappy conjuncture of events imposed a double affliction on the Western farmer. On the one hand, he had a smaller surplus, and, on the other hand, he had to accept a lower price for what he did have. The situation was in sharp contrast with that existing the previous year, when he had an abundance of wheat to ship and was able at the same time to obtain a very high price for it. In a word, in the early months of 1925 the foreign demand for United States wheat was large and urgent, and at very high prices, while in 1926 the demand in the early months was poor with values much lower. The effect, as far as the railroads are concerned, was adverse, not only because of the smaller movement of wheat, but even more so because of the distressing plight in which the Western farmer was left. With his product yielding so much less, his purchasing power was correspondingly curtailed. In the last half of 1926 the foreign demand for our wheat improved and by reason of the larger winter wheat yield of 1926 the United States had more wheat to spare, but prices remained low. And this last is true, not only as respects wheat, but also with reference to other grains and as regards agricultural products generally.

The Agricultural Department at Washington made the average price of wheat on the farm in the whole United States Dec. 1 1926, \$1 19 9-10, against \$1 41 5-10 on Dec. 1 1925, with similarly low prices for the other grains. As a matter of fact, the drop in the price of corn was even more pronounced than that in wheat, the Agricultural Bureau making the average farm price of corn Dec. 1 1926, 64.4c., against 67.4c. on Dec. 1 1925 (when the price had already dropped very low), and 98.2c. Dec. 1 1924. Altogether the United States Department of Agriculture gives \$7,802,114,000 as the total value of all agricultural products in 1926, as compared with \$8,949,321,000 in 1925 and \$9,334,251,000 in 1924. This last-mentioned set of figures furnishes an idea of the extent of the depression which has overtaken the agricultural world and indicates why such farm relief measures like the McNary-Haugen bill (which has just been vetoed by President Coolidge) have found such wide support in the halls of Congress. The

figures given include, of course, the cotton crop, and here the slump in prices has been most serious of all. The drop came all of a sudden late in the summer, as it began to be realized that with the largest acreage ever sown to cotton there was also going to be the largest crop of that staple ever produced in the South. Here in New York the price of middling upland spot cotton on Aug. 2 was still as high as 19.20c. a pound; by Oct. 25 the price had dropped to 12.45c. The Agricultural Bureau makes the average farm price Dec. 1 1926 10.9c., against 18.2c. Dec. 1 1925 and 22.6c. Dec. 1 1924.

Cotton is the money crop of the South and there can be no doubt that during the closing months of 1926 the South experienced intense business depression as the result of the great slump in the price of that staple. To add further to the discomfiture of the Southland, there came in September the hurricane which did so much damage in Miami and at other Florida points. Furthermore, all through the year the collapse of the real estate boom in Florida and other Southern winter resorts played its part in curtailing business activity. On that point we may note that bank clearings at Jacksonville in December 1926 showed a loss as compared with the same month of 1925 of over 35%; those at Tampa over 45%, and those at Miami 63%, the total of the clearings in this last case being only \$38,088,566 for the month in 1926, against \$102,986,308 in December 1925. Altogether the South, for the reasons enumerated, has been hard hit, and the fact is evidenced by the heavy losses in earnings reported the latter part of 1926 by all the principal roads in that part of the country, though these losses do not show in the results for the full year, inasmuch as in the first half of the year gains were still the rule and these gains counted as offsets to the losses which came in the closing months of the year.

The good showing for the year for the railroad system of the United States as a whole is ascribable mainly to the fact that the country's industries on the whole enjoyed a large measure of activity, and, furthermore, to the exceptionally heavy movement of coal. This trade activity was of great advantage to all the roads serving the manufacturing sections of the Eastern, the Middle and the Middle Western States. The industrial activity in and by itself served to make the coal movement large, but in addition a special factor came in tending still further to enlarge the mining and shipment of bituminous coal. The strike of the miners in Great Britain, which began the 1st of May and lasted until towards the close of November, created an export demand upon us for coal of unusual extent, and this, coming at a time when the home demand for coal was still keen, stimulated coal mining to an unprecedented degree, so that in the closing months of the year all records of high production were broken, even those made during the War. Thus for the week ending Nov. 13, the production of soft coal in the United States reached 13,807,000 tons, breaking all records up to that time. For the week ending Nov. 20, another high weekly record was reached at 14,282,000 tons, and in the week ending Dec. 4 the record was again broken with an output of 14,676,000 tons. The United States Bureau of Mines, in reporting these figures, pointed out that the highest production ever recorded in any year prior to 1926 was 13,344,000 tons in the last week of March 1919, just before the inauguration of the great strike of that year.



For the whole of 1926 the production of bituminous coal in the United States is tentatively put at 578,290,000 tons, which compares with 520,052,741 tons in 1925 and only 483,686,538 tons in 1924, the increase for the two years thus being over 94,000,000 tons, which shows what an important part the coal traffic alone must have played in swelling the revenues of the railroads. The largest previous output of soft coal in the United States was in the war year 1918, when the product reached 579,385,820 tons. All the large East and West trunk lines between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi River, and in particular the Pennsylvania RR. and the Baltimore & Ohio, had their coal traffic enormously increased, and, in addition, the roads serving the Pocahontas region enjoyed a special advantage in that way, the coal from that region commanding most favor on the part of exporters. Accordingly, we find that the Norfolk & Western reports a gain in gross for the twelve months of \$15,190,048 and in net of \$11,897,950; the Chesapeake & Ohio a gain of \$10,373,890 in gross and of \$8,845,851 in net, and the Virginian Railway \$5,016,360 in gross and \$3,546,173 in net. The production of anthracite during 1926, when the mines were idle nearly two months, is estimated approximately at 85,000,000 net tons, which compares with 61,817,000 tons in 1925, when the mines were idle the last four months of the year.

While industrial activity during 1926 was on the whole maintained at high levels, it must not be supposed that conditions were unqualifiedly favorable in that respect. At the beginning of the year there was noticeable hesitation in trade and a slackening in many different lines of business. In part no doubt this followed from the impaired purchasing power of the Western farmer, in part it was due to the backwardness of the season, which latter it should be said constituted still another adverse feature in 1926. This backwardness of the season was an element of no small importance, farm work having been everywhere retarded and the temperatures remaining very low, with the nights especially cold, almost up to the very close of the half-year—furnishing a sharp contrast in that respect with the situation during the first half of 1925 when the season everywhere was far in advance of the ordinary. The farmer was not the only one who felt the adverse influence; both wholesale and retail trade were unfavorably affected; indeed considerable business was entirely lost. After the close of the half-year hesitation disappeared and the pace noticeably quickened. The automobile industry seemed to be doing an unprecedented amount of business and the steel industry reflected the beneficial effects. The last two months of the year, however, trade again slackened. The automotive industry met with a setback, steel production fell off, and the agricultural depression in the West, particularly in the South, which latter had assumed huge dimensions with unexpected suddenness, exerted a telling influence all around, so that the year closed with a noticeable slowing down in business, quite in contrast with the situation at the close of 1925, when growing activity characterized the course of trade and business.

The monthly statistics of automobile production furnish an excellent illustration of the fluctuations in the trade currents and which played their part in affecting the revenues of the roads. The motor output continued large month by month until the end of September. In October some falling off occurred, and

in November there was a drop to only 219,504 passenger cars against 328,694 in the corresponding month of the previous year, and the smallest product of any month since the middle of 1925. In December the make of passenger cars in the United States proved to be only 137,361, as against 278,643 in December of the previous year and a figure so small that it is necessary to go back to the beginning of 1922 to find an equally diminutive product. For the whole of 1926 the make of passenger cars, according to the figures prepared by the Census, was 3,765,048 which compares with 3,696,490 cars in the calendar year 1925. Canada added 164,487 to this in 1926 against 139,311 in 1925. The output of trucks in the United States in 1926 was 494,377 against 478,396 in 1925 and the product in the Dominion 40,629 against 22,074.

The statistics of steel and iron production speak even more convincingly of the uneven character of the year's business. The American Iron & Steel Institute calculates the production of steel ingots for the calendar year 1926 at 47,133,517 tons, as against 44,140,738 tons in 1925, and the highest on record, but whereas in 1925 the production the last three months of the year was respectively 3,888,814 tons, 3,902,900 tons and 3,970,918 tons, on the other hand in 1926 the production fell from 4,092,548 tons in October to 3,722,119 tons in November and still further to 3,472,000 tons in December. The statistics of pig-iron production tell the same story. According to the figures of the "Iron Age," which do not include a small amount of charcoal pig iron produced, the make of iron in 1926 aggregated 39,070,470 tons against 36,403,470 tons in 1925 and 31,108,302 tons in 1924. But the product in December was down to 3,091,060 tons against 3,250,448 tons in Dec. 1925 and smaller than in any other month of 1926 except the short month of February.

As far as weather conditions, often an important circumstance during the early winter months, are concerned, the situation was not so extremely good in 1926 as in 1925, and yet was, on the whole, quite favorable. In January weather conditions in 1926 did not impose much of an obstacle to railroad operations over any large sections of the country. On the other hand, in February the New England roads suffered presumably by reason of heavy falls of snow. The winter, taking the country as a whole, was unusually mild, but in February there were some big snowstorms in the East, with, however, nothing approaching a blizzard. In other words, there were no big drifts to tie up traffic and interfere seriously with the running of trains. In this city there was no snowfall of any consequence during the winter until February, but in this last mentioned month there were two very heavy storms, namely one on Feb. 3-4, when 10.3 inches of snow fell and another on Feb. 9-10, when the snowfall was 11.6 inches. For the whole month of February the snowfall in this city aggregated 25.7 inches, being the heaviest on record for any February since 1899, when the fall was 27.5 inches, and comparing with only 0.8 inch in February 1925 (when, however, the fall was extremely heavy in January), and with 11.5 inches in February 1924 and 17.9 inches in February 1923. The February snowstorms in 1926 seem to have extended all over New England and through New York State. New England roads virtually all reported for that month large losses in gross, as well as in net, and no doubt the explanation is found in the

circumstance mentioned and doubtless also these roads had their coal traffic reduced by the anthracite miners' strike.

In both 1925 and 1924 the roads enjoyed quite remarkable exemption from bad weather and from the often extreme rigors of the winter. In January 1925 bad weather was somewhat of a drawback on certain lines here in the East, though not to any great extent for the country as a whole. There were repeated snowstorms in these parts in that month in 1925, and in New York City the fall of snow was the heaviest of any January in the history of the local weather bureau, reaching 26.2 inches. This compares with only 2.6 inches in January 1924, but with 21.9 inches in January 1923, this latter having also been a month of very heavy snowfalls. A storm which came toward the end of the month in 1925—that is Thursday, Jan. 29, and extended into Friday, Jan. 30—proved particularly mischievous in New York State. The New York Central Railroad reported it as the worst in its history, especially between Albany and Rochester, causing considerable delay in the running of trains. The Twentieth Century train from Chicago was 16 hours late in reaching the Grand Central Terminal in New York City. It was due at 9.40 a. m., but did not arrive until 1.18 and 1.33 the following morning (Saturday), coming in two sections. The area of disturbance, however, in this way was very much circumscribed, being confined largely to New York and New England, while elsewhere in the northern part of the country the winter was comparatively mild, and little complaint was heard of obstruction because of snow and ice or because of extreme cold.

After this heavy snowstorm in New York State the latter part of January (1925), from which, as noted, other parts of the country were exempt, mild weather developed in February, and this may be said to have been a condition common to the whole United States and even Canada, the winter nearly everywhere having been what is popularly denominated as an open one and spring having come unusually early virtually everywhere. This, it will be seen, was in sharp contrast with the experience in 1926, when, as noted above, the season everywhere was backward. Nor, as already stated, was there much severe winter weather in 1924, but in 1923, on the other hand, the winter was of unusual severity in many parts of the northern half of the United States, especially in New England and in northern New York, where the roads suffered from repeated snowstorms, and from the depth of the accumulated snowfalls, with resulting large increases in operating expenses.

As far as the movements of the leading staples have had a part in affecting railroad revenues, it has already been made apparent, from what has been said above, that Western roads suffered a considerable falling off in their grain traffic. There was a substantial loss in the grain movement during the first six months and the shrinkage was intensified during the last six months. There was, however, some increase in wheat and corn the latter half of 1926, and in the case of these two cereals the receipts at Western points for fifty-two weeks of 1926 run somewhat larger than for the corresponding period of 1925. The wheat receipts at the Western primary markets for the fifty-two weeks of 1926 aggregate 389,048,000 bushels, as against 361,013,000 bushels in 1925, but comparing with no less than 490,576,000

bushels in the fifty-two weeks of 1924. Corn receipts in 1926 were 234,976,000 bushels, against 226,415,000 bushels in 1925 and 278,453,000 bushels in 1924. The oats receipts in 1926 aggregated only 160,566,000 bushels, against 235,299,000 bushels in 1925 and 263,260,000 bushels in 1924. Adding barley and rye, the total for the five cereals combined foots up 844,853,000 bushels in 1926, against 913,116,000 bushels in 1925; 1,151,376,000 bushels in 1924; 966,890,000 bushels in 1923 and 1,125,032,000 bushels in the fifty-two weeks of 1922. It will be observed that the 1926 movement was away below the ordinary. The details of the Western grain receipts in our usual form for the fifty-two weeks of the last two years, are set out in the table which we now present.

WESTERN FLOUR AND GRAIN RECEIPTS.

Jan. 1 to Dec. 25,	Flour. (bbls.)	Wheat. (bush.)	Corn. (bush.)	Oats. (bush.)	Barley. (bush.)	Rye. (bush.)
<b>Chicago—</b>						
1926	12,881,000	38,113,000	92,449,000	46,245,000	9,366,000	2,138,000
1925	13,017,000	28,188,000	82,843,000	53,828,000	9,841,000	4,824,000
<b>Milwaukee—</b>						
1926	1,905,000	7,115,000	8,326,000	13,283,000	8,768,000	1,072,000
1925	2,220,000	4,532,000	7,947,000	16,528,000	11,734,000	965,000
<b>St. Louis—</b>						
1926	5,249,000	33,302,000	24,160,000	25,382,000	1,160,000	374,000
1925	387,000	34,139,000	25,057,000	31,885,000	1,251,000	227,000
<b>Toledo—</b>						
1926	-----	11,849,000	4,378,000	6,830,000	25,000	223,000
1925	-----	8,272,000	3,639,000	8,617,000	53,000	113,000
<b>Detroit—</b>						
1926	-----	1,945,000	894,000	1,375,000	3,000	353,000
1925	37,000	1,372,000	454,000	1,352,000	52,000	166,000
<b>Peoria—</b>						
1926	2,645,000	1,482,000	24,964,000	8,961,000	1,336,000	47,000
1925	2,134,000	1,832,000	22,437,000	10,447,000	1,180,000	40,000
<b>Duluth—</b>						
1926	-----	52,341,000	444,000	10,514,000	5,557,000	9,848,000
1925	-----	73,934,000	842,000	23,935,000	16,465,000	12,220,000
<b>Minneapolis—</b>						
1926	-----	96,883,000	9,964,000	23,183,000	15,129,000	4,715,000
1925	-----	107,953,000	14,171,000	42,020,000	23,512,000	7,629,000
<b>Kansas City—</b>						
1926	16,000	83,594,000	16,164,000	4,014,000	-----	-----
1925	-----	52,700,000	19,087,000	13,507,000	11,000	1,000
<b>Omaha &amp; Indianapolis—</b>						
1926	-----	24,160,000	36,984,000	16,240,000	10,000	78,000
1925	-----	20,894,000	33,131,000	25,963,000	-----	-----
<b>Stout City—</b>						
1926	-----	2,493,000	3,785,000	2,212,000	41,000	16,000
1925	-----	1,989,000	4,666,000	4,589,000	91,000	12,000
<b>St. Joseph—</b>						
1926	-----	9,501,000	10,824,000	1,931,000	-----	-----
1925	-----	10,172,000	9,503,000	1,905,000	2,000	-----
<b>Wichita—</b>						
1926	-----	2,631,000	482,000	62,000	-----	-----
1925	-----	15,036,000	2,638,000	723,000	-----	-----
<b>Total All—</b>						
1926	22,696,000	389,048,000	234,976,000	160,566,000	41,399,000	18,864,000
1925	22,795,000	361,013,000	226,415,000	235,299,000	64,192,000	26,197,000

The grain movement at the seaboard also was larger in 1926 as respects the item of wheat, though several of the other items of the grain movement register a decrease. For the full fifty-two weeks of 1926 the seaboard grain receipts were 422,859,000 bushels, against 405,327,000 bushels in the fifty-two weeks of 1925, but comparing with 451,267,000 bushels in 1924, as will be seen from the following:

GRAIN AND FLOUR RECEIPTS AT SEABOARD PORTS FOR 52 WEEKS.

Receipts of—	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Flour.....bbls.	25,217,000	24,802,000	26,154,000	24,367,000	27,036,000
Wheat.....bush.	303,154,000	242,507,000	308,919,000	276,343,000	300,022,000
Corn.....bush.	8,250,000	11,925,000	18,353,000	39,224,000	145,247,000
Oats.....bush.	42,203,000	76,707,000	51,633,000	42,114,000	60,223,000
Barley.....bush.	38,427,000	44,446,000	31,847,000	17,796,000	17,874,000
Rye.....bush.	30,825,000	29,742,000	40,515,000	34,566,000	47,325,000
<b>Total grain.....</b>	<b>422,859,000</b>	<b>405,327,000</b>	<b>451,267,000</b>	<b>410,043,000</b>	<b>579,691,000</b>

The Western live stock movement, considered as a whole, also appears to have fallen somewhat below even the small movement of the previous year. At Chicago the 1926 receipts comprised 261,320 carloads, against 259,083 in 1925, but comparing with 289,966 cars in 1924 and 303,228 cars in the 12 months of 1923. At Kansas City the receipts were 115,436 cars in 1926 against 123,864 in 1925, 135,478 in 1924 and 148,503 cars in 1923, while the receipts at Omaha were 105,075 cars in 1926, against 111,283 in 1925, 129,798 cars in 1924 and 125,583 cars in the 12 months of 1923.

Southern roads had the advantage of still another large increase in the cotton movement, following the increase in the two previous years, even though they had to contend, at least in the latter part of the year, with business depression growing out of the collapse

in the price of the staple. The shipments overland do not show this as the crop was largest in the Southwest and went to the nearest port. Gross shipments overland for the calendar year 1926 aggregate 1,580,136 bales which compares with 1,646,167 bales in 1925; 1,433,140 bales in 1924 and 1,364,005 bales in 1923; 1,766,889 bales in 1922 and 2,434,077 bales in 1921. On the other hand, the receipts at the Southern outports aggregated no less than 11,513,760 bales in 1926 against 9,445,569 bales in 1925; 7,958,171 bales in 1924 and 6,317,636 bales in 1923 and the bulk of the increase occurred at the Texas ports and New Orleans as will be seen from the following:

RECEIPTS OF COTTON AT SOUTHERN PORTS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31 1921 TO 1926, INCLUSIVE.

Ports.	Full Year.					
	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.
Galveston..... bales	3,239,336	3,202,321	3,346,911	2,742,005	2,795,743	3,074,988
Houston, &c.....	3,600,632	2,013,723	1,308,605	1,011,273	855,873	558,166
New Orleans.....	2,210,042	2,145,265	1,823,223	1,280,304	1,413,518	1,394,039
Mobile.....	339,392	218,610	154,160	55,410	148,557	138,581
Pensacola.....	16,588	28,789	15,003	11,816	23,023	20,748
Savannah.....	969,241	850,080	628,998	449,976	627,282	799,640
Brunswick.....	413	813	283	4,030	40,075	18,322
Charleston.....	528,746	340,234	195,441	219,118	169,571	106,061
Wilmington.....	132,109	139,536	118,521	135,831	113,386	119,183
Norfolk.....	477,261	506,189	367,026	407,873	327,358	474,629
Newport News.....						1,695
Total.....	11,513,760	9,445,569	7,958,171	6,317,636	6,514,386	6,705,692

As pointed out further above the distinctive feature of the returns in all recent years has been the saving effected in expenses as a result of the growing efficiency of operations. We have shown what a wonderful transformation in results has thereby been effected as between 1920 and 1926. It will be not out of place to examine into the detail of the changes from year to year. In 1926 we have seen we had \$266,086,139 gain in gross with \$137,090,567 increase in expenses, giving \$128,995,572 addition to the net and in 1925 \$199,593,392 increase in gross with only \$23,702,217 augmentation in the expenses, yielding \$175,891,175 gain in net. Going back to 1924, we find that in that year a loss of \$371,687,892 in gross was converted into a gain of \$14,807,030 in net through a decrease in expenses in the huge sum of \$386,494,922. In 1923 an increase of \$733,687,222 in gross earnings, or 13%, was attended by an augmentation in expenses of only \$483,961,926, or less than 11%, yielding therefore a gain in net of \$249,725,296, or 21½%. And the part played by growing efficiency of operations is still more strongly revealed as we turn further back. In 1922 our compilations showed only a moderate gain in gross earnings over 1921, notwithstanding the rising activity in trade, the reason for this being the hindering effect of those two great labor troubles of 1922, that is, the prolonged strike at the unionized coal mines, and the railway shopmen's strike. The amount of the 1922 gain in the gross was only \$44,501,869, or less than 1%. But owing to a further growth in operating efficiency, this was accompanied by a reduction in expenses of no less than \$146,480,163, producing therefore a gain in net of \$190,982,034. The saving in expenses in 1921 was even more striking. That was a year of intense business depression, when gross earnings fell off in the huge sum of \$664,027,980. Nevertheless, there was a gain in net in the big sum of \$556,503,286, expenses having been cut down in the prodigious amount of \$1,240,930,585.

As explaining these successive large reductions in the expenses it must be remembered that previous to 1921 expenses had been mounting up in a frightful way until in 1920 a point was reached where even some of the strongest and best managed roads were barely able to meet ordinary running expenses, not to mention taxes and fixed charges. And it is these enor-

mously inflated expense accounts that have furnished the basis for the saving and economies effected in the years since then. As compared with 1920, the roads in both 1921 and 1922 also had the advantage of much more favorable weather conditions. In 1921 the winter was exceptionally mild and much the same remark may be made with reference to the winter of 1922. This last, while perhaps not so extremely mild as the winter of 1921, was at all events not of unusual severity—at least not of such severity in most of the country as to entail heavy extra expenses for the removal of snow and the clearing of tracks, though the winter is declared to have been a hard one in certain special sections, in Wyoming and Montana, for instance, and contiguous territory. In 1920, on the other hand, the winter had been exceptionally severe.

In commenting on the results for 1920 and noting the tremendous increase in operating costs in that year, we took occasion to say that taken in conjunction with the antecedent huge additions to expenses it constituted an unfavorable record for which no parallel could be found in American railroad history. As a matter of fact, 1920 constituted the fourth successive year in which the net had fallen off—in each year, too, in face of very substantial gains in the gross earnings. As showing how extraordinarily poor the results were in 1920, it is only necessary to say that while there was an addition to the gross of no less than \$1,026,235,925, net actually fell off in amount of \$303,953,253. In 1919 the increase in the gross was of only moderate extent (5.25%), and yet amounted to \$258,130,137. As it was accompanied, however, by an augmentation in expenses of \$401,609,745, there was a loss in net of \$143,479,608, or 15.80%. For 1918 our compilation showed an increase in the gross in the imposing sum of \$863,892,744, or 21.40% (due in no small measure to the advance in rates made by Director-General McAdoo at the close of May in that year), but the addition to the expenses reached \$1,148,664,364, or 40.35%, leaving a loss in the net of \$284,771,620, or 23.92%. The prodigious augmentation in the 1918 expenses was due not merely to the general rise in operating costs, but yet more to the tremendous advances in wages granted by Director-General McAdoo in May 1918, and made retroactive to the 1st of January of that year. But even for the calendar year 1917 our compilations showed that while gross had increased \$430,679,120, or 11.61%, this was attended by a rise in operating expenses of \$490,738,869, or over 20%, leaving a loss of \$60,079,749 in net earnings. There was this qualifying circumstance, however, with reference to the 1917 loss in net, namely that it followed strikingly good results, both as regards gross and net, in 1916 and 1915. On the other hand, it is equally important to remember that these gains for 1916 and 1915 represented in part a recovery of previous losses.

In the following we show the yearly comparisons as to both gross and net for each year back to 1907. For 1910 and 1909 we take the aggregates of the monthly totals as then published by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, but for the preceding years we give the results just as registered by our own tables each year—a portion of the railroad mileage of the country being then always unrepresented in the totals, owing to the refusal of some of the roads at that time to furnish monthly figures for publication.

Table with columns for Year, Gross Earnings, Net Earnings, and Month. Includes sub-columns for Year Given, Year Preceding, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-), 1926, 1925, and Increase or Decrease.

Note.—Percentage of increase or decrease in net for above months has been Jan., 0.93% inc.; Feb., 0.04% dec.; March, 22.50% inc.; April, 11.43% inc.; May, 13.89% inc.; June, 14.18% inc.; July, 15.35% inc.; Aug., 7.86% inc.; Sept., 8.48% inc.; Oct., 7.35% inc.; Nov., 6.79% inc.; Dec., 11.36% inc.

In January the length of road covered was 236,944 miles, against 236,599 miles in 1925; in February, 236,839 miles, against 236,529 miles; in March, 236,774 miles, against 236,500 miles; in April, 236,518 miles, against 236,526 miles; in May, 236,833 miles, against 236,858 miles; in June, 236,510 miles, against 236,243 miles; in July, 236,885 miles, against 235,348 miles; in August, 236,759 miles, against 236,092 miles; in September, 236,779 miles, against 235,977 miles; in October, 236,654 miles, against 236,898 miles; in November, 237,335 miles, against 236,369 miles; in December, 236,214 miles, against 235,209 miles.

The increase in 1926 over 1925 was almost evenly distributed between the first six months of the year and the second 6 months—almost absolutely so in the case of the gross where the increase the first 6 months was \$131,448,135 and the second 6 months, \$134,638,004. This would not have been so, however, except for the great expansion the latter half in the coal traffic engendered by the export demand for coal and the further fact that in the case of the anthracite carriers comparison during the last 4 months of 1926 was with the period of the anthracite strike in the previous year. The effects of the agricultural depression in the West, and still more in the South, became growingly apparent in the last quarter of the year, though in the general totals this fact was hidden by the heavy gains in the coal tonnage, both anthracite and bituminous. Even as it was, in the month of December the losses on Western and Southern roads were so numerous and so heavy as almost to overshadow the huge gains on the coal carrying roads in the East, leaving only a relatively small increase in the general totals for that month—barely 1/2 of 1%. In the following we show the comparative results for each 6 months period separately.

Table with columns: First Six Months (1926, 1925), Second Six Months (1926, 1925). Rows: Gross earnings, Operating expenses, Net earnings.

As part of our analysis we also introduce the following table affording a comparison of the earnings, gross and net, for the different months of the year. The exhibits, it will be seen, are uniformly good for all the months except January and February and the closing month, December. The anthracite coal strike with the 1925 crop shortage was largely responsible for the indifferent results in the first two months, though there was a further drawback in January in the circumstance that the month in 1926 had five Sundays, besides New Year's Day as a holiday, leaving therefore only 25 full working days, whereas Jan. 1925 had but four Sundays, in addition to the New Year's holiday, leaving 26 working days in the month at that time. The loss in net earnings in December appears to have been due largely to additions to the expense accounts made in the closing month by way of adjustment of the year's accounts. It cannot therefore be taken as indicating any impairment of operating efficiency. Our summary of the monthly totals is as follows:

Considering now the returns of the separate roads we find a long list of roads with large increases, both in the gross and the net, and only a few decreases for large amounts. Taking decreases for amounts in excess of \$1,000,000 there are only three altogether, namely the "Soo" which has fallen \$2,813,526 behind, the Milwaukee & St. Paul which has lost \$1,482,253 and the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton, which has suffered a shrinkage of \$1,019,841, though there is a considerable number of others with decreases for smaller amounts. In the net the first and last mentioned fall in the same category, along with a few others. On the other hand gains for large amounts are numerous. While the coal carrying roads are the principal contributors to the list, nearly all the anthracite carriers being represented, some roads and systems in other sections of the country are conspicuous in the same way. The Pennsylvania heads the list with \$37,680,488 increase in gross and \$14,459,257 increase in net, but the Atchison comes next with \$22,097,787 gain in gross and even surpasses the Pennsylvania in the net with a gain of \$16,880,207. The New York Central has added \$13,502,933 to gross and \$5,017,356 to net. This is for the Central itself. Including the various auxiliary and controlled roads, the result for the whole New York Central system is a gain of \$22,026,489 in gross and of \$4,695,181 in net. The Baltimore & Ohio has enlarged its gross by \$14,814,890 and its net by \$7,608,213. The coal carrying roads in the Pocahontas region have already been mentioned. Other coal carrying roads, anthracite or bituminous, make up the bulk of the remainder of the list of large increases, and yet there are some other roads that fall in the same category, among which may be mentioned the Union Pacific, the Rock Island, the Chicago & North-Western, the Illinois Central, the Burlington & Quincy, the Great Northern, the Southern Pacific, &c. Southern roads quite generally show the effects of the business depression which overwhelmed the South the latter part of the year and the Florida roads have been particularly hard hit, though a few Southern roads form striking exceptions to the rule. The Southern Railway itself by reason of the gains the early part of the year has \$6,154,084 gain in gross for the twelve months and \$2,099,447 gain in net. If however the other roads going to form the Southern Railway system are taken into account the result is not quite so favorable, at least in the case of the net. For then though the gross records \$6,530,744 increase, the net shows a decrease of \$378,248. The Seaboard Air Line reports \$4,160,142 increase in gross and \$1,637,036 increase in net. But the Atlantic Coast



Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Lehigh & New Engl., Lehigh Valley, Monongahela, Montour, New Haven Sys., Central New Engl., N Y N H & Hartf., N Y Ont & West., N Y Central Lines, Clnn Northern, C C C & St Louis, Evans Ind & T H, Michigan Central, N Y Central, Pitts & Lake Erie, N Y Chic & St Louis, Newburg & So Shore, Pere Marquette, Pitts & Shawmut, Pitts & West Va, Pitts & Wash, Ulster & Delaware, Wabash System, Ann Arbor, Wabash & Co.

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include (Total 33 roads), Central Eastern Region, Ak Can & Youngst., Balt & Ohio System, Baltimore & Ohio, Staten Isl R T, B & O Chic Term, Belt Ry of Chicago, Bessemer & L Erie, Brooklyn E D Term, Buffalo & Susqueh, Ches & Ohio System, Chesapeake & Ohio, Hocking Valley, Chic & Eastern Ill, Chic & H Midland, Chic Ind & Louisv, Clnn Ind & Western, Del Tol & Ironston, Elgin Jol & Esatern, Monongahela Conn, N Y Central Lines, Clnn Northern, C C C & St Louis, Evans Ind & T H, N Y Central, Pitts & Lake Erie, Michigan Central, Pennsylvania System, Balt Ches & Atl, Long Island, Pennsylvania, N Jersey & Seash, Reading System, Atlantic City, Central of N J, Perkiomen, Port Reading, Reading, Union RR (Pa.), Western Maryland, Wheeling & L Erie, Total (31 roads), Total Eastern, Dist. (74 roads).

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Southern District, Pocahontas Region, Chesapeake & Ohio System, Hocking Valley, Norfolk & Western, Rich, Fred & Pot., Virginian, Total (4 roads), Southern Region, Atl Blrm & Atl., Atl Coast Line System, Atl & West Point, Atl Coast Line, Charl'n & W Car, Clinchfield, Georgia, Louisv & Nash, Louis, Hendt & St L, Nash, Chatt & St L, Western Ry of Ala, Colum & Greenville, Florida East Coast, Georgia & Florida, Gulf, Mobile & North, Illinois Central System, Central Georgia, Gulf & Ship Island, Illinois Central, Yazoo & Miss Val, Mississippi Central, New Orli Gt North, Norfolk Southern, Seaboard Air Line, Southern Ry. System, Ala Gt Southern, C&N O & Tex Pac, Georgia So & Fla, Mobile & Ohio, New Orli & N E., Northern Alabama, Southern Ry Co., Tennessee Central, Total (30 roads), Total Southern, Dist. (34 roads).

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Western Districts, Northwestern Region, Can Nat System, Atl St Lawrence, Central Vermont, Chic Det & C G T J, Det Gr Haven & Mil, Duluth Win & Pac., Grand Trunk Western, Can Pac System, Can Pac Lines In Me, Dul So Sh & Atl., Minn StP & S M, Spok Internat'l.

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Chic & N W Sys, Chic & N W, Chic St P M & O., Chic Great Western, Chic Mil & St Paul, Chic River & Ind., Dul & Iron Range, Dul Missabe & Nor., Great Northern, Green Bay & West'n, Lake Sup & Ishp., Minneap & St Louis, Northern Pacific, Spok Portl & Seattle, Un Pacific System, Los Ang & Salt Lake, Oregon Shore Line, Ore Wash Ry & N, St. Joseph & Grd Is, Union Pacific Co., Total (18 roads).

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Western District, Central Western Region, Atchison System, Atch Top & S Fe, Gulf Colo & S Fe, Panhandle & S Fe, Bingham & Garfield, Chic Burl & Quincy, Burlington Route, Quincy Om & K C, Colo & Southern, Ft Worth & Den L, Wichita Valley, Chicago & Alton, Denver & Rio Gr W, Denver & Salt Lake, Nevada Northern, Northwest Pacific, Peoria & Pekins Un., Rock Island System, Chic R I & Gulf., Chic R & Pac., Southern Pacific Lines, Galv Har & San Ant., Houston & Tex Cent., Houston E & W Tex, Louisville Western, Morgans La & Tex, Texas & New Orli, Southern Pacific, Tol Peoria & West., Union Pacific System, Los Ang & S Lake, Oregon Short Line, Ore Wash Ry & N, St Jos & Gr Isl., Union Pacific Cox, Utah, Western Pacific, Total (22 roads).

Table with columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925, Inc. or Dec. Rows include Southern Region, Atch Topeka & Sante Fe, Gulf, Col & S Fe, Panhandle & S Fe, Burlington Route, Quincy, Om & K C, Colo Southern, Ft W & Den City, Wichita Valley, Ft Smith & Western, Frisco Lines, Ft W & Rio Gr., St Louis, San Fran, St Louis S F of Tex, Galveston Wharf, K C Mex Or Lines, K C Mex Or of Tex, K C Southern System, Texark & Ft Sm., Kansas Okla & Gulf, K C Southern, Louisiana & Ark., Louis Ry & Nav., L Ry & Nav of Tex., Midland Valley, Missouri & N Ark., Missouri Kansas Texas Lines, Mo Kansas Texas, Mo Kan Tex of Tex, Missouri Pacific System, Bea & S Lake & W, Int Great North., Missoury Pac Co., N Orli Tex & Mex, St L Brown & Mex, San Ant Uva & Gulf., Texas & Pacific, St. Louis Southwestern Lines, St L Southwestern, St L S W of Tex., Southern Pacific Lines, Gal Har & San Ant, Houston & T Cent, Houston E & W Tex, Louisiana Western, Morgans La & Tex, Texas & N Orli, Southern Pacific Co., Term Ry Asso of S L, Trinity & Brazos Val, Total (37 roads), Total Western, Dist. (77 roads).

Grand total (185) . 6,435,539,259 6,169,453,120 1,731,509,130 1,602,513,558 + 128,995,572

Italian Government Declines to Participate in Conference on Naval Limitation Proposed by President Coolidge.

Advising the United States that in its view the limitation of armaments, to be efficacious to the ends referred to by President Coolidge "should be universal" and that inasmuch as there "exists an undeniable interdependence of every type of armament of every single power . . . it is not possible to adopt partial measures between only the

five large naval powers," the Italian Government announces that it "cannot to its regret accede to the proposal contained in the memorandum of Feb. 10" in which President Coolidge proposed a further conference on naval limitations. The reply of the Japanese Government agreeing to participation in the conference appears elsewhere in this issue, while that of France declining participation appeared in these columns last week, page 1003. The translation of the reply of the Italian Government was made public as follows at Washington on Feb. 21.

The Italian Government has submitted to serious examination the memorandum handed on Feb. 10 by the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The said memorandum explains the principles have inspired the Washington Government in proposing that, before the contemplated International Conference for the Reduction and the Limitation of Armaments, negotiations be initiated between the five Powers signatory of the Treaty of Washington of 1922 for the purpose of studying the limitation of certain categories of naval armaments not covered by said treaty.

The Italian Government appreciates fully the high spirit which has guided the President of the United States of America in addressing his message to Congress on the same day in which the memorandum of the American Government was handed to the governments of the great Powers interested. The appreciation of the Italian Government has all the greater value since Italy has always associated herself with every international activity tending to establish upon a solid base the tranquility and peace of the world.

That spirit which has guided Mr. Coolidge is, so to say, the heritage of the Italian Government and people.

Italy, in fact, has not only adhered to the Washington Conference, but has concluded during the past five years more treaties of friendship and arbitration than those stipulated by any other European State. Her actual military expenses, and, above all, her naval budget, in which there is appropriated 800,000,000 lire annually, equal to about \$13,000,000, for new naval construction, demonstrates clearly that the "far-reaching building programs" alleged in the message certainly cannot refer to Italy.

The American Government proposes in its memorandum that the Italian Government empower its representative on the Preparatory Disarmament Commission to initiate negotiations at Geneva with a view to concluding agreements which, in anticipation of a global limitation of naval, land and air armaments, shall regulate naval armaments by limiting the construction of those lesser vessels which were not contemplated in the accords of 1922.

As regards such a proposal, the government of His Majesty must above all state that in principle and as far as concerns the Continent of Europe its point of view is that there exists an undeniable interdependence of every type of armament of every single Power, and furthermore that it is not possible to adopt partial measures between only the five large naval Powers.

The Italian Government thinks that the limitation of armaments, to be efficacious to the ends referred to by Mr. Coolidge, should be universal and recalls in this connection that the example of Washington was not accepted by the minor naval Powers and that the conference held at Rome in February 1924 for the extension of the principles of the Washington Treaty to the Powers not signatory thereto was a failure.

Then, as concerns Italy more specifically, the Italian Government believes it can invoke the same geographical reasons referred to in the message of President Coolidge. If the United States, by reason of their geographical position, has been able to reduce land armament to the minimum, Italy by reason of its unfavorable geographical position cannot expose itself without grave risks to a binding limitation of its maritime armaments, which are already insufficient to the needs of its defense.

Italy has, in fact, only three lines of communication with the rest of the world, three obligatory routes, through Suez, Gibraltar, and the Dardanelles, for provisioning itself.

Italy has an enormous coast development with populous cities and vital centers on the coast or a short distance from it, with two large islands, besides the Dodecanese, all of which are linked to the peninsula by lines of vital traffic.

Italy has four important colonies to protect; two of which are beyond the Suez Canal.

In fact, Italy must also consider the other nations which face on or can appear in the Mediterranean, particularly favored by their geographical position amid essential lines of communication, and which have under construction many units of various types or are elaborating naval programs of great strength.

For the reasons above stated the government of His Majesty feels confident that the government of the United States will take into account the reason why Italy cannot, to its regret, accede to the proposal contained in the memorandum of Feb. 10.

From Washington advices Feb. 24 to the New York "Times" we take the following:

Oral explanations have been made at the State Department by Nobile Giacomo de Martino, the Italian Ambassador, of the note from Italy rejecting the proposal of President Coolidge for a five-Power naval limitation conference at Geneva. These explanations are understood to have softened considerably the effect of the formal communication.

The Ambassador made his explanation when, in accordance with diplomatic custom, he presented a copy of the note.

Whether the attitude of Italy, as now understood at the State Department, will make it possible for her to accept the American invitation has not been disclosed, but there has been no disposition to challenge reports that the Italian position might have been revealed in a less unfavorable light in the note had it not been for the French position on armaments and the earlier flat rejection by that Government of the Coolidge offer. Could Italy be assured of a continuance of naval parity with France, as established by the Washington conference of 1921-22, it is believed she might be in a more acceptable mood.

#### Japanese Government Accepts Invitation of President Coolidge to Participate in Conference on Naval Limitation.

The Japanese Government has indicated its willingness to participate in a new conference to discuss the further limitation of naval armament, in accordance with the proposal of President Coolidge. Japan is the first of the four powers to which the invitation was extended to agree to participation in the proposed parley. The declination of the French Government was indicated in our issue of a week ago, page 1003, and Italy's rejection is noted in another item in this issue. In replying to the memorandum of President Coolidge (given in our issue of Feb. 19, page 1003) the Japanese Government states that it fully "shares with the American Government the views expressed in that memorandum on the desirability of an agreement calculated to complete the work of the Washington Conference for the prevention of competitive naval building" and welcomes "the initiative taken by the American Government

(Continued on page 1131.)

### The New Capital Flotations During the Month of January

The new capital flotations during January were of very exceptional proportions, while yet not breaking the record in that respect. It seems desirable to make this latter point at the outset, since there were frequent references in the daily papers during the course of the month to the magnitude of the month's financing and the impression was thereby created that all records had been broken. The month takes high rank in that regard, but the total does not happen to surpass all previous high totals, though it comes very close to the best. Our tabulations, as always, include the stock, bond and note issues by corporations and by States and municipalities, foreign and domestic, and also Farm Loan emissions. The grand total of the offerings of new securities under these various heads during January amounted to no less than \$877,075,418. This compares with \$621,764,765 in December, with \$697,961,617 in November, with \$579,018,819 in October, with \$541,128,633 in September and with only \$351,822,154 in August, a dull summer month; but with \$581,471,484 in July, with \$727,146,502 in June, with \$664,938,357 in May, with \$638,372,147 in April, with \$652,778,436 in March, with \$609,153,480 in February and with \$739,645,781 in January last year.

It will be observed that this year's January total is well ahead of that for any month of 1926 and exceeds that for the corresponding month of last year by over \$137,000,000. Financing during the opening month of the year is nearly always on a big scale and back in January 1923 the grand aggregate of the new issues was even larger than that now

recorded, the total then having been \$881,327,395, against the present total for January 1927 of \$877,075,418. Financing was large under each of the different heads, with the municipal awards the largest of any month on record. The corporate emissions, however, domestic and foreign, form the vast preponderating proportion of the whole, though it happens that these corporate emissions, while of huge extent, have been exceeded twice in January of former years. The present amount of the corporate flotations is \$610,034,900. In January last year it was \$614,549,239 and in January 1923, \$622,048,786.

A bigger proportion than usual of the securities brought out in January of the present year consisted of refunding issues, that is securities placed to take up or retire existing issues, which shows the importance of segregating these from the rest. Of the grand total of \$877,075,418 of all capital emissions for January 1927, \$133,630,300 was for refunding; of the corporate emissions of \$610,034,900, \$102,531,800 was for refunding. We have stated that the municipal awards had been the largest of any month on record. They amounted to \$171,072,218 for January 1927, against only \$72,032,745 for January 1926. The fact that the City of New York put out a loan for \$60,000,000 during the month served to swell the total the present year, though municipal issues were large apart from this.

In analyzing the corporate offerings made during January, it is found that for the first time since May of last year (1926) the volume of financing undertaken by public utility com-

panies during the month was in excess of that negotiated on behalf of industrial organizations or the railroads. Reaching no less than \$309,084,425 the total for the month shows an impressive gain over the December output of only \$136,655,702. Industrial offerings during January were also larger than in the previous month, the figures being \$291,604,475 for January and \$249,477,903 for December. New issues by railroads during January totaled only \$9,346,000 as against \$43,170,000 brought out in December.

Total corporate offerings in January were, as already stated \$610,034,900, and of this amount long-term issues accounted for no less than \$490,703,000, short-term issues comprised only \$10,821,000, while stock issues made up the remainder of \$108,510,900. The portion used for refunding purposes was large, being as noted above \$102,531,800, or almost 17% of the total. The more prominent issues brought out during the month entirely or mainly for refunding were: \$25,000,000 San Joaquin Light & Power Corp. unif. & ref. mtge. 5s, "D" 1957, of which \$22,725,000 was for refunding; \$25,000,000 North American Edison Co. deb. 5s, "A" 1957, of which \$20,710,000 was for refunding; \$10,500,000 Boston Consolidated Gas Co. deb. 5s 1947, of which \$10,000,000 was for refunding and \$9,500,000 Illinois Power & Light Corp. deb. 5½s 1957, the entire amount of which was for refunding. In December \$76,076,000, or nearly 18%, was for refunding, while in January last year \$68,706,575, or only slightly over 11%, was for the purpose of refunding existing securities.

The total of \$102,531,800 used for refunding in January this year comprised \$78,683,800 new-long-term to refund existing long-term; \$10,000,000 new long-term to replace existing stock; \$8,255,500 new stock to replace existing long-term and \$5,592,500 new stock to replace existing stock.

Foreign corporate issues sold in this country during January amounted to \$66,912,500 and comprised the following: Canadian: \$1,225,000 Campbell River Timber Co., Ltd., 1st mtge. 6s 1932-41, issued at par, and \$1,000,000 the Rowntree Co., Ltd., (Canada), 1st mtge. 6s 1937, also issued at par. Other foreign: \$25,000,000 the Batavian Petroleum Co., 15-year guar. deb. 4½s 1942, offered at 96¼, to yield 4.85%; \$10,000,000 International Power Securities Corp., secured 7s "E" 1957, offered at 96¾, yielding 7.30% and \$6,000,000 secured 7s "F" 1952, of the same company offered at 95½, yielding 7.40%; \$10,000,000 "Montecatini" Societa Generale per l'Industria Mineraria ed Agricola (Italy) deb. 7s 1937, brought out at 96½, yielding 7.50%; \$6,000,000 Lombard Electric Co. (Italy) 1st mtge. 7s "A" 1952, sold at 94, yielding 7.50%; \$6,000,000 United Electric Co. (Union Eserezi Elettrici) "Unes," Italy, 1st mtge. 7s "A" 1956, offered at 95½, yielding 7½%; \$1,100,000 Danish Export Credit Committee 4½% notes 1929-34, sold at prices ranging from 100 to 95.68 and yielding from 4.50% to 5.25% and 25,000 sub-shares of Carib Syndicate, Ltd., offered at \$23½ per sub-share, involving \$587,500.

As to the domestic offerings, the largest single corporate issue of the month was \$50,000,000 General Motors Acceptance Corp. deb. 6s, 1937, issued at par. Other important industrial offerings were as follows: \$35,000,000 Gulf Oil Corp. of Pa. deb. 5s, 1947, sold at par; \$15,000,000 Solvay American Investment Corp. secured 5s "A," 1942, sold at 99¾, yielding 5.02%; \$8,000,000 California Petroleum Corp. convertible deb. 5s, 1939, offered at 96½, yielding 5.40%; \$8,000,000 Porto Rican-American Tobacco Co. secured convertible 6s, 1942, brought out at 99, yielding 6.10%; \$7,500,000 General American Investors, Inc., deb. 5s "A," 1952, issued at par, and \$6,500,000 Two Park Avenue Building (N. Y. City) 1st mtge. fee 6s, 1941, offered at par.

The principal public utility offerings during January were as follows: \$30,000,000 Indianapolis Power & Light Co. (Indiana Corp.) 1st mtge. 5s "A," 1957, offered at 98, yielding 5.13%; \$12,000,000 of 6½% cum. pref. stock of the same company at 98, yielding 6.63%; \$27,500,000 The Narragansett Co. coll. tr. 5s "A," 1957, sold at 99, yielding 5.06%; \$25,000,000 San Joaquin Light & Power Corp. unif. & ref. mtge. 5s "D," 1957, offered at 98½, yielding 5.10%; \$25,000,000 North American Edison Co. deb. 5s "A," 1957, brought out at 98, yielding 5½%; 375,000 shares of Columbia Gas & Electric Co. common stock, offered at \$60 per share, involving \$22,500,000; \$15,000,000 Electric Bond & Share Co. 6% cum. pref. stock, sold at 107½, yielding 5.58%; \$15,000,000 Southern California Edison Co. ref. mtge. 5s, 1951, issued at 98½, yielding 5.10%; \$12,500,000 Southwestern Gas & Elec. Co. 1st mtge. 5s "A," 1957, to yield 5.25%; \$10,500,000 Boston Consolidated Gas Co. deb.

5s, 1947, offered at 103, to yield 4.76%, and \$9,500,000 Illinois Power & Light Corp. deb. 5½s, 1957, brought out at 96½, yielding 5.75%.

Railroad issues worthy of special mention comprised: \$4,136,000 Georgia & Florida RR. 1st mtge. 6s "A," 1946, offered at 98, yielding 6.17%, and \$3,000,000 Gulf Mobile & Northern RR. Co. 1st mtge. 5s "C," 1950, sold at 99¾, yielding 5.02%.

Seven separate foreign government loans were floated in this country during January. They totaled \$52,383,300 and were as follows: \$27,000,000 Government of the Argentine Nation 6% Sanitary Works loan, due 1961, offered at 98¼, yielding 6.10%; \$10,000,000 State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) ext. 7s, 1966, issued at 98, yielding 7.15%; \$6,500,000 Province of Mendoza (Argentine) ext. secured 7½s, 1951, brought out at 98¾, yielding 7.60%; \$5,000,000 Dominican Republic customs administration 5½s, 1940, sold at par; \$3,000,000 Municipality of Medellin (Colombia, S. A.) ext. secured 7s, 1951, offered at 93¼, 93¼, yielding 7.60%, and two small 8% internal issues of Republic of Chile, aggregating \$883,300, priced at \$121 per 1,000 pesos, yielding 8%.

Four farm loan issues aggregating \$24,250,000 came on the market in January, the yields on them ranging from 4.15% to 4.62%. Included in the month's business was an offering of \$20,000,000 Federal Land Bank 4½s, 1937-57 at 100¾, yielding 4.15%.

#### Offerings Which Do Not Represent New Financing by the Companies.

Offerings of various securities made during the month, which did not represent new financing, by the companies whose securities were offered and which therefore are not included in our totals, embraced the following: \$16,500,000 Victor Talking Machine Co. 7% cum. prior preference stock, offered at \$98 per share, yielding 7.14%; 95,000 shares of \$6 cum. convertible preferred stock of the same company offered at \$90 per share, yielding 6.66% and also 415,000 shares of the company's common stock, sold at \$38 per share, involving \$15,770,000; \$5,000,000 Cities Service Co. common stock, offered at prevailing market, to yield in cash and stock dividends over 8%; \$5,000,000 Seaboard Air Line Ry. ref. mtge. 4s, 1959, offered at 76¼, yielding 5.60%; 23,000 shares of the Curtis Publishing Co. \$7 cum. dividend preferred stock, sold at 117¼, yielding 6%; 60,000 shares of common stock of Mead, Johnson & Co. sold at \$39½ per share; \$1,500,000 National Public Service Corp. 7% preferred "A" issued at 96, yielding 7.29%; \$1,000,000 City of Paris (France) 6s, May 1 1930, sold at a price to yield 6.50%; \$1,000,000 Sharp & Dohme, Inc. (Baltimore) 7% cum. preferred stock, offered at 101, yielding 6.93% and \$775,000 (The) Georgian, Inc. (Boston) class "A" preference stock (par \$20) offered at \$21 per share.

The following is a complete summary of the new financing—corporate, State and city, foreign Government, as well as Farm Loan issues—for January. It should be noted that in the case of the corporate offerings we subdivide the figures so as to show the long-term and the short-term issues separately, and we also separate common stock from preferred stock.

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

1927.	New Capital.	Refunding.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$
MONTH OF JANUARY—			
Corporate—			
Domestic—Long term bonds and notes	335,694,200	88,683,800	424,378,000
Short term	10,821,000	—	10,821,000
Preferred stock	52,366,825	2,848,000	55,214,825
Common stocks	41,708,575	11,000,000	52,708,575
Canadian—Long term bonds and notes	2,225,000	—	2,225,000
Short term	—	—	—
Preferred stocks	—	—	—
Common stocks	—	—	—
Other For'n—Long term bonds & notes	64,100,000	—	64,100,000
Short term	—	—	—
Preferred stocks	—	—	—
Common stocks	587,500	—	587,500
Total corporate	507,503,100	102,531,800	610,034,900
Foreign Government	25,383,300	27,000,000	52,383,300
Farm Loan Issues	24,250,000	—	24,250,000
War Finance Corporation	—	—	—
Municipal	166,973,718	4,098,500	171,072,218
Canadian	17,950,000	—	17,950,000
United States Possessions	1,385,000	—	1,385,000
Grand Total	743,445,118	133,630,300	877,075,418

In the elaborate and comprehensive table on the succeeding page, we compare the foregoing figures for 1927 with the corresponding figures for the four years preceding, thus affording a five-year comparison. We also furnish a detailed analysis for the five years of the corporate offerings, showing separately the amounts for all the different classes of corporations.





DETAILS OF NEW CAPITAL FLOTATIONS DURING JANUARY 1927.

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

Table with columns: Amount, Purpose of Issue, Price, To Yield About, Company and Issue, and by Whom Offered. Rows include categories like Railroads, Public Utilities, Iron, Steel, Coal, Copper, &c., Oil, and Land, Buildings, &c.



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

Amount.	Purpose of Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue, and by Whom Offered.
\$			%	
750,000	Public Utilities— Acquisition; other corp. purposes..	100	6.00	General Power & Light Co., 1-Yr. 6s, Jan. 1 1928. Offered by True, Webber & Co. and R. E. Wilsey & Co., Chicago and Edmund Seymour & Co., Inc. and Throckmorton & Co., New York.
2,000,000	New construction.....	98½	5.54	Tide Water Power Co. 1st Lien & Ref. Mtge. 5s "C", Aug. 1 1929. Offered by Hemphill, Noyes & Co., E. H. Rollins & Sons, Coffin & Burr, Inc., Stroud & Co., Inc. and Otis & Co.
2,750,000				
2,000,000	Other Industrial and Mfg.— Retire floating debt; wkg. capital..	99	6.25	National Pol. & Treating Co. 5-Yr. 6s, Dec. 1 1931. Offered by Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc. and the Minnesota Loan & Tr. Co.
140,000	Land, Buildings, &c.— Finance construction of building..	100	6.00	Broadway & 15th Street Bldg. (Gary, Ind.) 1st Mtge. 6s, 1927-31. Offered by Central Trust Co. of Illinois, Chicago.
100,000	Provide funds for loan purposes..	---	5.75	Hibernia Mortgage Co., Inc. 1st Mtge. Coll. Tr. 6s "B", 1930-32. Offered by Hibernia Securities Co., Inc., New Orleans.
96,000	Provide funds for loan purposes..	---	5.00-7.00	Industrial Bank of Richmond Coll. Tr. 7s, 1927-30. Offered by Scott & Stringfellow.
370,000	Provide funds for loan purposes..	---	6.00	Mortgage Guarantee Co. of America 1st Mtge. 5½s, 1927-31. Offered by Peabody, Houghteling & Co., Inc.
115,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.50	Murphy Bldg. (Seattle) 1st Mtge. & Leasehold 6½s, 1932. Offered by Seattle Title Trust Co., Seattle, Wash.
200,000	Provide funds for loan purposes..	---	5.50-6.00	National Mortgage Insurance Co. Insured 1st Mtge. Certificates, 1927-31. Offered by Wright, Alexander & Greeley, San Francisco.
2,500,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	6.00	Nineteenth & Walnut Streets (Phila.) 1st Mtge. 6s, Jan. 1 1930. Offered by Relley, Brock & Co. and Stroud & Co., Inc., Philadelphia.
950,000	Real estate mortgage.....	100	5.00	107-123 West 93d Street (N. Y. City) 5% Guar. Mtge. Certificates, 1927-31. Offered by Lawyers Mortgage Co., New York.
850,000	Additions to property.....	Price on application	---	Seaside Hotel (Atlantic City, N. J.) 1st Mtge. 5½s, 1928-32. Offered by Mortgage Guarantee Co., Baltimore.
100,000	Provide funds for loan purposes..	100	7.00	Virginia Bond & Mortgage Corp. Coll. Tr. 7s "P", 1927-30. Offered by Wheat, Galleher & Co. and Virginia Bond & Mortgage Corp., Richmond, Va.
5,421,000				
400,000	Miscellaneous— Retire debt incurred in acquir. bus.	---	5.50-6.05	Post Publishing Co. (Bridgeport, Conn) 5½s, 1927-31. Offered by McEldowney & Co., Bridgeport, Conn.
250,000	Acquire constituent companies..	100.96-100	5-6	Yellow Cab Corp. of Minnesota 6s, 1928-32. Offered by Lane, Piper & Jaffray, Inc., Minneapolis.
650,000				

STOCKS.

Par or No. of Shares	Purpose of Issue.	Amount Involved.	Price per Share.	To Yield About.	Company and Issue, and by Whom Offered.
\$		\$		%	
500,000	Public Utilities— Capital expenditures.....	500,000	100	7.00	Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. common. Offered by company to stockholders.
*375,000 sh.	Refunding; other corp. purposes..	22,500,000	60	---	Columbia Gas & Electric Corp. (Del.) common. Offered by co. to stockholders.
*84,155 sh.	Extensions.....	2,945,425	35	---	Consolidated Gas, Electric Light & Power Co. of Baltimore common. Offered by company to stockholders.
15,000,000	General corporate purposes.....	15,000,000	107½	5.58	Electric Bond & Share Co. 6% cum. pref. Offered by Bonbright & Co., Inc.
*70,000 sh.	Capital expenditures.....	7,000,000	100	7.00	Florida Pr. & Lt. Co. \$7 div. cum. pref. Offered by Bonbright & Co., Inc.; Old Colony Corp.; W. C. Langley & Co.; J. G. White & Co., Inc. and Tucker, Anthony & Co.
12,000,000	Acquire constituent cos.....	12,000,000	98	6.63	Indianapolis Pr. & Lt. Co. (Indiana Corp.) 6½% cum. pref. Offered by Blair & Co., Inc.; H. M. Byllesby & Co., Inc.; Blyth, Witter & Co.; Pynchon & Co.; West & Co.; Federal Securities Corp.; John Nickerson & Co.; W. S. Hammon & Co.; A. B. Leach & Co., Inc. and Fletcher American Co.
200,000	General corporate purposes.....	200,000	100	7.00	Middle States Telephone Co. of Ill. 7% cum. pref. Offered by Thompson, Kent & Grace, Inc., Chicago.
2,000,000	Additions; working capital.....	2,000,000	96	7.29	National Public Service Corp. 7% cum. pref., series "A." Offered by Howe, Snow & Bertles, Inc.; Hornblower & Weeks; Stroud & Co., Inc.; Pearsons-Taft Co.; A. E. Fitkin & Co. and R. E. Wilsey & Co.
*185,000 sh.	General corporate purposes.....	5,550,000	30	---	New England Public Service Co. common. Offered by company to stockholders.
2,000,000	Acquisitions, extensions, &c.....	2,000,000	95	6.30	New York Water Service Corp. 6% cum. pref. Offered by Jahey & Co., Phila.
1,750,000	Capital expenditures.....	1,750,000	93½	6.41	Northern Indiana Public Service Co. 6% pref. Offered by Utility Securities Co.
5,286,500	Additions, extensions, &c.....	5,286,500	25 (par)	---	Pacific Gas & Electric Co. common. Offered by company to stockholders.
1,500,000	Additions, extensions, &c.....	1,500,000	99	7.07	Penn-Ohio Edison Co. 7% cum. prior pref. Offered by Bonbright & Co., Inc.; Eastman Dillon & Co.; Harper & Turner, and W. C. Langley & Co.
		78,231,925			
*90,000 sh.	Other Industrial & Mfg.— Acquire predecessor co.....	2,970,000	33	---	National Tile Co. common. Offered by Otis & Co. and Shelds & Co.
3,157,775	Aeq. control Congress Cigar Co.; working capital.....	4,736,650	1 sh. cl. A	For	Porto Rico-American Tobacco Co. 7% cum. class "A." Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten by Hornblower & Weeks, New York.
*63,155 sh.	Aeq. control Congress Cigar Co.; working capital.....	---	2 sh. cl. B	\$150	Porto Rico-American Tobacco Co. class "B" stock. Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten by Hornblower & Weeks, New York.
1,000,000	Additional capital.....	1,000,000	100	7.00	Rome (N. Y.) Co., Inc., 7% cum. pref. Offered by Mohawk Valley Investment Corp., Utica, N. Y.
*14,985 sh.	Devel. and expansion of business..	1,423,575	95	7.35	Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., Inc., \$7 div. cum. pref. Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten by Hemphill, Noyes & Co.
*30,000 sh.	Devel. and expansion of business..	1,500,000	50	---	Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., Inc., common stock. Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten by Hemphill, Noyes & Co.
		11,630,225			
*25,000 sh.	Oil— Retire debt to Texas Co.....	587,500	23½	---	Carib Syndicate, Ltd., sub-shares. Offered by company to stockholders; underwritten by Haystone Securities Corp., New York.
1,000,000	Land, Buildings, &c.— Acquisition of properties.....	1,000,000	97½	6.15	California Group Corp. 6% cum. pref. Offered by California Securities Co., Los Ang.
*200,000 sh.	Rubber— Expansion of business.....	2,000,000	10	---	Ajax Rubber Co., Inc., capital stock. Offered by co. to stockholders; underwritten.
3,000,000	Miscellaneous— Provide funds for investment purposes.....	4,920,000	1 share pref.	For	American Founders Trust 6% Cum. 1st pref. "D." Offered by American Founders Trust, New York and Boston, and associated dealers.
*60,000 sh.	Provide funds for investment purposes.....	---	1 share com.	\$82	American Founders Trust common stock. Offered by American Founders Trust, New York and Boston, and associated dealers.
*10,000 sh.	Provide funds for investment purposes.....	1,200,000	1 share pref.	For	Bankers Holding Trust, Inc., \$6 cum. pref. Offered by R. W. Evans & Co., Inc., and White & Blackwell, New York.
*20,000 sh.	Provide funds for investment purposes.....	---	2 shares com.	\$120	Bankers Holding Trust, Inc., common stock. Offered by R. W. Evans & Co., Inc., and White & Blackwell, New York.
*18,000 sh.	Enable executive of company to acquire stock control.....	675,000	37½	---	Barber & Ross, Inc., common. Offered by Pogue, Willard & Co., New York; Mackie, Hentz & Co., Philadelphia, and Crane, Parris, & Co., Washington, D. C.
1,000,000	Additions and extensions.....	1,000,000	100	7.00	(H. C.) Bohack Co. Inc. (Brooklyn, N. Y.) 7% cum. 1st pref. Offered by company.
*20,000 sh.	Acquisitions; working capital.....	550,000	27½	---	Coca-Cola Bottling Corp. class "A" stock. Offered by Merz & Back, Cincinnati, and N. S. Talbot Co., Dayton, Ohio.
325,000	Acquisitions.....	341,250	21	7.60	(The) Georgian, Inc. (Boston) class "A" preference cum \$1.60 per share. Offered by Richardson, Hill & Co.
5,000,000	Refunding; working capital.....	5,000,000	100	6.00	McCrory Stores Corp. 6% cum. conv. pref. Offered by Merrill, Lynch & Co. and Hemphill, Noyes & Co. subject to prior subscription rights of common and class "B" common stock.
*5,000 sh.	Acq. predecessor co.; wkg. capital.	125,000	25	---	Public Food Stores, Inc., class "A" common. Offered by Geo. D. Roberts & Co., Inc., San Francisco.
*50,000 sh.	Acquire C. A. Shaler Co.....	1,250,000	25	8.00	(The) Shaler Co. (Waupeen, Wis.) class "A" stock, cum. \$2 per share. Offered by the Quarles Co.; Morris F. Fox & Co., Milwaukee, and Wells-Dickey Co. and Harold E. Woods & Co., St. Paul.
		15,061,250			

FARM LOAN ISSUES.

Amount.	Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Offered by
\$			%	
500,000	Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank of Raleigh, N. C. 5s, 1936-56.....	103½	4.54	Harris, Forbes & Co. and Harris Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago.
20,000,000	Federal Land Bank 4½s, 1937-57.....	100¾	4.15	Alex. Brown & Sons, Harris, Forbes & Co., Brown Bros. & Co., Lee, Higginson & Co., National City Co. and Guaranty Co. of New York.
750,000	St. Louis Joint Stock Land Bank 5s, 1937-57	103½	4.55	Wm. R. Compton Co. and Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.
3,000,000	The San Antonio (Tex.) Joint Stock Land Bank 5s, 1937-57.....	103	4.62	Hayden, Stone & Co., Halsey, Sutart & Co., Inc., Stevenson, Perry, Stacey & Co. and Wm. R. Compton Co.
24,250,000				

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LOANS.

Amount.	Issue.	Price.	To Yield About.	Offered by
\$			%	
27,000,000	Government of the Argentine Nation 6% Sanitary Works Loan, due 1961	98½	6.10	J. P. Morgan & Co. and National City Co.
556,600	4,600,000 Pesos Republic of Chile (Mapocho River Canalization Second Series) 8s, to be amortized within five years from Jan. 1 1927.	\$121 per 1,000 pesos	8.00	Paine, Webber & Co.
326,700	2,700,000 Pesos Republic of Chile (Talcahuano Naval Station) 8s, to be amortized before 1949.	\$121 per 1,000 pesos	8.00	Paine, Webber & Co.
5,000,000	Dominican Republic 14-Yr. Customs Administration 5½s, 1940.	100	5.50	Lee, Higginson & Co., National City Co., Dillon, Read & Co., Brown Bros. & Co. and Alex Brown & Sons.
3,000,000	Municipality of Medellin (Colombia, S. A.) 8s, E. T. 7 1951.	93½	7.60	Halgarten & Co., Kissel, Kinnelcutt & Co. and Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.
6,500,000	Province of Mendoza (Argentine) Sec. Ext. 7½s, 1951.	98½	7.60	P. W. Chapman & Co., Inc. and A. M. Lamport & Co., Inc.
10,000,000	State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) Ext. 7s, 1966.	98	7.15	Lee, Higginson & Co. and Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.
52,383,300				

\* Shares of no par value.  
 a Preferred stocks of a stated par value are taken at par while preferred stocks of no par value and all classes of common stocks are computed at their offering prices.

**Japanese Government Accepts Invitation of President Coolidge to Participate in Conference on Naval Limitation.**

(Concluded from page 1125.)

for the institution among the five Powers negotiations looking to such desirable end." It adds that it "will be happy to take part in those negotiations through their representatives invested with full powers to negotiate and to conclude an agreement on the subject."

In only one respect it is noted in the New York "Times" does the Japanese communication indicate any reservation from the considerations offered by President Coolidge as reasons for a separate conference of the five leading naval Powers.

The "Times" further observes:

A paragraph in the comparatively brief Japanese note intimates that Japan might be inclined to object to a continuance of the 5-5-3 ratio of naval strength which was adopted at the Washington armament conference with reference to capital ships and airplane carriers, with Japan in the lowest proportion.

This attitude of Japan was expected. President Coolidge, however, while his proposal to the naval powers suggested that the 5-5-3 ratio be extended to other classes of warships, was careful to indicate that this expression of American desire was merely tentative. The Japanese note accepts it in that spirit and mentions its gratification over learning that it is not the intention of the United States to put forward rigid proposals on ratios of naval strength.

Altogether the Japanese response to the President's proposal is most satisfactory to the Administration, and it brought expressions of gratification from officials. It was taken as emphasizing the warm co-operation that has existed between the two governments since the Washington Conference of 1921-22, and as a proof of common aims dominated by a sincere desire to further the preservation of the peace of the world.

Announcing the inability of the Japanese representatives to assist at the negotiations should the meeting be held simultaneously with or immediately after the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission scheduled to be opened on March 21 next, the Japanese Government expresses the desire that the meeting take place not earlier than June 1. The Japanese note was handed to Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State, at the State Department at Washington by Tsuneo Matsudaira, the Japanese Ambassador, on Feb. 19 and its text was made public as follows:

The Japanese Government have given careful consideration to the memorandum of the American Embassy at Tokio, dated Feb. 10, defining the attitude of the United States on the general problem of disarmament and suggesting that the representatives of the five Powers signatories of the Washington Naval Treaty, about to participate in the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference at Geneva shall be empowered to negotiate and to conclude an agreement among those five Powers for the limitation of armament in the classes of naval vessels not covered by the Washington treaty.

The Japanese Government fully share with the American Government the views expressed in that memorandum on the desirability of an agreement calculated to complete the work of the Washington Conference for the prevention of competitive naval building. They cordially welcome the initiative taken by the American Government for the institution among the five Powers of negotiations looking to such desirable end. They will be happy to take part in those negotiations through their representatives invested with full powers to negotiate and to conclude an agreement on the subject.

In view, however, of the supreme importance of the problem to be discussed and determined, the Japanese Government finds it essential that at least a part of the Japanese delegation shall be specially sent from Tokio. Considering the length of time required for the necessary preparations, as well as for the journey from Tokio to Geneva, it will obviously be impossible for the Japanese representatives to assist at the negotiations should that meeting be held simultaneously with or immediately after the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission scheduled to be opened on March 21 next. Accordingly, the Japanese Government desire that the meeting of the Powers signatories of the Washington Naval Treaty now suggested should take place on a date not earlier than June 1.

The Japanese Government are further gratified to learn that it is not the intention of the American Government at this time to put forward rigid proposals on the ratios of naval strength to be maintained by the several Powers in the classes of vessels not covered by the Washington Treaty. In order to insure the success of the proposed negotiations it seems highly important that in the matter of these conditions of the limitation of armament all parties to the negotiations should approach the subject with an open mind, being always guided by the spirit of mutual accommodation and helpfulness, consistently with the defensive requirements of each nation. The Japanese Government confidently hope that an adjustment will be reached in a manner fair and satisfactory to each of the participating Powers and conducive to the general peace and security of the world.

In indicating that it had been urged that Japan proceed with its naval construction plans despite the proposed conference, an Associated Press cablegram from Tokio published in the New York "Times" said:

Premier Wakatsuki told the House of Peers to-day that naval construction should proceed in Japan, notwithstanding the government's decision to participate in the naval disarmament conference proposed by President Coolidge. The Premier urged the Peers to pass the naval construction bill because, he said, it was impossible to foretell the result of the conference of world Powers.

The Cabinet discussed the wording of its acceptance of President Coolidge's invitation to the conference, but decided that further discussion was necessary to frame its reply. The memorandum is expected to be forwarded either this week or early next week.

The reply, it is generally understood, will contain no reservations, the Cabinet having so insisted.

Although it is known that the navy staff desired a clause in the acceptance stating Japan's attitude concerning the 5-5-3 ratio of capital ships tonnage, Minister of the Navy Takarabe is said to have voted with the others of the Cabinet. He insisted, however, that the navy's present construction program was necessary for defensive purposes.

Takarabe, interpellator in the upper house of the Diet, asserted that the present strength of the navy was at its lowest possible level, and therefore there could be no further reduction.

The Minister regarded the Coolidge proposal as an extension of the Washington conference of 1922, but he did not believe it possible under changed conditions to fix a ratio of 5-5-3, or even 5-5-4, for auxiliary naval craft, because some countries needed more auxiliaries than others for purposes of defense.

Baron Sakatani suggested to Foreign Minister Shidehara in the House of Peers that world disarmament could be best solved by America joining the League of Nations, instead of promoting a conference for disarmament. He also expressed the opinion that Japan should exchange views with the United States and Great Britain concerning the development of the naval bases at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Singapore, Straits Settlement, respectively American and British projects.

The Foreign Minister, ignoring the suggestion concerning Pearl Harbor and Singapore, said that he hoped that the United States would join the League in order to assure the peace of the world. But, he added, there seemed little hope at present that the United States would join the League and that Japan had no intention of attempting to persuade America to change her attitude in regard to the League.

**Study of Southern Credit Situation Begun by Bureau of Agricultural Economics.**

A study among Southern farmers to determine the amounts and kinds of credit available for cotton and other crops has been started by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, according to a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture Feb. 15. This statement says:

David L. Wickens and Arthur N. Moore, recent appointees, have left Washington to establish the ground-work for the study in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Oklahoma. The survey will be extended later to other Southern States.

A questionnaire has been sent to 40,000 Southern farmers requesting a confidential accounting of the 1926 financial and credit program. Approximately 4,500 schedules, already returned, are being tabulated. The objectives of the study, as enumerated by Bureau officials, are to determine the credit requirements for sound and practicable production programs in the cotton belt; the ability of existing credit agencies to finance such programs where reasonable security for the needed credit is available; and the extent to which farmers are in position to offer reasonably ample security for the credit necessary to enable them to adjust their farming operations to a more profitable basis.

For localities where the credit supply fails to meet legitimate credit needs of farmers on fair and suitable terms, a determination will be made as to how existing credit agencies can be assisted or supplemented; also a determination as to how or to what extent, by individual or concerted action, the security or general credit capacity of the farmers may be best utilized or improved.

Intensive studies of the credit requirements of individual farmers are to be made in selected areas considered typical of larger districts, every farmer, so far as possible, being interviewed and the information obtained recorded. All banks, credit corporations, storekeepers, cotton merchants, fertilizer and implement dealers in these areas will be interviewed to check and supplement the data obtained from farmers.

RECORD OF PRICES ON THE CLEVELAND STOCK EXCHANGE.

On this and the following page we furnish a complete record of the high and low prices for both stocks and bonds made on the Cleveland Stock Exchange for each month of the last two years. The compilation is the work of the Cleveland Exchange itself and is, of course, based on actual sales, and covers these and nothing else.

MONTHLY RANGE OF PRICES ON CLEVELAND STOCK EXCHANGE FOR 1926.

Table with columns for months (January to December) and rows for various stock categories (BANKS, MISCELLANEOUS, etc.) showing high and low prices.

\* No par value.

MONTHLY RANGE OF PRICES ON CLEVELAND STOCK EXCHANGE FOR 1926 (Concluded).

Table with columns for months (January to December) and sub-columns for High and Low prices. Rows list various stocks such as Richman Bros, River Raisin Paper, Sandusky Cement, etc.

MONTHLY RANGE OF PRICES ON CLEVELAND STOCK EXCHANGE FOR 1926

Table with columns for months (January to December) and sub-columns for High and Low prices. Rows list various categories including BANKS, TRACTION COMPANIES, INDUSTRIALS, and various stock names like Central National Bank, Cleveland Trust Co, etc.

\* No par value.

MONTHLY RANGE OF PRICES ON CLEVELAND STOCK EXCHANGE FOR 1925 (Concluded).

Table with columns for months (January to December) and rows for various stock categories (INDUSTRIALS, BONDS). Each cell contains high and low price values for that month.

\* No par value.

Retrospect and Prospect Both Bright in Ohio.

By COL. LEONARD P. AYRES, Vice-President Cleveland Trust Company.

Hard gray steel, and soft gray tires, and glistening automobiles form the industrial trio on which prosperity rests in the Cleveland district.

The iron and steel industry has closed a profitable year, and begun a new one with mills operating at better than 80% of capacity, and with steadily growing schedules of production.

The automobile industry broke all previous records for production last year, and it now seems rather improbable that it can exceed those figures in 1927, but nevertheless the prospects appear good.

The tire companies are looking forward with unusual confidence. Last year they were still suffering the penalties imposed by the rapid advances and subsequent declines in the prices of crude rubber.





HIGH, LOW AND CLOSING PRICES ON CINCINNATI STK. EXCH. FOR 1926, 1925, 1924 AND 1923 (Concluded).

Table with columns for 'LISTED SECURITIES (Concluded)', 'Calendar Year 1926', 'Calendar Year 1925', 'Calendar Year 1924', and 'Calendar Year 1923'. Each column contains 'High', 'Low', and 'Close' price data for various stocks.

\* Old Stock.

The volume of business as represented in dollars and cents on the Exchange during the first year of its existence 42 years ago, amounted to \$1,000,000, while the figures for 1926 show that the Exchange was a clearing house for approximately \$100,000,000 worth of securities.

The growth in the wealth of the people of Greater Cincinnati is due, in no small measure, to the wide distribution of listed corporate securities among the public. In the progress of that distribution, by providing an open market where the public, through its brokers, is free to buy and sell under conditions of perfect equality, the Cincinnati Stock Exchange has played an important and indispensable part in the "building up" of the wealth in this community.

The majority of the listed securities during the year 1926 showed appreciation in market value, and trading has been of a very diversified character, with 118 separate issues of securities trading in it during the year; thereby outstripping that of any single year in the history of the organization.

The records show that 72 of the 118 various issues of securities traded in during the year were higher in prices than those that prevailed at the close of 1925. The year 1926 started with total shares traded in for the first six months exceptionally larger than the first six months of 1925. During the third quarter of 1926 there was a slight recession in the volume of shares traded in as contrasted with the third quarter of 1925. The market, however, during the last quarter of 1926 took on new life, and especially during the closing month of the year.

While the number of shares traded in during 1926 was not quite as large as in 1925, they were twice those of 1924. The number of individual transactions and small or odd lot purchases, during 1926, however, surpassed that of 1925 by a large margin. A greater amount of money, though, was involved in the shares traded in during 1926 than 1925, because of the materially higher prices that prevailed in

1926. A number of standard stocks also attained new highs, while other recorded rather spectacular rises.

Through the ever-increasing strict enforcement of the rules requiring corporations to furnish complete and detailed reports, greater safeguards are assured the investing public. The Cincinnati Stock Exchange is rapidly becoming an instrument for the prevention of losses growing out of inadequate information.

All previous year records were also broken for new listings on the Exchange during 1926. There were 15 corporations that listed their securities on the Exchange, or a total of 27 new listings during the past two years.

The new securities listed during 1926 aggregated 567,498 shares of common stock, having a market value of more than \$13,000,000; and 166,863 shares of pref. stk., having a market value of close to \$10,000,000, as well as \$1,500,000 of notes.

Among the securities listed during the year 1926 were 40,000 shares of no par American Products Co. preference stock; 107,900 shares of no par value and 32,808 shares of \$50 par value of American Thermos Bottle Co.; 234,916 shares of no par Cincinnati Car Co.; 3,200 shares of \$50 par value Dixie Ice Cream Co. common; 15,000 shares of no par Giant Tire Co. common; 100,000 shares of no par Jaeger Machine Co. common; 12,500 shares of \$100 par value first preferred, and 12,500 shares of \$40 par value participating of E. Kahn Son's Co.; 5,000 shares of \$100 par value Lake Shore Power Co. preferred; 2,076 shares of \$100 par value Mead Pulp & Paper Co. preferred; 35,000 shares of no par common and 15,870 shares of \$100 par value preferred of Seaboard Oil Co.; 4,891 shares of \$100 par value common and 9,138 shares of \$100 par value preferred and 1,471 shares of \$100 par value preferred and \$1,500,000 three-year 6% notes of the Schacht Motor Truck Co. and 197,500 shares of no par common stock of Hobart Manufacturing Co. and 4,000 shares of \$100 par value of Pearl-Market Bank.

RECORD OF PRICES ON TOLEDO STOCKS FOR 1926.

There is no Stock Exchange in Toledo, but we have obtained from Bell & Beckwith the following list of high and low prices for the calendar year 1926 on the stocks which are traded in more or less actively in the Toledo market. Important Toledo stocks, such as Owens Bottle, common, National Supply common and preferred, Willys-Overland common and preferred, and Electric Auto Lite are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and appear in our records regularly for the New York market. Libbey Owens Sheet Glass common is traded on the New York Curb, and appears in our regular records for that Exchange.

STOCKS	High.	Low.	BANK STOCKS.	Bid Dec. 31 1926.	Bid Dec. 31 1925.
Fifty Associates	102 Sept	100 Feb	First National Bank	350	330
Preferred	103 Dec	100 3/4 April	American Bank	125	125
Haughton Elevator, Preferred	97 1/2 Dec	97 1/2 Dec	aCity Savings Bank	130	130
Harris Automatic Press	34 Mar	30 Dec	Commerce-Guardian Trust & Savings	195	185
Harbauer Company	24 1/2 Jan	12 1/2 Nov	Commercial Savings Bank & Trust Co.	340	300
Lasalle & Koch, Preferred	110 Jan	105 April	Dime Savings Bank	275	275
Larowe Milling, Common (Old)	118 Jan	111 Mar	Home Bank & Trust Company	150	156
Common (New)	28 April	22 1/2 Nov	bOhio Savings Bank & Trust Company	400	330
Preferred	106 Dec	106 Dec	cPeoples Bank & Trust Company	150	150
Woolson Spice Co., Preferred	100 April	97 1/2 April	dSecurity Savings Bank & Trust Company	250	230
Libbey Owens, Preferred	117 June	114 1/2 Jan	eSpitzer-Rorich Trust & Savings Bank	220	320
Owens Bottle, Preferred	116 Oct	113 Mar	fToledo Trust Company	190	170
U. S. Sheet & Window Glass, Preferred	122 Mar	114 Dec	Union Trust & Savings Bank	250	250
Common	65	50			
Toledo Scale Co., 7% Preferred	110 Dec	104 Aug			
Toledo Edison, 8% Preferred	117 May	114 Feb			
<b>BONDS.</b>					
Secor Hotel 6 1/2s, 1932	100	97 1/2			
Toledo Gas, Electric & Heating 5s, 1935	102	100			
Commonwealth Building 6s, 1938	Retired				
Scott Realty 6s, Serial	101	100			
Waldorf Realty 6s, Serial	101	100			

Owens Bottle, Preferred.—50% of this issue has been called for payment at 115 and accrued dividends, on April 1 1927.  
Larowe Milling, Common (Old Stock), was exchanged on the basis of four for one in March 1926. No par value for new stock in 1926.

a Paid initial dividend of 1 1/2% Dec. 31 1926.  
b Paid extra dividend of 4% Jan. 1 1926.  
c Formerly People's State Savings Bank.  
d Consolidation of Merchants S. B. & Tr. Co. and Security S. B. & Tr. Co. into the Security S. B. & Tr. Co., Jan. 1 1926. Capital increased from \$600,000 to \$749,600 as of July 15 1926 and \$800,000 Dec. 31 1926.  
e Capital increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000 Jan. 1 1926.  
f Paid extra dividend of 1% Jan. 1 1926 and 2% extra dividend Dec. 31 1926.

A unique record was made during the year 1926, with only two listed corporations passing their dividends. On the other hand, a number of non-dividend paying securities were placed on a dividend basis; several companies resumed the payment of dividends and extra cash and stock dividend distributions to shareholders were also numerous.

With the increased growth in the activities of the Cincinnati Stock Exchange the membership also increased. Additional members were admitted during the year, bringing the total membership to 47. A new high peak for seats on the Exchange was also reached during the year, with the last two seats selling for \$10,000 each. Seats in the early days sold for as little as \$100.

Besides affording a valuable protection to the holders of securities and directing the flow of capital, the Exchange serves the further useful purpose of discounting the trend of business. There is much in the present situation that

inspires confidence for the new year. It is a little premature to determine at this writing as to what the exact figures of earnings will be of corporations whose securities are listed. While earnings in a few instances may be shaded for the last quarter of 1926, there is, however, every indication, as a whole, that earnings will be considerably larger in 1926 than they were in 1925.

COMPARATIVE RECORD.—CINCINNATI STOCK EXCHANGE.

Monthly Sales.	1926.	1925.	1924.
January	88,226	73,246	52,557
February	76,732	68,721	45,024
March	86,684	67,095	23,372
April	47,232	52,299	28,429
May	36,397	85,580	23,660
June	41,449	57,395	28,323
July	60,979	61,150	36,218
August	43,337	63,200	37,158
September	35,133	98,912	27,836
October	48,270	107,550	36,373
November	48,311	73,130	67,140
December	52,550	65,225	79,650
Total	665,350	873,506	488,740

Indications of Business Activity

THE STATE OF TRADE—COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

Friday Night, Feb. 25 1927.

Trade in general is slow. Judging from present appearances the hopeful thing is the promise of an early spring. Everywhere the temperatures have been mild. In New York they have been as high as 56 degrees. But wholesale trade in the meantime is not satisfactory. For the most part it is in small lots to supply immediate needs. Retail trade is also slow, with the roads at the West in bad condition as a result of the relatively high temperatures and with the frost out of the ground in the Central West. Crude oil prices have been cut 15 to 25 cents or more with production unprecedentedly large and the demand none too active. Wheat and other grain have declined, with export trade in wheat as a rule only moderate and world's supplies ample for the present demand. Farmers evidently hold large supplies of wheat and Southwestern receipts have been on a liberal scale. The outlook for the winter wheat crop seems to be favorable and the world's shipments are very large and may soon prove more or less of a burden on European markets. Corn has declined as the country has sold freely and mild weather threatens to curtail feeding demand, while Indiana and Ohio offer cash corn at low prices.

With the weather unusually warm for this time of the year, the planting of corn has begun in Texas and winter wheat there is looking well. Some cotton has been planted in the far south of Texas. Rye has been in some demand for export at lower prices. Oats are down nearly to the lowest prices on the crop; seeding has already begun in the South and will be general in Kansas next week. The great event to-day in grain markets was naturally the vetoing of the McNary-Haugen bill by the President. The step had been discounted and prices advanced sharply. Govern-

ment restrictions on individual trading in wheat at Chicago seem likely to be rescinded except in cases of flagrant manipulation. Cotton has made a small net advance to the highest prices seen since Oct. 1 under the spur of an excellent demand for the actual cotton at the South and in Liverpool. At the South daily sales have been treble those of a year ago, and in Liverpool there has been the extraordinary record of sales of 18,000 bales day after day. Moreover, Manchester has been more active. The vetoing of the McNary-Haugen bill at first caused a small decline in cotton here to-day, but later came an advance. It was recognized that it opens the way for some decrease in the acreage as the signing of the bill would not. There is a good business in some descriptions of finished cotton goods, notably washed fabrics. Woolen and worsted suitings are 2 1/2 to 5 cents a yard higher for the fall season, as compared with spring prices, but about 8% below those of a year ago. There is not much snap to the business in woolen goods. Cottons make a better showing. Rayon goods are active. Broad silks are in better demand for the spring and summer trade. Rubber has advanced with something of a squeeze in February in the middle of the week and London of late rising. Automobile production, though smaller than a year ago, has latterly been increasing. Building favored by mild weather shows more activity. The lumber output is large. The output of bituminous coal is also greater than a year ago. Whether there is to be a soft coal strike is still uncertain; not a few expect it. Dairy products are lower, and prices of eggs at some points are the lowest for 15 years. In some sections of the East jewelry business this month has been good; in others not so good. There is a fair business in furniture. The leather trade is slow. There is a large output of rubber tires. Steel is reported rather more active,

ut declines in prices have not ceased. Pig iron as a rule has shown no change in price, but some business in Buffalo is reported at as low as \$16 50. Foundry coke is higher. The pig iron tariff has been advanced 50%; not that it will keep out foreign iron, but it seems to be a sop to Cerberus. Coffee has risen in an evidently oversold market, and Brazilian prices were higher to-day. Sugar has advanced with a larger business for prompt delivery, while futures are also higher, though early in the week they were lower with rather heavy notices, amounting on Monday to 161. But refiners bought heavily later in the week. Wool has been in only moderate demand, but Australian sales have shown fair results.

For several years past it has been apparent that new ways of doing business were in use in this country, namely a tendency to buy from hand-to-mouth. At the West the opinion is that this is likely to continue. Rapidity of transportation is one cause. The dealer is not obliged to carry large stocks and lock up considerable sums of money in the fear of slowness of delivery at a time when he may need the goods. In some branches of trade there are also frequent changes of style. There is also a fear of falling prices. One effect is to inculcate among retailers the necessity of a rapid turnover. Distribution costs are lessened speculation is reduced, and failures are obviated in times of dulness of trade. One noticeable result, however, is to shift the burden of financing to manufacturers. They in turn will have to consu t their market and not over-produce. In short the hand-to-mouth buying in this country to all appearance has come to stay unless there should be a remarkable period of trade expansion of which there are at present no signs.

Stocks of late have been in the main firm, despite occasional setbacks and new high levels have been reached on various shares, regardless of the fact that money has latterly risen to 5%. The sharp rise in General Motors has attracted attention among merchants. And the size of the trading on the New York Stock Exchange is remarkable, generally being above 2,000,000 shares. A year ago they were also on a very large scale, approximating 2,500,000 shares. Small wonder that money rates have advanced of late. In Wall Street the vetoing of the McNary-Haugen bill attracted comparatively little attention, but it had been regarded as a foregone conclusion. The general effect of the action was beneficial. Farm products generally advanced. The situation in China and Nicaragua has caused more or less comment. The coming crisis in China cannot be regarded with indifference, but it would be easy to magnify the significance of the sending of the warship to Nicaraguan waters by the British Government, even if it jars a little on American sensibilities. The United States Government will, naturally, see to it that the nationals of all countries are protected in Nicaragua just as it will firmly maintain American rights in China. Bonds were more active to-day, and the excellent demand for such securities for some time past is one of the signs of the times. London to-day was rather weak, with some stress on the success of the Socialists at an election. The vigorous arraignment of Russia and its machinations against other nations by Austin Chamberlain during the past week has very evidently stirred England and roused criticism there, though not many people will doubt that Mr. Chamberlain was perfectly right.

At Providence, R. I., the Warren Manufacturing Co. is having so good a business as to call for a night shift. For several months past the plant has run at 100% capacity with 1100 workers. It is a sign of the changing times that the Pacific Mills will extend its activities to the production of novelty wash goods of silk and cotton, rayon and cotton and sheer cotton fabrics. The stockholders of the Everett Mills after discussing the recommendation that \$700,000 new capital be raised, voted to refer the matter back to the directors for further consideration, and adjourned for a month. Treasurer McDuffie urges the mills be kept going as cotton prices are on a more stable as well as decidedly lower level and the mills are well located in Lawrence and are thoroughly up to date. The outlook is the best for some months, and more orders are coming in. Charlotte, N. C., wired that Gaston County mills within the past two weeks have booked orders for 3,100,000 pounds of yarns, and the mills are generally sold ahead for 10 weeks. Prices advanced ½ to 4c. as spinners were unable to secure staple cotton except at higher prices. Carded yarn business was also reported large, although no figures were given. The price trend is still upward. Greenville, S. C., reports that an increase of night operations among the textile plants of the Piedmont section seems likely. The American Spinning Co. is now operating

about 25% of its equipment at night. The activity in rayon textiles is reacting favorably on cotton mills in the form of more frequent orders, especially for fancy decorated fabrics.

In a 60 to 80 mile gale accompanying a hail and snow storm great damage was done in New York and New Jersey on the 20th inst. It lasted 36 hours. Sea-shore resorts were flooded; at Coney Island the seas advanced more than a block inland; at Rockaway and Far Rockaway 450 ft. At Long Beach bungalows were swept away; railroad tracks were submerged. At the Battery a big tide flooded cellars. The Newark Meadows were flooded, threatening railroad travel. Staten Island was hard hit. The waves on some parts of Long Island and New Jersey coasts were 30 to 40 ft. high. Two thousand persons were driven from their homes and communities. Police, firemen and civilians rescued many persons. There was a 70 mile gale on the New England Coast and eight coast guards were lost as a patrol boat broke up. The storm ceased Sunday morning. The snow fall here was not heavy but with hail it made travel dangerous. In Pennsylvania and Ohio the fall was reported as 10 inches. The storm was general on the Coast from South Carolina to Maine and South Carolina had very heavy rains. It was pronounced the worst Atlantic gale in 20 years, causing many deaths and injuries. Property damage it was estimated will amount to millions especially at the beach resorts. Many ocean steamers were delayed. Eight thousand men cleared the streets here.

Of late the weather has been very mild and springlike. On the 24th inst. it was up to 56 degrees here; to-day it was 45. Chicago of late has had 52 degrees, Cincinnati 60, Cleveland 50, Milwaukee 48, Kansas City and Philadelphia 60, New Orleans 80, St. Paul 80. The prediction here is for rain and somewhat colder to-night and fair and colder on Saturday.

#### Colonel Leonard P. Ayres of Cleveland Trust Co. on Business Conditions—Contest Between Unfavorable Conditions and Stimulating Influence of Ample Credit Supply.

In depicting business conditions Colonel Leonard P. Ayres, Vice-President of the Cleveland Trust Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, in the company's "Bulletin" issued under date of Feb. 15, says:

A contest has been under way so far in 1927 between unfavorable conditions tending to restrict general business activity, and the stimulating influences of an easy and ample credit supply tending to support trade and industry. It seems probable that the outcome will be decided in this month of February, and that it will constitute one more demonstration of the potency of an ample credit supply to sustain prosperity.

The unfavorable conditions evident a month ago were rather numerous and fairly serious. The output of automobiles in December had fallen to a point lower than any reached in December since the closing month of the depression year of 1921. The January figures were better, but not at all good. Building construction has slowed down, and important authorities in the industry have issued warnings against overbuilding. Iron and steel production had declined in December so far that mills were operating at only about 79% of capacity. Moreover, the prices of their products were weakening. Agriculture was hard hit by over-production and falling prices. Stock market prices declined during most of January, and the insolvency record of the month was the highest since 1922.

While all these depressing factors were coming into evidence it became apparent in January and February that there is now in this country an unprecedented great amount of money seeking investment. The prices of bonds, preferred stocks, and investment common stocks have been rising strongly, and the volume of bond trading has risen to exceptionally large proportions. Short-time interest rates have steadily declined. These developments will probably prove to be the fore-runners of new advances in the activity of general business. Some of the recent new bond issues are for refunding purposes, but many of them are for the purpose of securing funds with which to expand industrial and public utility facilities, and to construct municipal improvements. Much of the activity in the bond market now will have its effect in providing increased employment a little later on.

In the stock market prices have moved up and down in short waves without making real progress in either direction. Nevertheless, the fundamental trend for common stock prices appears to be in reality a rising one. In the market as a whole the increases in dollar dividends week by week are greater and more numerous than the decreases, and at the same time the trend of bond prices is a rising one. If these conditions continue, as they promise to, they will before long result in stock prices seeking higher levels. This might not happen in the near future if developments in the automobile and building industries should keep on being unfavorable, but if they show marked improvement soon the only important obstacles to a stock market advance would appear to be out of the way.

It was a month of vacillating stock price changes during which quotations alternately advanced and declined in relatively short movements, and without finally getting far in either direction. It was a month, too, during which the market was pretty consistently under professional control. The 138 hourly records show that the price movement changed its direction no less than 73 times, but most of these changes were mere ripples on the surface of some 16 larger movements of one, two, or three days' duration.

#### January Building Operations Smaller According to S. W. Straus & Co.

That building operations throughout the country are now on a definite downward trend was again indicated in the building permit reports of 467 cities submitted to S. W. Straus & Co. for January. These places showed a loss of







large mine employing over 800 men which was opened up in October was again closed in January. Present indications are that other mines may follow this example within the next few weeks.

Unemployment will certainly be relieved to some extent when warmer weather arrives, permitting greater activity in farming and construction work. Increased activities in these lines may be sufficient to turn the present tendency in manufacturing upward.

For the third successive month the metal, machinery and conveyances firms showed a decline in employment, the decrease of 2% recorded this month being larger than that of either November or December. An even larger decrease for the group was averted by substantial additions in the sheet metal work and hardware industries, where a rise of 4% occurred. Can companies were responsible for a good share of these gains. Cars and locomotives, an industry which has shown decreased employment in every month since July, has apparently reached a turning point, January registering a gain of 1.2%. The industry is still slightly below its stage of activity in January 1926, however. The decline in automobiles and accessories continues but with less severity, amounting this month to 4.5% as opposed to 12.2% last month. The instrument and appliance industry, which was the only one to show an increase in December, suffered a substantial drop of 8.4% in January, which places employment 18% below the level of January 1926.

Another sharp drop occurred in the number of men employed in the manufacture of stone, clay and glass products. For the second successive month the group registers the heaviest decline of any of the nine major groups. The decline of 7.1% in January places employment in the industry 3.9% lower than in January 1926. Losses were registered in all industries, the most severe being those in miscellaneous minerals. Some variation appears, however, in the rate of change. Brick, tile and pottery firms showed a much greater decline in January than in December, while in the lime, cement and plaster classification the decrease was only 1.2% compared to a loss of 5.6% in December.

Another substantial decline occurred in the wood products group, amounting to 5% from December to January. Employment in this group thus reaches a level 9.2% below that of November. The decreases are larger than in December in all industries of the group but one—household furnishings—and here the December decline of 12.4% is supplanted by a rise of one-half of one per cent in January. Saw mills and planing mills and firms manufacturing miscellaneous wood products made the heaviest cuts during the month. January employment is 5.2% below that of January 1926.

Firms in the fur and leather goods group continued the expansion begun in December by adding during January 1.4% as many workers as were employed in the former month. Within the group two industries showed moderate advances and two rather large percentage declines. The leather, and boot and shoe firms bulk large in the total employment of the group, however, and since the increases occurred in those industries the whole group registered an advance. The approaching Spring brought another sharp decline of 29.2% in furs and fur goods. Employment in the group as a whole was 1.4% below January 1926.

Chemicals, oils and paints was one of the groups of industries to show an advance. The increase of 1.9% was the largest exhibited by any one of the five major groupings that registered increases. This group, furthermore, was the only one in which each separate industry showed an advance. Most marked increases were among firms manufacturing drugs and chemicals. The advance of 4.8% in this industry more than offset the December loss of 2%.

Employment among the printing and paper goods firms of Illinois held almost level in January, with a gain of only one-tenth of 1% over the previous month. Job printing was the only one of the five industries in the group to show a gain, but the size of this industry brought a net gain to the whole group. Edition bookbinding lost 4.4%, which, with a 7% loss in December, leaves the industry well below its pre-holiday status. Miscellaneous paper goods also showed a loss of 2.7%, which nearly offset last month's gain of 2.8%.

The textile industry in January resumed the steady upward trend in employment which has continued since last June except for the December decrease of 3.7%. The January gain was only two-tenths of 1%, however, so that further recovery must occur to put the group on as favorable a basis as it enjoyed last Fall. Knit goods and hosiery, and thread and twine, which were responsible for the December decline in this group, both recovered ground, while the cotton and woolen goods industry showed a decline of three-tenths of one per cent.

Five of the eight industries represented in the clothing group showed increases from December to January. Outstanding among these were women's clothing and women's hats, where there were increases of 11.8% and 9.6% respectively. These increases appear to be more than seasonal because women's clothing employment now stands 21% higher than a year ago and women's hats is seven and nine-tenths per cent higher, while in the clothing group as a whole employment is 6.3% less than January 1926. On the basis of a 1922 average the index number for January in clothing is only 68.4%. An important decrease occurred in men's furnishings, as was the case in December. For the group as a whole there was an increase of eight-tenths of 1% in January over December.

January showed a continuation of the decline in food beverages and tobacco which began in October. The decrease of 3.3% was also considerably larger than that which occurred in December. However, there were only two industries that escaped the loss in December while there were three in January that showed a rise. These were confectionery, beverages, and manufactured ice. The latter industry recorded a decrease of 10.2% in December. Slaughtering and meat packing, which showed a December pickup of 1.7%, lost ground in January to the extent of 4.1%. The sharpest decline of the month was in dairy products, amounting to 11.3%.

#### The following is the analysis by cities:

**Aurora.**—Reports from 19 firms indicate a practical maintenance of December manufacturing employment at Aurora, the decrease amounting to .2 of 1% in the total number on the payrolls. Lowered production during inventory taking in several firms was the principal cause of the decrease of 33.5% in total wages paid. Clothing and textile factories held up well, with slight increases in most cases, while considerable decrease in one metal goods firm was almost compensated for by increases in others of that group. A surplus of farm labor, together with weather conditions that have prevented corn husking and other farm work; the necessary decline in construction due to the weather and other factors have raised the ratio of applicants to jobs at the free employment office to the high figure of 193. The December ratio was 169. The total value of building permits for January was \$84,095, which is an increase of slightly more than \$20,000 over the January 1926 figure. Work on a new \$950,000 hotel, included in the December permits, has been begun.

**Bloomington.**—Resumption of work in a clothing factory which was closed in December and added forces by a confectionery firm enabled Bloomington to recoup some of its employment losses suffered at the close of 1926. These gains offset some of its employment losses suffered at the

close of 1926. These gains offset losses in the metal group and increased the total number of industrial workers 7.2% over December. The gains in employment were not quite sufficient to make up for December losses and the total figure is below that of last November. Total earnings, on the other hand, are now slightly larger than in November. Outdoor work, both in farming and construction, has been somewhat delayed by the weather and these occupations should take care of some of the surplus labor when Spring weather arrives. That there is surplus of labor is evidenced by the free employment office ratio of applicants per 100 jobs, which in January was 127 as against 116 in December. Building permits, which reached a high point in December, slumped in January to a total value of \$13,000. This figure may be compared with \$140,900 in December and \$86,500 in January a year ago.

**Chicago.**—For the fourth successive month, manufacturing employment in Chicago was on the decrease, 578 firms reporting a reduction of 1.3% from December to January. This decrease is exactly the same as that which occurred from November to December, but follows somewhat different industrial lines. The packing plants, which showed a December pickup, cut their payrolls in January in nearly every case and the net result is a substantial loss in employment. Firms in men's clothing made considerable gains in most instances, while manufacturers of women's clothing laid off workers to about the same extent. Losses were the rule in the metals, machinery and conveyances group, particularly in cars and locomotives and electrical appliances, but on the whole the loss in these industries was not so marked as in December. Declines of the past few months in factory employment, together with an influx of outside workers looking for jobs and partial stoppage of construction work, has brought serious unemployment to Chicago. The free employment office reports 290 applicants for every 100 jobs open. In January 1926 this figure was 197. Further corroboration of existing unemployment is given by reports of an unusual number of requests for help coming to Chicago charitable agencies. Building permits in January totaled 22,829,235, a decrease of \$3,000,000 from December and \$4,000,000 more than in January 1926.

**Cicero.**—The December employment decline in Cicero continued into January with increased severity. Reports from five manufacturing firms showed a loss of 14.4% over the previous month. As in December, the losses occurred in the metals and machinery industries. Corroborating this decrease as indicating unfavorable industrial conditions is the ratio of applicants to jobs at the free employment office, which reached the very large figure of 217 per 100 openings. This ratio was exceeded in January by only three other cities in the State, and compares unfavorably with the ratio for Cicero in December, 184, and for January 1926, 175. These conditions have necessitated considerable charitable aid for workers thrown out of employment and it is reported that the public and private charities are busy. An encouraging factor in the situation is that of building permits, which are practically on a level with the December figures, although \$33,000 less than January 1926.

**Danville.**—For the third successive month an employment decrease of importance occurred in Danville factories, the loss from December to January amounting to 6.6%, based on the reports of 15 firms. The losses in the food products and clothing groups were scattered, while the brick plants and metal goods firms, with some exceptions, showed substantial decreases. The 15 firms reporting also indicated a total wage of \$5,000 less than the same firms paid in December. The Danville free employment office was one of the 12 offices that showed an increase in the ratio of applicants to jobs, the January figure reaching 153, as compared with 133 in December and 187 a year ago. Farm work showed some revival at the close of the month and the coal mines were operating full time. Building permits amounting to \$18,000 showed a sharp decrease from the December figure of \$27,600 and were only a fraction of the \$227,000 worth of building authorized in January 1926.

**Decatur.**—Although 11 of the 19 Decatur reporting firms showed slight losses, there were offsetting gains in 5 other firms so that an employment decrease of 6.7% in manufacturing from December to January may be ascribed largely to the temporary closing down of one firm in the metals group. The minor gains and losses were well scattered in all groups, although clothing manufacturers showed perceptible improvement. Bad weather, with its consequent curtailment of farming and construction, has made its effect felt. The free employment office ratio of 227 is a large increase over December, when there were only 140 applicants for every 100 jobs open. Only last November this ratio stood at 105. Decatur is another city where the value of building permits is holding up fairly well, indicating more job opportunities for construction workers when outdoor work becomes more widespread. The January figure is \$11,000 less than December, but almost \$50,000 less than a year ago.

**East St. Louis.**—After a slight decline in November and a more substantial one in December, manufacturing employment in East St. Louis more than held its own in January, when an increase of .9 of 1% occurred. Total wages paid by the 20 reporting firms, however, were slightly less than in the previous month. Firms in the food products group again showed lowered numbers on the payrolls, although the decrease was much less marked than in the previous month, when packing plants showed heavy declines. The January declines were more than compensated by increases among the iron and steel and metal goods firms, as well as in the chemical products group. The free employment office ratio, like those in most other cities, was unusually high, standing at 158 applicants for every 100 jobs available. The December figure was 145. New buildings authorized in January had a total estimated value of only one-fourth as much as those for which permits were issued in December. The January figure of \$56,036 is also only 50% of that in January 1926. Weather conditions have not entirely stopped construction work and progress is reported on several large buildings authorized in recent months.

**Joliet.**—At Joliet, an increasing number of people looking for jobs at the free employment office was accompanied by an increase in total employment by the 28 firms from which reports were received. The increase amounted to 1.8%, which places manufacturing employment a little higher than the November level. In the steel and metal group, while most firms were stationary or slightly downward, 2 of the large employers made considerable additions to their working forces. Printing and paper goods and wood products and food products firms all showed reductions, which in some cases reached sizeable proportions. The ratio at the free employment office cases reached sizeable proportions. The ratio at the free employment office cases reached sizeable proportions. The ratio at the free employment office cases reached sizeable proportions. The ratio at the free employment office cases reached sizeable proportions.

**Moline-Rock Island.**—Twenty-two manufacturers at Moline reported a falling off in employment amounting to 10.6%, which, following on a 7.5% loss in December, puts employment in this city well below the level at the beginning of winter. Severe cuts were made in several of the auto-











**Demand for Steel Improves—Price Recedes—Competition is Sharp in Pig Iron Market.**

Improved demand for finished steel is reported from all the leading producing centres by the "Iron Age" in its review of the market on Feb. 24. Outside of large pipe, tin plate and rails, the orders are almost exclusively for early delivery. Meeting the urgent calls by increasing mill operations results in backlogs remaining small, declares the "Age."

The industry now appears to be operating at last year's average, or close to 85% of capacity, with the Steel Corp. at several points above that figure and leading independents somewhat below. Ingot production is put at 80% in Pittsburgh, compared with 77 last week and 75 two weeks ago. In the Chicago district the Steel Corp. has blown in the fourth stack in the past five weeks, the "Age" reports. From its summary of conditions in the trade we add the following:

Satisfaction from the steady increase in bookings is modified by the low prices applying to much of them. What is virtually the buying of orders has not disappeared in some lines, but in others attempts to bolster prices have been made. On Monday several makers of hot rolled strips announced advances of \$2 to \$4 a ton. Resistance to price reduction is marked in the plate market. Late low quotations on wire nails are not now uncovered.

The strong feature of the situation is the large aggregate of the buying for widely diversified uses, the orders coming steadily into the market without the publicity attaching to business of spectacular size. The automobile industry is taking steel more freely, but commonly only for 30 days' needs and otherwise avoiding accumulations of stocks. Building work and the railroads at the moment are stronger in the promise than in the act of buying.

Fabricated structural steel work in prospect has been increased in the week by fully 47,000 tons, including 6,000 tons for a New York bank building, 6,000 tons for a hotel at Houston, Texas, 4,000 tons for a telephone building at Dallas, Texas, and 11,500 tons for three buildings in Chicago. A 43-story structure proposed for Chicago would add upward of 10,000 tons. The War Department has given permission for a bridge over the Chesapeake Bay, requiring 35,000 tons.

Only 561 freight cars were ordered in the week. Twenty-one locomotives were bought and 24 are pending.

A Delaware River shipyard has bought 9,000 tons of plates for three oil tankers.

The continued activity in pipe for the oil companies has added to mill books 65 miles of an 18-in. gas line for Louisiana and put under negotiations 78 miles of 8 in. pipe and 60 miles of 6 in. pipe.

Steel bar output has risen to the volume of last October, but in only a few sizes and with only a few makers are deliveries impossible within a week or ten days, and unfilled tonnage does not accumulate.

Sheets are still subject to shading. Buying has been a trifle heavier, but some of it, it is worth emphasizing, has been for future needs and mill books do not immediately profit. Black and galvanized sheets are quotably \$1 a ton lower than last week.

January records of the sheet business of the independent makers show sales nearly 9% ahead of December. Production and shipments were scaled up in the same ratio, and thus remained under the bookings as in December. A reversal for February may come, with expansion indicated in both output and shipments and little or no increase for the month in new orders.

Aggressive selling by Buffalo and other New York State furnaces is still a feature of the pig-iron market. On a large scale in New England as low as \$16 50, base Buffalo, was done on foundry iron for prompt shipment. Competition from Buffalo has also been felt as far west as eastern Michigan. Along the Eastern seaboard the low current prices have driven in an increasing volume of business, the week's total for the New England and New York districts totaling about 45,000 tons, some of which was for delivery into the third quarter. With their order books better filled as a result of generous bookings in recent weeks, there are indications of greater resistance on the part of some Eastern furnaces to the pressure against prices. The market is also steadier in the Cleveland district, where sales for the week totaled more than 50,000 tons.

English furnaces, for the first time since the British coal strike, are again a factor in low phosphorus pig iron in the East, offering April deliveries at competitive prices. Otherwise foreign pig iron is not a market factor.

The Donner Steel Co., Buffalo, is putting in a rebuilt blast furnace.

As the threatened coal strike approaches, the coke market shows further indications of strength. Reflecting a stocking movement in foundry coke, Connellsville prices on that grade have advanced 25c. to \$4 50 ovens.

Scrap is weaker in virtually all selling centres except Pittsburgh, where the market has been supported by dealer purchases to fill expiring contracts. At Chicago heavy melting steel has declined 25c. a ton.

The "Iron Age" composite price dropped from 2.374c. last week to 2.367c. per pound. This is the lowest level since August 1922. Pig irons remains at \$18 96, as last week. No lower composite has been recorded since April 1922, though the same price was touched in August 1925. The usual composite price tables stand as follows:

Pittsburgh Steel.		Pig Iron.	
Feb. 21 1927.	2.337c. Per Lb.	Feb. 21 1927.	\$19 27 Per Gross Ton.
One week ago	2.374c.	One week ago	\$18 96
One month ago	2.390c.	One month ago	19 30
One year ago	2.424c.	One year ago	21 71
10-year pre-war average	1.689c.	10-year pre-war average	15 72

Based on steel bars, beams, tank plates, plain wire, open-hearth rails, black pipe and black sheets, constituting 87% of the United States output.

High.	Low.	High.	Low.
1927. 2.453c., Jan. 4;	2.367c., Feb. 21	1927. \$19 71, Jan. 4;	\$18 96, Feb. 15
1926. 2.453c., Jan. 5;	2.403c., May 18	1926. 21 54, Jan. 5;	19 46, July 13
1925. 2.560c., Jan. 6;	2.396c., Aug. 18	1925. 22 50, Jan. 13;	18 96, July 7
1924. 2.789c., Jan. 15;	2.460c., Oct. 14	1924. 22 88, Feb. 26;	19 21, Nov. 3
1923. 2.824c., Apr. 24;	2.446c., Jan. 2	1923. 30 86, Mar. 20;	20 77, Nov. 20

Continued good buying of finished steel despite the unsettled state of prices, an infrequent experience for the industry, appears to be giving producers better appreciation of the underlying consumptive strength of the present market, observes the "Iron Trade Review." on Feb. 24.

This revaluation is curbing in some directions the inclination to make price subordinate to tonnage. The competitive situation makes it unlikely that the price structure will be promptly purged of all its weakness by the trend seems definitely away from the policy of business at any cost, continues the "Review" in its summary of events in the market during the past week. Further details we add as follows:

Some important makers of hoops, bans and strips have announced their minimums as 2.10c. and 2.30c., depending upon width. Tank plates at Pittsburgh are holding at 1.90c., except for preferred tonnage buyers, who are quoted 1.85c. As sheetmakers slowly acquire backlogs the recent extreme minimums are disappearing. Less is heard about concessions under \$5 50 a box on tin plate; Steel producers sense that consumers are wholly devoid of inventories, operating at rates that compel them to buy regardless of price. Hence, there is improved appraisal of the market.

Sales of pig iron chiefly for second quarter delivery exceeded 100,000 tons in the past week. Producers with headquarters at Cleveland booked 65,000 tons, following two 50,000-ton weeks. Between 30,000 and 35,000 tons of basic were placed in the Philadelphia district. Selling of Virginia iron reached 10,000 tons. Inquiry was led by one for 30,000 to 40,000 tons of basic for a steelmaker at Newport, Ky.

More numerous, accelerated demands came in the week for full finished sheets. A General Motors subsidiary placed a sizeable tonnage at less than 4.15 Pittsburgh, which has been considered the market. Other automotive interests are expected to buy substantially this week.

April-May datings on larger sizes of lapwelded pipe indicate a more tense situation concerning deliveries. Two Southwestern pipe line projects requiring nearly 200,000 tons are in abeyance pending determination of deliveries. Reservations are said to have been made for 100,000 tons for a gas line from the Amarillo, Texas, district to Denver.

Connellsville furnace coke continues to strengthen and has a minimum of \$3 50, a rise of 15c. in week, but most Pittsburgh district blast furnace interests seem loathe to stock coke. Some non-union coke producers are said to be prepared to renew contracts for second quarter at first quarter prices, \$4.

With subsidiaries of U. S. Steel Corp. at average ingot rate of 88 to 89% and independent producers at just above 80%, the steelmaking average for the industry is about 81%.

The "Iron Trade Review's" composite price on 14 leading iron and steel products this week is \$36 75, the same as last week, revised.

**Bituminous Demand, Though Heavy, Is Offset by Production—Anthracite Market Remains Sluggish.**

The volume of buying in the market for bituminous is large, but most of the business is being done in a rather quiet way, reports the Feb. 23 market review issued by the "Coal Age." The effect of this movement is being counteracted to a large extent by heavy production, which keeps above 13,000,000 tons a week. The trend of spot prices is toward lower levels. The past week brought out no change in the labor situation and at this time all indications point to a deadlock with an adjournment soon, to meet later—perhaps in a Northern city, continues the "Age," adding further details concerning conditions in the industry, as follows:

Amid the maze of opposing conditions storage buying continues to be the backbone of the market. Led by the railroads and the utilities this class of business has been the one supporting factor in sustaining prices. At times it has seemed as if the bottom was about to drop out. Industrial consumers, with few exceptions, seem far from apprehensive regarding the near future.

The "Coal Age's" index of spot bituminous prices on Feb. 21 was 178 and the corresponding weighted average price was \$2.09, a decline for the week of a fraction over 1 point and 2 cents, respectively. Further dips in Central Pennsylvania quotations on New England shipments and on West Virginia low-volatile accounted in most part for the loss.

Demand for anthracite has settled down to the filling of only bare needs. Domestic sizes have been moving slowly and even No. 1 buckwheat is gradually heading toward its normal level. Independent producers in particular are finding the going hard, many of them having curtailed colliery operations to a greater extent than the company shippers.

News of importance has been heard from Miami and an adjournment has taken place, declares "Coal and Coal Trade Journal" on Feb. 24. Last week the floodgates of oratory were opened with the usual results. There were demands and stands and suggestions and then the whole question was referred. Nominally it was referred to the committee, but really it was referred for decision to the law of supply and demand, to the strength and weakness of mortal man and to the economic conditions that frame public opinion and pressure, observes the "Journal," adding:

At this writing some sort of a stoppage of certain mine output seems inevitable. Perhaps, if we were very candid, we would admit that such stoppage is more or less invited. We are largely in a condition to stand it, and it gives us a chance to try out the strength of position of a certain element in the coal laboring world. Within its own bounds the coal world is capable of dealing with the question and to a degree settling it. Its danger is that it will not keep within its own bounds and that the public comfort and activity will be involved. Then it becomes a different question that cannot so easily be handled.

Every evidence points to the apparent fact that there is little to fear as to this question getting out of the hands of the immediate coal industry. In other words, it will be a long time before the public will feel anything like a scarcity. Production is going on at a high rate, the tendency has been to burn coal carefully, the storage piles are mounting, at one place or another, and there are six weeks before the first of April with the miners doing somewhere near their best. There is evidence of a certain spirit in mine operators at this time that is highly commendable. It tends to show









now amounts to 240,500,000 marks as compared with 133,400,000 marks in the previous year.

## LITHUANIA.

The proposed budget for 1927, balanced at 227,426,187 lits (each lit worth \$.10), shows substantial reductions over the budgets for the previous two years. Ordinary revenues are estimated at 225,722,762 lits and extraordinary at 3,703,425 lits, while ordinary expenditures are estimated at 209,383,210 lits and extraordinary at 18,042,977 lits. It has been announced that the original balance has been reduced by Parliament before final passage, but final figures are not available. Preliminary estimates indicate that substantial improvements were made in the foreign trade situation during 1926. Although final figures are not available, imports, mainly of rye, rice, spirits, textile goods, vehicles and machinery, show large reductions. Superphosphates and coal imports were larger. The export trade has increased considerably, mainly in flax, woodpulp, veneer and board. Cereal exports were larger and dairy exports, except cheese and eggs, increased. Leather exports were considerably lower.

## POLAND.

Following the publication of the annual report of the Bank of Poland and the declaration by the bank of 10% divided (8% regular and 2% extra) there appeared on the Warsaw exchange a brisk demand for the shares of the bank, which resulted in a sharp bidding up of the stock. For the first time in the history of the bank, its shares reached par (100 zlotys), and easily ran up to 109.50. (The shares were selling at 50 on May 18 last.)

The report for the past year reveals a general improvement in the condition of the bank. The bank note circulation increased from less than 400,000,000 zlotys in April to 593,000,000 zlotys in December, 1926, while the cover against the notes grew from a little over 30% in April, 1926, to 50.18% on Jan. 10 1927. The bank's discount facilities expanded from 341,000,000 zlotys in January, 1926, to 450,000,000 zlotys at the end of the year. The net profit of the bank for the past year amounted to 13,696,000 zlotys, of which 10,000,000 zlotys were earmarked for dividends; 1,370,000 zlotys were added to the reserve fund; and 2,153,000 zlotys for taxes to the State treasury.

## HAWAII.

Retail trade in Hawaii during January was moderate and collections were good. The sugar harvest is progressing satisfactorily, about 200,000 tons, or one quarter of the crop, having been harvested by Feb. 15. While the cane tonnage is running better this season the sugar yield is reported to be below normal. Rains have been abundant and favorable to growing crops, but the abnormally high temperature has interfered with proper ripening. Tourist business is brisk. The recent opening of a four-million-dollar hotel at Waikiki Beach attracted visitors from all sections of the islands as well as many tourists from the mainland. The Hawaiian investment market has absorbed a considerable volume of seasoned bonds since the first of January, but stocks have not been moving well. The fourteenth biennial session of the Hawaiian Legislature convened on Feb. 16. Legislation having for its object a greater expansion of Pacific commerce will be presented for action, it is reported.

## PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

January conditions as a whole were favorable, although seasonally quiet, following the holiday period and annual inventories. Improvement inaugurated the latter part of the month was fairly well sustained during the early part of February. January's corpa market opened quiet but strengthened with increased activity and an upward price tendency the latter part of the month. The trade is now weaker as a result of an easier tone in foreign markets. Abaca grades were generally quiet, with a downward price tendency. Weather conditions were favorable for the maturing sugar cane and approximately 230,000 tons of sugar have been ground to date. With a revival of interest from Europe, tobacco trade was more active. Cigar trade, however, continued uncertain, with very low production. Although January saw some improvement in the textile market, price cutting continued and a return to stability is not expected locally before March. Sales of small cars and tires continued excellent. The marketing of imported foodstuffs was generally good.

## INDIA.

Business in India continues to show steady improvement and trade circles are more optimistic, particularly in the raw cotton and piece goods markets. Retail business is good and imports since the first of the year have showed encouraging developments. With the exception of rice the export market is dull.

A favorable vote on the Steel Bill is expected in India to be taken shortly despite strong opposition from those who object to the provisions providing for differential duties favoring imports of steel from the United Kingdom. The Indian Legislature is discussing the currency bills at present but action will be delayed until the annual budget is presented. The rupee-sterling ratio bill is expected to come up about March 8 and to pass by a narrow margin favoring the higher ratio. The report of the textile inquiry committee is expected shortly.

The money market has continued steady, with the demand for funds increasing as cotton arrivals become heavy and rice shipments increase. Yarn and piece goods markets show improvements. Unfavorable weather conditions are affecting the wheat crop and prices are firming despite bearish world factors, and heavy arrivals from Australia. Bazaar dealers report steady business with the outlook optimistic in all import lines.

## SIAM.

Exports of rice from Bangkok in January were the highest on record for that month in any year since 1919. Over 20,000,000 ticals of the total exports of 25,000,000 ticals were accounted for by rice shipments. These figures substantiate the early report of a large surplus for export during the current milling season. The total imports into Bangkok for January of 16,000,000 ticals were slightly under December imports and nearly 4,000,000 ticals below the value of the import trade of January, 1926.

## INDO-CHINA.

The slight business improvement inaugurated in December continued in January, with the exception of the rice trade, which slackened somewhat. This, however, is normal, as the month is off season. Prospects for the forthcoming rice crop are generally good. January exports from Saigon amounted to 85,462 metric tons, a slight increase over December shipments. Of the January total, 52,280 tons consisted of white rice, about half of which was destined for Hongkong and Shanghai. The price of first quality white rice on Jan. 31 at ship side in gunnies was 10.50 piastres per hundred kolis (about 2½ cents per pound). The official exchange rate of the piastre on Jan. 31 was 13.35 francs, or a dollar value of 54½ cents.

## AUSTRALIA.

A cyclonic disturbance which swept across the northeast section of Queensland on Feb. 9 partially destroyed the city of Cairns, which has a

population of 7,500, and laid waste a considerable section of the surrounding agricultural area. Unprecedented floods accompanied the disturbance, causing considerable damage to crops, sugar cane being damaged to the extent of £600,000, it is estimated. The strike in the coal fields of New South Wales is virtually settled and it is expected that work will be continued next week. Wool sales during the past month have enjoyed a good demand with rising prices. According to revised estimates the 1926-27 wool clip in that State will be 25% greater than the previous record. The wheat position remains unchanged and somewhat discouraging. Australian wheat is not moving well in foreign markets and the domestic brand is sluggish.

## ARGENTINA.

Trade in most import lines continues to reflect the seasonal dullness. Exchange has strengthened materially as a result of the large export movement, the paper peso reaching \$.42 (par value—\$.4245), which is the highest it has been in several years. The cereal and hide markets are firm; there is a strong demand for the higher grades of wool; and the cattle market is weak. Imports from the United Kingdom into Argentina in 1926 totaled \$111,730,947 as compared with \$143,543,628 in 1925, while Argentina exports to the United Kingdom dropped from \$332,505,836 to \$327,865,322 in the same period. This decrease in British-Argentina trade was particularly notable in the case of Britain's exports to Argentina, which declined 22%, there being only a 1.4% decline in the other direction.

## BRAZIL.

Conditions in most lines of business in Brazil throughout the week ended Feb. 18 were satisfactory. Exchange remained firm at approximately the stabilization level of \$0.1192. Coffee prices fell, Santos spot four declining from 26.20 milreis (\$3.12) per 10 kilos to 25.50 milreis (\$3.03) during the week. The Santos Commercial Association has been the center of consideration trading in coffee, although it is no longer the official coffee exchange, and it has been negotiating transactions at prices under those set by the new coffee institute exchange. The government has officially denied that it is treating for a stabilization loan.

## PERU.

There was no material change in business conditions in Peru during the two-week period ended Feb. 18 1927. The Peruvian Congress assembled in extraordinary session on Feb. 14 to consider important pending legislation. It is believed in Peru that among other measures to be considered at this session there will be included the boundary treaties with Colombia, the proposed Acts removing the present ineligibility of the President to succeed himself for another term of office, and the tax collection reform bill. Exchange remained steady at \$3.68, having maintained this rate since the last week of December, 1926.

## URUGUAY.

Uruguayan customs revenues during January totaled 1,740,000 pesos (\$1,775,000), as compared with 1,690,000 pesos (\$1,724,000) in the same month a year ago. The Uruguayan Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Industries will, it is reported, each send delegates to the Third Pan-American Commercial Congress, to be held in Washington in May, 1927.

## COLOMBIA.

The strike situation along the Magdalena River is greatly improved. Martial law had been decreed along the river, beginning at Berranca Bermeja, the petroleum center of the country, on account of the violent strike of oil field workers and rivermen, but this has now been repealed excepting Berranca, where conditions are not yet normal. However, strikers are gradually returning to work and certain radical leaders have been arrested.

A disastrous fire occurred at Girardot, the important transfer point for Bogota, at the end of the upper river. The destruction is estimated at half a million dollars. A petroleum storage plant at Girardot was burned, aggravating the already acute situation in the gasoline market in Bogota, where hundreds of automobiles have been forced to cease operation. A small fire is also reported at Namonal, near Cartagena, the terminus of the oil pipe line from the interior, but the damage apparently was slight.

The Magdalena River is in excellent condition, due to the heavy rains in the interior mountain regions. However, it is believed that only a very small percentage of the accumulated freight at the various river transfer points and at Barranquilla can be moved before the river again becomes dry.

## MEXICO.

It is expected in Mexico that the new import duties which go into effect on March 7 1927 will reduce materially imports of many lines. In view of the prevailing economic depression it is believed locally to be improbable that the country will be able to consume the same amount of goods at the higher prices which are inevitable in view of the new tariff schedule and the substitution of a 5% gold tax in lieu of the former consular fees. It is reported that a number of orders already placed by importers in Mexico have been canceled.

## PANAMA.

The general business situation is somewhat depressed and it is stated that among the smaller dealers conditions are acute, although there is a slight improvement in retail trade, in view of the approaching carnival season. Banana shipments are normal for this period of the year. Highway construction continues active. An important concession in favor of an American concern for the development of banana lands has been approved by the Panama Government. Under this contract from \$9,000,000 to \$12,000,000 is to be expended in construction and irrigation work, in a concrete wharf oil storage tanks, employees' quarters, and from 60 to 70 kilometers of railway line, including a steel bridge across the Tonosi River. It is stated that approximately 16,000 hectares (1 hectare=2.47 acres), producing about 4,000,000 bunches of bananas yearly, will be under cultivation.

## PORTO RICO.

General business conditions in Porto Rico during the week ended Feb. 19 were about normal for the season of the year, and slightly ahead of the January 1927 levels or those of corresponding period 1926. Collections are improving, particularly in San Juan, and a general improvement is expected in March. Collections were better in provision lines than in either textiles or hardware. The economic outlook is improving as the rainfall slackens and weather conditions become more favorable to growing crops. The tobacco industry is especially pleased with the decreased precipitation and the drier weather is more favorable to the sugar industry of the non-irrigated regions, where field operations are impeded by excessive rains. Sugar prices have weakened somewhat, but are holding at about three-quarters of a cent above the prevailing prices during the corresponding days of last year.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

A national exposition of agriculture, industry and arts will be held at Santiago, Dominican Republic, for four days beginning March 30 1927.

Its purpose is to show the progress of the Dominican people and the number and value of the prizes, which are reserved for award to the best exhibitors of local products, is expected to assure a large attendance from all parts of the island.

### Banker Criticizes Us in Advertisement Abroad—Imbrie & Co. Protest Against Our Stand on League in the London and Paris Press.

A protest against the "twilight zone" position of the United States with regard to the League of Nations is being put before the public of England and France through advertisements placed by the New York investment banking firm of Imbrie & Co., according to the New York "Times" of Feb. 22, which goes on to say:

An appeal for American participation in the League has been published in the London "Times" over the Imbrie signature, and it will be followed by a similar advertisement in the Paris "Temps."

The advertisements follow similar appeals made by the Imbrie firm to American public opinion, stressing the belief that both altruistic and "dollars and cents" motives call for America's entrance into the League. The advertisements placed abroad represent the first time that such action has been taken by American bankers on a political question. The campaign is the work of James Imbrie, senior member of the firm. While representing no organization, he is said to feel that his convictions coincide with the views of at least a large section of American banking opinion which should be made clear before an international public.

The advertisements declare that an item of good-will of great intrinsic and potential value which the United States possessed in 1919 has since been written off the national balance sheet and add, "we submit to investors the wisdom of counting the cost to them of this loss."

"American investments abroad, including our Government's loans to foreign nations," the advertisements read, "total more than \$25,000,000,000. We contend that with this amount of our money scattered over the face of the globe a continued national policy of smug isolation is outworn."

The advertisements show financial losses due to the war, declaring that \$30,000,000,000 of capital, accumulated in a century by hundreds of millions of individuals, was wiped out. The tremendous losses of France and England, which before the war held our present place as leading creditor nations, are cited, together with the pleas of investors in those countries for a World League for the prevention of wars.

"The United States, with their untold wealth and unequal share of the world's gold supply, must and will continue to finance the needs of those members of the family of nations less fortunately situated than themselves," the Imbrie appeal says. "We believe to-day a preponderance of thinkers in high places consider the League the best hope and agency for world peace and good-will. We believe Americans remain responsive to ethical and altruistic argument. But if self-interest must be a concomitant of action, then for the sake of and in the name of 'dollars and cents' we suggest an accounting of cost and an indictment against further delay in American joining the League of Nations."

### Vincent Massey, Canada's First Minister to United States, Received by President Coolidge.

Vincent Massey, whose appointment as Canada's first Minister to Washington was noted in our issue of Nov. 20, page 2596, presented his credentials to President Coolidge on Feb. 18. In addressing the President Mr. Massey said: "My mission has been established in the confident hope that it will serve to strengthen those cordial sentiments which exist between Canada and the United States." President Coolidge in replying expressed himself as "happy to have this opportunity to assure you that the greetings and messages of good-will which you have delivered on behalf of His Majesty's Canadian Government and the people of Canada are cordially reciprocated and that the people of this country have a deep and lasting regard for the people of your country." Mr. Massey made his initial address in New York on Feb. 23 at a dinner in his honor given at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel by the Pilgrims of the United States. Upon that occasion he said in part (we quote from the New York "Times"):

Whenever some great convulsion shakes the world, the Atlantic is spanned by this common language, for I believe that there could be no crisis such as has threatened society once of late, and one day may do so again, in which the United States and the British peoples would not be found standing shoulder to shoulder.

I believe that Anglo-American friendship rests on the frank recognition of differences in outlook and in method, rather than on any well meant exaggeration of similarity. As a matter of fact, the readiness to respect and safeguard the customs and characteristics, even the prejudices, of a community, is in itself a fundamental attribute of the Anglo-Saxon wherever he lives. The British Empire endures because of the respect for national self-expression which is enshrined in its system.

In years gone by one has heard it said that in North America there is no justification for two English-speaking nations and that one should ultimately be merged with the other. Such a view, however seriously it may have been held, now smacks only of the distant past. I know that the idea that there should be a fusion between our two democracies now belongs either to the sphere of the antiquarian or the humorist.

#### An Invisible Boundary.

The invisible boundary which runs between us is not a frontier, thank Heaven, and never will be. A sentry on the international border between your country and mine would be about as appropriate as a fire-extinguisher on the top of the great pyramid. The boundary is not a frontier; it is not even a point of separation. I like to think of it rather as merely a line of demarcation where two nations will meet perpetually in friendship and good-will.

The relations between Canada and the United States for upward of a century have been an example to the world. When problems have arisen between us we have given them prompt and workmanlike settlement. The growth of trade between our countries, which can only be to our mutual advantage and profit, will result in the widening of this knowledge and understanding and, resulting from that, of even greater mutual respect.

We give herewith the exchange of greetings on Feb. 18 between Mr. Massey and President Coolidge, Mr. Massey's address being as follows:

Mr. President:—I have the great honor of placing in your hands the letters of credence by which his Britannic Majesty accredits me as his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to represent the Dominion of Canada in the United States.

I consider myself highly fortunate, sir, to have the privilege of being the first envoy from my country to be accredited to the Government of your great republic. For upward of a century the relations between these democracies have been those of unbroken friendship. My mission has been established in the confident hope that it will serve to strengthen those cordial sentiments which exist between Canada and the United States, as well as between the United States and the empire of which Canada is part. I shall be both proud and happy to do all that lies in my power to help in the achievement of these great ends. In the discharge of such a mission of international understanding it is a source of deep satisfaction to be confident of your sympathetic interest and the friendly assistance of your Administration.

Allow me, Mr. President, on behalf of his Majesty's Canadian Government and the people of Canada, to convey to you, sir, assurances of your high and sincere regard, and permit me through you to give the people of the United States a pledge of Canada's enduring friendship and continued good wishes for their happiness and welfare.

#### President Coolidge in reply said:

Mr. Minister:—It gives me pleasure to receive from you the letters by which his Majesty King George accredits you as his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to represent the interests of the Dominion of Canada in the United States, and to accord you formal recognition in that capacity.

The establishment of a diplomatic mission in this country to represent Canada's particular interests is, I believe, a striking proof of the importance and extent of the contacts and relations of the two countries. These relations and the existing cordial sentiments between the two countries to which you have referred will, I am sure, be markedly advanced by the opportunities for direct mutual exchanges of opinion offered by your presence in this capital.

I am happy to have this opportunity to assure you that the greetings and messages of good-will which you have delivered on behalf of his Majesty's Canadian Government and the people of Canada are cordially reciprocated and that the people of this country have a deep and lasting regard for the people of your country.

I wish further to assure you that you will receive the heartiest co-operation from the officials of this Government in the carrying out of the high aims of your mission and I hope that your stay in Washington may be most pleasant and happy.

The letter of credence from King George, which Mr. Massey presented to President Coolidge, read as follows:

George, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, &c., to the President of the United States of America sendeth greeting:

Our good friend: We have judged it expedient to confer the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary upon our trusty and well-beloved the Hon. Charles Vincent Massey, member of our Privy Council in Canada, with the especial object of representing in the United States of America the interests of our Dominion of Canada.

We request that you will give credence to all that Mr. Massey may represent to you in our name, especially when he shall assure you of our esteem and regard, and of our hearty wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the United States of America. And so we commend you to the protection of the Almighty.

Given at our Court of St. James's, Dec. 7 1926, in the seventeenth year of our reign.

Your good friend,  
GEORGE, Rex Imperator.

The following message received by Mr. Massey from the Prime Minister of Canada was made public at the same time:

Hon. Vincent Massey, Canadian Minister to the United States,  
Canadian Legation, Washington, D. C.:

I have pleasure in conveying to you the best wishes of the Government of Canada for the complete success of the mission upon which you are formally entering to-day with the presentation of your letters of credence to President Coolidge. We are convinced that this forward step, complemented by the notable appointment of the Hon. William Phillips as United States Minister to Canada, will prove of the highest service in promoting the welfare and the good relations of both countries.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

Ottawa, Feb. 18 1927.

### William Phillips Named as First Minister from United States to Canada—Problems Before New Minister.

Early this month it was announced that William Phillips had been chosen as First Minister from the United States to Canada, his appointment being made known by the State Department at Washington on Feb. 4. The volume and importance of the questions to be handled by the newly-established American diplomatic mission to Canada have been outlined to Congress by Wilbur J. Carr, Assistant Secretary of State, it is learned from the "United States Daily" of Feb. 24, from which we take the following:

Mr. Carr, appearing before the House Committee on Appropriations, stated that William Phillips, who is to be the first American Minister to Ottawa, will find a wide variety of problems awaiting solution, while the new ministry to the Irish Free State will have comparatively little business. Mr. Carr gave his testimony in connection with items in the second deficiency bill, providing appropriation of \$6,666 66 each for the salaries of the Ministers of Ottawa and Dublin, for the current fiscal year.

"So far as Canada is concerned," Mr. Carr said, "there is no question at all about there being much diplomatic work, nor about the fact that it can be done more expeditiously and satisfactorily for this Government by having a mission in Ottawa than by going indirectly through the British Embassy here to the Canadian authorities in Ottawa."

Mr. Carr said there will be questions to discuss with Canada regarding the boundary waters, prohibition enforcement, execution of the customs laws on the border and immigration laws and difficulties arising out of the enforce-

ment of them on the border. He said there are various questions relating to fisheries to be discussed there.

"We have created," he said, "a halibut fisheries commission, made up of representatives of the two Governments, which results in a considerable amount of diplomatic discussion. Then we have the international joint commission which has to do with water rights on the border. That is a matter that also requires a considerable amount of correspondence or discussion between the two Governments. For instance, we have this well-known question of the St. Lawrence River. A treaty has also just been entered into, in 1915, providing for a perpetual commission to adjust differences along the boundary, to keep the boundary clear and to keep the monuments in condition. We have a multitude of questions with Canada."

"What about the Irish Free State," he was asked. "The situation there is quite different," he said. "I do not think there will be nearly the amount of business for that legation."

Mr. Carr explained that there will be two clerks at each of these missions. "The mission in Canada," he explained, "will be at much more expense for rent and heat than those in Switzerland, the Netherlands or Poland. It will certainly have much more work to do. The expense in Ireland will fully equal that of the legations in the Netherlands and Sweden."

Asked about the effect of establishing these two missions upon the existing consulates at those posts, Mr. Carr said the Consuls there would not be abolished but they would be weakened, because some of the things which the consulates have been doing will be done by the legations.

The Associated Press dispatches from Washington on Feb. 3 referring to the selection of Mr. Phillips to the Canadian post said:

William Phillips, now Ambassador to Belgium and former Under Secretary of State, has been selected to be the first American Minister to Canada.

The selection indicates the importance attached by the United States to the new diplomatic post at Ottawa, since it has called upon one of its senior "career" diplomats, now holding the rank of Ambassador, to surrender that rank and accept instead a post as Minister.

This puts the Ottawa assignment in a special class with that of Minister to China, the Peking post always having been recognized as one of special significance, although it does not carry with it Ambassadorial rank.

Mr. Phillips was born at Beverly, Mass., May 30 1878.

German Reparation Receipts and Payments in January.

Under date of Feb. 8 the Office of the Agent-General for Reparation Payments reports receipts during January of 94,666,667 gold marks and payments of 88,479,805 gold marks. The statement follows:

OFFICE OF THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR REPARATION PAYMENTS. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE THIRD ANNUITY YEAR TO JANUARY 31 1927.

Table with columns: Receipts in Thrd Annuity Year, Balance of Cash at Aug. 31 1926, Total Cash Available. Rows include Receipts in completion of Second Annuity, Normal Budgetary Contribution, Supplementary Budgetary Contribution, Transport Tax, Interest on Railway Reparation Bonds, Total Receipts, Balance of Cash at Aug. 31 1926, Total Cash Available.

Table with columns: Payments to or for the account of, For Service of German External Loan 1924, For expenses of, Discount on amounts received from Deutsche Reichsbahn Gesellschaft, Exchange differences, Total Payments, Balance of Cash at Jan. 31 1927. Rows include France, British Empire, Italy, Belgium, Serbia-Croat-Slovene State, United States of America, Rumania, Japan, Portugal, Greece, Poland, Total Payments to Powers, For Service of German External Loan 1924, For expenses of, Discount on amounts received from Deutsche Reichsbahn Gesellschaft, Exchange differences, Total Payments, Balance of Cash at Jan. 31 1927.

\* See Tables I and II for analysis of payments by category of expenditure and by Powers.

TABLE I—TOTAL PAYMENTS TO POWERS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE.

Table with columns: Occupation Costs, Deliveries in Kind, Total Payments to Powers. Rows include Occupation Costs (Marks supplied to Armies of Occupation, Furnishings to Armies under Arts. 8-12 of Rhineland Agreement), Deliveries in Kind (Coal, coke and lignite, Transport of coal, coke and lignite, Dyestuffs and pharmaceutical products, Chemical fertilizers & nitrogenous products, Coal by-products, Refractory earths, Agricultural products, Timber, Sugar, Miscellaneous deliveries), Total Payments to Powers.

Table with columns: 3. Deliveries Under Agreement, 4. Reparation Recovery Acts, 5. Miscellaneous Payments, 6. Cash Transfers. Rows include Deliveries Under Agreement, Reparation Recovery Acts, Miscellaneous Payments, Cash Transfers (Settlement of balances owing for deliveries made or services rendered by the German Government prior to Sept. 1 1924, In foreign currencies), Total Payments to Powers.

TABLE II—PAYMENTS TO EACH POWER CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE.

Table with columns: Payments to or for the Account of, Total France, Total British Empire, Total Italy, Total Belgium, Total Serbia-Croat-Slovene State, Total United States of America, Total Rumania, Total Japan, Total Portugal, Total Greece, Total Poland, Grand Total. Rows include France (Marks supplied to Army of Occupation, Furnishings to Army under Arts. 8-12 of Rhineland Agreement, Reparation Recovery Act, Deliveries of coal, coke & lignite, Transport of coal, coke & lignite, Deliveries of dyestuffs & pharmaceutical products, Deliveries of chemical fertilizers & nitrogenous products, Deliveries of coal by-products, Deliveries of refractory earths, Deliveries of agricultural products, Deliveries of timber, Deliveries of sugar, Miscellaneous deliveries, Cash Transfer: Settlement of balances owing for deliveries made or services rendered by the German Government prior to Sept. 1 1924), British Empire (Marks supplied to Army of Occupation, Furnishings to Army under Arts. 8-12 of Rhineland Agreement, Reparation Recovery Act, Miscellaneous payments, Cash Transfer: Settlement of balances owing for deliveries made or services rendered by the German Government prior to Sept. 1 1924), Italy (Deliveries of coal & coke, Transport of coal & coke, Deliveries of dyestuffs & pharmaceutical products, Miscellaneous deliveries, Miscellaneous payments), Belgium (Furnishings to Army under Arts. 8-12 of Rhineland Agreement, Deliveries of coal, coke & lignite, Transport of coal, coke & lignite, Deliveries of dyestuffs & pharmaceutical products, Deliveries of chemical fertilizers & nitrogenous products, Deliveries of coal by-products, Deliveries of timber, Miscellaneous deliveries, Miscellaneous payments, Cash Transfer—Settlement of balances owing for deliveries made or services rendered by the German Government prior to Sept. 1 1924), Serbia-Croat-Slovene State (Deliveries of pharmaceutical products, Miscellaneous deliveries, Miscellaneous payments), United States of America (Deliveries under agreement, Cash Transfers in foreign currencies), Rumania (Miscellaneous deliveries, Miscellaneous payments), Japan (Deliveries of chemical fertilizers & nitrogenous products, Miscellaneous deliveries), Portugal (Miscellaneous deliveries), Greece (Miscellaneous deliveries), Poland (Deliveries of agricultural products, Miscellaneous payments, Cash Transfers—Settlement of balances owing for deliveries made or services rendered by the German Government prior to Sept. 1 1924), Grand Total.

Note.—Furnishings Under Arts. 8-12 of the Rhineland Agreement.—In accordance with the terms of an Agreement concluded between the French, British and Belgian Governments and the German Government, no provisional advances on account of the value of Furnishings to the Armies of Occupation and to the Rhineland Commission under Arts. 8-12 of the Rhineland Agreement are payable during the months of December 1926 and January 1927.

### Denmark's Return to the Gold Standard.

Denmark's return to the gold standard was effected on Jan. 1 as a preliminary thereto to the Danish Chambers in December having enacted into law a bill permitting the conversion of Danish notes into gold from Jan. 1 at 24 kroner against one of gold. This action was noted in these columns Nov. 13, page 2465, and Dec. 25, page 3250. The Federal Reserve Board in its January "Bulletin" presents the following regarding the stabilization of the Danish currency:

The return of Denmark to the gold standard at the beginning of 1927 follows upon a long period during which the Government has carried out measures for the stabilization of Danish currency. The continuous fluctuations in the exchange value of the Danish krone since the end of the war and the consequent fluctuations of prices were a disturbing factor in the economic conditions of the country, and the Government undertook measures to reduce these fluctuations. By act of Nov. 16 1923, the Danish Government received authority to establish credits in England and in the United States and the proceeds of the credits were used to establish a currency equalization fund of £5,000,000. For a brief period the downward trend of the Danish exchange was stopped. During January, however, the krone again began to depreciate and the Government adopted new measures to prevent a further decline. On March 29 1924 an act was passed establishing the central currency office, among the various powers of which was the right to control foreign exchange transactions and to restrict dealings in foreign exchanges to a small number of banks. The improvement of krone exchange following the establishment of the central currency office, however, was of only brief duration, and in May another period of depreciation began. In July the Government called a conference of representatives of industry and trade as well as of the various political parties to consider the exchange question. The result of this conference was the currency stabilization law of Dec. 20 1924 which laid down broader principles for a return to normal exchange conditions.

The chief provisions of the act may be summarized as follows: The National Bank of Denmark was exempted from its obligation to redeem its notes in gold until Jan. 1 1927. The National Bank at the same time agreed to sell dollars, the par value of which is 3.78 kroner per dollar, at a rate which up to July 1 1925 should not exceed 5.74; from this date to Dec. 31 1925 5.64; and during the first half of 1926 at a rate not exceeding 5.32. Thus it was intended gradually to raise the value of the krone. To assist in carrying out these measures the National Bank obtained an exchange credit for one year in the United States of \$40,000,000, guaranteed by the Danish Government, which also agreed to repay within two years to the National Bank a loan of 40,000,000 kroner which it had obtained in 1922 in connection with the reorganization of the Landsmands Bank. The Government was to obtain this money from special taxes.

The currency stabilization act was primarily intended to check the decline of the krone and to bring about a gradual increase in its value. Soon after the passing of this act, however, Danish exchange rose so rapidly that at the end of December 1925 it was quoted at 4.03 kroner to the dollar instead of 5.64 kroner, as had been anticipated by the law of December 1924.

The rapid rise of the Danish krone was due chiefly to two factors. First, a substantial decrease of imports resulted from the prolonged labor stoppage in 1925, so that the excess of imports over exports was reduced from 212,000,000 kroner in 1924 to 130,000,000 kroner in 1925. Even this figure, it appears, represents the imports as larger than they actually were, for the import figures are based upon the value of the goods at the time when they were cleared into the country, whereas payment is not made in most cases until considerably later. Thus importers were often able to take advantage of the rapid appreciation of the exchange, and so to meet their obligations at a substantially lower rate than that obtained at the time of purchase. The actual payments in kroner, therefore, were less than had been stated in the trade statistics. An estimate places the saving effected in this manner at about 30,000,000 kroner, so that the excess of imports over exports may be further reduced to about 100,000,000 kroner. In consequence of the improved trade balance, the balance of payments, which in the previous year had been unfavorable, became favorable by about 15,000,000 kroner.

Second, and far more important than the improvement of the balance of payments, was the effect of foreign speculation in Danish exchange. Foreign speculators, in the expectation of a rapid rise of the krone, began to buy Danish bills heavily until foreign funds to an estimated total of about 100,000,000 kroner had been placed in Denmark. Concurrent with the increased interest of foreigners in the krone was the movement on the part of Danish holders of foreign bills of exchange to convert them into kroner. The National Bank took up these bills, as well as foreign offerings which the market was unable to absorb, with the result that the exchange equalization fund, which earlier in the year had been practically exhausted, was again replenished, and the bank increased its own portfolio of foreign bills. Holdings of foreign bills of exchange by the National Bank increased from 30,000,000 kroner at the end of February to 154,000,000 kroner in August of the same year. Loans and discounts of the National Bank during the same period decreased from 262,000,000 kroner to 99,000,000 kroner at the end of August, because the private banks found themselves able to repay their debts to the National Bank with kroner obtained through the liquidation of their foreign exchange holdings. During the entire period interest rates remained high, and the official discount rate stood unchanged at 7%.

The central bank, however, realizing that the influx of foreign funds was only temporary and for speculative purposes, endeavored to check this movement. On Aug. 24 1925 the bank rate was reduced to 6% and on Sept. 8 to 5½%. By the end of August the rapid upward movement of the krone was checked and foreign funds began to leave the country. Holdings of foreign bills of the National Bank declined to 90,000,000 kroner at the end of the year, a decrease of 64,000,000 kroner since the end of August. Notwithstanding the heavy outflow of foreign funds, Danish exchange remained stable for the rest of the year at about 4 kroner to the dollar.

On Dec. 15 1925 the currency stabilization act was amended. The National Bank was placed under obligation to maintain a minimum dollar exchange rate of 23.8 cents per krone during 1926, with the provision, however, that if exceptional circumstances should arise the Minister of Commerce might authorize a temporary lowering of the rate, but not below 23 cents. The exchange credit of \$40,000,000 which had not been drawn upon was renewed for another year. Although not expressly stated in the act, it was taken as a matter of course that the bank would maintain the rate of exchange obtaining at the end of 1925 and would work toward a gradual return to par. During the first half of 1926 krone exchange rose steadily,

and since June it has been quoted at 0.9% below par. On Jan. 3, the first business day after the return to gold, the krone was quoted at 26.68 cents, as against a mint parity of 26.80 cents.

The rapid appreciation of the krone was accompanied by a sharp decline in wholesale prices. The wholesale price index, as published by the Finansitende, declined from 234 in January 1925 to 160 in December of the same year. The rapid adjustment of wholesale prices to the value of the krone was due primarily to the fact that stocks of commodities had been well nigh exhausted during the labor conflict. Manufacturers and wholesalers were able, therefore, after the settlement of the strike, promptly to adjust their prices to the increased value of the currency. During 1926 the wholesale price index declined still further, reaching the lowest point in June. Since July Danish exchange has remained practically stable, while prices have shown an upward tendency.

Although wholesale prices adjusted themselves with comparative rapidity to the movement of the exchange, retail prices followed but slowly. Available figures show that retail prices declined from 210 in June 1925 to 177 in December and to 159 in July 1926. Furthermore, certain items, such as rents, interest on loans, and taxation, remained unchanged, while wages were increased in the middle of 1925. All these factors had an unfavorable effect on industry and trade, and a large volume of unemployment prevailed. The number of unemployed among trade unionists increased from 24,000 in June 1925 to about 85,000 in December. During the early part of 1926 conditions improved rapidly and the number of unemployed decreased to about 41,000 in May. Since then unemployment has increased slowly.

Toward the end of 1925, when the return to gold was discussed by a parliamentary committee, the bank made the following statement to this committee: "The bank does not consider it advisable to revert to gold payments until price levels and incomes have been brought into equilibrium and into correspondence with the ultimate value of the crown, and until sufficient time has elapsed to show the permanence of the situation." The resumption of gold payments by the bank indicates that the conditions considered indispensable for the return to gold have now developed, and that the National Bank expects continued stability of the factors underlying the exchange value of the crown.

### Economic and Industrial Conditions in Denmark During December—Payment of Bills in Gold.

The statement reviewing economic and industrial conditions in Denmark during December, issued on Jan. 31, jointly, by the Danish National Bank and the Danish Statistical Department, says:

From Jan. 1 1927 the payment of bills in gold was resumed, as the law of the 27th of December 1926 introduced a measure by which the National Bank is obliged to exchange its bills for gold, however not for smaller amounts than 28,000 Kr. in bills or amounts that are divisible by this. The exchange can, according to the bank's wish, be made by payment of Danish gold coin, gold bars, or gold in other form calculated at a value of 2,480 Kr. per kilo fine gold.

The statement also has the following to say:

The value of the Danish Krone has again during the month of December increased a little, as the average Dollar quotations were: 375 85-100 Kr., equal to 26.60c. to one Krone, (November 376 16-100 Kr.) equal to 26.58c. to one Krone, for Sterling 18.20 Kr. (November 18.21 Kr.) so that the average gold value during December was 99.24 Ore against 99.16 Ore in November.

The outstanding loan and deposit activities in the three private principal banks have during the last month remained about the same. The outstanding loans were thus at the end of December 1,015,000,000 Kr. against 1,012,000,000 Kr. ultimo November and the deposits 1,122,000,000 Kr. against 1,123,000,000 Kr. in November. However, the outstanding loan of the National Bank has during the month increased with about 24,000,000 Kr., of which at least half is due to the fact that the Ministry of Finance overdraw its folio account.

As a result of the increase in the outstanding loans, and as is usually the case in the month of December, the amount of bills in circulation is also increased somewhat, namely from 377,800,000 Kr. to 386,000,000 Kr. At the end of December 1925 the amount of bills was 437,000,000 Kr. The National Bank's stock of foreign currency has, however, remained about the same, as during the month it has gone down from a little over 25,000,000 Kr. to a little over 23,000,000 Kr. As the government's guarantee of the National Banks foreign credits ceased at the end of the year, the National Bank took up new credits on its own account to the value of 3,000,000 pounds.

The transactions in stocks and bonds on the Copenhagen stock exchange were in December somewhat less than in November as far as stock are concerned, but somewhat larger for bonds; the average weekly notations were thus for stocks 1,800,000 Kr. (November 2,700,000 Kr.) and for bonds 3,500,000 Kr. (November 2,300,000 Kr.).

The index figures for stocks as well as for bonds went up a little, the index figure for stocks being 91.7 (November 91.2) and the bond index 86.0 (November 85.7) when the notations of July 1 1914 are fixed at 100. The increase in the stock index is found in nearly all stock groups, with the exception of shipping papers, which—after a rather considerable increase during the fall months—again declined somewhat.

The statistical department's wholesale index has during the month of December gone down 12 points from 170 to 158. The wholesale index is thus down on the same level as during the summer months, before the English coal strike brought about the great increase in the fuel prices.

The trade balance with foreign countries in November amounted to 161,000,000 Kr. for imports and 118,000,000 Kr. for exports, so that there has been an import surplus of 43,000,000 Kr. against 27,000,000 Kr. in November 1925. In spite of the comparatively large import surplus in November 1926, the import surplus for the first 11 months of the year is nevertheless considerably smaller than during the corresponding time of the preceding year, namely 73,000,000 Kr. in 1926 against 102,000,000 Kr. in 1925.

The export of agricultural products was for all products considerably larger than in December 1925, for bacon even 25% and for meat about 50% larger. The average weekly exportations were as follows:

Butter, 23,469 Kilos (December 1925, 22,821 Kilos). Eggs, 637,000 scores (591,700 scores). Bacon, 43,465 (35,185 Kilos). Beef and cattle, 11,307 Kilos (6,405).

The prices on the exported products were, in accordance with the general price fall somewhat lower than during the corresponding month last year. The average weekly notations were thus: Butter, 307 Kr. per 100 Kilo (December 1925, 335 Kr.). Eggs, 2.46 Kr. per Kilo (3.22 Kr.). Bacon, 1.50 Kr. per Kilo (2.02 Kr.). Beef, 55 Ore per kilo on the hoof (62 Ore).

The unemployment conditions are still worse than at the corresponding time in 1925. The percentage of unemployed was thus at the end of Decem-

ber 1926, 32.7% against 31.7 ultimo December 1925. In the real industrial professions the conditions were similar, as the percentage here was 29.0 ultimo December 1926 against 27.9 in 1925.

The Government's revenue from taxation was in December 1926 12,800,000 Kr. of which 4,600,000 Kr. were custom revenue taxes. In December 1925 the corresponding figures were 13,400,000 and 4,000,000 Kr.

**F. A. Sterling Chosen as United States Minister to Dublin.**

It was announced at the State Department on Feb. 4 that Frederick A. Sterling had been chosen as Minister to Dublin. Mr. Sterling is at present Counsellor of the American Embassy in London.

**Robert W. Bliss to Be Ambassador to Argentina, Succeeding Peter A. Jay, Resigned.**

The State Department at Washington has announced that Robert Wood Bliss, now Minister to Sweden, will succeed Peter A. Jay, resigned, as Ambassador to Argentina. The resignation of Mr. Jay was referred to in these columns Feb. 12, page 870.

**Hugh S. Gibson to Succeed William Phillips as Ambassador to Belgium.**

President Coolidge announced on Feb. 8 that Hugh S. Gibson, Minister to Switzerland, now in the United States on a leave of absence, will be appointed Ambassador to Belgium, succeeding William Phillips, who has been named as Minister to Canada. Regarding the new appointment of Mr. Gibson, a cablegram from Geneva to the "Times" Feb. 9 (copyright) said:

Widespread regret is voiced in League circles over the transfer of Hugh Gibson, American Minister to Switzerland, to Brussels, and general hope is expressed that he may be permitted to continue as head of the American delegation at the Arms Conference.

Mr. Gibson for several years has been in close relations with the League and has filled a difficult diplomatic post with great tact and ability. He nearly always has been on the wrong side of the fence, and he often has been in a situation where, because of his close touch and first-hand knowledge, he has found that his orders conflicted with his own judgment. But he obeyed his orders with great dignity and skill, which caused him to be liked and admired.

As chief of the American delegation to the Preparatory Disarmament Conference he opposed the aims of more States than has any other American representative, and yet he enjoys better relations with the opposition than does any other American delegate to Geneva.

**Finance Minister Volpi Denies Italian Stabilization Loan Rumors.**

J. A. Sisto & Co. are in receipt of a cable from Mr. Sisto stating that in a private interview this week between Finance Minister Volpi and Mr. Sisto in Rome Minister Volpi denied as absolutely false the rumors here that an Italian Government stabilization loan is to be issued in this country in the near future.

**Italy Unifies Exchange—Opens Institute to Concentrate Foreign Dealings Through Treasury.**

A Rome (Italy) Associated Press cablegram (Feb. 24) appears as follows in the "Times":

The Institute of Foreign Exchange, recently created by decree, went into operation to-day at a ceremony over which Count Volpi, the Finance Minister, presided.

The Institute will purchase and sell foreign exchange. By its creation the entire dealings in foreign exchange on the market for the account of the Italian Treasury will be concentrated in one organization. Creation of the Institute is part of a series of reforms adopted by the Government for the protection of Italian credit and to benefit Italy's foreign trade.

**Offering of \$2,500,000 Department of Antioquia (Republic of Colombia) External Gold Bonds—Books Closed—Bonds Oversubscribed.**

Following up the October financing of the Department of Antioquia, offering was made on Feb. 25 of \$2,500,000 Antioquia (Republic of Colombia) 7% 20-year external secured sinking fund gold bonds, series C, by Blair & Co., Inc., the Chase Securities Corporation and E. H. Rollins & Sons at 96½ and interest, to yield 7.35% to final maturity. It was announced yesterday morning (Feb. 25) that the bonds had been oversubscribed and the books closed. The bonds are dated July 1 1925, are due July 1 1945, and are callable as a whole only, except for sinking fund purposes, at 102½ and accrued interest on July 1 1935, and on any interest date thereafter. A cumulative sinking fund sufficient to retire the series C bonds by maturity is provided, payable semi-annually to call bonds by lot at 100 and accrued interest on the next succeeding interest payment date. The bonds are part of a total authorized issue of \$20,000,000, to be outstanding in the hands of the public \$5,923,700 series A, \$5,843,000 series B and \$2,500,000 series C. Principal and semi-annual interest (Jan. 1 and

July 1) are payable in United States gold at the office of Blair & Co., New York, fiscal agents, free of all taxes, present or future, of the Department of Antioquia and of the Republic of Colombia. The bonds, coupon, in denominations of \$1,000, \$500 and \$100, are registerable as to principal only. The bonds are the direct obligation of the Department of Antioquia and are to be specifically secured (upon the retirement of Fr. 884,000 bonds and \$40,000 internal bonds which have been called for payment), by

(1) A first charge and lien on 75% of the revenues of the Department derived from the tobacco tax, and

(2) A first lien on the properties and earnings of the Antioquia Railway, including all extensions, additions and improvements constructed or acquired with the proceeds of these bonds.

The Department covenants that it will not issue any of the remaining \$5,500,000 authorized bonds unless the proceeds of the assigned revenues for the preceding fiscal year or the annual average of the two preceding fiscal years shall be at least equal to twice the annual interest and sinking fund requirements on the bonds outstanding, including those then to be issued.

Regarding the purpose of the issue and the finances of the Department we quote as follows from the offering circular:

*Purpose.*—The proceeds of the present issue will be applied to the enlargement and improvement of the Antioquia Railway and (or) other railways in the Department, and (or) to reimburse the Department for expenditures incurred for such purposes.

*Finances.*—The total debt of the Department of Antioquia as of Dec. 31 1926, exclusive of bonds to be redeemed as stated above, amounted to \$15,456,664 (U. S.). Including the present loan, the total debt of the Department amounts to \$17,956,664 (U. S.), or about \$20 (U. S.) per capita.

The ordinary revenues of the Department, exclusive of income from and expenditures on the Antioquia Railway, for each of the four fiscal years ended June 30 1926, exceeded ordinary expenditures.

The banking system of the Republic of Colombia follows that of the United States, the Bank of the Republic being modeled after the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States. As a result of this sound fiscal system and the favorable trade position of the Republic, its currency enjoys a high degree of stability, the present quotation being 98 cents U. S. per Colombian dollar (1 Colombian dollar, at par of exchange equals 97.33 cents U. S.).

**Offering of \$1,100,000 5% Bonds of Pacific Coast Joint Stock Land Bank of San Francisco.**

An offering of \$1,100,000 5% bonds of the Pacific Coast Joint Stock Land Bank of San Francisco was made on Feb. 18 by Harris, Forbes & Co., Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., and the William R. Compton Co. The bonds are offered at 103½ and interest, to yield about 4.55% to the optional date (1936) and 5% thereafter to redemption or maturity. The issue will be dated Nov. 1 1926, will become due Nov. 1 1956 and will be redeemable at par and accrued interest on any interest date after ten years from date of issue. They will be coupon bonds, fully registerable and interchangeable, in denomination of \$1,000. Principal and semi-annual interest (May 1 and Nov. 1) will be payable in New York, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles or San Francisco.

The Pacific Coast Joint Stock Land Bank of San Francisco was organized in 1922 and is restricted by its charter to loans in California and Nevada.

According to the official statement of the Bank as of Jan. 31, 1927, it has first mortgages on farm property amounting to \$12,338,600 secured by property appraised at \$29,701,351. The bank has a paid-in capital of \$700,000, surplus and reserves of \$142,500 and undivided profits of \$40,387. Present net earnings, it is stated, are at the rate of 6% per annum. Including this issue there will be \$11,725,000 of bonds outstanding.

The following is the statement of the Pacific Coast Joint Stock Land Bank of San Francisco as officially reported Jan. 31 1927:

Acres of real estate security loaned upon.....	289,730
Total amount loaned.....	\$12,338,600
Appraised value of real estate security.....	\$29,701,351
Average appraised value per acre.....	\$102.51
Average amount loaned per acre.....	\$42.58
Percentage of loans to appraised value of security.....	41.54%

**President Coolidge Vetoes McNary-Haugen Farm Relief Bill—Attorney General Finds Bill Unconstitutional.**

The McNary-Haugen Farm Relief bill was vetoed yesterday (Feb. 25) by President Coolidge. Along with his veto message to the Senate the President forwarded an opinion from Attorney General Sargent in which the view was expressed that the bill in its essential provisions violates the Constitution. This opinion was referred to by the President in indicating the objections to the bill, the President declaring that the most decisive reason why the bill ought not to be approved "is that it is not Constitutional." According to

the Brooklyn "Eagle" the Attorney General held the act unconstitutional on the following grounds:

(1) It takes from the President the constitutional executive power and duty of making appointments, and by legislation confers that power upon others.

(2) Congress delegates its constitutional power of legislation to private co-operative associations.

(3) The act contravenes the provisions of the constitution against the taking of property without due process of law.

The President in his veto message said that "the difficulty with this particular measure is that it is not framed to aid farmers as a whole, and it is furthermore calculated to injure rather than promote the general public welfare." He refers to the fact that "the bill singles out a few products, chiefly sectional, and proposes to raise the prices of those regardless of the fact that thousands of other farmers would be directly penalized." He also notes that the legislation "propoees in effect that Congress shall delegate to a Federal Farm Board, nominated by farmers, the power to fix and collect a tax, called an equalization fee, on certain products produced by those farmers." He observes that "this so-called equalization fee is not a tax for purposes of revenue in the accepted sense. It is a tax for the special benefit of particular groups. As a direct tax on certain of the vital necessities of life it represents the most vicious form of taxation." The veto message as given in an Associated Press dispatch to the "Sun," follows. The text of the President's veto message follows:

*To the Senate:*

The conditions which Senate bill 4,808 is designed to remedy have been, and still are, unsatisfactory in many cases.

No one can deny that the prices of many farm products have been out of line with the general price level for several years. No one could fail to want every proper step taken to assure to agriculture a just and secure place in our economic scheme. Reasonable and constructive legislation to that end would be thoroughly justified and would have the hearty support of all who have the interests of the nation at heart. The difficulty with this particular measure is that it is not framed to aid farmers as a whole, and it is furthermore calculated to injure rather than promote the general public welfare.

It is axiomatic that progress is made through building on the good foundations that already exist. For many years—indeed, from before the day of modern agricultural science—balanced and diversified farming has been regarded by thoughtful farmers and scientists as the safeguard of our agriculture.

The bill under consideration throws this aside as of no consequence. It says in effect that all the agricultural scientists and all the thinking farmers of the last fifty years are wrong, that what we ought to do is not to encourage diversified agriculture but instead put a premium on one-crop farming.

The measure discriminates definitely against products which make up what has been universally considered a program of safe farming. The bill upholds as ideals of American farming the men who grow cotton, corn, rice, swine, tobacco or wheat, and nothing else. These are to be given special favors at the expense of the farmer who has toiled for years to build up a constructive farming enterprise to include a variety of crops and livestock that shall, so far as possible, be safe, and keep the soil, the farmer's chief asset, fertile and productive.

The bill singles out a few products, chiefly sectional, and proposes to raise the prices of those, regardless of the fact that thousands of other farmers would be directly penalized. If this is a true farm relief measure, why does it leave out the producers of beef cattle, sheep, dairy products, poultry products, potatoes, hay, fruit, vegetables, oats, barley, rye, flax and the other important agricultural lines. So far as the farmers, as a whole, are concerned, this measure is not for them. It is for certain groups of farmers in certain sections of the country. Can it be thought that such legislation could have the sanction of the rank and file of the nation's farmers.

This measure provides specifically for the payment by the Federal board of all losses, costs and charges of packers, millers, cotton spinners, or other processors who are operating under contract with the board. It contemplates that the packers may be commissioned by the Government to buy hogs enough to create a near scarcity in this country, slaughter the hogs, sell the pork products abroad at a loss and have their losses, costs and charges made good out of the pockets of farm taxpayers. The millers would be similarly commissioned to operate in wheat or corn and have their losses, costs and charges paid by farm taxpayers.

It is roughly estimated that in this country there are 4,000 millers, over 1,000 meat packing plants and about 1,000 actual spinners. No one can say definitely, after reading this bill, whether each of these concerns would be entitled to receive a contract with the Government. Certainly no independent concern could continue in business without one. Each of the agencies holding a contract—the efficient and inefficient alike—would be reimbursed for all their losses, costs and charges.

It seems almost incredible that the producers of hops, corn, wheat, rice, tobacco and cotton should be offered a scheme of legislative relief in which the only persons who are guaranteed a profit are the exporters, packers, millers, cotton spinners and other processors.

Clearly this legislation involves governmental fixing of prices. It gives the proposed Federal board almost unlimited authority to fix prices on the designated commodities. This is price fixing, furthermore, on some of the nation's basic foods and materials. Nothing is more certain than that such price fixing would upset the normal exchange relationships existing in the open market and that it would finally have to be extended to cover a multitude of other goods and services. Government price fixing, once started, has alike no justice and no end. It is an economic folly from which this country has every right to be spared.

"This legislation proposes in effect that Congress shall delegate to a Federal farm board nominated by farmers the power to fix and collect a tax called an equalization fee, on certain products pronounced by those farmers. That certainly contemplates a remarkable delegation of the taxing power. The purpose of that tax, it may be repeated, is to pay the losses incurred in the disposition of the surplus products in order to raise the price on that portion of the products consumed by our own people.

"This so-called equalization fee is not a tax for purposes of revenue in the accepted sense. It is a tax for the special benefit of particular groups. As a direct tax on certain of the vital necessities of life it represents the most vicious form of taxation. Its real effect is an employment of the coercive

powers of Government to the end that certain special groups of farmers and processors may profit temporarily at the expense of other farmers and of the community at large.

The chief objection to the bill is that it would not benefit the farmer. Whatever may be the temporary influence of arbitrary interference, no one can deny that is the long run prices will be governed by the law of supply and demand. To expect to increase prices and then to maintain them on a higher level by means of a plan which must of necessity increase production while decreasing consumption, is to fly in the face of an economic law as well established as any law of nature. Experience shows that high prices in any given year mean greater acreage the next year. This does not necessarily mean a larger crop the following year, because adverse weather conditions may produce a smaller crop on a larger acreage, but in the long run a constantly increasing acreage must of necessity mean a larger average crop.

Under the stimulus of high prices the cotton acreage increased by 17,000,000 acres in the last five years. Under the proposed plan as prices are driven up irresistibly by the artificial demand created by the purchase of the board, the millions of farmers each acting independently, with no assurance that self-restraint on his part in the common interest will be accompanied by a like restraint on the part of the millions of other individuals scattered over this immense country will do just what any one else would do under the circumstances, plant and grow all they can in order to take full advantage of a situation which they fear is only temporary. This was, of course, recognized by the authors of the measure, and they proposed originally to offset this tendency by means of the equalization fee to be paid by each producer. But in the present bill the equalization fee is to be paid by only part of the producers.

On the other hand, higher prices will make a decreased consumption. From 1917 to 1925 the per capita consumption of pork increased from 55 pounds to 86.3 pounds, but in the following year when the price of pork the per capita consumption of pork fell off almost nine pounds. It is not inconceivable that the consumers would rebel at an arbitrarily high price and deliberately reduce their consumption of that particular product, especially as uncontrolled substitutes would always be available. The truth is that there is no such thing as effective partial control. To have effective control we would have to have control of not only one food product but of all substitutes.

Increased production on the one hand, coupled with decreased domestic consumption on the other, would mean an increased exportable surplus to be dumped on the world market. This in turn would mean a constantly decreasing world price until the point was reached where the world price was sufficiently low, so that, even though increased by our tariff duties, commodities would flow into this country in large quantities.

A board of twelve men are granted almost unlimited control of the agricultural industry and cannot only fix the price which the producers of five commodities shall receive for their goods but can also fix the price which the consumers of the country shall pay for these commodities.

The board is expected to obtain higher prices for the American farmer by removing the surplus from the home market and dumping it abroad at a below-cost price. To do this the board is given the authority to implicate to fix the domestic price level, either by means of contracts which it may make with processors or co-operatives or by providing for the purchase of the commodities in such quantities as will bring the prices up to the point which the board may fix.

Except as it may be restrained by wear of foreign importations, the farm board, composed of representatives of producers, is given the power to fix the prices of these necessities of life at any point it sees fit.

The law fixes no standards, imposes no restrictions and requires no regulation of any kind. There could be no appeal from the arbitrary decision of these men, who would be under constant pressure from their constituents to push prices as high as possible. To expect moderation under these circumstances is to disregard experience and credit human nature with qualities it does not possess. It is not so long since the Government was spending vast sums, and through the Department of Justice exerting every effort to break up combinations that were raising the cost of living to a point conceived to be excessive.

This bill, if it accomplishes its purposes, will raise the price of the specified agricultural commodities to the highest possible point and in doing so the board will operate without any restraints imposed by the anti-trust laws. The granting of any such arbitrary power to a Government board is to run counter to our traditions, the philosophy of our Government, the spirit of our institutions and all principles of equity.

The administrative difficulties involved are sufficient to wreck the plan. No matter how simple an economic conception may be, its application on a large scale in the modern world is attended by infinite complexities and difficulties. The principle underlying this bill, whether fallacious or not, is simple and easy to state; but no one has outlined in definite and detailed terms how the principle is to be carried out in practice, how can the board be expected to carry out the enactment of the law that cannot even be described prior to its passage? In the meanwhile, existing channels and methods of distribution and marketing must be seriously dislocated.

This is even more apparent when we take into consideration the problem of administering the collection of the equalization fee. The bureau states that the fee will have to be collected either from the processors or the transportation companies, and dismisses as impracticable collections at the point of sale. In the case of transportation companies it points out the enormous difficulties of collecting the fee in view of the possibility of shipping commodities by unregistered vehicles. In so far as processors are concerned it estimates the number at 6,632.

Without considering the number of factories engaged in the business of canning corn or manufacturing food products other than millers, some conception of the magnitude of the task may be had when we consider that if the wheat, the corn and cotton crops had been under operation in the year 1925, collection would have been required from an aggregate of 16,034,466,679 units. The bureau states that it will be impossible to collect the equalization fee in full.

The bill will not succeed in providing a practical method of controlling the agricultural surplus, which lies at the heart of the whole problem. In the matter of controlling output, the farmer is at a disadvantage as compared with the manufacturer. The latter is better able to gauge his market, and on the face of falling prices can reduce production. The farmer, on the other hand, must operate over a longer period of time in producing his crops and is subject to weather conditions and disturbances in world markets which can never be known in advance.

In trying to find a solution for this fundamental problem of the surplus the present bill offers no constructive suggestion. It seeks merely to increase the prices paid by the consumer, with the inevitable result of stimulating production on the part of the farmer and decreasing consumption on the part of the public. It ignores the fact that production is curbed only by decreased, not increased, prices. In the end the equalization fee and the entire machinery provided by the bill under consideration will merely aggravate conditions which are the cause of the farmer's present distress.

We must be careful in trying to help the farmer not to jeopardize the whole agricultural industry by subjecting it to the tyranny of bureaucratic regulation and control. That is what the present bill will do. But aside from all this, no man can foresee what the effect on our economic life will be of disrupting the long established and delicately adjusted channels of commerce. That it will be far-reaching is undeniable, nor is it beyond the range of possibility that the present bill, if enacted into law, will threaten the very basis of our national prosperity through dislocation, the slowing up of industry and the disruption of the farmer's home market, which absorbs 90% of his products.

With the limited number of farm co-operatives with whom contracts may be made for surplus disposal and the fact that farm co-operatives are not likely to be engaged in meat packing, flour milling or cotton spinning, it appears certain that the largest part of these contracts must be made between the board and the processors and other agencies. It means that the whole contract in swine, for instance, must be carried out with the meat packers; that a large part of wheat operations must be carried out with flour millers, wheat exporters and others.

It means that any establishment which has such a contract can charge what it likes to our American consumers, because it can place the loss from any product unsalable at home on the farmer or the Government by dumping it abroad. In actual working this is a complete guaranty of the profits of these concerns without restraint or limitation on profiteering against American consumers, of which the farmer himself is a very large element.

It is not a guaranty to the farmer. The implications of this were pointed out in significant remarks in the minority report of the House Committee on Agriculture, which merits fuller attention than it has been given.

The silence of the majority report on this phase of the subject, in view of its wide circulation in the farming communities of the country, can be only because the proponents of the bill are unwilling that the farmers of the nation shall learn that it is proposed that the equalization fee principle shall be utilized to assure to the packers what they have not been able to gain for themselves—a certain profit from every year's operation.

The proponents of the bill at the hearings conceded that it could not operate as to animals except under a contract with the packers. It incidentally follows that no packer without a contract could operate with the Board. The bill nowhere protects the independent packer. It does provide that there shall be no discrimination between co-operative associations. It contains no like provisions as to processors.

The bill would impose the burden of its support to a large degree upon farmers who would not benefit by it. The products embraced in the plan are only about one-third of the total American farm production. The farmers who grow these commodities are themselves large consumers of them, and every farmer consumes some of them. There are several million farmers who do not produce any of the designated products, or very little of them, and they must pay the premiums upon the products designated in the bill. In some commodities such as corn and mill feed the farmers are practically the sole consumers. It is proposed to increase the price of corn and mill feed to American farmers, and, therefore, the costs to the dairy and cattle feeding industries whose products are omitted from the bill.

Beyond this, it means that by dumping of American feeds abroad at lower prices than those charged under this plan to the American swine, cattle and dairy farmer, we should be directly subsidizing foreign production of pork, dairy, beef and other animal products in competition with our own farmers in the markets of the world. We shall send cheap cotton abroad and sell high cotton at home.

The effect of this plan will be continuously to stimulate American production and to pile up increasing surpluses beyond the world demand. We are already over-producing. It has been claimed that the plan would only be used in the emergency of occasional surplus, which unduly suppresses the price. No such limitations are placed in the bill; but, on the other hand, the definition of surplus is the "surplus over domestic requirements," and as we have had such a surplus in most of the commodities covered in the bill for fifty years, and will have for years to see that it means continuous action.

It is said that by the automatic increase of the equalization fee to meet the increasing losses on enlarged dumping of increasing surplus that there would be restraint on production. This can prove effective only after so great an increase in production as will greatly enlarge our exports on all the commodities excepted. With such increased surpluses dumped from the United States on to foreign markets the world prices will be broken down and with them American prices, upon which the premium is based, will likewise be lowered to the point of complete disaster to American farmers. It is impossible to see how this bill can work.

Several of our foreign markets have agriculture of their own to protect, and they have laws in force which may be applied to dumping, and we may expect reprisals from them against dumping agricultural products which will even more diminish our foreign markets.

The bill is essentially a price fixing bill because, in practical working, the Board must arrive in some way at the premium price which will be demanded from the American consumer, and it must fix these prices in the contracts at which it will authorize purchases by flour millers, packers, other manufacturers and such co-operatives as may be used, for the Board must formulate a basis upon which the Board will pay losses on the export of their surplus.

The present volume of exports of the commodities designated in the bill is one and one-half billion dollars per annum. A multitude of contracts involving scores of different grades and qualities and varieties of products with thousands of individuals, both for raw and manufactured materials, must be entered into—practically cost-plus contracts. The monetary volume of these contracts will be further expanded beyond even this sum because in hogs, for instance, the exports are in the main lard and bacon, while other parts of the animal are consumed at home, and thus contracting must apparently need cover all hogs, not the export surplus alone.

Therefore the bill means an enormous building up of Government bureaucracy to let and inspect these billions of dollars of contracts with all their infinite variety of terms covering different goods and their different grades and qualities. In turn all of the contracts of resale by these institutions must be examined and checked to determine the losses made.

"Parallel with it another bureaucracy must be built up to collect and distribute the equalization fee. It all calls for an aggregation of bureaucracy dominating the fortunes of American farmers, intruding into their affairs and offering infinite opportunities to fraud and incapacity. It does not replace any middle men or manufacturers. It means that thousands of officials are set to watch them and the farmers to see that they do not evade the requirements. One of our difficulties to-day is the great spread between the farmer and the consumer. All these increased processors' profits and this cost of bureaucracy must simply add to this spread without bringing to the farmer any return on such items. In fact, as he is a large consumer he also pays this.

While the Government is not directly buying or selling these commodities, it must under this bill let contracts for others to do so and name therein the terms upon which they shall buy and sell. No matter how disguised, this in plain terms is Government buying and selling of commodities through agents.

It is proposed that the administration of this plan shall be in the control of a board whose members are nominated to the President by agricultural organizations for his transmission to the Senate for confirmation. That appears to be an unconstitutional limitation on the authority of the President, but, far more important than this, I do not believe that upon serious consideration the farmers of America would tolerate the precedent of a body of men chosen solely by one industry who, acting in the name of the Government, shall arrange for contracts which determine prices, secure the buying and selling of commodities.

The levying of taxes on that industry and pay losses on foreign dumping of any surplus. There is no reason why other industries—copper, coal, lumber, textiles and others—in every occasional difficulty should not receive the same treatment by the Government. Such action would establish bureaucracy on such a scale as to dominate not only the economic life, but the moral, social and political future of our people.

The amount of the equalization fees, the method of collection and disposition of these great sums of money are to be determined by the Board without any effective check or review from the Executive or Congress—a delegation of powers under which our form of government cannot continue.

No time is placed upon the contracts which the Board may make. Such contracts might easily be for a term of years, and in some commodities, as for example, cotton at the present time, must necessarily be for a considerable period since the surplus cannot be disposed of in a single year. During the continuance of any such contract, the equalization fee must continue to be levied unless the whole burden of a continuing operation is to be borne by the producers of the first crop. Consequently, the suggestion often made that the scheme should be tried and if it fails be repealed loses all force. This suggestion is faulty in another respect—namely, that failure would be demonstrated only by the accumulation of a huge surplus in storage. The discontinuance of operations, while a vast supply remained in storage, would result in a prolonged depression of price through the surplus being fed into the markets or through fear of its sale.

While the bill authorizes an appropriation of \$250,000,000, it fails to restrict the contracts of the Board within that sum and nowhere denies the liability of the United States for additional sums of money. If the Board had begun operating in the 1925 cotton crop when prices were around 20 cents a pound and had then attempted to hold up the price on the 1926 crop at a level which induced the picking of the whole crop, the whole \$250,000,000 would have been spent and great commitments beyond that figure have been entered into. The allocation of \$100,000,000 to cotton in last year's bill, plus the suggested fee of \$5 a bale, would have been completely exhausted long before the 1926 crop came into the market. And, if the equalization fee should prove unconstitutional or otherwise uncollectible, the Treasury would have been committed by contracts to a liability to the extent of the whole revolving fund.

"Apart from the necessity of contracting with the packers the bill confers upon the board unlimited power as to the nature, extent and duration of contracts with other processors. It does not even enjoin an absence of "unreasonable" discrimination between co-operatives. The board would, therefore, possess an absolute power of life and death over many legitimate business organizations, since none could compete against a processor enjoying a contract with the board protecting it against loss. The board could go unlimitedly into processing for its own account, if it so desired. No such unrestricted powers have ever been conferred upon any board.

The insurance proposal amounts to a straight Government agreement to pay to the co-operative associations any loss which they may incur in withholding commodities from the market—no matter how high the price may go in the mean time. For example, a wheat co-operative may, in a year of shortage, take from a member on a day when it is selling at \$2 50 a bushel.

Under this bill it may decide to hold it for \$3 but be insured that if the market breaks the Government will pay it the difference between \$2 50 and the price at which the co-operative actually disposes of the wheat. Nothing more destructive of all orderly processes of trade could be imagined, and nothing more unfair to the non-member of the co-operative, since his equalization fee would be used to pay the losses.

Let us see how the bill is to be put into operation. This act provides that before operations as to any one of these commodities shall begin it shall be necessary to obtain an expression from the producers of the commodity through a State convention of such producers. This applies in any State where not so many as 50% of the producers of the particular commodity are members of co-operative associations or other organizations.

The President then quoted from the Senate debate on the subject of State conventions to show the interpretation given the section of the measure there and continued:

If all the producers attended the convention the expense, which must be borne by them individually, would be a tremendous addition to the operating cost, and if the majority of them did not attend the convention the deliberations would not represent the voice of the producers. If such relief as that contemplated by the general plan of this bill were desirable, it would be extremely unwise to hamper it with this most cumbersome and awkward provision, the compliance with which is made mandatory as a condition precedent to the operation of the law. It is impossible to see how such conventions of producers could ever be held. The bill does not say "delegates," it says "producers"—the farmers themselves, and if a majority of them must meet in State convention it is entirely unworkable.

Corn is a crop that varies between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000,000 bushels per year, and the normal export is very small. The reason then for operating this bill on corn would not grow out of the exportable surplus, but according to the definition in Section 6 (C). (2) Would grow out of a surplus above the requirements for orderly marketing. The marketing of corn would include marketing to a purchaser to cattle and hogs, so that a situation might arise where there would be a surplus above the requirements for orderly marketing.

"The act then could be put into operation as to corn under all the different kinds of agreements. But the vast expense of financing the operations of these agencies in the corn market would be charged, not against the entire commodity, but against that part of the commodity which is used for milling or processing, or that is transported by a common carrier. This, according to statistics, amounts to only some 5 to 20% of the corn produced."

"That the equalization fee is not laid on the entire commodity is not apparent from a casual reading of the act. But a close study shows that Section 10 provides that there shall be paid 'an equalization fee upon the following: The transportation, processing, or sale of such unit.' There is no other way to collect the fee. If that stood alone, then all the corn would be subject to the fee unless it were used by the raiser, but Section 15(1) says:

"In the case of . . . the term 'processing' means milling for market . . . of corn or the first processing in any manner for market . . . of corn not milled, and the term 'sale' means the sale of other disposition in the United States of . . . corn for milling or other processing for market, for resale, or for delivery by a common carrier . . ."

So, unless the corn is processed or sold for milling or other processing for market or is transported by common carrier, it is not subject to the equal-





**McNary-Haugen Plan Would Disappoint Wheat Farmers Hopes, According to Food Research Institute of Stanford University.**

The McNary-Haugen bills, if enacted, would disappoint expectations of wheat farmers, according to studies of the McNary-Haugen plan as applied to wheat, just published by the Food Research Institute of Stanford University. The Institute in a statement on Feb. 23 said:

Growers have been led to expect substantial price advantages under these measures. If the powers given to the proposed Farm Board were exercised without changes in the tariff, wheat prices could be raised but little except in unusual years. If the tariff duty on wheat were raised enough to give the board full scope for action, and if the board were administratively successful, the larger advance in price would stimulate increased planting to wheat. The resulting increased surplus would depress world prices and raise the equalization fee, wheat growing would again become unremunerative, and painful contraction of acreage would be in order. Within a few years, in either case, the experiment would fail to satisfy farmers' hopes.

The latest bills contain concessions to opponents which make it difficult to predict what a board would do. Hitherto full operations with the equalization fee were regarded as the heart of the plan, indispensable to its success as a measure of farm relief. Latterly such operations have been called passive. Loans to co-operatives and price insurance are offered as alternative methods of operation. But whatever their possible merits, they afford no promise of substantial price advantage to the wheat grower.

*Higher Prices Fundamental Objective.*

Increase of prices to the grower the Institute regards as the primary objective of the plan, despite much talk of price stabilization. Administered by a Farm Board, the central features of the plan are the maintenance of domestic prices, behind the tariff wall, substantially above export prices; the segregation of the surplus over domestic requirements and its sale for what it will bring; and the payment of operating costs, and losses on sales of the surplus, out of a fund derived from equalization fees collected on each bushel of wheat sold. The Institute discusses how such a plan, if adopted and intelligently administered, could be expected to work.

*Difficult Administrative Problems Might Be Solved.*

The Institute first assumes that the board would undertake, with the aid of appropriate tariff arrangements, to maintain domestic wheat prices 50 cents above the Canadian price. It would face huge and complex administrative problems, in determining appropriate differentials among various varieties, grades, and qualities of wheat and among various regions; in handling its purchases and sales of wheat so as to sustain the system of domestic prices; in maintaining futures trading and normal competitive relations among mills; in disposing of the surplus by export or otherwise; in management of stocks and carryovers. Under certain conditions, however, the Institute believes these problems might be successfully solved.

The board would need to be composed of highly competent men, able not only to work together but to secure the co-operation of the producers, the grain trade, and the milling industry. It would need to limit rather than magnify its responsibilities, to formulate its policies clearly and pursue them without vacillation. It would need to be assured of continued Congressional support, and to have working capital ample for all emergencies.

*Effect on Consumers.*

Consumers would bear practically the entire financial burden of the measure through increased prices of flour and bakery products. Little would be absorbed in distributive channels. Payment of the equalization fee would merely mean that growers would not get the full benefit of the increase of price. To add 170 million dollars to the net income of wheat growers, under the plan, would cost the other agricultural population about 55 million dollars, the country-town inhabitants 35 million, and the urban population 175 million.

As applied to wheat the assumed price increase would probably mean an addition to the cost of living of about \$12 a year per family. This would be felt most heavily by people with low dollar incomes, especially farmers and the poorer industrial classes. But in prosperous times this burden could be borne without restricting wheat consumption, and in hard times without preventing increased purchases of flour and bread, which would still be relatively cheap.

*Effects on Acreage and World Prices.*

Substantial increase in prices to wheat growers, however, would stimulate planting of wheat. The war experience showed that wheat acreage can expand rapidly under favorable prices. A large margin for such expansion exists, through use of idle land now in farms, through diversion from other crops, through extending cultivation onto new lands in the Southwest and far Northwest. The Institute predicts that the assumed price increase would lead, within a few years, to the increase of wheat acreage to the record level of 1919, if not higher, and to an increase of the crop by some 150 million bushels. So large an addition to our export surplus would depress world prices and increase the equalization fee. The net result, within a few years, would be that wheat prices to the grower would be no higher than if the plan were not adopted; and again, as after the war, agriculture would face the necessity of difficult and painful readjustment.

*Operations Under Existing Tariff.*

Economic consequences would be much smaller if the plan were put in operation under the existing tariff. Already American wheat prices are higher because of the tariff. Canadian wheats command premiums because of intrinsic milling superiority at American mills. If the plan had been in operation in the past three crop years, with a 42-cent duty, American Spring wheat prices could not have been raised by more than 10 or 12 cents a bushel in 1923-24 or 1925-26. In the exceptional year 1924-25, when Canadian and European crops were short, prices might have been raised 20-22 cents a bushel. Apart from exceptional years the Institute concludes that full operations by the board under the present tariff could not raise terminal prices of the whole crop by more than 12 cents a bushel, or prices to growers by more than 8 cents a bushel, above the levels that would otherwise exist.

Such an increase would mean little to growers or consumers, but administrative problems would be nearly as large as with a much larger increase. The actual price increase would do little to stimulate acreage, but the adoption of the measure would do more; hence even these slight gains would probably prove temporary.

Against the temporary advantages to wheat growers, on either assumption, must be balanced the costs to the consuming public, the risks of a

huge experiment in controlling wheat trade in time of peace, and the probability of disappointed hopes and new maladjustments in American agriculture.

*Note.*—The publications herein referred to are "The McNary-Haugen Plan as Applied to Wheat: Operating Problems and Economic Consequences," and "The McNary-Haugen Plan as Applied to Wheat: Limitations Imposed by the Present Tariff," published as Nos. 4 and 5, Vol. III., of Wheat Studies of the Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California, February and March 1927.

**Bill Appropriating \$10,000,000 for Eradication of European Corn Borer Signed By President Coolidge.**

On Feb. 23 President Coolidge signed the bill appropriating \$10,000,000 to eradicate the European corn borer. Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, it was announced will immediately organize special agents to send into the districts affected by the pest. The President had previously (Feb. 9) signed the bill to provide for the eradication or control of the European corn borer, and at that time transmitted to Congress a supplemental estimate for the appropriation of \$10,000,000 to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the provisions of the bill.

On the day of the adoption by the House (Feb. 15) of the resolution authorizing the appropriation Representative Wood, in explanation of the purpose of the resolution, said:

The purpose of this resolution is to carry out the determination of this House enacted a few days ago in the authorization of an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of eradicating or controlling what is known as the European corn borer. After the bill passed the House and the Senate a very full hearing was had before the Committee on Appropriations on Saturday last. The Secretary of Agriculture and his assistants were present and gave us all the information then at hand with reference to this corn borer. It was made evident by those hearings that if this appropriation is to be of any use it must be made immediately, the testimony being to the effect that it should be available not later than the 18th of this month. Members will see by the map which I have here just what the infested area is. It is marked in black. There are 2,500,000 acres represented there in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. The Secretary of Agriculture and his assistants tell us that it will be impossible to eradicate this corn borer with this appropriation and that the only purpose to which the \$10,000,000 may be put is to demonstrate the possibility of checking its ravages until some efficient plan may be adopted later for its eradication.

This corn borer came into this country about 1910 and commenced infesting the sweet-corn fields about the city of Boston in the State of Massachusetts.

This pest spread northward and westward until he was introduced in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, and about the same time he was introduced into this country he was introduced into Canada. He has been more destructive and has proved a greater pest in Canada than in this country. The evidence discloses that the fields of corn in Ontario have been 100% destroyed. He has not been so destructive in this country; that his commercial devastation has not been great except in a few isolated fields, where he has destroyed 10 to 15 or 20% of the growing crops of corn. But he is moving rapidly westward. He has also come from Ontario down to this country, and he comes across water, flies across water, it does not seem to effect him, and the purpose of this appropriation is to aid the Secretary of Agriculture to make a demonstration showing the farmers how they can protect themselves against its ravages and assist eventually in the extermination of this pest. Now, the purpose of this \$10,000,000 is to employ the necessary man power and necessary machinery to do the work.

It seems this moth lives upon some 200 or 250 succulent plants, but he has a preference for corn when he can get corn, and when he can get it he does not bother anything else in particular. So it is the purpose to go into the cornfields in this affected area, which I have pointed out, and assist the farmer in destroying the cornstalk and everything adjacent to the cornfield in which this animal may find lodgment. Among other things, they propose to show the farmer the work which is required of him, which he himself must ordinarily do as a practical farmer. In other words, if he has been in the habit of plowing his stalks under rather than destroy or burn them, they would assist and show how they should be plowed under—everything on the top of the ground plowed under—so when this worm comes to the top he will find nothing on which to live, and be destroyed or starve or pick up by birds, or something of that character. Another demonstration is in machinery used for gathering and grinding up all this material; also in burning. Secretary Jardine says that in order for this to be effective all the States that are affected must join in co-operative work; and if one of the States should fall, there would not be any use in spending any portion of this money. That affords another necessity for the immediate action of Congress. The legislatures in each of the States in the area affected are now in session. The Secretary felt that he has had no authority to request of those States to take action in reference to passing regulatory laws, making appropriations and so forth, until he could assure them that they would have the support of the Government. Now, in order for the Secretary of Agriculture to go into the States or fields and do work that is contemplated we must have regulatory police provisions in this infested area. When that is done they will commence their operation at once; and in order that that may be effective these several States must be notified at the earliest possible moment of the action of this Congress in making this appropriation. They have been advised of the regulatory laws that they must pass in order for the United States to act upon it.

The following is the resolution as passed by the House on Feb. 15, and agreed to by the Senate and Signed by President Coolidge on Feb. 23:

*Resolved, &c.,* That to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry into effect the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide for the eradication or control of the European corn borer," approved Feb. 9 1927, including all necessary expenses for the purchase of equipment and supplies, travel, employment of persons and means in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, rent outside the District of Columbia, purchase, maintenance, repair, and operation of passenger-carrying vehicles outside the District of Columbia, printing, and for such other expenses as may be necessary for executing the purpose of such act, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$10,000,000, to remain available until June 30 1928: *Provided,* That no part of this appropriation shall be expended until all the States in the proposed control area

shall have provided necessary regulatory legislation and until a sum or sums adequate in the judgment of the Secretary of Agriculture to the co-operation of all the States in such area shall have been appropriated, subscribed, or contributed by State, county, or local authorities, or individuals or organizations: *Provided further*, That a report shall be made to Congress at the beginning of the first regular session of the Seventieth Congress setting forth in detail a classification of expenditures made from this appropriation prior to Nov. 1 1927.

#### Department of Agriculture on Plans for Control of European Corn Borer.

Referring to the fact that a \$10,000,000 intensive campaign under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture for the control of the corn borer which threatens to spread through the corn belt has been authorized by the joint Congressional resolution signed this week by the President supplementing the Corn Borer Control Act, the Department of Agriculture on Feb. 23 said:

The Act provides for control work in 76 counties in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, in which the corn crop is threatened by the borer. It is estimated that 2,500,000 acres of corn land in these States will be included in the clean-up.

The Act provides that the funds appropriated shall be used for such clean-up measures as are necessary in addition to those farm operations normal and usual in each locality. Up to May 1 efforts will be centered on obtaining the co-operation of farmers in a voluntary clean-up of the infested area. Immediately following May 1 steps will be taken to complete the clean-up under the regulatory power of the Act. The provisions of the Act will be administered through the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture.

The expenditure of funds appropriated by the Act is dependent on the passage of necessary supplementary legislation by the legislatures of the five States, all of which are now in session. It is contemplated by the Act that the clean-up of the borer will be conducted by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the State departments of agriculture. The supplementary State legislation is required to cover quarantine and control powers needed by the State departments of agriculture in co-operation with the Federal Department in dealing with the borer. As soon as the necessary State legislation is enacted there will be a conference of Federal and State officials concerned, following which the control measures to be taken and the regulations governing them will be announced. State authorities are being urged to push the necessary State legislation to early enactment. Delay may make it impossible to carry out the proposed control measures effectively.

Further reference to the resolution signed by the President appears elsewhere in this issue.

#### Sao Paulo Coffee Institute Opens Office in New York.

The opening of an office of the Sao Paulo Coffee Institute in the Cotton Exchange Building, 60 Beaver Street, New York, for the purpose of establishing a close and friendly contact between the Sao Paulo Coffee Institute and the entire coffee trade of the United States, is announced by Evaristo F. da Veiga, general agent in the United States. The announcement says:

This office will be glad to supply any one interested with information about conditions pertaining to the producing, purchasing and shipping of Santos coffee. Suggestions are welcomed from importers, roasters and distributors, in order that every possible improvement in the marketing of this commodity may be accomplished.

It is the intention and desire of the Sao Paulo Coffee Institute to facilitate the coffee trade of the United States in its endeavors. Whole-hearted co-operation between every branch of the industry will undoubtedly result in benefit to all—including the consuming public.

#### New Orleans and New York Put on Cotton Futures Parity Under Bill Passed by Congress.

New Orleans is put on a parity with New York and Chicago in the settlement of cotton futures contracts under the provisions of a bill that now has passed both the Senate and the House, says the Washington correspondent (Feb. 22) of the "Journal of Commerce." The advice add:

The practice of the New Orleans Exchange has been to settle contracts upon the "commercial differences" of the grades tendered as shown by the transactions on its own spot market, while New York settled upon the "fixed" differences established arbitrarily by that Exchange until the adoption of the Cotton Futures Act, when it was compelled to observe the average commercial differences of the several spot markets in the South designated for that purpose. Chicago also uses that basis and now, with the signing of the new law by President Coolidge, New Orleans will do likewise.

The passage of the bill by the Senate was reported in these columns Feb. 12, page 872.

#### Iowa Senate Urges Passage of McNary-Haugen Farm Relief Bill over President's Veto.

A Des Moines Associated Press dispatch was reported as follows in the "Sun" of last night:

A resolution declaring the McNary-Haugen bill "the most needed economic legislation for the good of the United States that has at any time been before Congress" and requesting Congress to pass the bill over President Coolidge's veto was introduced in the Iowa Senate to-day. Immediate action was sought.

#### President Coolidge Signs Bill for Control of Radio.

On Feb. 23 President Coolidge signed the bill for the regulation of radio communications. The bill is a compromise between House and Senate bills passed at the last session. The House bill vested control of radio with the

Secretary of Commerce. The Senate bill provided for a Federal radio Commission. Under the compromise measure a Commission of five members to have complete control of radio communication for one year is provided. After that time initial control will pass to the Secretary of Commerce but the Commission will pass on controversies referred by him, or on appeals from parties dissatisfied with his rulings. The Commission, says the Associated Press, will have authority to classify radio stations, prescribe the nature of their service, assign wave lengths and station locations, regulate apparatus and prevent interference between stations. Another of its tasks will be to prevent monopolization in radio communication and to end discrimination and excessive charges for transmission.

#### Call Money Market.

The following are the daily statements issued this week by the New York Stock Exchange regarding the call money market:

- Feb. 21—Renewal, 4%; high, 4%; low, 4%; last, 4%. A normal turn over with abundance of offerings and with some outside loans reported at 3¼%.
- Feb. 22—Washington's Birthday—holiday.
- Feb. 23—Renewal, 4%; high, 4%; low, 3¾%; last 3¾%. Pressure of offerings caused decline in rate to 3¾%.
- Feb. 24—Renewal, 4%; high, 4%; low, 4%; last, 4%. Small volume ample supply all day.
- Feb. 25—Renewal, 4%; high, 5%; low, 4%; last, 5%. Preparation for monthly settlements caused advance to 5%, at which rate money was freely offered.

Statements of previous weeks have appeared weekly in our issues since July 10 1926; last week's statement will be found on page 993 of our issue of Feb. 19.

#### Corner Prevented in Remington Stock—Bankers Tell Stock Exchange Ample Common Shares Will Be Supplied.

The following is from the New York "Times" of Feb. 20: With a corner perilously near in the common stock of the Remington Typewriter Co., banking interests concerned in the recently announced plan to merge that company with the Rand-Kardex Bureau, Inc., and other manufacturers of office equipment, have taken steps to make available a sufficient amount of the stock to relieve any possible stringency in the stock market, it became known yesterday.

The New York Stock Exchange has called upon its members to furnish it by 11 o'clock each morning, beginning yesterday (Saturday, Feb. 19) and until further notice, with a full report of their positions in all classes of the stock. This action, regarded as a precaution, was understood to have been taken after the bankers had given assurance that ample stock would be furnished to keep a "free and open market."

That the short interest has been "paying through the nose" has been apparent for some time as Remington common advanced from 112½ last month to 160½ on Feb. 8. The stock fluctuated yesterday between 153 and 152½, closing at 152½ for a net loss of ¾ point on the day. Trading in the stock was uncommonly heavy several days last week, and it was understood that many of the shorts had covered their commitments at the rising prices.

The common stock outstanding amounts to about 100,000 shares, of which a large part is held closely. The floating supply is understood to be around 40,000 shares and the short interest was estimated yesterday to be fully 20,000 shares.

The seriousness of the shorts' predicament was aggravated by the fact that deposits of stock under the Remington-Rand merger plan are to begin to-morrow and that a large majority of the common stock, closely held and unavailable for loaning purposes, is certain to be turned in. It has been estimated that possibly 75% of the stock would be deposited on the first day, which would leave only about 25,000 shares out, and only a part of these shares could be borrowed.

Much of the stock has been locked up by owners who are in Florida or Europe. It is understood that steps have been taken, by cable and telegraph, to release part of this stock. There was some borrowing of Remington common after the close of the market yesterday. The stock was lending "flat."

Interests identified with the Rand-Kardex Bureau have made it plain to the Stock Exchange that they will not permit even a technical corner to develop if they can prevent it, and they have seen that the needs of the shorts were supplied without undue expense. Persons actually short of the stock have been led to understand, it was said, that they could settle privately and to better advantage if they wished to do so. The interests concerned in the merger have no intention of punishing the shorts. The Business Conduct Committee of the Exchange has been informed to this effect, it is understood.

Remington common at times recently has sold at higher than parity with Remington Rand common on a when-issued basis, although interests identified with Rand-Kardex have sold some stock with the view to preventing any unwarranted rise in Remington common under the impetus of short covering. The situation has no relation to the action of the Rand-Kardex securities.

In issue of Feb. 22 (Tuesday) the same paper, said:

The stringency in Remington Typewriter common was relieved largely yesterday, although the stock was lending "flat" at the close of the day. Banking interests concerned in the merger of this company with the Rand-Kardex Bureau and other office equipment manufacturing companies have made available for lending purposes sufficient stock to keep the market "free and open." Deposits of stock under the merger plan began yesterday, and while no figures were to be had as to the amount turned in, it was said the deposit of more than a majority had been assured.

#### National City Company, Which Had Previously Limited Its Investment Offerings to Preferred, to Extend Scope to Common Stocks.

The intention of the National City Co. of New York to enlarge its field of investment offerings by the inclusion of

selected common stocks has been made known during the week, the "Wall Street News" of Feb. 18 noting the company's action as follows:

Henceforth selected common stocks will appear on lists of National City Co. salesmen. Charles E. Mitchell, President of National City Bank and of its subsidiary securities organization, asked as to the significance of the latter company's recommendation of the common stock of Southern Railway Co., admitted that this marked a sharp departure from previous practice and stated that as a result of the new policy other common stocks would from time to time be offered to investors through their salesmen.

Hitherto the National City Co. in common with other investment banking houses of similar standing has limited its investment offerings to preferred stocks and bonds.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the change in policy was evidence of a belief on the part of the National City Co. that certain common stocks in prosperous and efficiently operated companies could now be classed as sound investments and that this belief in turn reflected a conviction that the country's present prosperity rested on a stable foundation.

He also pointed out that the change in policy served the practical purpose of filling a demand on the part of the company's clientele.

#### Guide to Salesmen.

"Our salesmen are constantly being asked to recommend a good common stock for investment," he said. "As investment specialists we shall now be able in part to guide their commitments in that field as we have always done in respect to preferred stocks and bonds. It was partly with this in mind that the National City Co. last year made extensive purchases of the rights to subscribe to the new \$10,000,000 issue of Southern Railway common stock and has offered such stock to a portion of its clientele."

Mr. Mitchell was at pains to state that the new policy did not involve the indiscriminate recommendation of the selected common stocks to all classes of investors. "Confident as we are of the future of Southern Railway common stock," he said, referring specifically to the recent offering of that security, "our salesmen were instructed to use discrimination in the selection of those to whom they sold it, and that will continue to be part of the new policy as other common stocks are added to our salesmen's lists. This is because common stocks are by their very nature more a 'business man's investment' than a medium for inherited funds or funds in trust."

#### Southern Railway's Rating.

As evidence of Southern Railway's title to investment rating for its junior security Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the common stock had a book value Dec. 31 last of about \$184 a share, that the company earned in 1926 \$17.16 a share exclusive of undistributed earnings in subsidiary companies which would have brought the total up to \$20.60 a share; that there was in the treasury at the close of the year approximately \$41,000,000 in cash and government bonds. He pointed out also that Southern Railway was the first road to attempt new financing through the sale of common stock since the war.

### McFadden Branch Banking Bill Signed by President Coolidge.

The McFadden branch banking bill was signed by President Coolidge yesterday (Feb. 25). We give elsewhere in our issue to-day the text of the bill, which provides indeterminate charters for Federal Reserve banks and defines the branch banking activities of national banks.

#### New Federal Reserve Branches.

According to Washington advices to the "Wall Street Journal" yesterday (Feb. 25), the Federal Reserve Board announces that a branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond will be established at Charlotte, N. C., and a branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas at San Antonio, Tex.

#### Federal Advisory Council Meets.

Regarding the meeting of the Federal Advisory Council at Washington, we quote the following from the "Wall Street Journal" of Feb. 21:

General business and financial conditions were discussed at the meeting of the Federal Advisory Council with the Federal Reserve Board. Frank O. Wetmore, of Chicago, was re-elected President, and Col. John F. Bruton, of Richmond, Vice-President. These officers as ex-officio members, and J. S. Alexander, L. L. Rue, Harris Creech, and Breckenridge Jones, will comprise the executive committee. Walter Lichtenstein continues as Secretary of the Council.

### Senator Glass Considers Passage of McFadden Branch Banking Bill Triumph for Federal Reserve System.

According to Senator Carter Glass of the Banking and Currency Committee in charge of the McFadden branch bank bill: "Not only is the passage of the bill a notable triumph for the Federal Reserve System over its bitterest enemies, but also over a few of its friends, who have seemed to insist that the system should not be perpetuated unless at the same moment and to the fullest extent the provisions of the Act shall be modified in complete accordance with their notion of things."

In his statement Feb. 16 the "Journal of Commerce" also quotes him as saying:

"There are provisions of the bank bill which I could have wished had been omitted. Some of these I persistently opposed in committee and sought to have eliminated. But no Senator can reasonably expect to have his way at all times about all things. My chief interest was to throw out the abominable Hull amendments and to give an indeterminate charter to the Federal Reserve banks, so that the continuation of the system may not be made the football of passionate and ignorant politics."

The "Times" report of what he had to say included the following:

"To speak of the charter provision of the bank bill as a 'rider' is misapplication of a term. There was not a single provision of the bank bill more germane than the charter provision."

Mr. Glass said the only rider on the bill was the Hull branch banking amendments, and he added that when their "viciousness" was pointed out the House reversed itself and threw them out, while the Senate rejected them every time a vote was taken.

"I think the country is to be congratulated that the perplexing branch bank question has apparently been equitably settled for a long time to come," Mr. Glass continued, "and that the Federal Reserve System is given such an overwhelming vote of confidence in both branches of Congress; for it must be recalled that a separate vote on the charter extension provision demanded in the House resulted in 298 ayes to 22 noes, whereas in the Senate the bill receives its final endorsement by a vote of 71 to 17."

### Secretary Mellon Says McFadden Bill Will Be Helpful to Entire United States Banking System.

The "Wall Street News" announced the following from Washington Feb. 17:

Secretary Mellon believes the passage of the McFadden bill will be helpful to the entire banking system of the nation, it was stated at the Treasury to-day. The bill will aid in defining the laws governing the national banking system. While Secretary Mellon anticipated no difficulty in obtaining renewal of Federal reserve charters he is gratified they have been renewed now.

Because of the far reaching influence of the reserve system the Secretary points out any uncertainty as to its future or as to changes that may be made in the banking system would be harmful to business in general and the Secretary is convinced renewal of the charters now will be of great advantage to the banks assuring a permanent and settled policy for the future.

Although the McFadden bill empowers the Federal Reserve Board to act in the opening and closing of Federal Reserve branch banks, the Secretary does not think that any change of policy will result from this provision. The Secretary's favorable attitude to the bill presages its signature by the President.

### Changes Impending in Reserve System—Steps Under Way to Centralize Control in Board—Would Restrict Powers of Individual Banks.

From Washington the "Wall Street Journal" reported the following in its issue of Feb. 24:

Far reaching changes in the fundamental theory of the administration of the Federal Reserve System are impending. Foundations have already been laid for the development of a policy designed to centralize control of the system in the Federal Reserve Board, and restrict the powers for individual action gradually acquired by the twelve Federal Reserve banks.

Enactment of the McFadden Banking Bill, extending in perpetuity the charters of the Reserve banks, clears the way for the Federal Reserve Board to carry out its new policy of gathering to itself the reins of control over the activities of the different institutions of the system. What is sought is a disciplined organization, wherein the policies of the Federal Reserve Board will be administered uniformly by individual banks. In other words, the Board is seeking a position from which at all times it can guide the system, rather than be compelled at times to follow the lead of a few of the Reserve banks.

Appointment of Gates W. McGarragh as Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the selections of Owen D. Young as a Class C director of the same institution, represents the first specific move in this direction. The Board's idea is to build up the personnel of the Class C directors of the various Reserve banks to the point where these officers, who represent the public in the Reserve system, will consist of the highest type of men obtainable. Such a move is expected to render unshakable the public confidence in the system.

#### To Appoint Strong Board Chairman.

Next, the Board proposes to work in as Chairmen of the Board of the twelve Reserve banks individuals selected from among the Class C directors who will stand out both nationally and locally as financial figures. They will be expected to dominate their banks; and this is the crux of the new Federal Reserve Board policy. Chairmen of the Board of the Reserve banks are appointed by the Federal Reserve Board. They are the Federal Reserve agents for their banks. They are officials of the Federal Reserve Board first and then officers of the Reserve bank which they serve.

By gradually working into board chairmanships men of the dominant type, the Board at Washington hopes to wrest from the Governors of the banks their present day dictatorships of policies of the individual institutions. The Governors, selected by the banks, are under no real authority from the Federal Reserve Board, and they are frequently in a position to disregard the Chairmen as other than Reserve agents to whom they must apply when they want currency.

In effect, there is impending a clash between the Board Chairmen of the Reserve banks and the Governors for the position of authority. If the Chairmen win out, then virtually complete control of the Reserve banks will pass to the Federal Reserve Board, since the Chairmen are responsible to the Board. Success of the program would enable the Board to require a far greater uniformity in the discount and open market policies of the twelve banks than has so far been possible. The Board wants to be in a position to adjust Federal Reserve policies to the needs of the country as a whole, from the standpoint of national administration rather than to permit individual banks to determine questions of procedure for their districts with the national aspect seen through local eyes.

#### Determining the Discount Rate.

For instance, the Board Chairmen of the different Reserve banks are not members of the open market committees of those institutions, and yet there is supposed to be a uniform Federal Reserve policy for open market operations. There is supposed to be a uniform policy for the determination of discount rate levels, but there have been instances when one bank, by taking the lead, has forced the rest of the system to follow in altering the rate.

Unfolding of the Board policy for acquiring maximum control of the administration of the Reserve banks will take time. It will be years before the Board can rearrange the Class C directorships of the twelve banks in the manner it desires. But the perpetual charters for the Reserve banks provided by the McFadden bill removes any difficulties to the steady aggression by the Board which might have been halted had it been necessary to consider the rechartering of the banks after a beginning had been made for the new policy.

*Situation in New York.*

Inauguration of this policy in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was made possible by vacancies occurring among the Class C directors. The Board would reject any suggestion that Benjamin Strong, Governor of the New York bank, overshadowed the rest of the system as a national figure, and hence exercised an influence which made the Federal Reserve Bank of New York look upon internationally as the representative of the entire system. But it is realized that Mr. Strong cannot be the perpetual Governor of the New York bank, even though the charter of that institution has been made indefinite. Thus the Board has sought to place in the New York bank a Chairman who can eventually take over the controlling hand there, just as other Chairmen to be named through the coming years are to be expected to assume the helm in other Federal Reserve banks.

The basis of the Board's new policy may be said to rest in the Federal Reserve Act itself. Nowhere in that Act is provision made for Governors of the twelve Reserve banks, although the office of Chairman of the Board is specifically created. The title of Governor originated with the banks from the analogy of the Bank of England in its administrative officer, despite the fact that the head of the Federal Reserve Board is called the Governor. From the standpoint of the Reserve Board, the Act intended that the Chairman of the Boards of the various Reserve banks should be the chief officers of those institutions, with the Federal Reserve Board superimposed as the central point of authority.

### See Blue Sky Law in McFadden Act—Bank Representatives Analyze Effect of New Legislation.

The effect of the new McFadden Bank Act on bank loans, investment securities, real estate loans, branch banking and other banking activities is explained in a copyright analysis of the Act issued by Kiplinger, Babson & Jacobs, a Washington firm of bank representatives, according to Washington advices Feb. 24 to the New York "Journal of Commerce," from which we also take the following:

Referring to Section 2 (b) of the Act, the analysis explains that this specifically authorizes "national banks to engage affirmatively in the business of buying and selling investment securities" under regulations to be drafted by the Comptroller of the Currency to define "marketable obligations." These regulations, together with the provisions of the Act, will constitute, in effect, a Federal Blue Sky law for national bank investments.

*Real Estate Bonds.*

Regarding real estate mortgage bonds, the analysis points out that some of them may be able to qualify before the Comptroller as proper investment securities for national banks and thereby improve their marketability. Heretofore they have been regarded not as investments, but as real estate loans limited to one year, and therefore practically excluded as investments.

National banks may now make first mortgage loans on improved city real estate for terms up to five years, with a limit of 50% of the value of the property. This is connected with a new legalizing of the savings deposit business of national banks. Upon the present status of savings in national banks this Act will release for first mortgage city property loans of more than \$3,000,000,000.

Section 5200, "the heart of the National Banking Act," has been completely rewritten. The 10% limitation of capital and surplus loanable to a single customer remains the same as in the old law, but this limit now applies to the endorser of paper who obtains a loan from the bank, whereas under the old law the limit ran only against the maker of a note. It is stated that under this and other provisions of the new Act many lines of credit in national banks must be reorganized. The status of loans upon cotton, grain and other readily marketable non-perishable staple commodities also is modified materially by the new Act.

*Branch Bank Limits.*

Regarding branch banking, it now develops that the Act as finally passed limited future branches of both national banks and State bank members of the Federal Reserve System to "limits of the city," not "corporate limits of the city." Thus it will devolve upon the Federal Reserve Board and the Comptroller of the Currency to determine by interpretation whether this means the natural limits or metropolitan area, or the legal corporate limits. This may reopen the whole controversy over whether branch banking should be permitted in "contiguous territory."

The Act limits future extension of branch banking to cities of 25,000 population or more, with a sliding scale of the number of branches permitted, and this applies only to States which by law permit State bank branches. Nevertheless, some ambiguous State laws must be interpreted and applied under regulations of the Comptroller of the Currency and many complicated questions will arise. Regarding the powers of branches, it is stated in the analysis that "any and every character of banking business may be carried on in the branches at the discretion of the board of directors." The Comptroller of the Currency is not empowered to make regulations for the conduct of the branches, such as he made for the "additional offices" or "tellers' windows."

### Text of McFadden Branch Banking Bill.

As we indicate in another item, President Coolidge signed yesterday (Feb. 25) the McFadden branch banking bill. The text of the newly enacted measure follows:

An Act to further amend the national banking laws and the Federal Reserve Act, and for other purposes.

*Consolidations.*

Be it enacted by Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

That an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the consolidation of national banking associations," approved Nov. 7 1918, be amended by adding at the end thereof a new section to read as follows:

Sec. 3. That any bank incorporated under the laws of any State, or any bank incorporated in the District of Columbia, may be consolidated with a national banking association located in the same county, city, town, or village under the charter of such national banking association on such terms and conditions as may be lawfully agreed upon by a majority of the board of directors of each association or bank proposing to consolidate, and which agreement shall be ratified and confirmed by the affirmative vote of the shareholders of each such association or bank owning at least two-thirds of its capital stock outstanding, or by a greater proportion of such capital stock in the case of such State bank if the laws of the State where the same is organized so require, at a meeting to be held on the call of the directors

after publishing notice of the time, place, and object of the meeting for four consecutive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation published in the place where the said association or bank is situated, and in the legal newspaper for the publication of legal notices or advertisements, if any such paper has been designated by the rules of a court in the county where such association or bank is situated, and if no newspaper is published in the place, then in a paper of general circulation published nearest thereto, unless such notice of meeting is waived in writing by all stockholders of any such association or bank, and after sending such notice to each shareholder of record by registered mail at least 10 days prior to said meeting, but any additional notice shall be given to the shareholders of such State bank which may be required by the laws of the State where the same is organized. The capital stock of such consolidated association shall not be less than that required under existing law for the organization of a national banking association in the place in which such consolidated association is located; and all the rights, franchises, and interests of such State or District bank so consolidated with a national banking association in and to every species of property, real, personal, and mixed, and choses in action thereto belonging, shall be deemed to be transferred to and vested in such national banking association into which it is consolidated without any deed or other transfer, and the said consolidated national banking association shall hold and enjoy the same and all rights of property, franchises, and interests including the right of succession as trustee, executor, or in any other fiduciary capacity in the same manner and to the same extent as was held and enjoyed by such State or District bank so consolidated with such national banking association. When such consolidation shall have been effected and approved by the comptroller any shareholder of either the association or of the State or District bank so consolidated, who has not voted for such consolidation, may give notice to the directors of the consolidated association within 20 days from the date of the certificate of approval of the comptroller that he dissents from the plan of consolidation as adopted and approved, whereupon he shall be entitled to receive the value of the shares so held by him, to be ascertained by an appraisal made by a Committee of three persons, one to be selected by the shareholder, one by the directors of the consolidated association, and the third by the two so chosen; and in case the value so fixed shall not be satisfactory to such shareholder he may within five days after being notified of the appraisal appeal to the Comptroller of the Currency, who shall cause a reappraisal to be made, which shall be final and binding; and the consolidated association shall pay the expenses of reappraisal, and the value as ascertained by such appraisal or reappraisal shall be deemed to be a debt due and shall be forthwith paid to said shareholder by said consolidated association, and the shares so paid for shall be surrendered and, after due notice, sold at public auction within 30 days after the final appraisal provided for in this Act; and if the shares so sold at public auction shall be sold at a price greater than the final appraised value, the excess in such sale price shall be paid to the said shareholder; and the consolidated association shall have the right to purchase such shares at public auction, if it is the highest bidder therefor, for the purpose of reselling such shares within 30 days thereafter to such person or persons and at such price as its board of directors by resolution may determine.

The liquidation of such shares of stock in any State bank shall be determined in the manner prescribed by the law of the State in such cases if such provision is made in the State law; otherwise as hereinbefore provided. No such consolidation shall be in contravention of the law of the State under which such bank is incorporated.

The words "State bank," "State banks," "bank," or "banks," as used in this Section, shall be held to include trust companies, savings banks, or other such corporations or institutions carrying on the banking business under the authority of State laws.

Sec. 2. (a) That Section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, subsection "second" thereof as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"Second. To have succession from the date of the approval of this Act, or from the date of its organization if organized after such date of approval until such time as it be dissolved by the act of its shareholders owning two-thirds of its stock, or until its franchise becomes forfeited by reason of violation of law, or until terminated by either a general or a special Act of Congress or until its affairs be placed in the hands of a receiver and finally wound up by him."

*Buying and Selling Investment Securities.*

(b) That Section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, subsection "seventh" thereof, be further amended by adding at the end of the first paragraph thereof the following:

Provided, That the business of buying and selling investment securities shall hereafter be limited to buying and selling without recourse marketable obligations evidencing indebtedness of any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation, in the form of bonds, notes, and/or debentures, commonly known as investment securities, under such further definition of the term "investment securities" as may by regulation be prescribed by the Comptroller of the Currency, and the total amount of such investment securities of any one obligor or maker held by such association shall at no time exceed 25% of the amount of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 25% of its unimpaired surplus fund, but this limitation as to total amount shall not apply to obligations of the United States, or general obligations of any State or of any political subdivision thereof, or obligations issued under authority of the Federal Farm Loan Act: And provided further, that in carrying on the business commonly known as the safe-deposit business no such association shall invest in the capital stock of a corporation organized under the law of any State to conduct a safe-deposit business in an amount in excess of 15% of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 15% of its unimpaired surplus, so that the subsection as amended shall read as follows:

Seventh. To exercise by its board of directors, or duly authorized officers or agents, subject to law, all such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry on the business of banking; by discounting and negotiating promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, and other evidences of debt; by receiving deposits; by buying and selling exchange, coin, and bullion; by loaning money on personal security; and by obtaining, issuing, and circulating notes according to the provisions of this title: Provided, That the business of buying and selling investment securities shall hereafter be limited to buying and selling without recourse marketable obligations evidencing indebtedness of any person, co-partnership, association or corporation, in the form of bonds, notes and/or debentures, commonly known as investment securities, under such further definition of the term "investment securities" as may by regulation be prescribed by the Comptroller of the Currency, and the total amount of such investment securities of any one obligor or maker held by such association shall at no time exceed 25% of the amount of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 25% of its unimpaired surplus fund, but this limitation as to total amount shall not apply to obligations of the United States, or general obligations of any State or of any political subdivision thereof, or obligations issued under authority of the Federal Farm Loan Act: And provided further, That in carrying on the business commonly known as the safe deposit business no such association shall invest in the capital stock of a corporation organized under the law of any State to conduct a safe deposit business in an amount in excess of 15% of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 15% of its unimpaired surplus.

But no association shall transact any business except such as is incidental and necessarily preliminary to its organization, until it has been authorized by the Comptroller of the Currency to commence the business of banking

Sec. 3. That Section 5137 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, Sub-Section "first" thereof, be amended to read as follows:

"First. Such as shall be necessary for its accommodation in the transaction of its business."

*Capital Requirements of National Banks.*

Sec. 4. That Section 5138 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5138. No national banking association shall be organized with a less capital than \$100,000, except that such associations with a capital of not less than \$50,000 may, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, be organized in any place the population of which does not exceed 6,000 inhabitants, and except that such associations with a capital of not less than \$25,000 may, with the sanction of the Secretary of the Treasury, be organized in any place the population of which does not exceed 3,000 inhabitants. No such association shall be organized in a city the population of which exceeds 50,000 persons with a capital of less than \$200,000, except that in the outlying districts of such a city where the State laws permit the organization of State banks with a capital of \$100,000 or less, national banking associations now organized or hereafter organized may, with the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency, have a capital of not less than \$100,000.

*Provision Governing Increase in Capital.*

Sec. 5. That Section 5142 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5142. Any national banking association may, with the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency, and by a vote of shareholders owning two-thirds of the stock of such associations, increase its capital stock to any sum approved by the said Comptroller, but no increase in capital shall be valid until the whole amount of such increase is paid in and notice thereof, duly acknowledged before a notary public by the president, vice-president, or cashier of said association, has been transmitted to the Comptroller of the Currency and his certificate obtained specifying the amount of such increase in capital stock and his approval thereof, and that it has been duly paid in as part of the capital of such association: Provided, however, that a national banking association may, with the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency, and by the vote of shareholders owning two-thirds of the stock of such association, increase its capital stock by the declaration of a stock dividend, provided that the surplus of said association, after the approval of the increase, shall be at least equal to 20% of the capital stock as increased. Such increase shall not be effective until a certificate certifying to such declaration of dividend, signed by the president, vice-president or cashier of said association and duly acknowledged before a notary public, shall have been forwarded to the Comptroller of the Currency and his certificate obtained specifying the amount of such increase of capital stock by stock dividend, and his approval thereof."

*Chairman of Board.*

Sec. 6. That Section 5150 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5150. The president of the bank shall be a member of the board and shall be the chairman thereof, but the board may designate a director in lieu of the president to be chairman of the board, who shall perform such duties as may be designated by the board."

*Operation of Branches.*

Sec. 7. That Section 5155 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5155. The conditions upon which a national banking association may retain or establish and operate a branch or branches are the following:

(a) A national banking association may maintain and operate such branch or branches as it may have in lawful operation at the date of the approval of this Act, and any national banking association which has continuously maintained and operated not more than one branch for a period of more than 25 years immediately preceding the approval of this Act may continue to maintain and operate such branch.

(b) If a State bank is hereafter converted into or consolidated with a national banking association, or if two or more national banking associations are consolidated, such converted or consolidated association may, with respect to any of such banks, retain and operate any of their branches which may have been in lawful operation by any bank at the date of the approval of this Act.

(c) A national banking association may, after the date of the approval of this Act establish, and operate new branches within the limits of the city, town, or village in which said association is situated if such establishment and operation are at the time permitted to State banks by the law of the State in question.

(d) No branch shall be established after the date of the approval of this Act within the limits of any city, town, or village of which the population by the last decennial census was less than 25,000. No more than one such branch may be thus established where the population, so determined, of such municipal unit does not exceed 50,000; and not more than two such branches where the population does not exceed 100,000. In any such municipal unit where the population exceeds 100,000 the determination of the number of branches shall be within the discretion of the Comptroller of the Currency.

(e) No branch of any national banking association shall be established or moved from one location to another without first obtaining the consent and approval of the Comptroller of the Currency.

(f) The term 'branch' as used in this section shall be held to include any branch bank, branch office, branch agency, additional office, or any branch place of business located in any State or Territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia at which deposits are received, or checks paid, or money lent.

(g) This section shall not be construed to amend or repeal Section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act, as amended, authorizing the establishment by national banking associations of branches in foreign countries, or dependencies, or insular possessions of the United States.

(h) The words 'State bank,' 'State banks,' 'bank,' or 'banks,' as used in this section shall be held to include trust companies, savings banks, or other such corporations or institutions carrying on the banking business under the authority of State laws."

Sec. 8. That Section 5190 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5190. The general business of each national banking association shall be transacted in the place specified in its organization certificate and in the branch or branches, if any, established or maintained by it in accordance with the provisions of Section 5155 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by this Act."

Sec. 9. That the first paragraph of Section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act, be amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 9. Any bank incorporated by special law of any State, or organized under the general laws of any State or of the United States, desiring to become a member of the Federal Reserve System, may make application to the Federal Reserve Board, under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, for the right to subscribe to the stock of the Federal Reserve bank organized within the district in which the applying bank is located. Such application shall be for the same amount of stock that the applying bank would be required to subscribe to as a national bank. The Federal Reserve Board, subject to the provisions of this Act and to such conditions as it may prescribe pursuant thereto may permit the applying bank to become a stockholder of such Federal Reserve bank.

"Any such State bank which, at the date of the approval of this Act, has established and is operating a branch or branches in conformity with the State law, may retain and operate the same while remaining or upon becoming a stockholder of such Federal Reserve bank; but no such State bank may retain or acquire stock in a Federal Reserve bank except upon relinquishment of any branch or branches established after the date of the approval of this Act beyond the limits of the city, town, or village in which the parent bank is situated."

*Obligations Limited to 10% of Capital.*

Sec. 10. That Section 5200 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5200. The total obligations to any national banking association of any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation shall at no time exceed 10% of the amount of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 10% of its unimpaired surplus fund. The term 'obligations' shall mean the direct liability of the maker or acceptor of paper discounted with or sold to such association and the liability of the indorser, drawer, or guarantor who obtains a loan from or discounts paper with or sells paper under his guaranty to such association and shall include in the case of obligations of a co-partnership or association the obligations of the several members thereof. Such limitation of 10% shall be subject to the following exceptions:

(1) Obligations in the form of drafts or bills of exchange drawn in good faith against actually existing values shall not be subject under this section to any limitation based upon such capital and surplus.

(2) Obligations arising out of the discount of commercial or business paper actually owned by the person, co-partnership, association, or corporation negotiating the same shall not be subject under this section to any limitation based upon such capital and surplus.

(3) Obligations drawn in good faith against actually existing values and secured by goods or commodities in process of shipment shall not be subject under this section to any limitation based upon such capital and surplus.

(4) Obligations as indorser or guarantor of notes, other than commercial or business paper excepted under (2) hereof, having a maturity of not more than six months, and owned by the person, corporation, association, or co-partnership indorsing and negotiating the same, shall be subject under this section to a limitation of 15% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 10% of such capital and surplus.

(5) Obligations in the form of banker's acceptances of other banks of the kind described in Section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act shall not be subject under this section to any limitation based upon such capital and surplus.

(6) Obligations of any person, co-partnership, association or corporation, in the form of notes or drafts secured by shipping documents, warehouse receipts or other such documents transferring or securing title covering readily marketable non-perishable staples when such property is fully covered by insurance, if it is customary to insure such staples, shall be subject under this section to a limitation of 15% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 10% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such obligation is not at any time less than 115% of the face amount of such obligation, and to an additional increase of limitation of 5% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 25% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such additional obligation is not at any time less than 120% of the face amount of such additional obligation, and to a further additional increase of limitation of 5% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 30% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such additional obligation is not at any time less than 125% of the face amount of such additional obligation, and to a further additional increase of limitation of 5% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 35% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such additional obligation is not at any time less than 130% of the face amount of such additional obligation, and to a further additional increase of limitation of 5% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 40% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such additional obligation is not at any time less than 135% of the face amount of such additional obligation, and to a further additional increase of limitation of 5% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 45% of such capital and surplus when the market value of such staples securing such additional obligation is not at any time less than 140% of the face amount of such additional obligation, but this exception shall not apply to obligations of any one person, co-partnership, association or corporation arising from the same transactions and/or secured upon the identical staples for more than ten months.

*Live Stock Obligations.*

(7) Obligations of any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation in the form of notes or drafts secured by shipping documents or instruments transferring or securing title covering livestock or giving a lien on livestock when the market value of the livestock securing the obligation is not at any time less than 115% of the face amount of the notes covered by such documents shall be subject under this section to a limitation of 15% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 10% of such capital and surplus.

(8) Obligations of any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation in the form of notes secured by not less than a like amount of bonds or notes of the United States issued since April 24 1917, or certificates of indebtedness of the United States, shall (except to the extent permitted by rules and regulations prescribed by the Comptroller of the Currency, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury) be subject under this section to a limitation of 15% of such capital and surplus in addition to such 10% of such capital and surplus."

Sec. 11. That Section 5202 of the Revised Statutes of the United States as amended be amended by adding at the end thereof a new paragraph to read as follows:

Eighth. Liabilities incurred under the provisions of Section 202 of Title II of the Federal Farm Loan Act, approved July 17 1916, as amended by the Agricultural Credits Act of 1923.

*Certification of Checks.*

Sec. 12. That Section 5208 of the Revised Statutes of the United States as amended be amended by striking out the words "or who shall certify a check before the amount thereof shall have been regularly entered to the credit of the drawer upon the books of the bank," and in lieu thereof inserting the following: "or who shall certify a check before the amount thereof shall have been regularly deposited in the bank by the drawer thereof," so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

Sec. 5208. It shall be unlawful for any officer, director, agent, or employee of any Federal Reserve bank, or any member bank as defined in the Act of Dec. 23 1912, known as the Federal Reserve Act, to certify any check drawn upon such Federal Reserve bank or member bank unless the person, firm, or corporation drawing the check has on deposit with such Federal Reserve bank or member bank, at the time such check is certified, an amount of money not less than the amount specified in such check. Any check so certified by a duly authorized officer, director, agent or employee shall be a good and valid obligation against such Federal Reserve bank or member bank; but the act of any officer, director, agent, or employee of any such Federal Reserve bank or member bank in violation of this section shall, in the discretion of the Federal Reserve Board, subject such Federal Reserve bank to the penalties imposed by Section 11, subsection (h) of the Federal Reserve Act, and shall subject such member bank, if a national bank, to the liabilities and proceedings on the part of the Comptroller of the Currency provided for in Section 5234, Revised Statutes, and shall, in the discretion of the Federal Reserve Board, subject any other member bank to the penalties imposed by Section 9 of said Federal Reserve Act for the violation of any of the provisions of said Act. Any officer, director, agent, or employee of any Federal Reserve bank or member bank who shall willfully violate the provisions of this section, or who shall resort to any device, or receive any fictitious obligation, directly or collaterally, in order to evade the provisions thereof, or who shall certify a check before the amount thereof shall have been regularly deposited in the bank by the drawer thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, on conviction thereof in any district court of the United States, be fined not more than \$5,000, or shall be imprisoned for not more than five years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

*Reports to Comptroller of Currency.*

Sec. 13. That Section 5211 of the Revised Statutes of the United States as amended be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5211. Every association shall make to the Comptroller of the Currency not less than three reports during each year, according to the form which may be prescribed by him, verified by the oath or affirmation of the President, or of the Cashier, or of a Vice-President or of an Assistant Cashier of the association designated by its board of directors to verify such reports in the absence of the President and Cashier, taken before a notary public properly authorized and commissioned by the State in which such notary resides and the association is located, or any other officer having an official seal, authorized in such State to administer oaths, and attested by the signature of at least three of the directors. Each such report shall exhibit, in detail and under appropriate heads, the resources and liabilities of the association at the close of business on any past day by him specified, and shall be transmitted to the Comptroller

within five days after the receipt of a request or requisition therefor from him; and the statement of resources and liabilities, together with acknowledgment and attestation in the same form in which it is made to the Comptroller, shall be published in a newspaper published in the place where such association is established, or if there is no newspaper in the place, then in the one published nearest thereto in the same county, at the expense of the association; and such proof of publication shall be furnished as may be required by the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall also have power to call for special reports from any particular association whenever in his judgment the same are necessary in order to obtain a full and complete knowledge of its condition.

#### *Loans or Gratuities to Bank Examiners Prohibited.*

Sec. 14. That Section 22 of the Federal Reserve Act, subsection (a), paragraph 2 thereof, be amended to read as follows:

(a) No member bank and no officer, director, or employee thereof shall hereafter make any loan or grant any gratuity to any bank examiner. Any bank officer, director, or employee violating this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned not exceeding one year, or fined not more than \$5,000, or both, and may be fined a further sum equal to the money so loaned or gratuity given.

Any examiner or assistant examiner who shall accept a loan or gratuity from any bank examined by him, or from an officer, director, or employee thereof, or who shall steal, or unlawfully take, or unlawfully conceal any money, note, draft, bond, or security or any other property of value in the possession of any member bank or from any safe deposit box in or adjacent to the premises of such bank, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction in any district court of the United States, be imprisoned for not exceeding one year, or fined not more than \$5,000, or both, and may be fined a further sum equal to the money so loaned, gratuity given, or property stolen, and shall forever thereafter be disqualified from holding office as a national bank examiner.

#### *Loans on Real Estate.*

Sec. 15. That Section 24 of the Federal Reserve Act be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24. Any national banking association may make loans secured by first lien upon improved real estate, including improved farm land, situated within its Federal reserve district or within a radius of one hundred miles of the place in which such bank is located, irrespective of district lines. A loan secured by real estate within the meaning of this section shall be in the form of an obligation or obligations secured by mortgage, trust deed, or other such instrument upon real estate when the entire amount of such obligation or obligations is made or is sold to such association. The amount of any such loan shall not exceed 50% of the actual value of the real estate offered for security, but no such loan upon such security shall be made for a longer term than five years. Any such bank may make such loans in an aggregate sum including in such aggregate any such loans on which it is liable as indorser or guarantor or otherwise equal to 25% of the amount of the capital stock of such association actually paid in and unimpaired and 25% of its unimpaired surplus fund, or to one-half of its savings deposits, at the election of the association, subject to the general limitation contained in Section 5200 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. Such banks may continue hereafter as heretofore to receive time and savings deposits and to pay interest on the same, but the rate of interest which such banks may pay upon such time deposits or upon savings or other deposits shall not exceed the maximum rate authorized by law to be paid upon such deposits by State banks or trust companies organized under the laws of the State wherein such national banking association is located.

#### *Par Value of National Bank Stock.*

Sec. 16. That Section 5139 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended by inserting in the first sentence thereof the following words: "or into shares of such less amount as may be provided in the articles of association" so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

Sec. 5139. The capital stock of each association shall be divided into shares of \$100 each, or into shares of such less amount as may be provided in the articles of association, and be deemed personal property, and transferable on the books of the association in such manner as may be prescribed in the by-laws or articles of association. Every person becoming a shareholder by such transfer shall, in proportion to his shares, succeed to all rights and liabilities of the prior holder of such shares; and no change shall be made in the articles of association by which the rights, remedies, or security of the existing creditors of the association shall be impaired.

#### *Minimum Holdings of Directors.*

Sec. 17. That Section 5146 of the Revised Statutes of the United States as amended be amended by inserting in lieu of the second sentence thereof the following: "Every director must own in his own right shares of the capital stock of the association of which he is a director the aggregate par value of which shall not be less than \$1,000, unless the capital of the bank shall not exceed \$25,000 in which case he must own in his own right shares of such capital stock the aggregate value of which shall not be less than \$500," so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

Sec. 5146. Every director must during his whole term of service, be a citizen of the United States, and at least three-fourths of the directors must have resided in the State, Territory, or District in which the association is located, or within fifty miles of the location of the office of the association, for at least one year immediately preceding their election, and must be residents of such State or within a fifty-mile territory of the location of the association during their continuance in office. Every director must own in his own right shares of the capital stock of the association of which he is a director the aggregate par value of which shall not be less than \$1,000, unless the capital of the bank shall not exceed \$25,000 in which case he must own in his own right shares of such capital stock the aggregate par value of which shall not be less than \$500. Any director who ceases to be the owner of the required number of shares of the stock, or who becomes in any other manner, disqualified, shall thereby vacate his place.

#### *Federal Reserve Banks Chartered for Indeterminate Period.*

Sec. 18. That the second subdivision of the fourth paragraph of Section 4 of the Federal Reserve Act be amended to read as follows:

Second. To have succession after the approval of this Act until dissolved by Act of Congress or until forfeiture of franchise for violation of law.

#### *Discontinue of Reserve Bank Branches.*

Sec. 19. That Section 3 of the Federal Reserve Act, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

The Federal Reserve Board may at any time require any Federal Reserve Bank to discontinue any branch of such Federal Reserve Bank established under this section. The Federal Reserve Bank shall thereupon proceed to wind up the business of such branch bank, subject to such rules and regulations as the Federal Reserve Board may prescribe.

### **Framing of Tax Reduction Measure to Be Started in Autumn.**

The following is from the *United States Daily* of Feb. 11:

As the result of a decision reached by the House Committee on Ways and Means on Feb. 10, tax reduction legislation to be considered by the next Congress will be framed in advance of the session to begin in December.

The committee agreed to a resolution authorizing Chairman Green (Republican) of Council Bluffs, Iowa, to convene the membership early next autumn to begin work on tax reduction proposals. Similar procedure was adopted before the opening of the present Congress, at which a draft of the Revenue Act of 1926 was formulated.

A proposal to include tariff revision in the committee's discussion was defeated.

### **Smith Signs Bill Relating to State Bank Depositories.**

The following is from the "Times" of yesterday (Feb. 25):

A bill signed by Governor Smith yesterday carries slight amendments to the Banking law applying to the banks in the various boroughs of New York City which may serve as depositories of State funds. Under the new regulations banks having a combined capital and surplus of \$1,000,000 may receive State deposits in boroughs having a population of 1,500,000. This represents a change from the old law, which stipulated a population of 2,200,000. Banks having capital and surplus of \$750,000 are eligible in communities with a population of from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000, and banks with capital and surplus of \$500,000 elsewhere.

### **Address of President Coolidge Commemorating Birth of Washington—Plans for Two Hundredth Anniversary—Character and Efficiency of Father of Country Extolled—His Part in Founding Country's Banking System.**

In an address extolling the life of Washington, delivered on the anniversary of the birth of the Father of His Country on Feb. 22, President Coolidge referred to him as "a man endowed with what has been called uncommon common sense, with tireless industry, with a talent for taking infinite pains, and with a mind able to understand the universal and eternal problems of mankind." President Coolidge remarked that "Washington had the ability to translate ideals into the practical affairs of life," and he observed that "his accomplishments were great because of an efficiency which marked his every act and a sublime, compelling faith in the ultimate triumph of the right."

The President went on to say:

"As we study his daily life, as we read his letters, his diaries, his State papers, we come to realize more and more his wisdom, his energy, and his efficiency. He had the moral efficiency of an abiding religious faith, emphasizing the importance of the spiritual side of man, the social efficiency shown by his interest in his fellow-men, and in his realization of the inherent strength of a people united by a sense of equality and freedom, the business efficiency of a man of affairs, of the owner and manager of large properties, the governmental efficiency of the head of a new nation, who taking an untried political system made it operate successfully, of a leader able to adapt the relations of the government to the people.

"He understood how to translate political theory into a workable scheme of government. He knew that we can accomplish no permanent good by going to extremes. The law of reason must always be applied."

President Coolidge declared that "to Washington, the man of affairs, we owe our national banks, for had he followed the advice of other leaders, great but less enlightened on matters of finance, the plans of Alexander Hamilton would not have been realized." On this point the President added:

"As a result of the war the country was deeply in debt and had no credit; but the solution of our financial difficulties suggested by the first Secretary of the Treasury was opposed by those from rural communities. They argued that the large commercial cities would dominate to the detriment of other parts of the country. Both Jefferson, Secretary of State, and Randolph, Attorney General, in writing opposed the incorporation by Congress of a national bank. They were joined by Madison and Monroe. All argued against the constitutionality of this proposition. Hamilton answered their arguments fully in his famous opinion. But, had the President not been a man of affairs, had he not been for many years a large holder of stock in the Bank of England, coming from the estate of Daniel Parke Curtis, he might have yielded to the opposition. Because he knew something about bank accounts and bank credits the bill was signed and the foundation of our financial system laid."

In concluding his tribute to Washington the President said:

"His was the directing spirit without which there would have been no independence, no Union, no Constitution, and no Republic. His ways were the ways of truth. He built for eternity. His influence grows. His stature increases with the increasing years. In wisdom of action, in purity of character, he stands alone. We cannot yet estimate him. We can only indicate our reverence for him and thank the Divine Providence which sent him to serve and inspire his fellow-men."

At the outset of his address President Coolidge referred to the proposed celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Washington on Feb. 22 1932 and said that "in recognition of the importance of this coming anniversary, more than two years ago the Congress passed a joint resolution establishing a commission, which was directed to have this address made to the American people reminding them of the reason and purpose for holding the coming celebration. It was also considered that now would be an appropriate time to inform the public that this commission desires to receive suggestions concerning plans for the proposed celebration and to express the hope that the States and their political subdivisions under the direction of their Governors and local authorities would soon arrange for appointing commissions and committees to formulate programs for co-operation with the Federal Government." The address was delivered in the House of Representatives before an audience (we quote from the Washington dispatch to the New York "Times") comprising the members of the Supreme Court, the Diplomatic Corps, the Cabinet, the Senate and the House of Representatives, Governors of

States, ranking officers of the army, the navy and the Marine Corps and other notable persons, together with many women of official and residential society and of prominence in patriotic organizations. The "Times" also said:

The President spoke into a radio microphone, and through this means his voice was broadcast to all parts of the country and was heard abroad. General Harbord, President of the Radio Corporation of America, informed President Coolidge this afternoon that he had heard his address in London.

The distribution of the address through the air was the most extensive ever undertaken. Forty-two stations of the new transcontinental hook-up of the National Broadcasting Co. relayed it.

How many millions listened in is problematical, but, as the relay of broadcasting stations extended across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast and from Maine to Georgia in the South and to Texas in the Southwest, let alone the broadcasting effort which reached the British Isles, it is evident that more people were able to hear the President's words as they were spoken by him in Washington than ever had been able to undergo a like experience at the same time.

It was noted by the Washington correspondent of the "Herald-Tribune" that:

Incidentally, it was the first time that a joint session of Congress had ever convened to listen to an address about George Washington on his birthday, and the first time that a President of the United States had ever addressed Congress on the subject of the first President.

#### *Address Heard Around Globe.*

Also, the radio "hook-up" which carried the President's address from the House of Representatives chamber was the first to encircle the globe. Messages poured in on the White House this afternoon and to-night indicating that Mr. Coolidge's words had been heard successfully abroad.

The following is the address in full:

*My fellow Americans:* On the 22d day of February 1932 America will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Wherever there are those who love ordered liberty, they may well join in the observance to that event. Although he belongs to us, yet by being a great American he became a great world figure. It is but natural that here under the shadow of the stately monument rising to his memory, in the capital city bearing his name, the country made independent by his military genius and the Republic established by his statesmanship, should begin preparations to proclaim the immortal honor in which we hold the Father of our country.

#### *Celebration of Two Hundredth Anniversary.*

In recognition of the importance of this coming anniversary, more than two years ago the Congress passed a joint resolution establishing a commission which was directed to have this address made to the American people, reminding them of the reason and purpose for holding the coming celebration. It was also considered that now would be an appropriate time to inform the public that this commission desires to receive suggestions concerning plans for the proposed celebration and to express the hope that the States and their political subdivisions under the direction of their Governors and local authorities would soon arrange for appointing commissions and committees to formulate programs for co-operation with the Federal Government. When the plans begin to be matured they should embrace the active support of educational and religious institutions, of the many civic, social and fraternal organizations, agricultural and trade associations, and of other numerous activities which characterize our national life.

It is greatly to be hoped that out of the studies pursued and the investigations made a more broad and comprehensive understanding and a more complete conception of Washington, the man, and his relation to all that is characteristic of American life may be secured. It was to be expected that he would be idealized by his countrymen. His living at a time when there were scanty reports in the public press, coupled with the inclination of early biographers, resulted in a rather imaginary character being created in response to the universal desire to worship his memory. The facts of his life were of record, but were not easily accessible. While many excellent books, often scholarly and eloquent, have been written about him, the temptation has been so strong to represent him as an heroic figure composed of superlatives that the real man among men, the human being subjected to the trials and temptations common to all mortals, has been much obscured and forgotten.

#### *Washington's Uncommon Common Sense.*

When we regard him in this character and have revealed to us the judgment with which he met his problems, we shall all the more understand and revere his true greatness. No great mystery surrounds him; he never relied on miracles. But he was a man endowed with what has been called uncommon common sense, with tireless industry, with a talent for taking infinite pains, and with a mind able to understand the universal and eternal problems of mankind.

Washington has come to be known to the public almost exclusively as the Virginia colonel who accompanied the unfortunate expedition of General Braddock, as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, as the first President of the United States, and as the master of the beautiful estate at Mount Vernon. This general estimate is based to a large extent on the command he held in time of war and the public office he held in time of peace. A recital of his courage and patriotism, his loyalty and devotion, his self-sacrifice, his refusal to be king, will always arouse the imagination and inspire the soul of every one who loves his country. Nothing can detract from the exalted place which this record entitles him to hold. But he has an appeal even broader than this, which to-day is equally valuable to the people of the United States. Not many of our citizens are to be called on to take high command or to hold high public office. We are all necessarily engaged in the ordinary affairs of life. As a valuable example to youth and to maturity, the experience of Washington in these directions is worthy of much more attention than it has received.

We all share in the benefits which accrued from the independence he won and the free Republic he did so much to establish. We need a diligent comprehension and understanding of the great principles of government which he wrought out, but we shall also secure a wide practical advantage if we go beyond this record, already so eloquently expounded, and consider him also as a man of affairs. It was in this field that he developed that executive ability which he later displayed in the camp and in the council chamber.

#### *Inspiration to the Young.*

It ought always to be an inspiration to the young people of the country to know that from earliest youth Washington showed a disposition to make the most of his opportunities. He was diligently industrious—a most

admirable and desirable, if seemingly uninteresting, trait. His father, who had been educated in England, died when his son was 11 years old. His mother had but moderate educational advantages. There were no great incentives to learning in Virginia in 1732, and the facilities for acquiring knowledge were still meager. The boy might well have grown up with very little education, but his eager mind and indomitable will led him to acquire learning and information despite the handicaps surrounding him.

His formal schooling, which was of a rather primitive character, ended at the age of 13. His copy and exercise books, still in existence, contain forms of bills, receipts and like documents, showing he had devoted considerable time to that branch of his studies. He was preparing himself to be a practical business man. When his regular instruction ended his education was just beginning. It continued up to his death, Dec. 14 1799. If ever there was a self-made man it was George Washington. Through all his later years he was constantly absorbing knowledge from contact with men, from reading whenever time and facilities permitted, and from a wide correspondence.

When 16 he became a surveyor and for four years earned a living and much experience in that calling. Although considerable has been written about it, not many people think of our first President as an agriculturist. He prepared a treatise on this subject. Those who have studied this phase of his life tell us he was probably the most successful owner and director of an agricultural estate in his day. A visitor in 1785 declared "Washington's greatest pride was to be thought the first farmer in America." Toward the end of his life he wrote:

"I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an uneducated mind is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vainglory which can be acquired from ravaging it by the most uninterrupted career of conquests."

He always had a great affection for Mount Vernon. He increased his land holdings from 2,500 to over 8,000 acres, 3,200 of which he had under cultivation at one time.

#### *Washington's Business Ability.*

His estate was managed in a thoroughly businesslike fashion. He kept a very careful set of account books for it, as he did for his other enterprises. Overseers made weekly statements showing just how each laborer had been employed, what crops had been planted or gathered. While he was absent reports were sent to him, and he replied in long letters of instruction, displaying wonderful familiarity with details. He was one of the first converts to the benefits of scientific fertilization and to the rotation of crops, for that purpose making elaborate tables covering five-year periods. He overlooked no detail in carrying on his farm according to the practice of those days, producing on the premises most of the things needed there, even to shoes and textiles. He began the daily round of his fields at sunrise, and often removed his coat and helped his men in the work of the day.

He also showed his business ability by the skillful way in which he managed the considerable estates left to his two stepchildren by their father. So successfully was this done that John Parke Custis became, at the age of 21, the richest young man in the Old Dominion. Prussing tells us that Martha Custis was advised to get the ablest man in the colony to manage her estate and to pay him any salary within reason. And he adds: "That she chose wisely in marrying the young colonel, and got the best of a good bargain, is the opinion of many."

He was engaged in many business enterprises. That of the Dismal Swamp, comprising drainage and lumber operations south of Norfolk, was handled efficiently by Washington for five years subsequent to 1763. In addition to his land holdings, wisely chosen, the rise in value of which accounted in no small degree for his fortune, Washington participated in a number of real estate and transportation companies. As a private citizen he was constantly on the outlook for sound investments and for ways to increase his capital. In the purchase of frontier lands and in the promotion of plans for the building up and developing of new parts of the country he was performing important public service.

Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, distinguished historian, and a member of our commission, says:

"Washington has been criticized for buying up land warrants and holding on to his title in the face of squatters. Actually no American has ever done so much to open up vast tracts of land, first under the British and then under the American flag, fitted to become the home of millions of American farmers."

After thirteen years of effort Washington forced the British Government to give to the Virginia veterans of the French and Indian wars the 200,000 acres of Western lands promised by the Governor of that colony. His management and distribution of these bounties were carried out in an eminently efficient and satisfactory manner. He acquired two large farms in Maryland. During a trip in New York State in 1783 he saw the possibilities of a waterway from the sea to the Great Lakes by way of the Hudson River and the Mohawk Valley—the present route of a great barge canal. Because of his business vision he joined with General Clinton in the purchase of 6,000 acres near Utica.

#### *Founding of Country's Banking System.*

To Washington, the man of affairs, we owe our national banks, for had he followed the advice of other leaders, great but less enlightened on matters of finance, the plans of Alexander Hamilton would not have been realized. As a result of the war the country was deeply in debt, and had no credit; but the solution of our financial difficulties suggested by the first Secretary of the Treasury was opposed by those from rural communities. They argued that the large commercial cities would dominate to the detriment of other parts of the country. Both Jefferson, Secretary of State, and Randolph, Attorney General, in writing opposed the incorporation by Congress of a national bank. They were joined by Madison and Monroe. All argued against the constitutionality of this proposition. Hamilton answered their arguments fully in his famous opinion. But had the President not been a man of affairs, had he not been for many years a large holder of stock in the Bank of England, coming from the estate of Daniel Parke Custis, he might have yielded to the opposition. Because he knew something about bank accounts and bank credits the bill was signed and the foundation of our financial system laid.

Washington was also a stockholder in the Bank of Alexandria and in the Bank of Columbia at Georgetown. In his last will and testament he directed that such moneys as should be derived from the sale of his estate during the lifetime of Mrs. Washington should be invested for her in good bank stocks.

After his retirement from the Presidency in March, 1797, Washington spent more than two and a half happy years at Mount Vernon. In his last Summer he made a will, one of the most remarkable documents of its kind of which we have record. Again he showed his versatility, in disposing of his many properties under a variety of bequests and conditions without legal advice. It has been called an autobiographic will—it shows in its manifold provisions his charitable thoughtfulness for dependents and his solicitude for the future welfare of his country.

As President he was always an exponent of sound and honest public finance. He advocated the payment of our debts in full to holders of

record, and the assumption by the nation of the debts incurred by the various States to carry on the Revolution. His support of financial integrity, because it was morally right, strengthened the Union.

#### *His Vision of Future Republic.*

This practical business ability and interest in broad and general affairs made him one of the first to realize that the future of the American empire lay in the regions beyond the Alleghenies in the territory of the Ohio and the Mississippi. Because of this belief, he is said to have been the moving spirit in the first plans for the organization of our public lands. His association with the West may have started in the period 1749-1751, when he assisted his brother, Lawrence, in his various business enterprises, among them the Ohio Company, which had a grant of 500,000 acres of land on the east side of the Ohio River. The French having driven out the early British settlers who had started a fort where Pittsburgh now stands, Washington, at the age of 21, volunteered to head an expedition for its recovery. The comprehensive report of this young man was considered of enough importance to be sent from London to all the European capitals, by way of justifying Great Britain in making war upon France.

In 1763 he organized the Mississippi Company to take the place of the Ohio Company, which was one of the casualties of the war. He applied for a grant of 1,000,000 acres of land, though he did not receive it. But he made his own investments so that in the schedule of his property attached to his will we find Western lands appraised at over \$400,000—along the Ohio, the Great Kanawha, in Western Pennsylvania, in Kentucky and in the Northwest Territory.

Having a vision of what the West meant in the future prosperity of the new Republic, Washington in 1784 journeyed out into the wilds. His diary of the trip is filled with interest and enthusiasm over the possibilities of that region. Hulbert, who has made a study of it, calls him our first expansionist, the originator of the idea of possessing the West through commercial relations. "It was a pioneer idea, instinct with genius," this author writes, "and Washington's advocacy of it marks him as the first commercial American, the first man typical of the America that was to be."

Due to his investments he became the President of the James River Company and of the Potomac River Company, organized in 1785 to look into the possibility of opening navigation through to the West. To the Potomac Company, which involved the first Inter-State commerce negotiations in this country, he devoted four years of service. It has been thought that these negotiations entered into by Washington led up almost directly to the calling of the Constitutional Convention. They revealed clearly the difficulty under the Articles of Confederation of accomplishing anything involving the welfare of all the States, and showed the need of a more strongly centralized national government. His ability as a business man was the strong support of his statesmanship. It made his political ideas intensely practical.

Washington's Atlantic-Mississippi waterway plan was never carried out. But his advocacy of it without doubt had much to do with preventing a break in the Union, which threatened serious consequences. The people of Western North Carolina, now Tennessee, shut off from the east by mountains, had no outlet to the sea other than the Mississippi, and Spain, controlling the mouth of this river, levied heavy tribute on all commerce passing through it. Disappointed at the inability of the national government to get concessions from Spain, they, in 1784, established a separate State and started negotiations for an association with that foreign country. This action was rescinded after Washington put forth his waterway plan.

That he should have been responsible in large measure for the opening of the West and for calling attention to the commercial advantages the country might derive therefrom is by no means the least of his benefactions to the nation. He demonstrated that those who develop our resources, whether along agricultural, commercial and industrial lines or in any other field of endeavor, are entitled to the approval, rather than the censure, of their countrymen.

#### *Washington a Builder.*

Washington was a builder—a creator. He had a national mind. He was constantly warning his countrymen of the danger of settling problems in accordance with sectional interests. His ideas in regard to the opening of our Western territory were thought out primarily for the benefit of the nation. It has been said that he would have been "the greatest man in America had there been no Revolutionary War."

He was largely instrumental in selecting the site for our national capital, influenced in no small degree by his vision of the commercial possibilities of this locality. It included his plan of the waterway to the West, through the Potomac, the Monongahela and the Ohio Rivers, which he used to speak of as "the channel of commerce to the extensive and valuable trade of a rising empire." He, of course, could not foresee the development of railway transportation and the great ocean-going vessels, because of which the seat of our government became separated from active contact with commerce and was left to develop as the cultural and intellectual centre of the nation. Due to the genius of L'Enfant, the great engineer, this city from the first has had a magnificent plan of development. Its adoption was due in no small degree to the engineering foresight and executive ability of Washington. By 1932 we shall have made much progress toward perfecting the ideal city planned by him in the closing days of the eighteenth century.

Washington had the ability to translate ideals into practical affairs of life. He was interested in what he believed contributed to the betterment of everyday existence. Perhaps because he realized the deficiency of his own early education, he was solicitous to provide liberal facilities for the youth of the future. Because as a man of affairs he knew the everyday uses of learning, in an early message to the Congress and in his will he sought methods for the establishment of a national university. Even in his Farewell Address he found this exhortation:

"Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."

He desired his system of education to be thoroughly American and thoroughly national. It was to support the people in a knowledge of their rights, in the creation of a republican spirit, and in the maintenance of the Union.

#### *His Views on Religion.*

It was with the same clear vision that he looked upon religion. For him there was little in it of emotionalism. He placed it on a firmer, more secure foundation, and stated the benefits which would accrue to his country as the result of faith in spiritual things. He recognized that religion was the main support of free institutions. In his Farewell Address he said:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness—these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume would not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the

security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.

"Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?"

Without bigotry, without intolerance, he appeals to the highest spiritual nature of mankind. His genius has filled the earth. He has been recognized abroad as "the greatest man of our own or any age." He loved his fellow-men. He loved his country. That he entrusted their keeping to a Divine Providence is revealed in the following prayer which he made in 1794:

"Let us unite in imploring the Supreme Ruler of Nations, to spread His holy protection over these United States; to turn the machinations of the wicked, to the confirming of our Constitution; to enable us, at all times, to root out internal sedition and put invasion to flight; to perpetuate to our country that prosperity which His goodness has already conferred; and to verify the anticipations of this Government being a safeguard of human rights."

He was an idealist in the sense that he had a very high standard of private and public honor. He was a prophet to the extent of being able to forecast with remarkable vision the growth of the nation he founded and the changing conditions which it would meet. But, essentially, he was a very practical man. He analyzed the problems before him with a clear intellect. Having a thorough understanding, he attacked them with courage and energy, with patience and persistence. He brought things to pass. When Patrick Henry was asked in 1774 whom he thought was the greatest man in the Continental Congress, he replied:

"If you speak of eloquence, Mr. Rutledge, of South Carolina, is by far the greatest orator; but if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on that floor."

#### *Efficiency Which Marked Every Act.*

His accomplishments were great because of an efficiency which marked his every act and a sublime, compelling faith in the ultimate triumph of the right. As we study his daily life, as we read his letters, his diaries, his State papers, we come to realize more and more his wisdom, his energy, and his efficiency. He had the moral efficiency of an abiding religious faith, emphasizing the importance of the spiritual side of man, the social efficiency shown by his interest in his fellow-men, and in his realization of the inherent strength of a people united by a sense of equality and freedom, the business efficiency of a man of affairs, of the owner and manager of large properties, the governmental efficiency of the head of a new nation, who taking an untried political system made it operate successfully, of a leader able to adapt the relations of the government to the people.

He understood how to translate political theory into a workable scheme of government. He knew that we can accomplish no permanent good by going to extremes. The law of reason must always be applied. He followed Milton, who declared: . . . "Law in a free nation hath ever been public reason," and he agreed with Burke that "Men have no right to what is not reasonable."

#### *Great Men in His Cabinet.*

It is a mark of a great man that he surrounds himself by great men. Washington placed in the most important positions in his Cabinet, Jefferson, with his advocacy of the utmost degree of local self-government and of States' rights, and Hamilton, whose theories of a strong national government led him to advocate the appointment of State Governors by the President. Either theory carried to the extreme soon would have brought disaster to what has proved the most successful experiment in liberty under proper governmental restraint in the history of the world.

It is due to his memory that we guard the sovereign rights of the individual States under our Constitution with the same solicitude that we maintain the authority of the Federal Government in all matters vital to our continued national existence.

Such is the background of a man performing the ordinary duties of life. As it was George Washington, of course he performed them extraordinarily well. The principles which he adopted in his early youth and maintained throughout his years are the source of all true greatness. Unless we understand this side of him, we shall fail in our comprehension of his true character. It was because of this training that he was able to assume the leadership of an almost impossible cause, carry it on through a long period of discouragement and defeat and bring it to a successful conclusion. In advance of all others he saw that war was coming. With an army that was never large, and constantly shifting, poorly supported by a confederation inexperienced, inefficient and lacking in almost all the essential elements of a government, he was victorious over the armies of seasoned troops commanded by Howe, Burgoyne, Clinton and Cornwallis, supported by one of the most stable and solid of governments, possessed of enormous revenues and ample credit, representing the first military power of the world.

As an example of generalship, extending over a series of years from the siege of Boston to the fall of Yorktown, the commander-in-chief of the Continental armies holds a position that is unrivaled in the history of warfare. He never wavered, he never faltered from the day he modestly undertook the tremendous task of leading a revolution to the day when, with equal modesty, he surrendered his commission to the representatives of the independent colonies. He triumphed over a people in the height of their glory who had acknowledged no victor for 700 years.

Washington has come to personify the American Republic. He presided over the convention that framed our Constitution. The weight of his great name was the deciding factor in securing its adoption by the States. These results could never have been secured had it not been recognized that he would be the first President. When we realize what it meant to take thirteen distracted colonies, impoverished, envious and hostile, and weld them into an orderly federation under the authority of a central government, we can form some estimate of the influence of this great man.

But when we go further and remember that the government which he did so much to bring into being not only did not falter when he retired from its administration, but, notwithstanding every assault, has constantly grown stronger with the passage of time and been found adequate to meet the needs of nearly 120,000,000 people occupying half a continent and constituting the greatest power the world has ever known, we can judge something of the breadth and soundness of his statesmanship.

#### *Growth of His Influence.*

We have seen many soldiers who have left behind them little but the memory of their conflicts, but among all the victors the power to establish among a great people a form of self-government which the test of experience has shown will endure was bestowed upon Washington, and Washington alone. Many others have been able to destroy. He was able to construct. That he had around him many great minds does not detract from



his glory. His was the directing spirit without which there would have been no independence, no Union, no Constitution, and no Republic. His ways are the ways of truth. He built for eternity. His influence grows. His stature increases with the increasing years. In wisdom of action, in purity of character, he stands alone. We cannot yet estimate him. We can only indicate our reverence for him and thank the Divine Providence which sent him to serve and inspire his fellow-men.

### Conference of Soft Coal Miners and Operators Ends at Miami Without Effecting New Wage Agreement.

The joint wage conference of operators and union miners in the Central bituminous field which opened at Miami, Fla., on Feb. 14, unanimously adjourned sine die on Feb. 22 without reaching agreement on the question of a new wage scale to replace the one expiring on March 31. The conference was the outgrowth of the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America recently held at Indianapolis on Feb. 2. Instructions to negotiate a new agreement with bituminous coal operators on the basis of no reduction in wages were issued to the Scale Committee of the United Mine Workers by the delegates to the union convention; Feb. 14 was then set as the date for the meeting of the committee with operators' representatives at Miami.

The Wage Scale Committee's report of Feb. 2 read in part as follows, according to the "Times" account from Indianapolis:

"We recommend that the properly authorized and accredited representatives of the organization be instructed to secure the best agreement possible from the operators in the Central competitive field on the basis of no reduction in wages and that any agreement so secured be submitted to a referendum vote of our membership for ratification.

"That the agreement be made for a period of two years, beginning April 1 1927 and expiring March 31 1929.

"For the purpose of meeting any unforeseen emergency that might arise, a policy committee shall be created which shall be composed of the Scale Committee of the Central competitive field, three representatives from each outlying district, the International resident officers and the members of the International Executive Board, and that this policy committee be empowered to take such action for the protection of the interests of our organization as circumstances may require and to advise the membership of all unexpected developments which cannot now be foreseen or provided for.

"Your committee recommends that the outlying districts be authorized to enter into wage scale negotiations with their respective operators when the opportunity presents itself, it being understood, however, that no outlying district will conclude an agreement until after the agreement for the Central competitive field has been secured or permission to do so has been granted by the policy committee mentioned herein.

"The committee recommends that all contracts in the bituminous districts run concurrently and expire on the same date."

The adjournment of the Miami conference on Feb. 22 followed the acceptance of the report of a sub-committee which could not reconcile diverse demands by the wage scale committees of miners and operators. The Associated Press advices from Miami on that date said:

Unless negotiations are resumed elsewhere and an agreement reached before April 1 union miners automatically will cease labor in the Central bituminous field.

The sub-committee announced its failure to agree yesterday after considering for three days the Lewis and Haskins proposals received from the joint conference on last Wednesday.

The Haskins proposal drafted by the wage scale committee of the operators, sought to replace the Jacksonville agreement with a continuous wage scale, competitive with the wages paid in the non-union mines of West Virginia.

Offered by the miners, the Lewis plan asked the conference to recognize the inadequacy of wage reductions to solve the problems of the soft coal industry. It requested that the joint conference continue its existence during a two-year contract.

Before the report of the sub-committee was put to a vote to-day, leaders for both sides expressed regret that the conference had not been able to reach an agreement. Both declared that the obligations of the industry to the American people had been duly considered.

It was stated in a Miami dispatch to the "Times" on Feb. 22 that the operators profess not to be alarmed over a strike. The dispatch continued:

They say that there will be an ample supply of coal above ground by April 1, and, with the non-union mines of West Virginia and Kentucky working full time, the situation should be taken care of well.

Throughout the conference the miners have expressed the opinion that a solution of the problem would be found ultimately in district settlements. They said that the Ohio and Western Pennsylvania operators were the principal advocates of the competitive wage, and they expressed the opinion that the Indiana and Illinois operators were lukewarm to that proposal.

#### Setback to Settlement Hopes.

It was with the Illinois operators in particular that they had hoped to effect a separate settlement. But their hope in this regard received a severe setback this afternoon when the Illinois operators issued a long statement condemning the Jacksonville agreement as inflexible and out of date, and advocating adoption of a competitive wage scale.

They also took a shot at the "without-which-nothing" first paragraph of the Lewis resolution, which, they said, Mr. Lewis acknowledged, meant a two-year extension of the Jacksonville contract. This paragraph, they said, made acceptance of the resolution impossible.

All the operators present at the meeting held after the conference are said to have pledged themselves to stand together and under no condition to consent to district settlements.

To-day's adjournment was not unexpected. John M. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, warned the operators in his first speech at the conference, which opened eight days ago, that the miners would abide by instructions of the Indianapolis convention to work for as good a contract as possible on the basis of no wage reduction.

The operators, on the other hand, particularly those from Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, were just as insistent in their demands for a contract based on a continuously competitive scale, which, they said, would enable them to compete with the non-union mines of Kentucky and West Virginia.

#### Lewis Speaks on Miners' Stand.

As soon as the report of the sub-committee was read to the conference this morning the operators offered a motion for adjournment sine die. Mr. Lewis was on his feet instantly.

"The mine workers," he said, "will vote for the acceptance of the sub-committee's report, not because they desire to do so but because they have no alternative. They will do it with sorrow."

He declared that the miners keenly appreciated their responsibility in the conference and the public responsibility which devolved upon them because of the possible consequences.

"The mine workers," he continued, "came here with open minds, without any hard and fast proposals and with the hope that a reasonable consideration of the issue might be had.

"I do not mean to be critical, but I cannot refrain from expressing the wish that our operator friends from Western Pennsylvania and Ohio might have come here in a more conciliatory mood. But with such fixed purposes in the minds of some of the conferees a disagreement was inevitable.

"I cannot believe this conference marks the end of all efforts to prevent chaos from obtaining in the industry after April 1. The mine workers want no strike or suspension. We do not think that the circumstances and conditions of the industry warrant the execution of such a policy at the present time. Nor do we think that the American people will endorse or condone a strike in the industry at present, because every tendency is away from that condition.

"The condition of American business and American industry does not call for any organized effort on the part of any one group to force an industrial Armageddon or to break down the living standards of any number of employees.

"If there is anything we can do now or later to prevent the catastrophe of a strike in the industry without sacrificing the rights of those we represent, our operator friends may feel free to call upon the representatives of the miners."

#### Penna Speaks for Operators.

Phil H. Penna of Indiana spoke for the operators.

"I think it fair to say that the operators came with a desire to make a settlement and make a scale," he said.

"I think this conference started wrong. Our friends came here with chastisement, with adverse criticism, charging that the coal operators' trouble was due to inefficiency. But I submit that we have managed our business at least as well as the other side. All of the efficiency is not on one side. Nor is the consideration for the American people all on one side.

"The four units of operators have different problems to contend with. Speaking for Indiana, we came here to make a settlement if such a thing was possible. We submitted a proposal which the miners turned down coldly. We regret that the proposal from the miners' side perhaps did not receive the consideration it was entitled to, largely because of this.

"The Pennsylvania operators came here with their own problems. So did the Ohio and Illinois operators. All of us want a contract, but we want one under which we can live and operate; a contract that will be respected when made."

#### Calls Local Strikes Main Problem.

Mr. Penna declared the Jacksonville agreement to be offensive and intolerable and said the operators would never submit to its renewal.

"Since I have been in Miami," he continued, "four or five strikes in Indiana have been reported to me. These strikes were based upon interpretations by the mine workers, who interpreted things wholly for themselves. It has grown into a system, a system of one-sided interpretation, a one-sided procedure to enforce by strikes, if you please, all the provisions of a contract under which, if it were observed, strikes would not be possible.

"That is our trouble, our main trouble, and it is going to remain our main trouble until we clear it up. We have come to the point where we would prefer no contract at all to a contract which can be interpreted by the workers as they see fit."

After the sub-committee's report had been accepted unanimously, the question of an adjournment sine die was also carried unanimously.

The Illinois operators this afternoon issued a statement, which reads, in part, as follows:

"Like all other unionized fields, Illinois has suffered severely and progressively under the Jacksonville wage contract.

"Illinois operators have lived up to the letter and spirit of the contract, but the experience has been so unhappy that none can contemplate a renewal as otherwise than suicidal both to operators and miners.

"In former years the central competitive field produced a major percentage of the country's bituminous coal and enjoyed the natural markets for its product under wage contracts recognizing competitive conditions. To-day, under the inflexible and out-of-date Jacksonville contract, the unionized States have almost ceased to compete and have been forced to yield their position and markets to rapidly growing production from adjacent and even distant non-union fields, working under labor relationships permitting reasonable flexibility and adjustments."

From Miami on Feb. 23 the "Times" reported the following:

It was disclosed in an authoritative quarter that the miners' policy committee decided to-day that only the union mines in the Central competitive field would be affected by any walk-out on April 1. Union mines in the "outlying districts" would be permitted to operate under the existing Jacksonville agreement although no new contracts would be made in these districts until the disagreement with the Central field operators is settled.

The Central competitive field includes Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois. Outside of these States are many other unionized bituminous mines, usually referred to as being in the "outlying districts."

About 150,000 union miners are employed in such "outlying districts" in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Michigan and Washington.

A majority of these mines are owned by the Northern Pacific, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the Rock Island, the New York Central and other railroad systems. The fact that these mines would not be shut down means that the coal supplies of most of the large railroad systems would be assured in the event of a strike. With the non-union mines of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Utah and Colorado running full time, operators declare that the public would suffer little if any coal shortage.

The policy committee is also reported to have discussed the question of district settlements. The miners are said to have favored a conciliatory policy and to have advocated making separate contracts, if possible, with the Illinois and Indiana operators.

The miners think that the conference indicated that these operators are not averse to a settlement on the old wage scale, but their hopes received

a setback yesterday when the operators from both States openly denounced the Jacksonville contract and alleged union domination.

Since Mr. Lewis's attacks on the disorganized condition of the industry there has been a growing demand for an operators' organization, and the early formation of one is declared probable.

### United States Supreme Court Declares Utterances of Inter-State Commerce Commission Cannot Be Enjoined—Decision in Valuation Proceedings of Los Angeles & Salt Lake RR.—Erroneous Report as to Decision Upsets Stock Market.

Misleading reports regarding the purport of a decision on Feb. 21 of the United States Supreme Court growing out of the proceedings of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Co. to enjoin an order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission affecting the valuation of the property of the road, had the effect of disturbing the stock market on that day, heavy selling of stocks with an attendant break in prices resulting with the misinterpretation of the decision. The Supreme Court ruling did not concern the valuation issue, but held that the so-called order of the Commission for which an injunction had been sought "is merely the formal record of conclusions reached after a study of data collected in the course of extensive research conducted by the Commission, through its employees." The Court added that "it is the exercise solely of the function of investigation," and that, "moreover, the investigation made was not a step in a pending proceeding in which an order of the character of those held to be judicially reviewable could be entered later. It was merely preparation for possible action in some proceeding which may be instituted in the future—preparation deemed by Congress necessary to enable the Commission to perform adequately its duties, if and when occasion for action shall arise." In conclusion, the Court declared that "neither its [the Commission's] utterances, nor its processes of reasoning as distinguished from its Acts, are a subject for injunction." The effects of the misleading view of the Court's findings were described as follows in the New York "Times" of Feb. 22:

#### Rails Raided on Decision.

The railway shares passed through the second convulsion in two weeks yesterday when frightened speculators and bear traders, upon a hasty interpretation of the United States Supreme Court's decision in the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railway's valuation suit, threw at an ill-prepared market on the New York Stock Exchange in ten minutes a volume of securities which it had taken them days to accumulate. Losses ranging from 3 to 12½ points were recorded in the brief but spectacular decline.

The crash was more disastrous than the collapse which took place on the Exchange on Feb. 9, when Wheeling & Lake Erie led a downturn started by bear raiders. Much more so than in the previous break, the high-priced railways were the targets in yesterday's selling movement. A heavy attack on Reading gave the signal for the decline. In a perpendicular drop this stock lost 12½ points before the market could brace itself. Other issues, many of them the "blue chips" of the railway group, were thrown overboard at whatever prices they would bring.

#### Bears Waiting for Opening.

News of the Supreme Court's decision was flashed on the financial tickers at 1.40 o'clock. Until that time the market had been moving rather listlessly, with professional groups colliding with each other and unable to get anywhere. Quick-minded operators who had been seeking an opportunity to turn the market downward saw their chance and before the financial community had time to digest even the skeletonized announcement of the decision their movement was under way. The bewildered market staggered and the riot of selling was on.

The market was studded with stoploss orders, it was soon apparent, and the break gained momentum as these were uncovered. On the floor of the Exchange there was a repetition of the stirring scenes which attended the smash in Wheeling & Lake Erie. Traders fought frenziedly to execute orders. Only the coolest heads could do business with any success.

Selling spread throughout the rail list, and for a brief period it unsettled the entire market. Large blocks of stocks of Reading Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe, Kansas City Southern, Missouri Pacific, New York Central, New Haven, Nickel Plate, Lehigh Valley, Union Pacific, Wabash and others were offered at the market. Values crumbled so fast that in many cases the quotations appearing on the tape were 5 points or more above the actual market.

#### Quick Recovery Made.

The reversal of trend came almost as suddenly as the break, although the recovery was much slower. By 2 o'clock the market showed signs of finding itself, and the selling movement quickly subsided as buying support appeared.

Wall Street, after a more careful study of the Supreme Court's decision, was disposed to revise its judgment, or at least to await fuller information as to the real significance of the ruling.

Virtually all of the stocks which had sunk under the swift rush of selling rallied and offerings were snapped up promptly. The entire market recovered its confidence, and from then until the close there was an orderly advance. In some cases the losses recorded in the short market panic were canceled, while in others they were greatly reduced. Reading, for instance, which had been the bellwether in the decline, snapped back so briskly that it was able to end the day with a net loss of only 2¼ points.

The market as a whole was irregular at the close, largely as a result of weakness in several so-called pivotal issues in the industrial group. Net changes in this group, however, were for the most part unimportant.

#### Railroad Circles Unconcerned.

Little concern was shown yesterday in railroad circles over the decision of the Supreme Court in the Los Angeles & Salt Lake case, and the general response to the decision was that its effect, if any is forthcoming, will

have no immediate bearing on the question of valuation as a whole. While the Los Angeles & Salt Lake case has been regarded in many quarters as a test, it is now held, in view of the Supreme Court's stand, that no revolutionizing factor in the valuation scheme will ensue until the Inter-State Commerce Commission lays down a valuation upon a railroad which will act in adversity to the interests of the carrier in question.

The consensus of opinion is that the Supreme Court has taken the stand that it can take no legislative action in the valuation problem until the Inter-State Commerce Commission makes some affirmative decision as to valuation which acts adversely to the interests of the carrier. When such an adverse effect appears the door is left open for the railroad to thrash its trouble out in court.

The following is the text of the Supreme Court decision:

This suit was brought in the Federal Court for Southern California by the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Co. to enjoin and annul an order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission purporting to determine the "final value" of its property, under what is now Section 19a of the Act to Regulate Commerce, Feb. 4 1887, C. 104, 24 Stat. 379, as amended by the Valuation Act, March 1 1913, C. 92, 37 Stat. 701, by the Act of Feb. 28 1920, C. 91, Section 433, 41 Stat. 456, 474, 493, and by the Act of June 7 1922, C. 210, 42 Stat. 624, San Pedro Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Co., 75 I. C. O. 463; 97 I. C. O. 377; 103 I. C. O. 398.

The bill asserts that the order fixing the final value is invalid, because it is in excess of the powers conferred upon the Commission, contrary to the provision of the Valuation Act, and violates the Fifth Amendment. It asserts also that irreparable injury is threatened.

Reasons why the final valuation is invalid are set forth specifically in 31 paragraphs and 35 sub-paragraphs of the bill. It charges that the Commission adopted rules for the valuation which are unsound and unwarranted in law; that in the determination of values it ignored facts and factors of major importance; that it refused to report an analysis of the methods employed by it, although required so to do by the Valuation Act; and that it refused to comply with the requirement that all values and elements of value be separately reported.

#### Defendant Challenged Jurisdiction of Court.

It charges that the valuation was made as of June 30 1914, whereas it should have been made as of June 7 1923; that the value found is that for rate-making purposes, whereas the finding should have been a general one of value for all purposes; that properties enumerated were erroneously excluded from the valuation; that in making the finding of value the Commission erroneously failed to consider nine specified elements of value; that in making the finding of investment in road and equipment it ignored six items; that in making the finding of cost of reproduction new it ignored eleven items; that in making the finding of cost of reproduction new less depreciation it made thirteen errors; that in valuing the lands eleven errors were made; and that in making the finding as to working capital a large sum was arbitrarily deducted. It alleges that for these and other reasons the findings made are incomplete, erroneous in law and misleading in point of fact.

The jurisdiction of the District Court was invoked under the Urgent Deficiencies Act, Oct. 2 1913, C. 32, 38 Stat. 208, 219, and also under its general equity powers. The United States was named as defendant and the Commission became such by intervention. Both defendants answered. But by appropriate pleadings the United States objected that the adoption by the Commission of the final valuation does not constitute an order within the meaning of the Urgent Deficiencies Act; challenged also the jurisdiction of the Court to enjoin or annul the order under its general equity powers; and moved that the bill be dismissed.

The motion was overruled; the case was heard on the pleadings and evidence; and, after proceedings which it is not necessary to detail, a decree was entered which annulled the final valuation and enjoined its use for any purpose. Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad vs. United States, 4 F. (2d) 736; 8 F. (2d) 747. Whether all or any of the claims and charges made in the bill are well founded, we have no occasion to consider; for we are of opinion that the District Court should have sustained the motion to dismiss the bill.

The final report on value, like the tentative report, is called an order. But there are many orders of the Commission which are not judicially reviewable under the provision now incorporated in the Urgent Deficiencies Act. See Proctor & Gamble Co. vs. United States, 225 U. S. 282; Hooker vs. Knapp, 255 U. S. 302; Lehigh Valley RR. Co. vs. United States, 243 U. S. 412; United States vs. Illinois Central RR. Co., 244 U. S. 82, 89; Delaware & Hudson Co. vs. United States, 266 U. S. 438.

For the first 19 years of the Commission's existence no order was so reviewable. The statutory jurisdiction to enjoin and set aside an order was granted in 1906, because then, for the first time, the rate-making power was conferred upon the Commission, and then disobedience to its orders was first made punishable. Hepburn Act, June 29 1926, C. 3591, Sections 2-7, 34 Stat. 584, 586-595. The first suit to set aside an order was brought soon after. Stickney v. Inter-State Commerce Commission, 164 Fed. 638; 215 U. S. 98.

The jurisdiction conferred by the Hepburn Act was transferred, substantially unchanged, to the Commerce Court, by the Act of June 18 1910, C. 309, Section 1, 36 Stat. 539; and, when that Court was abolished, to the district courts, by the Urgent Deficiencies Act.

#### Present Order Differs from Those Reviewed.

The so-called order here assailed differs essentially from all those held by this Court to be subject to judicial review under any of those Act. Each of the orders so reviewed was an exercise either of the quasi-judicial function of determining controversies or of the delegated legislative function of rate making and rule making.

The so-called order here complained of is one which does not command the carrier to do, or to refrain from doing, any thing; which does not grant or withhold any authority, privilege or license; which does not extend or abridge any power or faculty; which does not subject the carrier to any liability, civil or criminal; which does not change the carrier's existing or future status or condition; which does not determine any right or obligation.

This so-called order is merely the formal record of conclusions reached after a study of data collected in the course of extensive research conducted by the Commission, through its employees. It is the exercise solely of the function of investigation. Compare Smith v. Inter-State Commerce Commission, 245 U. S. 33. Moreover, the investigation made was not a step in a pending proceeding in which an order of the character of those held to be judicially reviewable could be entered later. It was merely preparation for possible action in some proceeding which may be instituted in the future—preparation deemed by Congress necessary to enable the Commission to perform adequately its duties, if and when occasion for action shall arise.

The final report may, of course, become a basis for action by the Commission, as it may become a basis for action by Congress or by the Legislature or an administrative board of a State. But so may any report of an investigation, whether made by a committee of Congress or of either branch thereof.

The Valuation Act requires that the investigation and study be made of the properties of each of the rail carriers. There are about 1,800. 40 Annual Report Inter-State Commerce Commission, 13. In directing the Commission to investigate the value of the property of the several carriers, Congress prescribed in detail the subjects on which findings should be made, and constituted the "final valuations" and "the classification thereof" prima facie evidence, in controversies under the Act to Regulate Commerce.

Every party in interest is, therefore, entitled to have and to use this evidence; and the carrier, being a party in interest, has the remedy by mandamus to compel the Commission to make a finding on each of the subjects specifically prescribed. *Kansas City Southern Ry. Co. vs. Inter-State Commerce Commission*, 252 U. S. 178.

*No Power in Courts to Annul Reports.*

But Congress did not confer upon the courts power either to direct what this "tribunal appointed by law and informed by experience," *Illinois Central Ry. Co. vs. Inter-State Commerce Commission*, 206 U. S. 441, 454, shall find, or to annul the report, because of errors committed in making it. Moreover, errors may be made in the final valuation of the property of each of the nearly 1,800 carriers. And it is at least possible that no proceeding will ever be instituted, either before the Commission or a court, in which the matters now complained of will be involved or in which the errors alleged will be of legal significance.

The mere fact that Congress has, in terms, made "all final valuations . . . and the classification thereof . . . prima facie evidence of the value of the property in all proceedings under the Act to Regulate Commerce . . . in all judicial proceedings for the enforcement of the Act . . . and in all judicial proceedings brought to enjoin, set aside, annul or suspend, in whole or in part, any order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission" is, obviously, not a violation of the due process clause justifying proceedings to annul the order.

That to make the Commission's conclusions prima facie evidence in judicial proceedings is not a denial of due process, was settled by *Meeker vs. Lehigh Valley RR. Co.*, 236 U. S. 412, 430, 431. It was there said of a like provision relating to reparation orders: "This provision only establishes a rebuttable presumption. It cuts off no defense, interposes no obstacle to a full contestation of all the issues, and takes no question of fact from either court or jury. At most, therefore, it is merely a rule of evidence." See also *Mills vs. Lehigh Valley RR. Co.*, 238 U. S. 473, 481-482; *St. Louis Southwestern Ry. Co. vs. United States*, 264 U. S. 64, 77.

Nor does the fact that "all final valuations . . . and the classifications thereof" are made prima facie evidence prevent the report from being solely an exercise of the function of investigation. Data collected by the Commission as a part of its function of investigation, constitute ordinarily evidence sufficient to support an order, if the data are duly made part of the record in the case in which the order is entered. See *Inter-State Commerce Commission vs. Louisville & Nashville RR. Co.*, 227 U. S. 88, 93; *Chicago Junction Case*, 264 U. S. 258, 262; *United States vs. Abilene & Southern Ry. Co.*, 265 U. S. 274, 286-290; *Act of June 18 1910*, C. 309, Section 13, 36 Stat. 539, 555.

Inquests and inquisitions, if they were expressly authorized, are, at common law, admissible in evidence in judicial proceedings, thus constituting an exception to both the hearsay rule and the rule against opinion evidence. 3 *Wigmore on Evidence* (2d ed.), Sections 16-71-1674. Some inquests are at common law also prima facie evidence of the facts found. *Hughes vs. Jones*, 116 N. Y. 67.

*Remedies Provided to Correct Errors.*

Congress has provided adequate remedies for the correction of errors in the final valuation and the classification thereof. The conclusions reached by the Commission must be submitted first in the form of a tentative report, Section 19a, Pars. (f) and (h). When so submitted, the carrier is authorized to file a protest and to be heard thereon, Par. (i). If such protest is filed, the Commission is directed to make in the report such changes, if any, as it may deem proper. Even if no protest is filed, the Commission may of its own motion upon due notice to parties in interest correct the tentative report. Compare *New York Ontario & Western Ry. Co. vs. United States*, decided Jan. 10 1927.

When the final report is introduced in evidence the opportunity to contest the correctness of the findings therein made is fully preserved to the carrier; and any error therein may be corrected at the trial. Specific findings may be excluded because of errors committed in making them. It is conceivable that errors of law may have been committed which are so fundamental and far-reaching, as to deprive the "final valuations . . . and the classification thereof" of all probative force. Moreover, additional evidence may be introduced.

Paragraph (j) provides that "if upon the trial of any action involving a final value fixed by the Commission, evidence shall be introduced regarding such value which is found by the court to be different from that offered upon the hearing before the Commission, or additional thereto and substantially affecting the value," the proceedings shall be stayed so as to permit the Commission to consider the same and fix a final value different from that fixed in the first instance, and to "alter, modify, amend or rescind any order which it has made involving such final value."

The District Court rested jurisdiction to entertain a suit to set aside the valuation order largely upon the provisions of Paragraph (j), believing that such a suit was within the scope of the words "upon the trial of any action involving a final value."

That paragraph was intended to apply to actions brought to set aside rate-fixing orders in which the question of the value of the carrier's property would be material. In our opinion it is not applicable to so-called orders fixing only valuations. The objection to entertaining this suit to annul the final valuation is not merely that the question presented is moot, as in *United States vs. Alaska Steamship Co.*, 253 U. S. 113, 116; or that the plaintiff's interest is remote and speculative as in *Hines Yellow Pine Trustees vs. United States*, 253 U. S. 143, 148. There is the fundamental infirmity that the mere existence of error in the final valuation is not a wrong for which Congress provides a remedy under the Urgent Deficiencies Act.

Little need be added concerning the further contention that the suit should be entertained under the general equity power of the court. Two arguments are urged in support of the proposition. One is that since the Commission has by reason of errors of law and of judgment grossly undervalued the property, its report will, unless suppressed, injure the credit of the carrier with the public. The other is that the commission may itself be misled into illegal action by the erroneous conclusions and may apply them to the carriers' injury, since use of the final valuation is required in making rates pursuant to section 15a of the Act to Regulate Commerce, as amended by Transportation Act, C. 91, Section 421, 41 Stat. 456; in prescribing divisions of joint rates under Section 15; in determining the limit upon the amount of capitalization, in the event of a consolidation under Section 5; in determining the propriety of an issue of securities, under Section 20a; or as the basis of computation of the amount of excess earnings to be recaptured under Section 15a.

Neither argument is persuasive. The first reminds of the effort made in *Pennsylvania RR. Co. vs. United States Railroad Labor Board*, 261

U. S. 72, to suppress the report of that board. The second of the attempt to secure a declaratory judgment in *Liberty Warehouse Co. vs. Grannis*, decided Jan. 3 1927; and, also, of cases in which it was sought to enjoin a municipality from passing an illegal ordinance. Compare *New Orleans Waterworks Co. vs. New Orleans*, 164 U. S. 471, 481; *McChord vs. Louisville & N. Ry. Co.*, 183 U. S. 483.

No basis is laid for relief under the general equity powers. The investigation was undertaken in aid of the legislative purpose of regulation. In conducting the investigation, and in making the report, the Commission performed a service specifically delegated and prescribed by Congress.

Its conclusions, if erroneous in law, may be disregarded. But neither its utterances, nor its processes of reasoning, as distinguished from its acts, are a subject for injunction. Whether the remedy conferred by the Urgent Deficiencies Act is in all cases the exclusive equitable remedy, we need not determine. Reversed.

Mr. Justice Butler took no part in the consideration or decision of this case.

**Seaboard Air Line Withdraws from the Southeastern Group—Takes Issue with the Management of the Negotiations and Settlement of the Wage Increase Given by the Group Committee Representing the Railroads and the Board of Mediation.**

At a banquet of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Petersburg on Feb. 21, which day, by proclamation of the Mayor, had been declared a holiday as "Warfield Day" in commemoration of services rendered by S. Davies Warfield, President of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, in his pioneer railroad construction and development work in Florida, among other matters Mr. Warfield discussed the wage increase of 7½% asked by the leaders of the trainmen and conductors of all the railroads of the country, especially as it applied to the Southeastern Group of carriers, the Seaboard Railway being one of the group. Among other things Mr. Warfield said:

The Seaboard Air Line Railway is completing 500 miles of new railroad in Florida, more railroad construction than in many States taken collectively in the same period if time. This has involved large expenditures. I have sold within twenty months \$60,000,000 of Seaboard securities, not including \$7,000,000 recently sold, a total of \$67,000,000. A large part of the proceeds has been spent in Florida in pioneer construction and in additions and betterments to the Seaboard system to care for increase in traffic.

Because of statements by me respecting further construction and extensions you should know that the Seaboard Railway will now curtail its constructive program owing to recent heavy increases.

The recent settlement of wage increase in the Eastern group of forty-five railroads and more recently in the nineteen railroads and three terminal companies comprising the Southeastern Railroad Group, our group, and now under discussion in the Western Group of seventy-six railroads, has a significance which I do not believe is at all understood. It is the first settlement of these questions under the Railway Labor Act passed by Congress in 1926. The methods employed in reaching a settlement in the Southeastern Railroad Group displayed either lack of decision or understanding by the so-called Board of Mediation provided in the Act, which was appointed by President Coolidge, of the purposes of Congress, or the Act itself is incompetent in dealing with questions of so far-reaching a nature.

When wage increase was before the Eastern Railroad Group, which operate in thickly populated and rich traffic territory, by agreement between the representatives of the men and those of the group the questions involved went to arbitration and a 7½% increase in that territory resulted.

The committee of eight representing the Southeastern Group, after the so-called Board of Mediation was supposed to have endeavored to mediate, requested that the increase asked by the leaders of the men in our group be also arbitrated; this was declined.

Section 10 of the Railway Labor Act provides that, failing in settlement or arbitration, on the application of any railroad of the railroads of a group, if in the opinion of the Board of Mediation there is threatened interruption of Inter-State commerce in any section of the country that the board shall ask the President of the United States to appoint an emergency board to investigate and report to the President. Since a strike vote had already been taken on all the railroads of the Southeastern Group it was the opinion of many that the committee of eight representing the group declining to proceed without arbitration or the appointment of the emergency board, taken in connection with the strike vote, constituted a sufficient menace to Inter-State commerce for the Board of Mediation to ask the President to appoint the emergency board in accordance with the Act. The group committee suggested that the Board of Mediation ask for the appointment of the emergency board. My information was that the Chairman of the Board of Mediation considered that there was not a threatened interruption of Inter-State commerce under the terms of the Act, as the strike vote had not been announced, and therefore the President could not be asked to appoint the emergency board, but I was also informed that the Chairman asked the labor leaders not to announce the vote in the express hope of mediating the questions involved, which had already failed of result, unless the terms proposed were accepted. A vote was taken by the committee of eight, which unfortunately contained two representatives from two railroads which were properly in the Eastern Group, who should have been disqualified from serving on this committee, resulting in five to three in favor of accepting the arbitrated award of 7½% increase allowed in the Eastern territory, without arbitration in Southeastern territory.

The group committee of eight (one a Seaboard representative) instead of insisting that the question be settled under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, voted to accept the Eastern Group settlement. The representative of the Seaboard voted against acceptance and withdrew from the committee. I have notified the Chairman of the Presidents' Conference Committee, Southeastern Railroads, that in future conference on wages, rules and working conditions the Seaboard Railway will not be a party to the proceedings of those who may represent the group and will hereafter take these matters up direct with our own men. The Southern Railway System was not represented on the group committee its contract with its men not expiring until March 1.

Personally I could not see why a wage decision in the Eastern Railroad Group operating in heavy traffic and thickly populated territories, after arbitration, should be accepted by the railroads of the Southeastern Group operating in territory of less traffic and less population, without arbitra-

tion, or without giving the emergency or fact finding board opportunity to ascertain actual conditions in our territory as they apply to wages, rules and working conditions. My position was that a decision of so momentous a question should not be made without exhausting every means provided by the Railway Labor Act to secure arbitration, failing in this to insist on the appointment of the emergency board. If every request for increase in wages proposed for the Southeastern Group is to be determined by the action taken by the Eastern Group, why confer in Southeastern territory at all? The Eastern Group of railroads should not set the pace for wage increases throughout the country.

When the Railway Labor Act was before committees of Congress it was stated that its passage would prevent strikes, bring about arbitration and peace between the railroads and their men.

The Transportation Act of 1920 provides for the adjustment of railroad rates by regions, that is to say, by the groups of railroads into which the country has been divided. Railroad rates differ in the several groups or districts. The men submit the questions involved in increase in wages to the same groups of railroads that deal with railroad rates from which wages are paid. There is no reason why the settlement of wage increases should not be made by each regional railroad group independent of and without interference by another group.

The full responsibility for the action recently taken cannot be placed on the representatives of the railroads alone.

### Conductors and Trainmen in Western Territory Seek 7½% Wage Increase.

Demands for an increase in wages of 7½%, proportionate to the advances recently granted to railroad employees in the East and Southeast, were filed on Feb. 24 by conductors and trainmen in the Western territory, it is noted in the "Times," which in addition says:

The petition represented about 60,000 employees. It is estimated that if this increase were granted the carriers in the Western territory would be forced to make an additional annual outlay of about \$13,000,000.

Railroad men here believe that considerable difficulty will be encountered before the Western railroads consent to granting the increase. The action of the Southern Ry. in declining to go along with the movement which resulted in the 7½% advance to railroad workers in the Southeast and the note sounded this week by S. Davies Warfield, President of the Seaboard Air Line Ry., who protested vigorously against the Southern increase, are believed to have indicated the stand the Western carriers will take.

### Proclamation of President Coolidge Increasing Duty on Iron in Pigs.

President Coolidge, acting under the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act of 1922, has issued a proclamation increasing the import duty on iron in pigs and iron kentalge from 75 cents a ton to \$1.12½ per ton. His action, it is pointed out in the "United States Daily," was taken as the result of a cost investigation by the United States Tariff Commission. The President found that the existing duty of 75 cents a ton did not equalize the differences in the costs of production in the United States and in British India, the principal competing country. The proclamation, dated Feb. 23, is given as follows in the paper quoted:

By the President of the United States of America:

Whereas, in and by Sec. 315 (a) of Title III of the Act of Congress approved Sept. 21 1922, entitled "An Act to Provide Revenue, to Regulate Commerce With Foreign Countries, to Encourage the Industries of the United States, and for Other Purposes," it is, among other things, provided that whenever the President, upon investigation of the difference in costs of production of articles wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States and of like or similar articles wholly or in part the growth or product of competing foreign countries, shall find it thereby shown that the duties fixed in this Act do not equalize the said differences in costs of production in the United States and the principal competing country, he shall, by such investigation, ascertain said differences and determine and proclaim the changes in classifications or increases or decreases in rates of duty provided in said Act shown by said ascertained differences in such costs of production necessary to equalize the same;

Whereas, in and by Sec. 315 (c) of said Act it is further provided that in ascertaining the differences in costs of production, under the provisions of subdivisions (a) and (b) of said section, the President in so far as he finds it practicable, shall take into consideration (1) the differences in conditions in production, including wages, costs of material, and other items in costs of production of such or similar articles in the United States and in competing foreign countries; (2) the differences in the wholesale selling prices of domestic and foreign articles in the principal markets of the United States; (3) advantages granted to a foreign producer by a foreign government, or by a person, partnership, corporation, or association in a foreign country; and (4) any other advantages or disadvantages in competition;

Whereas, under and by virtue of said section of said Act, the United States Tariff Commission has made an investigation to assist the President in ascertaining the differences in costs of production of and of all other facts and conditions enumerated in said section with respect to the articles described in paragraph 301 of title I of said Tariff Act of 1922, namely, iron in pigs and iron kentalge, being wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States, and of and with respect to like or similar articles wholly or in part the growth or product of competing foreign countries;

Whereas, in the course of said investigation a hearing was held, of which reasonable public notice was given and at which parties interested were given reasonable opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard;

And whereas, the President upon said investigation of said differences in costs of production of said articles wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States and of like or similar articles wholly or in part the growth or product of competing foreign countries, has thereby found that the principal competing country is British India and that the duty fixed in said title and Act does not equalize the differences in costs of production in the United States and in said principal competing country, namely, British India, and has ascertained and determined the increased rate of duty necessary to equalize the same;

Now, therefore, I, Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States of America, do hereby determine and proclaim that the increase in the rate of duty provided in said Act shown by said ascertained differences in said costs of production necessary to equalize the same is as follows:

An increase in said duty on iron in pigs and iron kentalge (within the limit of total increase provided for in said Act) from 75 cents per ton to \$1.12½ per ton.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this twenty-third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-first.

By the President:

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

Frank B. Kellogg,  
Secretary of State.

### United States Court of Customs Appeals Upholds Constitutionality of Flexible Provisions of Tariff Act and President's Powers Thereunder.

The constitutionality of the flexible provisions (Section 315) of the Tariff Act of 1922 is upheld in a decision of the United States Court of Customs Appeals delivered on Feb. 24 by Presiding Judge William J. Graham. The Court held that Congress acted within its rights in delegating to the President the power to raise or lower duties within a maximum of 50% of those fixed in the Act. The decision was given in a test case in which protest was made against the action of President Coolidge in raising the duty on barium dioxide from 4 to 6 cents a pound. The protestants were J. W. Hampton, Jr., & Co., New York, who opposed the assessment by the Collector at New York of 6 cents a pound duty on 292 drums of barium dioxide, the company contending that the goods were properly dutiable at 4 cents a pound under paragraph 12 of the same Tariff Act of 1922. The importing firm alleged that section 315 was unconstitutional and that all acts under it by the President were null and void, says the New York "Times," which also said in part:

Contentions of the Appellant.

The protest was referred to the Board of General Appraisers, which sustained the assessment. The importer then appealed to the Court of Customs Appeals, making three assignments of error against the board.

These were that section 315 was unconstitutional because it attempted to delegate to the President the power to legislate and because it sought to delegate to him the "power to tax," a power which could be exercised only by Congress, and, furthermore, that section 315 was a provision, not for a tax, duty or excise but solely for the "protection" of American industries. Appellant contended that Congress had no constitutional right to legislate tariff "protection."

The "United States Daily" in noting the conclusions of the Court of Customs says:

By holding that the flexible provisions are within the constitutional limits of Congress' right, the court also found valid provisions of the law by which Congress may enact statutes having as their aim the protection of American industry. It said specifically that Congress had the right to lay duties which would equalize the difference in production costs in the United States, and in the principal competing countries, declaring this to be a valid exercise of the constitutional grant of power to regulate commerce.

The case decided originated under a proclamation by President Coolidge on May 19 1924.

Three Questions at Issue.

After reviewing the facts, Judge Graham said the many assignments of error made by the appellants could be summed up in three propositions:

That section 315 is unconstitutional in that it attempts to delegate to the President the power to legislate;

That it is unconstitutional in that it attempts to delegate to the President the power to tax, and

That section 315 is a provision, not for a tax, duty or excise, but solely for the protection of industries of the United States; and that Congress may not so legislate under the powers given it by the Constitution.

The Court, answering the propositions, found adversely in each instance. It stated the general rule that as regards foreign commerce the power of Congress to regulate includes the right to levy discriminatory duties and the right to prohibit; and this legislative right is absolute.

Right to Lay Duties Upheld.

"It was for Congress to select the means," the Court said in conclusion, "by which it thought the best interests of the country would be served in encouraging, fostering, and protecting the commerce and industries of the country. Having done so within constitutional limits, the courts will not interfere. If it be said that legislation which thus protects one industry at the expense of others should be declared invalid therefore, then we must deny to the Congress the power to lay any duties at all. The power to lay duties implies the power to select the objects upon which such duties are laid. Necessarily, the laying of a duty upon one product and not upon another may give added advantage or disadvantage to the domestic producer of the product thus made dutiable. But what might be said of the inequality of the laying of duties may also be said of all taxes for public purposes. The needs occasioned by drought, famine, pestilence and flood, the pauper, the dependent, and the criminal, are burdens unequally borne; and yet, while the means of one citizen are taken from him to minister to another, it is still deemed to be a public purpose, the benefits of which all citizens equally enjoy. The right of our national legislature to take such steps as the people, acting through it, may think best suited to protect, foster and encourage its commerce and industrial life cannot be denied; for to so deny it would be to deny the sovereign right which every properly constituted government has to perpetuate itself and to accomplish one of the chief purposes for which it was created.

"It is apparent, from the facts hereinbefore recited and the discussion had, that the single question presented for determination is whether Congress, in attempting to grant to the President the power to increase the

rates of duty specified in the statutes by adding thereto the differences in cost of production ascertained by him under section 315 (a), acted within constitutional limits or whether such act was, in that respect, null and void; and our decision is limited to that precise question.

"We find no error in the record and the judgment of the Court below is affirmed."

It is stated that the importers have announced their intention to appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

**Bill to Regulate Importation of Milk and Cream into United States Passed by Congress and Signed by President Coolidge—Text of Law.**

On Feb. 15 President Coolidge signed the Lenroot-Taber bill, regulating "the importation of milk and cream into the United States for the purpose of promoting the dairy industry of the United States, and protecting the public health." The Senate on Feb. 4 passed in amended form by a vote of 51 to 27 the bill, which had passed the House last year (June 30 1926) and on Feb. 11 the House concurred in the Senate amendments. Before the vote on the passage of the bill was taken in the Senate on Feb. 4 a motion by Senator Walsh (Democrat) of Massachusetts to recommit the bill to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry was defeated by a vote of 48 in opposition to 31 in favor of the motion.

Following the action of the House on Feb. 11 in concurring in the Senate amendments, Representative Sol Bloom of New York requested that President Coolidge, before passing on the bill, give a hearing to Dr. Louis I. Harris, New York Health Commissioner, one of the opponents of the measure. President Coolidge consented, fixing Feb. 14 as the date for the hearing. In referring to the House action on the 11th the Washington dispatch to the "Herald-Tribune" said:

Representative Black opposed the bill on the ground that it would interfere with New York's supply of milk and make it largely dependent upon up-State dairymen. He added that the curtailed shipments from Canada probably would result in advanced milk prices in New York.

"This is a pure graft proposition and not a sanitary proposition. The alibi is health," he said.

With reference to the protest lodged with the President by Dr. Harris, the Washington dispatch to the New York "Times" Feb. 14 said:

The proposed law constitutes a danger to the public health of New York City, Commissioner Harris said in his protest, stating these reasons:

"1. In an emergency it entirely deprives the City of New York of an essential supply of Canadian milk to meet the shortage.

"2. It at all times restricts the supply of essential Canadian milk which must be maintained as a reserve for times of shortage.

"3. It further intensifies the present conflict between New York City on the one hand and Boston and other New England cities on the other for nearby sources of milk supply in their natural milk shed.

"4. It lessens the administrative efficiency of the inspection forces of New York City by compelling their dispersion for the inspection of more remote sources of supply.

"5. It constitutes a provocation for bootlegging.

"6. It compels a duplication of inspection in order to protect the New York City supply because (a) of the inadequacy of the Federal appropriation, totaling \$50,000, for the entire United States, in comparison with the present New York City appropriation of over \$400,000 for inspection personnel alone; (b) Federal inspection at best insures only the condition of milk at the border and does not insure the condition when milk is received at New York City, and (c) because the Federal standards are lower than the New York City standards in essential respects and New York City must therefore inspect independently.

"7. Because the necessary effect will be (a) to increase the price of milk, constituting a serious burden on the children and the sick poor of the City of New York, and (b) to tend in times of emergency to lower the standards either by compelling less effective inspection at more remote sources of supply or by lowering the standards at nearby sources of supply to make up the deficit."

Commissioner Harris said New York needed about 3,000,000 quarts of milk a day, of which Canada supplied 190,000 quarts.

"Past experience has shown that a shortage of milk supply has always induced the bootlegging of milk, which means the obtaining of milk from uninspected and unauthorized sources," he added. "This bill, in depriving the cities of New York and Boston and other New England cities of their present reserve Canadian supply will induce the bootlegging to these cities from uninspected American sources of a supply of milk to meet the demand, particularly during a shortage, in view of the higher prices then to be obtained."

The same paper in its Washington advices Feb. 15 stated in part:

In expressing satisfaction over the President's approval of the bill, which will become operative as soon as supporting appropriations are made by Congress, Representative Taber of New York, co-author of the measure, declared that the opposition to it of Health Commissioner Harris of New York was without logical foundation, and that there were errors of fact in the brief submitted to the President yesterday by the Commissioner.

"Commissioner Harris in his brief declared as his chief argument that 190,000 quarts of Canadian milk were imported into New York City daily," said Mr. Taber. "As a matter of fact, according to official figures, the total importation of milk into the whole country was only 80,000 quarts in 1926, of which only one-half went to New York City. Thus the total for New York City cannot possibly be more than 40,000 quarts. But Commissioner Harris says 190,000. That fact alone shows the absolute need of this bill.

"This bill will keep out impure milk, and at the same time will prevent the lowering of those standards which we have required of our own farmers and will carry out the standards established by the New York City Health Department in years gone by. The bill is so drawn, and the regu-

lations of the Department of Agriculture will so operate, that there will be no unnecessary duplication or expense.

"Instead of preventing the Canadian milk from coming over, as the opponents of the bill assert, it will simply mean that the Canadian farmers and producers will clean up, and that clean, pure milk will come over here instead of the other kind."

Senator Walsh was one of those who opposed the bill, which, according to the Washington correspondent of the New York "Journal of Commerce," had been contested bitterly every step of the way through both House and Senate, the opposition being largely a group of Boston cream dealers and one large milk distributing company of New York City. The correspondent added:

It [the bill] was supported by the National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation, assisted by the General Farm Organizations, and had the endorsement of many public officials. The bill now goes back to the House, where an effort will be made for concurrence without the necessity of the bill going to conference.

*Provisions Outlined.*

As it passed the Senate the bill provides that no milk or cream can enter this country without a permit. It gives the Secretary of Agriculture the power to issue such permits under the following terms:

All cows producing milk or cream offered for importation must be examined annually by a competent veterinarian, and except in the case of milk produced on foreign soil within twenty miles of a milk plant, creamery or condensary in the United States, and when the milk is to be subsequently pasteurized, all imported milk or cream must enter the country either in pasteurized condition or come from cows that have been within one year tested for tuberculosis and must not exceed a temperature of 56 degrees Fahrenheit.

Other provisions prescribe the bacteria count for milk and cream at the time of importation and for inspection of the farms on which the imported products are produced. The Secretary of Agriculture is required to issue temporary permits to all applicants until such time as he is in a position to administer the provisions of the act. But the Secretary is given authority to revoke the permits whenever a permit holder violates regulations. Other sections of the Act prescribe fines and imprisonment for knowing violations of its provisions.

Senator Walsh in his declarations against the bill during the Senate debate on Feb. 4 said:

This bill is intended to be an embargo upon milk flowing from Canada into New York and the New England States. The proof of that is that under the bill as originally drawn no one could ship milk under any conditions, commencing with the passage of the bill, from Canada until the farm where the milk was produced was inspected. As only \$50,000 is appropriated to inspect all the Canadian farms that supply the cream that is used in the summer months in the New England and New York cities, no permits could be granted.

Under the bill as originally drawn a higher standard of inspection was required than by any State or any city in the whole United States. The farm score standard of grading the sanitary farm conditions was 70%. No State or city requires a percentage higher than 55 for domestic grading.

The quality of the milk, determined by bacteria content, was set at a higher standard than any State or city in this country has already fixed for domestic milk.

There is no attempt to improve the standard of milk that is produced in the several States and transported from one State to another, or to require that it should be of as high standard as imported cream. The sole intent and purpose of this bill, with its miserable appropriation of \$50,000, is to set up a system of inspection of milk and cream produced in Canada that will deny the poor of the great cities of this country that supply of cream and milk which they use during the summer months, because the local production is ample except during that period. Practically the only time there is a flow of milk from Canada into New York and Boston and the other large cities is during the three Summer months, when there is an excessive demand for ice by the poor in the crowded cities. It is the industrial workers and crowded tenement-house children that this bill penalizes. It is prohibition run riot—prohibition of ice cream and soda-fountain milk and cream drinks for the city toilers.

We do not go to Canada for cream because we want to; it is because we are compelled to do so or go without cool drinks and foods made of cream.

I join with the Senator from Utah in characterizing this legislation as vicious; as an attempt to establish another bureau, as amounting to an arbitrary denial of the right of the people of this country to get good milk, where they want it and when they want it, at reasonable prices. Further, it means, as he has indicated, an entering wedge into a complete inspection system of all milk and cream, because we have no right to establish a standard of inspection and quality of Canadian milk and cream that we are unwilling to apply to the domestic supply of every State and community in the Union.

Mr. President, the States have ample power to protect the public health. They are performing that duty now. Where are we to stop in our bureaucratic usurpation of State rights?

I am sorry there is no opportunity to discuss this bill more at length. I assume the bill will pass, because I know the influences that have been at work here. I want to say to Senators who vote for this bill that they will regret it, because it means the establishment of another bureau, and it may mean ultimately a very substantial increase in this appropriation and the employment of a corps of spies and inspectors second only in numerical strength and power to the spies and inspectors now maintained by the Prohibition Bureau. When these inspectors visit the farms of American dairymen there will be general regret that we set up a national standard of milk and cream and usurped the control now wisely and satisfactorily exercised by local communities. To what low ebb has local self and State government sunk that it can no longer protect the public against unfit milk and cream or regulate its supply of these necessities of life?

Mr. President, this bill is most dangerous precedent, in addition to its violation of the principles of local self-government. It is a bill to force the people of one section of the country to buy certain necessities of life from another section of the country that will result in higher prices and inferior quality, for the longer the haul of milk and cream the more likely of deterioration and the higher the prices because of increased transportation costs.

Senator King, who also declared himself against the bill, stated on Jan. 31:

If the primary purpose of this bill is not that of increasing the price of milk to the millions of people who do not produce milk, then I do not read the English language aright. I believe that the paramount purpose of the bill is to enable the local producers of milk to increase the price to the

domestic consumer, as a result of which the people in the industrial sections, the people in the cities and in the towns, who have to buy milk, will be compelled to pay a higher price for the milk than they otherwise would have to pay. A bill of this character will be a potential sword hanging over the heads of the consumers, and the result, of course, will be an augmentation of the price of milk to the domestic consumer. It will eventuate, perhaps, in monopolies here and there, but nevertheless so integrated that they will move from some central organization or be propelled or impelled in their movements by reason of some central organization.

Senator Lenroot, one of the sponsors of the bill, in his statements in its behalf in the Senate on Jan. 31 said:

I wish it were possible for the milk producers of the United States, as well as those who engage in other kinds of agriculture, through organization and co-operation, to be put upon the same basis as manufacturing is put. Unfortunately that is not practicable; at least such a condition does not exist to-day. It is universally admitted that agriculture in the United States to-day is suffering under the great inequality that the prices of agricultural products do not stand in proper relation to those of manufactured articles which the farmer must buy and use. Even if this bill should result in helping somewhat to bring about such equality, who is there who has any right to complain when we consider what agriculture has been suffering from and is suffering from to-day?

However, the fact is, Mr. President, that while this bill is primarily a health measure, the dairy industry is concerned in the bill any very properly concerned in it. In the first place, the dairy industry of the United States is very vitally concerned in increasing the consumption of milk in the United States. It is vastly increased during the past few years, and the purer milk is required to be the greater the consumption of milk in the United States. It is vastly increased will follow to all the dairy farmers of the United States. So the dairy farmer of the United States has a perfectly legitimate interest in being anxious to see that the milk consumed in the United States shall be of the highest possible purity. That is the primary purpose of the bill, to require all milk sent to the United States from other countries to be produced under the same high sanitary standards that are required by nearly all of the States in the Union. Is there anything unfair in that?

Then, Mr. President, from the economic side, is it fair to put the dairy farmers of the United States in untrammelled competition with the dairy farmers of Canada when, under the health laws of the various States of the Union, the dairy farmers of the United States are compelled to observe certain sanitary conditions affecting the construction of barns, and so forth, which entail a higher cost of production of milk than over in Canada?

I have pages of testimony from officials of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and from, I think, all the other New England States, in which it is stated that they themselves have visited the dairy farms of Canada, and the conditions they found there were shocking and would not be permitted for a moment in the State of New York or in the State of Massachusetts or in most of the other States of the Union. That condition can not continue, Mr. President, if this bill shall become a law; but the bill does not require any higher standard from the producers of milk in Canada than it requires from producers of milk in the State of New York. It does no more than put them upon an equality. So I repeat that this bill is primarily a health measure, but also in its operation it will tend to some extent to produce an equality between the dairy farmer of the United States and the dairy farmer of Canada. So far as this bill creating an embargo is concerned, all the Canadian farmer has to do is to comply with these standards and his milk can flow across the border just as freely as the milk from the dairy farms in the State of New York flows into the City of New York.

The following is the text of the bill as enacted into law: AN ACT to regulate the importation of milk and cream into the United States for the purpose of promoting the dairy industry of the United States and protecting the public health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the date on which this Act takes effect the importation into the United States of milk and cream is prohibited unless the person by whom such milk or cream is shipped or transported into the United States holds a valid permit from the Secretary of Agriculture.

Sec. 2. Milk or cream shall be considered unfit for importation (1) when all cows producing such milk or cream are not healthy and a physical examination of all such cows has not been made within one year previous to such milk being offered for importation; (2) when such milk or cream, if raw, is not produced from cows which have passed a tuberculin test applied by a duly authorized official veterinarian of the United States, or of the country in which such milk or cream is produced, within one year previous to the time of importation, showing that such cows are free from tuberculosis; (3) when the sanitary conditions of the dairy farm or plant in which such milk or cream is produced or handled do not score at least fifty points out of one hundred points according to the methods for scoring as provided by the score cards used by the Bureau of Dairy Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture at the time such dairy farms or plants are scored; (4) in the case of raw milk if the number of bacteria per cubic centimeter exceeds three hundred thousand and in the case of raw cream seven hundred and fifty thousand, in the case of pasteurized milk if the number of bacteria per cubic centimeter exceeds one hundred thousand, and in the case of pasteurized cream five hundred thousand; (5) when the temperature of milk or cream at the time of importation exceeds fifty degrees Fahrenheit.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall cause such inspections to be made as are necessary to insure that milk and cream are so produced and handled as to comply with the provisions of section 2 of this Act, and in all cases when he finds that such milk and/or cream is produced and handled so as not to be unfit for importation under clauses 1, 2, and 3 of section 2 of this Act, he shall issue to persons making application therefor permits to ship milk and/or cream into the United States: *Provided*, That in lieu of the inspections to be made by or under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture he may, in his discretion, accept a duly certified statement signed by a duly accredited official of an authorized department of any foreign government and/or of any State of the United States or any municipality thereof that the provisions in clauses 1, 2, and 3 of section 2 of this Act have been complied with. Such certificate of the accredited official of an authorized department of any foreign government shall be in the form prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who is hereby authorized and directed to prescribe such form, as well as rules and regulations regulating the issuance of permits to import milk or cream into the United States.

The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to waive the requirement of section 2, paragraph 4, of this Act when issuing permits to operators of condenseries in which milk and/or cream is used when sterilization of the milk and/or cream is a necessary process:

*Provided, however*, that no milk and/or cream shall be imported whose bacterial count per cubic centimeter in any event exceeds one million two hundred thousand: *Provided further*, That such requirements shall not be waived unless the farm producing such milk to be imported is within a radius of fifteen miles of the condenser in which it is to be processed: *Provided further*, That if milk and/or cream imported when the requirements of section 2, paragraph 4, have been so waived, is sold, used, or disposed of in its raw state or otherwise than as condensed milk by any person, the permit shall be revoked and the importer shall be subject to fine, imprisonment, or other penalty prescribed by this Act.

The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to waive the requirements of paragraphs 2 and 5 of section 2 of this Act in so far as the same relate to milk when issuing permits to operators of, or to producers for delivery to, creameries and condensing plants in the United States within twenty miles of the point of production of the milk, and who import no raw milk except for pasteurization or condensing: *Provided*, That if milk imported when the requirements of paragraphs 2 and 5 of section 2 have been so waived is sold, used, or disposed of in its raw state, or otherwise than as pasteurized, condensed, or evaporated milk by any person, the permit shall be revoked and the importer shall be subjected to fine, imprisonment, or other penalty prescribed by this Act.

The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed to make and enforce such regulations as may in his judgment be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act for the handling of milk and cream, for the inspection of milk, cream, cows, barns, and other facilities used in the production and handling of milk and/or cream and the handling, keeping, transporting, and importing of milk and/or cream: *Provided, however*, unless and until the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for inspections to ascertain that paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of section 2 have been complied with, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue temporary permits to any applicants therefor to ship or transport milk and/or cream into the United States.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to suspend or revoke any permit for the shipment of milk or cream into the United States when he shall find that the holder thereof has failed to comply with or has violated this Act or any of the regulations made hereunder, or that the milk and/or cream brought or shipped by the holder of such permit into the United States is not produced and handled in conformity with, or that the quality thereof does not conform to, all of the provisions of section 2 of this Act.

Sec. 4. It shall be unlawful for any person in the United States to receive milk or cream imported into the United States unless the importation is in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this Act shall, in addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$2,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 6. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000 per annum, to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 7. Any laws or parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. Nothing in this Act is intended nor shall be construed to affect the powers of any State, or any political subdivision thereof, to regulate the shipment of milk or cream into, or the handling, sale, or other disposition of milk or cream in, such State or political subdivision after the milk and/or cream shall have been lawfully imported under the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 9. When used in this Act—

(a) The term "person" means an individual, partnership, association, or corporation.

(b) The term "United States" means continental United States.

Sec. 10. This Act shall take effect upon the expiration of ninety days from the date of its enactment.

### Decision of United States Supreme Court in Proceedings Against Trenton Potteries Co.—Price Fixing, Though "Reasonable," in Violation of Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

The United States Supreme Court, in an opinion handed down Feb. 21, upheld the Government in its prosecution of the Trenton Potteries Co. and others, under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The Trenton and twenty-two other pottery companies representing more than 80% of the entire trade in sanitary pottery ware and fixtures, were prosecuted on the charge of having agreed upon fixed uniform prices. The Supreme Court in its conclusions upheld the findings of the District Court in New York, which found twenty individuals and twenty-three corporations guilty of violating the statute. A Court of Appeals decision, which held the verdict invalid, was reversed by the Supreme Court. The latter's opinion was approved, 5 to 3. Justices Van Deventer, Sutherland and Butler dissenting. Justice Brandies took no part in the case. With regard to the decision of the High Court the Washington dispatch to the New York "Times" said in part:

As a result of the decision the jail sentences imposed upon most of the individual defendants will be carried into effect.

The case was brought against the Trenton Potteries Co. and others, members of an association having factories in New Jersey, California, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and maintaining sales agencies in New York City. It was brought out in the record that members of the association were engaged in manufacture or distribution of 82% of the vitreous fixtures produced in this country for use in bathrooms and lavatories.

The judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals overturning the convictions in the District Court on the ground that there were errors in the conduct of the trial was reversed in an opinion by Associate Justice Stone.

"Rule of Reason" Again Applied.

The Court reiterated the "rule of reason" as outlined in its decisions in the Standard Oil and Tobacco Trust cases, holding that there might be a restraint of trade even where prices are reasonable, and that "the reason-

able price fixed to-day may through economic and business changes become the unreasonable price of to-morrow."

Agreements which create "such potential power," Justice Stone said, "may well be held to be in themselves unreasonable or unlawful restraints, without the necessity of minute inquiry whether a particular price is reasonable or unreasonable as fixed and without placing upon the Government enforcing the Sherman Law the burden of ascertaining from day to day whether it has become unreasonable through the mere variation of economic conditions."

"Moreover, in the absence of express legislation requiring it, we should hesitate to adopt a construction making the difference between legal and illegal conduct in the field of business relation depend upon so uncertain a test as whether prices are reasonable—a determination which can be satisfactorily made only after a complete survey of our economic organization and a choice between rival philosophies."

#### *Agreements Themselves Condemned.*

The Court pointed out that there was no attempt before it to show that the verdict of conviction in the District Court was not supported by sufficient evidence to fix prices and to limit sales in inter-State commerce to jobbers. It stated that the record was replete with evidence to support these allegations of the indictment.

It approved the action of the trial Judge in charging the jury that it might return a verdict of guilty without regard to the reasonableness of the price fixed, or of the good intentions of the combining units, whether prices were actually lowered or raised or whether sales were restricted to the special jobbers, "since both agreements of themselves were unreasonable restraints."

Justice Stone continued:

"If the charge itself was correctly given and adequately covered the various aspects of the case, the refusal to charge in another form or to quote to the jury extracts from opinions of this Court was not error, nor should the Court below have been concerned with the wrong reasons that may have inspired the charge, if correctly given."

"The question therefore to be considered here is whether the trial Judge correctly withdrew from the jury the consideration of the reasonableness of the particular restraints charged."

The Court held, in effect, that there had been no errors in the conduct of the case in the District Court as stated by the Circuit Court, which ruled, among other things, that the lower tribunal "erred in the admission and exclusion of evidence."

#### *Variance of Term "Reasonable."*

Discussing the question of what may be "reasonable," either in price-fixing, or other attempts to regulate trade, Justice Stone said that "reasonableness is not a concept of definite and unchanging content," and added:

"Its meaning necessarily varies in the different fields of the law, because it is used as a convenient summary of the dominant considerations which control in the application of legal doctrines. Our view of what is a reasonable restraint of commerce is controlled by the recognized purpose of the Sherman Law itself."

"Whether this type of restraint is reasonable or not must be judged in part at least in the light of its effect on competition, for whatever difference of opinion there may be among economists as to the social and economic desirability of an unrestrained competitive system, it can not be doubted that the Sherman Law and the judicial decisions interpreting it are based upon the assumption that the public interest is best protected from the evils of monopoly and price control by the maintenance of competition."

"The aim and result of every price-fixing agreement, if effective, is the elimination of one form of competition. The power to fix prices, whether reasonably exercised or not, involves power to control the market and to fix arbitrary and unreasonable prices."

With reference to the findings the "Times" also said:

#### *Prosecutor Sees Public Gain.*

David L. Podell, the Special Assistant Attorney-General, who prosecuted the pottery case defendants in the courts here, said that the decision of the highest court establishes the law in all Sherman law prosecutions, that it clears away much of the uncertainty in the minds of some of the lower courts as to the extent of the responsibility of those engaged in price-fixing combinations and that it would have a tendency to reduce combinations and be of great advantage to the general public.

"The actual punishment of these particular defendants with jail sentences," said Mr. Podell, "is of infinitesimal significance compared to the tremendous issue decided by the court. That it is of nation-wide importance and affects every large industry, particularly in view of the recent tendency toward trade associations, cannot be questioned. The decision puts new life and vigor into the Sherman Anti-Trust Law."

"Had the rule prevailed that it was necessary for the Government to prove that the prices fixed by a combination or association were unreasonable or excessive, it would in a practical way have made it impossible for the Government ever to secure a conviction."

#### *Strengthening of Sherman Law.*

"Such a rule would have rendered the Sherman Anti-Trust Act a nullity. It would have compelled the Government in the conduct of these cases to submit proof of valuations of plants, reasonable and unreasonable expenditures, reasonable and unreasonable profits, capitalizations and a host of similar considerations about which it is almost humanly impossible for men definitely to agree."

"We took the position on the trial in the court below that the Sherman law condemns a price-fixing agreement entered into by members of a trade association who controlled a substantial part of an industry."

"We refused on the trial to enter into discussion as to whether or not the prices fixed were reasonable or otherwise. We rather urged that to permit this controlling group to fix a price would be to place the consumer at the mercy of the manufacturer, thereby destroying honest competition."

"Trade associations under the law have a legitimate existence. There are many salutary purposes to which they can devote themselves. There is no reason why they should indulge in price-fixing as a group. In any event, it is now made clearly a violation of the law."

From the "United States Daily" we take the text of the decision as follows:

Respondents, 20 individuals and 23 corporations, were convicted in the District Court for Southern New York of violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, Act of July 2 1890, c. 647, 26 Stat. 209. The indictment was in two counts. The first charged a combination to fix and maintain uniform prices for the sale of sanitary pottery, in restraint of inter-State commerce; the second, a combination to restrain inter-State commerce by limiting sales of pottery to a special group known to respondents as "legitimate jobbers." On appeal, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed the judgment of conviction on both counts on the ground that there were errors in the conduct of the trial. This Court granted certiorari. 266 U. S. 597, Jud. Code, section 240.

Respondents, engaged in the manufacture or distribution of 82% of the vitreous pottery fixtures produced in the United States for use in bathrooms and lavatories, were members of a trade organization known as the Sanitary Pottery Association. Twelve of the corporate respondents had their

factories and chief places of business in New Jersey; one was located in California and the others were situated in Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Many of them sold and delivered their product within the southern district of New York and some maintained sales offices and agents there.

There is no contention here that the verdict was not supported by sufficient evidence that respondents, controlling some 82% of the business of manufacturing and distributing in the United States vitreous pottery of the type described, combined to fix prices and to limit sales in inter-State commerce to jobbers.

The issues raised here by the Government's specification of errors relate only to the decision of the Court of Appeals upon its review of certain rulings of the District Court made in the course of the trial.

It is urged that the Court below erred in holding in effect (1) that the trial Court should have submitted to the jury the question whether the price agreement complained of constituted an unreasonable restraint of trade;

(2) that the trial Court erred in failing to charge the jury correctly on the question of venue;

(3) that it erred also in the admission and exclusion of certain evidence.

#### *Reasonableness of Restraint Fixed.*

The trial Court charged, in submitting the case to the jury, that if it found the agreements or combination complained of, it might return a verdict of guilty without regard to the reasonableness of the prices fixed, or the good intentions of the combining units, whether prices were actually lowered or raised or whether sales were restricted to the special jobbers, since both agreements of themselves were unreasonable restraints.

These instructions repeated in various forms applied to both counts of the indictment. The trial Court refused various requests to charge that both the agreement to fix prices and the agreement to limit sales to a particular group, if found, did not in themselves constitute violations of the law unless it was found that they unreasonably restrained inter-State commerce. In particular the Court refused the request to charge the following:

"The essence of the law is injury to the public. It is not every restraint of competition and not every restraint of trade that works an injury to the public; it is only an undue and unreasonable restraint of trade that has such an effect and is deemed to be unlawful."

Other requests of similar purport were refused including a quotation from the opinion of this Court in *Chicago Board of Trade vs. United States*, 246 U. S. 231, 238.

The Court below held specifically that the trial court erred in refusing to charge as requested and held in effect that the charge as given on this branch of the case was erroneous. This determination was based upon the assumption that the charge and refusals could be attributed only to a mistaken view of the trial judge, expressed in denying a motion at the close of the case to quash and dismiss the indictment, that the "rule of reason" announced in *Standard Oil Co. vs. United States*, 221 U. S. 1 and in *American Tobacco Co. vs. United States*, 221 U. S. 106, which were units for injunctions, had no application in a criminal prosecution. Compare *Nash vs. United States*, 229 U. S. 373.

This disposition of the matter ignored the fact that the trial judge plainly and variously charged the jury that the combinations alleged in the indictment, if found, were violations of the statute as a matter of law, saying:

"... the law is clear that an agreement on the part of the members of a combination controlling a substantial part of an industry, upon the prices which the members are to charge for their commodity, is in itself an undue and unreasonable restraint of trade and commerce;

If the charge itself was correctly given and adequately covered the various aspects of the case, the refusal to charge in another correct form or to quote to the jury extracts from opinions of this court was not error, nor should the court below have been concerned with the wrong reasons that may have inspired the charge, if correctly given. The question therefore to be considered here is whether the trial judge correctly withdrew from the jury the consideration of the reasonableness of the particular restraints charged."

#### *Restraints Barred by Sherman Law.*

That only those restraints upon inter-State commerce which are unreasonable are prohibited by the Sherman Law was the rule laid down by the opinions of this Court in the *Standard Oil and Tobacco* cases. But it does not follow that agreements to fix or maintain prices are reasonable restraints and therefore permitted by the statute, merely because the prices themselves are reasonable.

Reasonableness is not a concept of definite and unchanging content. Its meaning necessarily varies in the different fields of the law, because it is used as a convenient summary of the dominant considerations which control in the application of legal doctrines. Our view of what is a reasonable restraint of commerce is controlled by the recognized purpose of the Sherman Law itself. Whether this type of restraint is reasonable or not must be judged in part at least in the light of its effect on competition, for whatever difference of opinion there may be among economists as to the social and economic desirability of an unrestrained competitive system, it cannot be doubted that the Sherman Law and the judicial decisions interpreting it are based upon the assumption that the public interest is best protected from the evils of monopoly and price control by the maintenance of competition. See *United States vs. Trans-Missouri Freight Association*, 166 U. S. 290; *Standard Oil Co. vs. United States*, supra; *American Column Co. vs. United States*, 257 U. S. 377, 400; *United States vs. Linsend Oil Co.*, 262 U. S. 371, 388; *Eastern States Lumber Association vs. United States*, 234 U. S. 600, 614.

#### *Aim and Result of Price Fixing.*

The aim and result of every price-fixing agreement, if effective, is the elimination of one form of competition. The power to fix prices, whether reasonably exercised or not, involves power to control the market and to fix arbitrary and unreasonable prices.

The reasonable price fixed to-day may through economic and business changes become the unreasonable price of to-morrow. Once established, it may be maintained unchanged because of the absence of competition secured by the agreement for a price reasonable when fixed.

Agreements which create such potential power may well be held to be in themselves unreasonable or unlawful restraints, without the necessity of minute inquiry, whether a particular price is reasonable or unreasonable as fixed and without placing upon the Government in enforcing the Sherman Law the burden of ascertaining from day to day whether it has become unreasonable through the mere variation of economic conditions."

Moreover, in the absence of express legislation requiring it, we should hesitate to adopt a construction making the difference between legal and illegal conduct in the field of business relations depend upon so uncertain a test as whether prices are reasonable—a determination which can be satisfactorily made only after a complete survey of our economic organization and a choice between rival philosophies. Compare *United States vs. Cohen Grocery Co.*, 255 U. S. 81; *Mash vs. United States*, supra.

Thus viewed the Sherman Law is not only a prohibition against the infliction of a particular type of public injury. It "is a limitation of rights, . . . which may be pushed to evil consequences and therefore





among manufacturers, particularly the respondents, in the sale of such pottery. On direct examination these witnesses were asked in varying form whether they had observed or noted competition among the members of the association. The questions were objected to and excluded on the ground that they were too general and vague in character and called for the opinion or conclusion of the witness.

Whenever the witness was asked as to the details of transactions showing competition in sales, his testimony was admitted and the introduction of records of prices in actual transactions was facilitated by stipulation. Whether or not such competition existed at any given time is a conclusion which would be reached only after the consideration of relevant data known to the witness. Here the effort was made to show the personal conclusion of the witness without the data and without, indeed, showing that the conclusion was based upon knowledge of relevant facts. Hence the offered evidence, in some instances, took the form of vague impressions, or recollections of the witness as to competition, without specifying the kind or extent of competition.

A certain latitude may rightly be given the Court in permitting a witness on direct examination to testify as to his conclusions, based on common knowledge or experience. Compare *Erie R.R. vs. Linnekogel*, 248 Fed. 389; 2 Wigmore, section 1929. Even if these questions could properly have been allowed here, we cannot say that the discretion of the Court was improperly exercised in excluding the conclusions of the witnesses as to competitive conditions when full opportunity was given to prove by relevant data the conditions of the industry within the period in question.

Other objections urged by respondents to the sufficiency of the indictment and charge have received our consideration but do not require comment.

It follows that the judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals must be reversed and the judgment of the District Court reinstated.—Reversed.

Mr. Justice Van Devanter, Mr. Justice Sutherland and Mr. Justice Butler dissented.

Mr. Justice Brandeis took no part in the consideration or decision of this case.

### Mid-Winter Trust Conference Under Auspices of Trust Company Division of American Bankers Association.

The mid-winter trust conference and banquet held in New York Feb. 16 to 18 under the management of the Trust Company Division, American Bankers Association, was attended by over a thousand men and women engaged in fiduciary work representing banks and trust companies from all parts of the country. The discussions, led by outstanding experts in various phases of fiduciary banking and its problems, presented a comprehensive course of instruction and interchange of experience of great practical value to those in attendance.

David P. Condon, Registrar Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., New York, told of a swindle that led to New York registrar and transfer agents being warned recently not to affix State tax stamps to the back of stock certificates on which the number of shares is indicated by perforations. Mr. Condon said some men had bought certificates calling for one share of stock each and had gone to Florida, where they purchased real estate, arranging with a Florida banker to accept the stock as collateral for a loan. The banker remitted the certificates to New York, where it was discovered that the number of shares had been raised by a clever method of inserting an inlay of figures held in place by the tax stamp on the reverse side.

John C. Mecham, Vice-President First Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, told how banks there have instituted a new rule under which they no longer will safekeep between \$600,000,000 and \$700,000,000 of securities for customers free of charge. If the amount of a customer's securities is above \$5,000 and they remain on deposit longer than three months, charges will be made. Winslow Russell, Vice-President Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Hartford, Conn., brought out how trust companies and national banks are natural allies of life insurance companies. He said the insurance companies are launching an advertising campaign in which they call attention to trust facilities. "Not far from a million dollars a day was paid last year by life insurance companies in lump sums to beneficiaries, most of whom were untrained in the safe handling of money," he said. "About 10% of all claims paid by the companies was conserved through trusts created between the insured and his life insurance company. It is quite likely that a considerable part of the rest has already been misinvested."

The number of millionaires who die intestate, leaving estates to be handled in the most expensive way, is large because many men of wealth are unwilling to pay a small fee to a lawyer to draw their wills, Gilbert T. Stephenson, Vice-President Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., Raleigh, N. C., said. He distributed copies of "One Hundred Questions About Wills, Trusts and Trust Companies," compiled from more than 600 questions asked trust solicitors of forty-four banks and trust companies in twenty States by beneficiaries. Mr. Stephenson said many men name their wives or friends as executors as a compliment, but that satisfactory answers

to the questions in his pamphlet would greatly popularize corporate fiduciary services instead.

James G. Smith, instructor in statistics, Princeton University, spoke on "The Market for Corporate Fiduciary Services." He said a survey showed that 100% of the trust companies queried would solicit or accept trust funds of \$100,000 or more, that 50% drew the line at \$50,000, and that the percentage willing to accept trust funds below this figure descended as the amount fell. Only 10% were willing to accept trusts as small as \$100, although one had a \$7 trust. "Most of these very small trusts seem to be cemetery trusts," Mr. Smith said. He cited one company as saying it expected a minimum annual fee of \$25, and another as saying: "All trusts have an advertising value. Many trusts are given to us by court order—we cannot well refuse the small ones and hope for appointment of the large ones." Mr. Smith said returns from 334 trust companies and fifty-seven national banks showed that they had invested trust funds as follows: Government bonds, 17.3%; municipal bonds, 14.9%; real estate bonds and mortgages, 27%; railroad bonds, 3.7%.

The question, "What factors have been chiefly responsible for the rapid growth of trust company business in the last decade?" brought the following composite reply: Greater complexity of business, corporation development, life insurance, wider distribution of securities, tax laws, increasing complexity of financial structure, humanness of institutions increasing, new methods of financing, desire for organized financial ability.

"I never dreamed when I went into the trust business that I would be asked to arrange funerals," said Edward J. Reilly, Jr., Trust Officer of the National Bank of New Brunswick, N. J., in a symposium on settling estates. "I've had charge of three funerals in the last six months."

C. Alton Scully Vice-President National Bank of Commerce, New York, said prospective will-makers should be warned not to use witnesses who might be hard to locate. He cited a will that tied up an estate over a long period because the executors were unable to find a bellboy and a public stenographer in a hotel who had witnessed the instrument.

R. H. Trott, Vice-President Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company, Providence, R. I., said trust company officials should encourage men establishing trusts to give full information of their business affairs in lifetime to their trust companies and members of their families, as it is difficult to assume management of a dead man's affairs overnight. Fred W. Ellsworth, Vice-President Hibernia Bank & Trust Co., New Orleans, told fellow trust representatives that his company had found young men of little value as trust solicitors. "They simply can't bring home the bacon," said Mr. Ellsworth. "We have turned to men of middle age, men of maturity, who have had experience and who have contact. These trained men from our Trust Department know how to answer questions and how to ask them. In the field we're working in the surface has only been scratched."

A question submitted to the chairman as to methods to produce wills promptly after the death of the testators brought out that one bank's plan is to provide the testator with a copy of his will, a receipt for the original will and a memorandum card to be put in his safety vault or other place of safekeeping. The memorandum would advise relatives of the presence of the original will in the care of the trust company.

A preliminary report on principles and methods for trust investments presented by the Committee on Review and Survey of Trust Securities recommended permanent trust investment committees for this work, with at least two senior officers and one director as permanent members and with preference for the banker and the lawyer in the membership. It also recommended that either the bank or trust company executive committee or else a directors' advisory committee approve all recommendations of the trust investment committee before any purchases or investment securities are made. Also there should be kept a complete record of all recommendations of the investment committee for future reference in case of need.

W. S. McLucas of Kansas City, Vice-President of the Trust Company Division, presided at all business sessions. At the annual dinner Edward J. Fox, President of the division, who presided, said: "Reports for 1926 indicate that the banking resources of the trust companies of America are more than \$19,000,000,000 and that the gain over 1925 is

\$1,190,000,000. Deposits during 1926 totaled \$16,000,000,000, a gain of \$900,000,000 in the year."

#### ITEMS ABOUT BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, &C.

The New York Stock Exchange membership of Walter C. Taylor was reported posted for transfer this week to Waldo I. Shuman, the consideration being stated as \$185,000. This is the same as the last preceding sale.

The proposed union of the Fifth-Third National Bank of Cincinnati and the Union Trust Co. of that city, to which reference was made in these pages on Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, has now been consummated. The new organization—the Fifth-Third Union Trust Co.—has combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of \$11,477,762; deposits of \$72,410,888, and total resources of \$93,034,420. The banking rooms now occupied by the Fifth-Third National Bank will be the main office of the enlarged bank and the location of the Union Trust Co. at the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets will be known as the Fourth and Walnut office. Other offices will be as follows: Vine near Twelfth office; Fourth and Plum office, Peables Corner office, Ninth and Central office, Vine near Sixth office, Court and Main office, Mohawk office, Woodburn at Myrtle office, Harrison and Spring Grove Avenue office, Winton Place office and Madisonville office. Charles A. Hinsch is President; Louis E. Miller, Edward Senior, Edward A. Seiter, Monte J. Goble, Charles H. Deppe, Louis G. Pochat, Edward F. Romer and Lewis E. Van Ausdol, Vice-Presidents; Edgar Stark, Vice-President and Trust Officer, and Charles H. Shields, Cashier.

At a meeting of the directors of the Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, held on Feb. 23, a plan for the increase of the capital stock from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 was approved, and the regular dividend was increased from \$12 to \$16 per share per annum. The increase of capital stock, being \$5,000,000, or 50,000 shares, will be offered to stockholders of record at the close of business March 11 at \$200 a share for subscription and payment ratably in the proportion of their respective holdings. The date of the issue of the \$5,000,000 increase will be April 11, payment to be made on or before that date. The trust company, in its announcement, also says:

Thus, if the plan is approved, each stockholder of record at the close of business on Friday, March 11, 1927, will be entitled to subscribe for one new share of stock at the price of \$200 a share for each five shares of stock held by him. The proposed increase will add \$5,000,000 to the capital and \$5,000,000 to the surplus of the company. The directors at the meeting held yesterday also voted to transfer to the surplus fund of the company, from undivided profits, the further sum of \$5,000,000. Accordingly, upon the increase of the amount of capital stock as planned, the company will have a capital of \$30,000,000 and a surplus fund of \$30,000,000.

At the same meeting the directors voted to increase the regular dividend to the rate of \$16 a share per annum. The first quarterly dividend at this rate, namely, \$4 a share, will be paid to stockholders of record at the close of business March 18 1927.

Notice of a special meeting of the stockholders of Guaranty Trust Co. of New York to be held on March 11 1927 has been given.

If the proposed capital increase shall be authorized an assignable subscription warrant for each stockholder's ratable proportion of such increase will be mailed shortly after March 14 1927.

No stock certificate will be issued for less than a full share, but non-dividend bearing scrip representing interests in fractional parts of shares of stock will be issued, exchangeable for stock certificates (with accumulated dividends) when presented in amounts aggregating one share or multiples of one share.

James T. Monahan, Vice-President of the Chatham-Phenix National Bank & Trust Co., sailed on the S. S. Orizaba on Saturday, Feb. 19, for Cuba on business.

Robert Williamson has been appointed Trust Officer of the Hamilton National Bank of New York, 130 West Forty-second St., according to announcement made by Archibald C. Emery, President. Mr. Williamson goes to the Hamilton National Bank after eight years of service in the Trust Department of the American Exchange Irving Trust, where he held the position of Assistant Secretary. He is a graduate of New York University.

The State Superintendent of Banks has approved the increase in the directorate of the Commercial Exchange Bank of New York, successor to Lionello Perera & Co., from eleven to seventeen members. Dr. A. H. Giannini will continue as Chairman of the enlarged board, while the new directors are Alessandro Olivotti, art dealer; Almerindo Portfollo, retired manufacturer; H. J. Burchell, Jr., secretary of Italy America Society; Louis J. Scaramelli, im-

porter; Anthony S. Andretta, banker, Hartford, Conn., and Mario Perera, second Vice-President of Commercial Exchange Bank.

The Yorkville office of the Standard Bank celebrated this week the first anniversary of its opening. Max Lederer, Vice-President, is in charge.

A charter was issued on Feb. 8 by the Comptroller of the Currency for the Capitol National Bank of Hartford, Conn. The institution will have a capital of \$300,000 and surplus of \$200,000. The price at which the stock is being placed is \$220 per \$100 share. The bank will begin business about March 15. The officers are: C. P. Tomlinson, President; E. F. Dustin, William A. Sanborn, James N. H. Campbell and C. S. Timberlake, Vice-Presidents, and Calvin C. Bolles, Cashier.

At the regular meeting of the directors of the Thames National Bank of Norwich, Conn., on Jan. 22 the resignation, because of ill health, of Oliver L. Johnson, as President and director was accepted with regret. The vacancies caused by his action were filled by the election of Arthur M. Brown as President and Philip A. Johnson as director. At the annual meeting on Jan. 11 Nathan A. Gibbs was elected Vice-President and Cashier. The other officers were all re-elected at this time.

Samuel F. Dixon has been elected a director of the Guardian Trust Co. of New Jersey, at Newark, to fill a vacancy on the board. Mr. Dixon is President of William Dixon, Inc., New York and Newark, manufacturers and importers of jewelers' and dental tools. He is also Vice-President of the Baker Printing Co. and the Barlow Foundry, Inc., both of Newark, N. J.

The Guardian Trust Co. of New Jersey reports deposits of \$11,342,354 for its first five months of business, ended Dec. 31 1926, an increase of \$4,330,306 over the \$7,012,048 deposits made on Aug. 2 1926, the day the bank opened its doors. For the first six months of business ended Jan. 31 1927 earnings were equivalent to an annual rate of \$5.50 per share, after setting up reserves for measured discount and contingencies. After the writing off of all organization expenses the book value of the bank's stock as of Jan. 31 was placed at \$158.75, only \$1.25 per share less than the subscription price.

At the February meeting of the board of directors of the Mellon National Bank of Pittsburgh, Pa., Monday, B. W. Lewis, Cashier, and H. S. Zimmerman, Assistant Cashier, were elected Vice-Presidents. Both have been with the Mellon National Bank since its organization in 1902. Mr. Lewis began his banking career with T. Mellon & Sons, the predecessor of the Mellon National Bank. He has been active in banking organizations, has served as Chairman of Group Eight, Pennsylvania Bankers' Association, and has been and is a member of its important committees. His new title at the Mellon National is Vice-President and Cashier. Vice-President Zimmerman has for years been in charge of bank relations of the Mellon National and has traversed the continent many times. His banking life began with the Second National Bank of Pittsburgh. Mr. Zimmerman also has been active in the various banking organizations.

That the First National Bank of Washington, Pa., and the Real Estate Trust Co. of that place will consolidate under the title of the First Bank & Trust Co. of Washington, with total resources of more than \$8,000,000, was reported in the Philadelphia "Ledger" of Feb. 18. Under the terms of the merger the First National Bank, one of the oldest national banks in Western Pennsylvania, will surrender its charter, effective March 15. The bank was originally chartered, it is said, as the Franklin Bank in 1835. James P. Braden heads the institution and Robert R. Hays is Cashier, while T. Jeff Duncan is President of the Real Estate Trust Co., with Robert S. Winters as Secretary and Treasurer.

That the First National Bank of Dunbar, Pa., had failed to open its doors on Feb. 21 was reported in a dispatch by the Associated Press from Connellsville, Pa., on that date, appearing in the Baltimore "Sun" of Feb. 22. The dispatch said in part:

A notice posted on the door said the bank was closed by a resolution adopted by the board of directors Saturday, and that the institution was

under the direction of the Comptroller of the Currency, with Addison Clarke, a National Bank Examiner, in charge.

According to the last public statement on Dec. 31, the bank had deposits of \$345,000. It was capitalized at \$50,000 and had \$25,000 surplus and \$16,000 undivided profits.

Clarke said Treasury regulations prevented him from commenting on reports that "frozen assets" caused the closing of the bank. He said there was some talk of reorganization.

Associated Press advices from Marietta, Ohio, on Feb. 23, appearing in the "Herald-Tribune" of this city on Feb. 24, stated that the Central National Bank of Marietta, with resources of approximately \$3,000,000, had failed to open for business on that day. A notice posted by the bank stated that the institution had been closed by order of the Board of Directors. Federal bank examiners from Columbus, it was stated, had taken over its affairs. A statement, the only one, it was said, issued by G. E. Hayward, the bank's President, read as follows:

"In view of what seemed to be a threatened run this morning and the suspension of negotiations with other institutions the board of directors decided last night that it would be best to close the bank this morning and notify the Comptroller of the Currency."

Mrs. Frances E. Weise was recently appointed head of the newly opened department for women of the United States Trust Co. of Detroit, according to the Detroit "Free Press" of Feb. 20. Mrs. Weise has been in businesses in Detroit for several years—for five years in the real estate business. At present, it is said, she is making a study, going through the Wayne County Probate Court daily, in which she has found that in more than 50% of will cases, women or widows are named as executors, while in cases where there is no will at least 33% of the executors named are women. In announcing the appointment of Mrs. Weise, Frank E. Fisher, Secretary of the United States Trust Co., was quoted by the paper mentioned as saying:

"With trust company business in Michigan rapidly approaching a volume of \$200,000,000 in assets and liabilities, officials of fiduciary institutions have come to realize that perhaps the most important part of their business is coming from women. In sponsoring the creation of estates, the making of wills, the handling of real estate, buying and selling of bonds and protecting their property from get-rich-quick promoters, women have done much to bring about the huge growth of trust activities we have seen in Michigan during the last few years.

"Women are definitely in business everywhere. Women want to do business with women in whom they can repose business confidence. It is not generally realized, I believe, that fully 75% of the savings accounts in the United States are in women's names and that 85% of the nation's individual income is spent by women. It is women's nature to save, create and conserve, therefore their turning to trust companies for counsel. In creating a women's division of our business extension department, with Mrs. Weise in charge, we are endeavoring to meet an obligation which women have made imperative in trust company activities."

At a meeting of the directors of the Mound City Trust Co. of St. Louis on Feb. 19 George W. Clarkson was elected President of the institution to succeed N. S. Magruder, who resigned several weeks ago, while J. T. Dobbs was made Chairman of the board, according to the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of Feb. 20. Mr. Clarkson was formerly President of the Grand Avenue National Bank of St. Louis for sixteen years, resigning in December, 1925. Other officers of the Mound City Trust Co. are: John C. Tobin, Vice-President and counsel; Collins E. Bushnell, Vice-President and Secretary, and Harry C. Avis, Treasurer.

D. L. Bingham, active Vice-President and Manager of the Bank of Indianola, Indianola, Miss., since 1914, has been elected a Vice-President of the Fidelity Bank & Trust Co. of Memphis, Tenn., and will assume his new duties about March 1, according to the Memphis "Appeal" of Feb. 19. Mr. Bingham, it was stated, would be succeeded at the Indianola bank by Edwin A. Tanner, at present Cashier, who has also been with the bank since 1914, while M. A. Moore, a book-keeper, would be promoted to the Cashiership to succeed Mr. Tanner.

What is described as Jacksonville's tallest building, an eighteen-story structure built to house the Barnett National Bank, the oldest banking institution in the city, was formally opened on Feb. 22. Modeled after the most up-to-date bank buildings in the United States, particular attention was given to the safe deposit vaults, which occupy an entire floor. W. B. Barnett, founder of the institution which owns the new structure, and one of the pioneers of Florida more than fifty years ago, opened the bank in 1877. In that year the bank's deposits were but \$10,000, while to-day the \$25,000,000 deposits of the Barnett National Bank reflect the great growth of the State. Bion H. Barnett, present Chairman of the Board of Directors and the son of the founder, completes his fiftieth year of service with the

bank next May. W. R. McQuaid is President of the pioneer institution.

Amalgamation of the Bank of Italy and the newly created Liberty Bank of America (full particulars regarding the huge scope of the latter appeared in our issue of Feb. 5, page 748), the two forming, it is said, the largest banking institution in the country outside of New York City has been announced in San Francisco, according to an Associated Press dispatch from that city on Feb. 21 appearing in the New York "Evening Post" of that date, which went on to say:

Endorsement by the Federal Reserve Board in Washington of an application by the bank to merge its interests with the Liberty Bank of America made this announcement possible, said James A. Dacigalupi, President of the Bank of Italy.

Liberty stockholders will receive 50,000 shares of Bank of Italy stock, thereby increasing Bank of Italy capital and the Affiliated Stockholders' Auxiliary Corporation by approximately \$30,000,000 and making the combined capital investment more than \$105,000,000, the second largest in the United States.

In its issue of Feb. 16 the San Francisco "Chronicle" in regard to the then proposed consolidation of the banks, stated that Will C. Wood, State Superintendent of Banks for California, had on Feb. 15 verbally authorized the purchase by the Bank of Italy of the newly created Liberty Bank of America, his authorization being conditional upon the sanction of the Federal Reserve Board. In making this announcement Mr. Wood said:

"I have given verbal approval of the sale of the Liberty Bank of America to the Bank of Italy with the understanding that written approval will follow if the proposed amalgamation of those two banks shall be approved by the Federal Reserve Board. The Bank of Italy is a member of the Federal Reserve, whereas the Liberty Bank of America is not, consequently the approval of the Federal Reserve Board is necessary if the banks are to remain in the Federal Reserve system.

"In deciding to approve the agreement of purchase and sale, I took into consideration the fact that both the Bank of Italy and the Liberty Bank of America are now owned by the same people and are all but technically under the same general management. Bankers generally are agreed that it is neither good banking policy nor good public policy to keep banks separate in operation when the ownership is practically identical."

The "Chronicle" further stated that the enlarged Bank of Italy would have resources of \$650,000,000 and some 270 branches throughout California, "if no more of the present 106 applications for new branches now on file for Liberty Bank of America with the State Banking Department are granted in the interim."

The San Francisco "Chronicle" of Feb. 16 also stated that according to an announcement made the previous day (Feb. 15) the Merced Security Savings Bank, the oldest financial institution in Merced County, and the Bank of Pleasanton, Alameda County, had been acquired by the Bancitaly Corporation, and would shortly become branches of the Liberty Bank of America, under the terms of the merger of the Bank of Italy and the Liberty Bank of America. Officers of the Merced Bank, it was stated, would continue to manage its affairs under the new regime, as would those of the Pleasanton Bank with the exception of Edward L. Benedict, its founder, who would retire.

#### THE WEEK ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

Speculative activity on the New York Stock Exchange the present week has centered largely in the industrial list and though many individual stocks among the specialties, rails, oils and copper, scored further sharp advances which carried several to new high records for the year, the stock market on the whole was not as strong and buoyant as last week. The market was somewhat irregular in the two-hour session on Saturday and there was much selling to realize profits. Baldwin Locomotive was the feature of the specialties group, first yielding 3 points and then in a sudden spurt moving forward to a new top at 192. Union Carbide bounded forward more than 6 points to 114. Allis-Chalmers had an unexpected run up of 2½ points to a new high at 95¼ and General Electric reached 86 at its high for the day. American Tel. & Tel. made a record high at 160.

The market opened moderately strong on Monday, but following the announcement from Washington that the United States Supreme Court had decided the valuation case of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad adversely to the railroads, stocks took a sudden drop and for a short time the trend of prices moved sharply downward. Railroad shares were violently sold and the selling quickly spread to the industrial issues with big declines all around. Baldwin Locomotive had a break of 5 points and many of the specialties were heavy. When it appeared that the decision had been misinterpreted and that the Supreme Court had not passed on the merits of the Commerce Commission's valuation figures, quick recovery ensued. All financial markets



the latter due mainly to the falling off at the Florida points, Miami showing a decrease of 72.5% and Jacksonville of 37.9%. In the Chicago Reserve District the totals are 0.2% smaller, in the St. Louis Reserve District 6.9%, and in the Minneapolis Reserve District 7.2%. The Kansas City Reserve District has an increase of 3.4%, the Dallas Reserve District of 7.7% and the San Francisco Reserve District of 5.9%.

In the following we furnish a summary by Federal Reserve districts:

SUMMARY OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Table with columns: Week Ended Feb. 19 1927., 1927., 1926., Inc. or Dec., 1925., 1924. Rows include Federal Reserve Districts (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco) and Outside N. Y. City, Canada.

We now add our detailed statement, showing last week's figures for each city separately, for the four years:

Main table of bank clearings by city and year (1924-1927). Columns: Clearings at, Week Ending February 19., 1927., 1926., Inc. or Dec., 1925., 1924. Rows are organized by Federal Reserve Districts (First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth) and include various cities within each district.

Table of bank clearings by city and year (1924-1927) for cities in the Eastern and Southern US. Columns: Clearings at, Week Ending February 19., 1927., 1926., Inc. or Dec., 1925., 1924. Rows include cities like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco, etc.

Table of bank clearings by city and year (1924-1927) for cities in the Western and Northern US. Columns: Clearings at, Week Ending Feb. 17., 1927., 1926., Inc. or Dec., 1925., 1924. Rows include cities like Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Seattle, Spokane, etc.

a No longer report clearings. b Do not respond to requests for figures. c Week ended Feb. 16. d Week end. d Feb. 17. e Week ended Feb. 18. \* Estimated.

THE ENGLISH GOLD AND SILVER MARKETS.

We reprint the following from the weekly circular of Samuel Montagu & Co. of London, written under date of Feb. 9 1926:

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £149,751,705 on the 2d inst. as compared with £150,081,305 on the previous Wednesday.

About £786,000 bar gold was offered in the open market this week. The greater part of this amount—£585,000—was bought for America, and the balance as follows: Home trade, £36,000; Continental trade, £79,000; Egypt, £34,000, and India and the Straits, £52,000.

The following movements of gold to and from the Bank of England have been announced:

Table with columns: Receivd., Withdrawn., Received., Withdrawn. for Feb. 3-5 and Feb. 7-9.

Of the withdrawals £796,000 was in sovereigns destined as follows: Set aside for account of the South African Reserve Bank, £500,000; Spain, £253,000; Holland, £10,000; Italy, £18,000; India, £8,000, and Arabia, £7,000.

The topsy-turvydom under which currency now labours is indicated by the following Reuter telegram published to-day, in which Switzerland debars the gold coin of certain countries from circulating any longer as currency, although such coins are identical in weight and fineness with her own:

"The Swiss Federal Council has decided that gold coins of the Latin Monetary Union (Belgian, French, Greek and Italian) shall not be legal tender in Switzerland after April 1 next."

The Swiss State Bank does not bind itself to buy gold at any fixed rate, and presumably wishes to supplement its control over the influx of gold by the new regulation, especially as these foreign coins naturally deteriorate in weight as years go by and cannot be repatriated, in the present condition of exchanges, at the Swiss par exchange value.

United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the week ended the 2d inst. were:

Table with columns: Imports, Exports, for Denmark, British West Africa, British South Africa, and Other countries.

SILVER.

During the first few days of the Chinese holidays some of the Indian bears showed some nervousness and prices rose on the 3d inst. to 28d. for cash and 27½d. for two months' delivery. These were the highest touched since 17th September 1926 and 23d September 1926, for cash and two months' delivery respectively.

The tone of the market is not confident.

The text of the Currency Bill now before the Indian Legislature contains among its provisions as to the Constitution of the Reserve against notes, that during the three years after the date that they come into force the amount held in rupee coin shall not exceed 700,000,000 rupees, during the next three years not exceeding 500,000,000 rupees, during the next four years 350,000,000 rupees, and 250,000,000 rupees thereafter.

United Kingdom imports and exports of silver during the week ended the 2d inst. were:

Table with columns: Imports, Exports, for U.S.A., British India, and Other countries.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

Table with columns: (In lacs of rupees), Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 31 for Notes in circulation, Silver coin and bullion in India, Silver coin and bullion out of India, Gold coin and bullion in India, Gold coin and bullion out of India, Securities (Indian Government), Securities (British Government).

No silver coinage was reported during the week ended the 31st ultimo.

No fresh news has been cabled regarding the stock of silver in Shanghai, which consisted on the 29th ultimo of about 62,100,000 ounces in sycee, 74,300,000 dollars, and 920 silver bars.

Quotations during the week:

Table with columns: Bar Silver per Oz. Std., Bar Gold Per Oz. Fine, Cash, 2 Mos., Feb. 3-9 and Average.

The silver quotations to-day for cash and two months' delivery are respectively 1 1-16d. and 1d. below those fixed a week ago.

ENGLISH FINANCIAL MARKETS—PER CABLE.

The daily closing quotations for securities, &c., at London, as reported by cable, have been as follows the past week:

Table with columns: London, Feb. 19-25 showing weekly ending prices for Silver, Gold, Consols, British, French Rentes, and French War Loan.

The price of silver in New York on the same day has been Silver in N. Y., per oz. (cts.): Foreign 58½, 57½, Holiday 57½, 57¼, 57½.

Public Debt of United States—Completed Returns Showing Net Debt as of Dec. 31 1926.

The statement of the public debt and Treasury cash holdings of the United States as officially issued Dec. 31 1926, delayed in publication, has now been received, and as interest attaches to the details of available cash and the gross and net debt on that date, we append a summary thereof, making comparisons with the same date in 1925.

CASH AVAILABLE TO PAY MATURING OBLIGATIONS.

Table showing Balance end month by daily statement, Add or Deduct—Excess or deficiency of receipts over or under disbursements on related items, Deduct outstanding obligations, Total, Balance, deficit (-) or surplus (+).

INTEREST-BEARING DEBT OUTSTANDING.

Table with columns: Title of Loan—, Interest Payable, Dec. 31 1926, Dec. 31 1925, listing various Treasury securities and bonds.

Table showing Aggregate of interest-bearing debt, Bearing no interest, Matured, interest ceased, Total debt, Deduct Treasury surplus or add Treasury deficit.

Net debt... a Total gross debt Dec. 31 1926 on the basis of daily Treasury statements was \$19,074,665,337 35; and the net amount of public debt redemption and receipts in transit, &c., was \$11,627 50.

Commercial and Miscellaneous News

FOREIGN TRADE OF NEW YORK—MONTHLY STATEMENT.

Table showing Merchandise Movement at New York (Imports, Exports) and Customs Receipts at New York (Imports, Exports) for months Jan-Dec 1926 and 1925.

Movement of gold and silver for the twelve months:

Table showing Gold Movement at New York (Imports, Exports) and Silver—New York (Imports, Exports) for months Jan-Dec 1926 and 1925.

National Banks.—The following information regarding national banks is from the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury Department:

APPLICATIONS TO ORGANIZE RECEIVED.

Table with columns: Date, Description, Capital. Includes entries for Feb. 15, 17, 19 regarding various national banks.

APPLICATION TO CONVERT RECEIVED.

Table with columns: Date, Description, Capital. Includes entry for Feb. 19 regarding the conversion of the Greenwich National Bank.

CHARTERS ISSUED.

Table with columns: Date, Description, Capital. Includes entries for Feb. 15 and 16 regarding new bank charters.

CHANGES OF TITLE.

Table with columns: Date, Description, Capital. Includes entries for Feb. 15, 18 regarding changes in bank titles.

VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATIONS.

Table with columns: Date, Description, Capital. Includes entries for Feb. 17 regarding voluntary liquidations.

Auction Sales.—Among other securities, the following, not actually dealt in at the Stock Exchange, were sold at auction in New York, Boston and Philadelphia on Wednesday of this week:

By Adrian H. Muller & Sons, New York:

Table listing securities sold at auction in New York, including Banner Consol. Mines Co., Sundry accounts receivable, etc.

By Wise, Hobbs & Arnold, Boston:

Table listing securities sold at auction in Boston, including National Bank, Nausum Steam Cotton Co., etc.

By R. L. Day & Co., Boston:

Table listing securities sold at auction in Boston, including National Bank, Waltham Nat. Bank, etc.

By Welepp Bruton & Co., Baltimore:

Table listing securities sold at auction in Baltimore, including Balt. & East. Shore Ferry, etc.

By Barnes & Lofland, Philadelphia:

Table listing securities sold at auction in Philadelphia, including Urban Water Supply Co., Otto Eisenlohr & Bros., etc.

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 listing dividends for various companies, including Railroads (Steam), Public Utilities, Banks, Trust Companies, and Miscellaneous. Columns include Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable, and Books Closed.









Weekly Returns of New York City Clearing House Banks and Trust Companies.

The following shows the condition of the New York City Clearing House members for the week ending Feb. 19. The figures for the separate banks are the averages of the daily results. In the case of the grand totals, we also show the actual figures of condition at the end of the week.

NEW YORK WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

(Stated in thousands of dollars—that is, three ciphers (000) omitted.)

Main table showing weekly returns of clearing house banks and trust companies. Columns include: Week Ending, New Capital, Profits, Loans, Discounts, Cash in Vault, Reserve with Legal Deposit., Net Demand Deposits, Time Deposits, Bank Circulation.

STATEMENT OF RESERVE POSITION OF CLEARING HOUSE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES.

Table showing the reserve position of clearing house banks and trust companies. Columns include: Cash Reserve in Vault, Reserve in Depositories, Total Reserve, Reserve Required, Surplus Reserve.

\* From unofficial sources. † The New York Stock Exchange has ruled that stock will not be quoted ex-dividend on this date and not until further notice. ‡ The New York Curb Market Association has ruled that stock will not be quoted ex-dividend on this date and not until further notice.

Miscellaneous (Continued) table listing various companies with columns for Per Cent., When Payable, and Books Closed. Days Inclusive.

\* From unofficial sources. † The New York Stock Exchange has ruled that stock will not be quoted ex-dividend on this date and not until further notice. ‡ The New York Curb Market Association has ruled that stock will not be quoted ex-dividend on this date and not until further notice.







Bankers' Gazette.

Wall Street, Friday Night, Feb. 25 1927.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The review of the Stock Market is given this week on page 1177.

The following are sales made at the Stock Exchange this week of shares not represented in our detailed list on the pages which follow:

Table with columns: STOCKS, Sales for Week, Range for Week, Range Since Jan. 1. Includes sub-sections for Railroads, Industrial & Misc., and various stock listings with prices and dates.

\* No par value.

Quotations for U. S. Treas. Cfts. of Indebtedness, &c.

Table with columns: Maturity, Int. Rate, Bid., Asked., Maturity, Int. Rate, Bid., Asked. Lists various Treasury certificates and their market rates.

New York City Realty and Surety Companies.

All prices dollars per share.

Table listing various realty and surety companies with columns for Bid., Ask., and other financial details.

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 other financial details.

\* Banks marked (\*) are State banks. † New stock. ‡ Ex-div. § Ex-stock div. ¶ Ex-rights.

United States Liberty Loan Bonds and Treasury Certificates on the New York Stock Exchange.

Below we furnish a daily record of the transactions in Liberty Loan bonds and Treasury certificates on the New York Stock Exchange. The transactions in registered bonds are given in a footnote at the end of the tabulation.

Table titled 'Daily Record of U. S. Bond Prices' showing transactions for various bond issues from Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, including prices and sales volumes.

Note.—The above table includes only sales of coupon bonds. Transactions in registered bonds were:

Small table showing registered bond transactions with columns for bond type and price.

Foreign Exchange.—Sterling exchange ruled steady and a shade firmer on a better demand and lighter offerings. Quotations, however, were only a fraction over those of last week.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for sterling exchange were 4 84 1/2 @ 4 84 1/2 for checks and 4 85 1/2 @ 4 85 3/4 for cables.

To-day's (Friday's) actual rates for Paris bankers' francs were 3.89 1/4 for short. German bankers' marks are not yet quoted for long and short bills.

Exchange at Paris on London, 123.99 francs; week's range, 123.82 francs high and 123.99 francs low.

The range for foreign exchange for the week follows:

Table showing exchange rates for Sterling, Paris Bankers' Francs, Germany Bankers' Marks, and Amsterdam Bankers' Guilders.

Domestic Exchange.—Chicago, par. St. Louis, 15 @ 25c. per \$1,000 discount. Boston, par. San Francisco, par. Montreal, \$1.5625 per \$1,000 premium. Cincinnati, par.

New York Stock Exchange—Stock Record, Daily, Weekly and Yearly

OCCUPYING SIX PAGES

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see preceding page

Table with columns for dates (Saturday to Friday), sales for the week, stock names, and price ranges (Lowest and Highest). Includes categories like Railroads, Industrial & Miscellaneous, and various stock symbols.

\* Bid and asked prices. z Ex-dividend. a Ex-rights.



For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see second page preceding

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday to Friday) and corresponding stock prices per share. Includes sub-sections for Stock, Exchange, Closed, Washing-ton's Birthdays, and Holiday.

STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Main table listing various stocks with columns for 'Lowest' and 'Highest' prices, 'Per Share' information, and 'Range Since Jan. 1, 1927'. Includes categories like Indus. & Miscel. (Con.), Amer. Drug, Amer. Agricultural Chem., etc.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. # Ex-dividend

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see third page preceding

Table with columns for dates (Saturday to Friday), stock categories (Indus. & Miscell., Stocks, Exchange, etc.), and prices (Lowest, Highest). Includes sub-sections for Stock Exchange, Closed, Washing-ton's, Birthday, and Holiday.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. s Ex-dividend. a Ex-rights.

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see fourth page preceding

Table with columns for High and Low Sale Prices, Per Share, and Stocks New York Stock Exchange. Includes sub-headers for Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and the week's sales. Lists various stocks like Gen Gas & Elec, Preferred A (8), and others with their respective prices and share counts.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. s Ex-dividend. s Ex-rights.

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see fifth page preceding

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday to Friday) and price ranges. Includes sub-sections for Stock, Exchange, Closed, Washing, ton's, Birthday, and Holiday.

Table titled 'STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE' with columns for 'PER SHARE' (Lowest, Highest) and 'PER SHARE' (Lowest, Highest). Lists various companies and their stock prices.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. z Ex-dividend. z Ex-rights. s Ex-dividend one share of Standard Oil of California new.

For sales during the week of stocks usually inactive, see sixth page preceding

Table with columns for High and Low Sale Prices (per share, not per cent.), Sales for the week, Stocks New York Stock Exchange, and Per Share Range (since Jan. 1, 1927 and for previous year).

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. z Ex-dividend. z Ex-dividend and ex-rights. z Ex-dividend.

Jan. 1 1909 the Exchange method of quoting bonds was changed and prices are now "and interest"—except for income and defaulted bonds.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Bond Description, Interest Period, Price Friday, Week's Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1, and various price/interest details.

1/8 = .125

Table with columns for Bond Type (BONDS N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE), Interest Period, Price (Friday, Feb. 25), Week's Range or Last Sale, Range Since Jan. 1, and Range Since Jan. 1. The table lists various bond issues such as Central Ohio reorg, Central RR of Ga, and Chicago & North Western.

Due Feb. 4 Due May. 9 Due Dec.





Table with columns: Interest Period, Price Friday, Week's Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1., and various bond listings under 'BONDS N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE'.

Table with columns: Interest Period, Price Friday, Week's Range or Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1., and various bond listings under 'BONDS N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE'.

Due May. e Due June. A Due Aug.

Table with columns for Bonds, N.Y. Stock Exchange, Week Ended Feb. 25, Interest Period, Price Friday, Feb. 25, Week's Range or Last Sale, Range Since Jan. 1, and various bond descriptions with their respective prices and yields.

New York Bond Record—Concluded—Page 6

Quotations of Sundry Securities

All bond prices are "and Interest" except where marked

Table of N. Y. Stock Exchange bonds, including columns for Interest, Price, Week's Range, and Range since Jan. 1. Lists various bond types like Pressed Steel, Prod & Ref, and others.

Table of Standard Oil Stocks, including columns for Bid, Ask, and various oil company names like Anglo-Amer Oil, Atlantic Refining, etc.

Table of Public Utilities, including columns for Per Ct, and various utility companies like American Gas & Electric, Elgin, etc.

\*Per share. †No par value. ‡Basis. § Purchaser also pays accrued dividend. ¶ New stock. †† Flat price. ‡‡ Last sale. §§ Nominal. ††† Ex-dividend. †††† Ex-rights. ††††† Canadian quotation. †††††† Sale price.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for dates from Saturday, Feb. 19 to Friday, Feb. 25, and various stock symbols and prices.

Sales for the Week. Shares. Stocks BOSTON STOCK EXCHANGE.

Table with columns for Range Since Jan. 1 (Lowest, Highest) and PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1926 (Lowest, Highest). Lists various stocks and their price ranges.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. a Assessment paid. b Ex-stock dividend. c New stock. s Ex-dividend. g Ex-rights. h Ex-dividend and rights.

Outside Stock Exchanges

Boston Bond Record.—Transactions in bonds at Boston Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, both inclusive:

Table with columns: Bonds, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Atl G & W ISS L 5s., Chic Jet Ry & US Y 4s 1/4, East Mass Street RR.

Baltimore Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Baltimore Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, 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. (Low, High). Includes entries like Amer Wholesale pref., Arundel Corp new stock, Atlant Coast L (Conn).

Philadelphia Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, 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. (Low, High). Includes entries like Abbots Al Dairy pref., Alliance Insurance, American Stores.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded), Par., Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Penn Cent L & P cum pf., Pennsylvania RR, Philadelphia Co (Pitts).

Chicago Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Chicago Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, 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. (Low, High). Includes entries like Adams Royalty Co com., All American Radio cl A, Am Fur Mart Bldg pf.

Table of stock prices for Cincinnati Stock Exchange, including columns for Stock (Concluded) Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for Cincinnati Stock Exchange, including columns for Stock (Concluded) Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

\* No par value. Cincinnati Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Cincinnati Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

\* No par value. z Ex-dividend.

San Francisco Stock and Bond Exchange.—Record of transactions at San Francisco Stock and Bond Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock prices for San Francisco Stock and Bond Exchange, including columns for Stocks—Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

Table of stock prices for Cincinnati Stock Exchange, including columns for Stocks—Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

\* No par value.

Table of stock prices for Cincinnati Stock Exchange, including columns for Stocks—Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

\* No par value. St. Louis Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at St. Louis Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock prices for St. Louis Stock Exchange, including columns for Stocks—Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, and Range Since Jan. 1.

Table with columns: Bonds (Concluded), Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., Low, High. Includes Street Railway Bonds, Miscellaneous Bonds, etc.

\* No par value. Pittsburgh Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Pittsburgh Stock Exchange Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, both inclusive, compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., Low, High. Includes Amer Vitriol Prod com, Am Wind GI Mach, etc.

\* No par value. Note.—Sold last week and not reported: 2,174 Columbia Gas & Electric rights at 2 3/4 @ 3.

New York Curb Market.—Official transactions in the New York Curb Market from Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, inclusive:

Table with columns: Week Ended Feb. 25, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., Low, High. Includes Indus. & Miscellaneous, Ala Gt Sou RR com, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Continued) Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., Low, High. Includes Cent Leath (new) cl A vtc, Prior pref v t c, etc.





Table with columns: Mining 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 New Jersey Zinc, Newmont Mining Corp, Nipissing Mines, etc.

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 Alabama Power 5s, Allied Pack deb 8s, Debenture 6s, etc.

Table with columns: Bonds (Concluded), Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1 (Low, High). Includes entries like Montecatini (Italy) 7s, 1937, Montgomery Ward 6s, 1946, etc.

Table with columns: Foreign Government and Municipalities, Par, Friday Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1 (Low, High). Includes entries like Agricul Mtg Bk Rep of Col 20-year s 7s, Austria (Prov of Lower) 7s, etc.

\* No par value. A Correction. † Listed on the Stock Exchange this week, where additional transactions will be found. m Sold under the rule. n Sold for cash. o New stock. r Ex 33 1-3% stock dividend; sold at 148 1/2 on Jan. 3 1927 with stock dividend on. s Option sale. t Ex rights and bonus. u Ex cash and stock dividends when issued. z Ex dividend. y Ex rights. z Ex stock dividend. m Tonopah Extension sold 1,000 last week at 25c. and not reported.













Automatic water heater installations by company in 1926 were 130% greater than in 1925. House heating gas sales during the year show an increase of 70% over 1925.

Cooking continues as the leading use for the company's product. The activities of the Home Service Department which conducts an educational campaign in the proper use of gas in the home were enlarged during the year by the establishment of additional home service stations in growing communities.

Contracts were entered into in 1926 for the sale of gas for large volume cooking and baking in hotels under construction which will add materially to the output of gas.

Additional Plant and Equipment.—The new 15,000,000 cu. foot waterless gas holder and distribution station at Kedzie and North Shore Avenues was placed in operation May 29 1926.

A 24-inch gas main was laid between the 110th St. station and the 96th St. Station in order to facilitate the handling of the coke oven gas in that district.

During 1927 the 96th St. station will be connected by a 48-inch main with the 48-inch main now extending from 71st St. and Hamlin Ave. to the North Shore holder at Kedzie and North Shore Avenues. This work will require the construction of approximately 1 1/2 miles of 48-inch main. Upon its completion the company will have in operation a 48-inch main surrounding the city of Chicago from the 96th Street station on the southeast to the North Shore holder on the north, enabling the company to transmit gas in large volume from the 96th St. station or the Crawford Ave. station to any part of the city.

During the year 1926 almost 76 miles of gas mains were laid and 14,064 gas service pipes were installed. The net gain for the year in meters set was \$4,008, making a total of \$58,405 meters in service on Dec. 31 1926.

Capital Stock.—The stockholders at the annual meeting on Feb. 23 1926 increased the authorized capital stock from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000.

On August 23 1926 the stockholders were given the right to subscribe to additional capital stock to an amount equal to 10% of the outstanding capital stock. Subscriptions were received for 41,593 shares; 38,193 shares, representing 90% of the total, were subscribed and paid for in cash and 3,400 shares were subscribed for on the four and ten payment basis; the balance of 757 shares unsubscribed for by the stockholders were sold in the open market and netted the company \$94,782 or at the rate of \$125.20 per share; 39,238 shares of the additional stock had been fully paid for as they were issued and outstanding as of Dec. 31 1926, making the total outstanding capital stock of the company as of that date \$46,273,800. The proceeds of the sale of the additional capital stock were used for construction and to provide additional working capital.

Number of Stockholders.—On Dec. 31 1926, the company had 9,239 registered stockholder, of whom 4,602 were residents of Chicago and 1,037 were residents of Illinois outside of Chicago. Of the total number of stockholders 61% were residents of Illinois. The total number of stockholders increased 6% during 1926.

Refund Suit.—Judge Oscar M. Torrison, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, on July 8 1926, rendered a decision in favor of the city of Chicago on the legal questions involved in the Agreed Case submitted to him in the so-called refund suit; which is the litigation resulting from the 70c. gas ordinance of 1911. The company immediately appealed to the Supreme Court of Illinois which now has the case under advisement.

RESULTS FOR CALENDAR YEARS (COMPANY ONLY).

Table with 5 columns: Statistics, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Rows include Gas made (1,000 cu. ft.), Gas bought, Gas sold, Income from gas, Income from sources.

Table with 5 columns: Deduct Expenses, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Rows include Steam material, Fuel (gas making), Oil, Purifying material, Station supplies, Manufacturing labor, Maintenance and repairs, Superintendence, Engineering department, Gas bought, Gas prod. at exp. sta'n, Cost of gas in holder stock adjust, Debit for residual prod., Cost of gas, Transm. & distrib. exps., Commercial expense, New business expenses, Gen'l & misc. expense, Depreciation, Contingent, Taxes, Uncollectible bills, Rent for leased plant and equipment, Int. on Ogden Gas Co. bonds, Amortized rents, Miscell. deductions.

Table with 5 columns: Cost of gas delivered to consumers, Interest on funded debt, Int. on unfunded debt.

Table with 5 columns: Total cost of gas delivered to consumers, Net income, Previous surplus, Total, Sundry debits, Dividends.

Table with 5 columns: Balance, Shs. cap. stk outst'g (par \$100), Earned per share.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME ACCOUNT YEARS ENDED DEC. 31 (INCL. SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES).

Table with 5 columns: Operating revenues, Cost of production, distribution and general operating expense, Rent of leased plant facilities, Retirement expense, Uncollectible bills, Taxes.

Table with 5 columns: Net operating income, Other income, Total income, Other deductions, Interest on funded debt, Dividends, Balance to surplus, Earned per share.

BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31 (COMPANY ONLY).

Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925. Assets: Real estate, Materials, Acc'ts receivable, Notes receivable, Matured funded d't int. depos., Deferred charges, Invests in affil. cos., Miscell. invests., Int. & divs. rec., Subscr. to cap. stock, Cash, Sinking funds, Reserve funds, Sundry deposits & advances. Liabilities: Capital stock, Subscribed, Underlying prior lien bonds, Ref. mtge. bds., Gen. & ref. bds., 6% gold notes, Gas bill deposits, Acc'ts payable, Taxes accrued, Bond int. acer'd, Retir., &c., res., Div. declared, Matured interest, Sundries, Deferred credits, Surplus.

Total 145,016,345 136,954,329 Total 145,016,345 136,954,329

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31 (INCL. SUB. COS.).

Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925. Assets: Prop. plant and equipment, Misc. investm'ts, Reserve funds, Cash, Notes receivable, Acc'ts receivable, Int. & divs. rec., Mat'ls & suppl., Matured bond int. deposits, Sundry advances and deposits, Subscribers to capital stock, Prepayments, Unamort. debt disc. and exp., Unamort. rents, Misc. def. debits. Liabilities: Capital stock, Subscribed, Funded debt, Purch. contracts payable, Notes payable, Acc'ts payable, Divs. declared, Matured bond int. unpaid, Consumers' dep., Taxes accrued, Interest accrued, Sdry. curr. liab., Retirement res., Ins. fund reserve (invested), Provident fund res. (invested), Miscell. reserves, Deferred credits, Surplus.

Total (ea. side) 160,195,239 152,953,668

a Includes securities of the parent and subsidiary corporations amounting to \$4,471,900. The Peoples Gas Light & Coke Co. has guaranteed as to principal and interest the following bonds: (1) Chicago & Illinois Western RR. 6% general gold bonds, due July 1 1947. (2) Chicago By-Product Coke Co. 1st & ref. mtg. 5% gold bonds, due Dec. 1 1976.

The interest on the above issues has not become a charge against the Peoples Gas Light & Coke Co.—V. 124, p. 648.

Baldwin Locomotive Works.

(16th Annual Report—Year Ended Dec. 31 1926.)

President S. M. Vauclain says in brief:

Throughout the year the works were enabled to operate at approximately 40% capacity. The foreign business improved greatly. The transfer of equipment and operations to Eddystone has progressed satisfactorily. It is expected to operate during 1927 on a 50% capacity basis.

ANNUAL RESULTS BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, CAL. YEAR.

Table with 5 columns: 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Rows include Gross sales, Cost, Mfg. profit, Other income, Gross profit, Deduct oth. exp., &c., Profit, Res. for depr. & adj., Res. for tax & remov'ls., Deferred profits, Net profit, Div. on pref. stk. (7%), Div. on com. stk. (7%), Surplus, Total p. & l. surplus, Shares of common stock outstanding (par \$100), Earn. per sh. on common.

x Includes \$1,400,000 special dividend reserve for year 1924, in addition to regular dividend. y Being dividend for the following year transferred from dividend reserve.

Note.—Report is subject to revision to meet any changes in interpretation of Federal tax laws, regulations or rulings.

BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31.

Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925. Assets: Real estate, machinery, &c., Stand. St. Wks. Co., Chicago plants, Other real estate, Inventories, Acc'ts receivable, Bills receivable, For'n Govt. sec., Miscell. securities, Cash, Deferred charges, Ist mtge. bond sinking fund. Liabilities: Preferred stock, Common stock, Bonded debt, Accounts payable, Bills payable, Savings funds, &c., Acerr. int. on bonds, Interest receivable in advance, &c., Res. for removals and taxes, Reserve for deferred profits, Res. for divs., Surplus.

Total 79,558,233 80,505,832 Total 79,558,233 80,505,832 x Includes: Republic of Poland 5% bonds, \$2,920,000; Rumanian Treasury 7% notes, \$574,265; Argentine State Ry. notes, \$607,850; Mexican Government Ry. notes, \$1,389,814; Chinese Government (Kihnan Ry.), \$1,485,000; Republic of Colombia (notes), \$223,114. y Land and buildings, \$17,330,386; machinery and fixtures, \$14,848,526.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET DEC. 31 (INCL. STANDARD WHEEL WORKS CO.).

Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925. Assets: Plant, equip., &c., Investments, real estate, &c., Current as'cts, Deferred charges, Sinking fund. Liabilities: Capital stock, Bonded debt, Current liabilities, Interest, Surp. & reserves.

Total 84,650,870 85,115,177 Total 84,650,870 85,115,177



Standard Steel Works Co. Balance Sheet Dec. 31.

Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1926, 1925. Rows include Assets (Plant, equip., Inventories, etc.) and Liabilities (Capital stock, Bonds, etc.).

-V. 124, p. 238.

GENERAL INVESTMENT NEWS

STEAM RAILROADS.

Conductors and Trainmen in Western Territory Demand Wage Increases Proportionate to Those Granted to Employees in East and Southeast.—New York "Times" Feb. 25, p. 33.

Seaboard Air Line Ry. Objects to Wage Increase.—Withdraws from Southeastern Railway Group.—Will in Future Deal Directly with its Own Men.—New York "Times" Feb. 22, p. 26.

Repair of Freight Cars.—Freight cars in need of repair on Feb. 1 totaled 136,847, or 5.9% of the number on line, according to reports filed by the carriers with the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association.

Locomotive Repairs.—Class I railroads on Feb. 1 had 9,256 locomotives in need of repairs, or 14.9% of the number on line, according to reports filed by the carriers with the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association.

Car Surplus.—Class I railroads on Feb. 15 had 259,556 surplus freight cars in good repair and immediately available for service, the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association has announced.

Matters Covered in "Chronicle" Feb. 19.—(a) Revenue freight loading still ahead of previous years because of heavy coal shipments, p. 979. (b) Rate of return earned by railroads during the calendar year 1926, p. 1004.

Atlanta (Ga.) Terminal Co.—Final Valuation.—The I.-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$2,926,315 on the owned and used property of the company, as of June 30 1918.—V. 123, p. 1870.

Baltimore & Ohio RR.—Preliminary Earnings.—Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Rows include Operating income, Net oper. income, Total income, etc.

Boston & Maine RR.—Bonds.—Relative to Fitchburg RR. bonds which mature March 1 1927: Such bonds of this issue as were not deposited under the plan and agreement of reorganization dated Sept. 1 1925 and new 5% bonds taken in exchange are to be paid at maturity at the office of the Treasurer of the Boston & Maine RR., Lechmere Square, East Cambridge, Mass.—V. 124, p. 230, 105; V. 123, p. 3315.

Boyer City Gaylord & Alpena RR.—Final Value.—The I.-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$1,706,500 on the property of the company as of June 30 1918.—V. 122, p. 1022.

Buffalo Creek & Ganley RR.—Final Valuation.—The I.-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$910,697 on the owned and used property of the company, as of June 30 1918.—V. 122, p. 477.

Bullfrog Goldfield RR.—Final Valuation.—The I.-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$1,463,276 on the owned and used property of the company, as of June 30 1915.—V. 113, p. 1052.

Butte Anaconda & Pacific RR.—Tenders.—The Guaranty Trust Co., trustee, 140 Broadway, N. Y. City, will until March 11 receive bids for the sale to it of 1st mtge. 5% 30-year s. f. gold bonds dated Feb. 1 1914 to an amount sufficient to absorb \$46,424, at prices not exceeding 105 and int.—V. 123, p. 978.

Cache Valley RR.—Abandonment of Line.—The I.-S. C. Commission on Feb. 12 issued a certificate authorizing the company to abandon, as to inter-State and foreign commerce, its line of railroad extending from a connection with the St. Louis-San Francisco Ry. at Sedgwick, in a northeasterly direction to Light, a distance of approximately 9.6 miles, in Lawrence and Greene counties, Ark.

Central RR. of New Jersey.—Taxes Exceed Dividends.—Railroads operating in the State of New Jersey paid State taxes during 1926 of \$16,717,105, according to official report, of which \$3,970,682 was paid by the above company. Dividends paid by the Central during the year aggregated \$3,292,416.—V. 124, p. 1061.

Chesapeake & Hocking Ry.—Lease Approved.—See Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. below.—V. 123, p. 2514.

Chesapeake & Ohio Ry.—Lease of Ches. & Hocking Ry.—The I.-S. C. Commission on Feb. 5 conditionally authorized the acquisition by the Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. of control, by lease, of the railroad of the Chesapeake & Hocking Railway Co. The report of the Commission says in substance: In Construction by Chesapeake & Hocking Ry., 117 I. C. C. 129, we authorized the Hocking company to build a line or railroad from Gregg to Valley Crossing, O., upon the condition, among others, that the C. & O., within 30 days from the date of the certificate issued in that proceeding, should file its application for authority to acquire control, by lease, of the railroad proposed to be constructed by the Hocking company. In Securities of Chesapeake & Hocking Ry., 117 I. C. C. 338, we authorized the Hocking company to issue not exceeding \$70,000 of common capital stock, and not exceeding \$12,500,000 of promissory notes, and granted permission to the C. & O. to acquire control of the Hocking company by purchase of capital stock. Pursuant to such authority the Hocking company has issued its capital stock, all of which, excepting 7 directors' shares, has been acquired by and is now owned by the C. & O. The C. & O. proposes to lease the railroad of the Hocking company for the term of one year, and thereafter, subject to the right of either party to terminate the lease at any time after one year by giving 60 days' notice to the other party. The lessee agrees to maintain and operate the railroad, to keep the properties insured to the extent like properties are usually insured by railroad companies, to pay all expenses, claims, and obligations arising from the operation of the railroad, and at the expiration or termination of the lease to return the properties to the lessor in a proper state of repair. The lessee covenants to pay as rental a sum sufficient to enable the lessor to maintain its corporate organization; all taxes and assessments which, during the term, may be lawfully levied or assessed against the demised premises, or any part thereof, or against the lessor in respect thereof; and such sum as will enable the lessor to pay the successive installments of interest accruing during the term upon all bonds, notes, or other obligations or evidences of indebtedness which may from time to time be issued, incurred, or assumed by the lessor, with the consent of the lessee, or secured by a mortgage or other lien, subject to which, any additions, extensions or betterments may be made to the demised premises by the lessee at the cost of the lessor. At the beginning of operation the fixed annual rental payment will amount to \$750,000, being 6% on the \$12,500,000 of notes to be issued for construction purposes, plus the taxes and assessments. Should the construction expenditures be financed permanently at a lower rate than 6% then the rental would be reduced accordingly. It is expected that the line will be ready for operation by Sept. 16 1927. The rental provisions of the lease are to become effective on the day the line is turned over to the C. & O. for operation. It is estimated that control of the Hocking company and its railroad by the C. & O. will enable the latter to effect an annual saving of approximately \$1,000,000, in addition to the economies that will result from eliminating the necessity for a separate executive and operating organization for the Hocking company. This estimate does not include any saving which is expected to result from moving traffic over the new line, which must now move by less economical routes. The stockholders' protective committee of the C. & O. asks that the application be granted, but urges that our order be so conditioned as to prevent the termination of the lease by either of the parties thereto except with our prior consent. The order to be entered herein will be so conditioned. Commissioner Eastman dissents. Lease of Island Creek RR.—The I.-S. C. Commission on Feb. 5 approved the acquisition by the company of control of the railroad of the Island Creek RR. by lease. The report of the Commission says: The railroad of the Island Creek comprises about 15 miles of main line and branches located entirely in Logan County, W. Va. Its chief tonnage consists of bituminous coal from extensive mines along the railroad. By our order entered April 6 1926 we authorized the applicant to acquire control of the Island Creek by purchase of capital stock. On May 6 1926 the applicant acquired the entire capital stock of that company, the railroad of which it was then operating under a 20-year lease dated April 5 1912, and it now desired to continue control and operation thereof under a new lease to be effective from May 6 1926. By the terms of the lease dated April 5 1912, the applicant is required to maintain the leased railroad, to pay the taxes and insurance thereon, and to pay as annual rental a sum equal to 5% of the cost of the property demised and 6% of the cost of any additional main line or sidings needed for the development of coal territory naturally tributary to the line leased. Under the provisions of the new lease, which is to supersede the former one, the applicant is to maintain the leased property in as good condition as at present, to pay all taxes and assessments levied against it, to perform towards the public all obligations due it respecting the demised property, and to pay a nominal rental of \$1 a year. The new lease is for the term of one year and thereafter, subject to the right of either party thereto to terminate it upon 30 days notice. The term of the lease is in conformity with the practice of the applicant respecting leases of companies which it controls entirely by stock ownership. Under its terms the applicant has the option of purchasing the leased property for \$1,500,000, the price paid by it for the stock of the Island Creek, plus the cost of certain additions, betterments and improvements. The applicant estimates that as compared with independent operation the savings thus to be effected would amount to \$164,000 a year. This figure, however, includes the annual rental paid under the lease of April 5 1912, which is given as \$62,830 for the year 1925. Commissioner Eastman dissents in this case also.—V. 124, p. 1061. Chicago & Alton RR.—Abandonment of Operation of the Rutlan Toluca & Northern RR.—The I.-S. C. Commission on Feb. 12 issued a certificate authorizing the Chicago & Alton RR. and William W. Wheelock and William G. Bierd, its receivers, to abandon operation, under lease, of the Rutlan Toluca & Northern RR. The report of the Commission says in part: The C. & A. controls the R. T. & N.'s railroad under a 999-year lease, and has operated it as a part of the Alton System. The receivers contend that the R. T. & N.'s line has been operated throughout at a serious loss, and that the system is not financially able to carry this burden, and that the value of the line as a feeder is slight. Transportation of coal from mines in Southern Illinois to the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul at Granville had been depended upon for traffic, and the R. T. & N.'s track was rebuilt for it, but since the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul acquired the Chicago Terre Haute & Southeastern, the R. T. & N.'s principal function as an intermediate carrier has ceased to exist. The capital stock of the R. T. & N. is owned by the C. & A. and is pledged under the latter's general mortgage securing \$16,834,000 of 6% bonds which mature in 1932. The C. & A. is guarantor of \$225,000 outstanding 4% bonds of the R. T. & N., but the receivers do not intend to refund this guaranty. The investment in road and equipment is given as \$330,660. The applicants state that the bondholders have refused to take over the railroad and that the C. & A. is under no obligation, under the lease, to continue its operation. Recourse to the courts will probably be necessary for the proper determination of the legal questions which may arise between the lessee and lessor of this property and its bondholders. We have considered as essential factors in reaching our finding the value and magnitude of the carrier's service, the financial results of its operation, the character and extent of the population and industries served, and the probable effect of abandonment upon both the general community and the Alton System. It appears that the R. T. & N. performs a comparatively small transportation service, at a considerable loss to the system of which it is a part; that this system should be relieved of the burden of such loss. The local population and its farming and livestock industries are, with the exception of those lying between Porterfield and Price Valley, and generally centering on Magnolia, served or capable of being served by rail lines other than that of the R. T. & N. The Magnolia section is not without highways leading to several stations on other lines at no great distances, and there is prospect of additional and improved State roads. The probable inconvenience to be suffered by the communities as a whole is not sufficiently serious to warrant continued operation of the railroad for purely local reasons, under all the circumstances shown. Its value as a connecting or bridge line, in view of the numerous points of interchange in this part of the State, can not be considered important. Earnings for Calendar Years (1926 Preliminary). Table with 4 columns: 1926, 1925, 1924. Rows include Gross income, Expenses, taxes, &c., Operating income, Net operating income, Total income, Interest, rents, &c., Deficit.

-V. 123, p. 1758.

Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry.—Additional Assets Created for Stockholders under Reorganization.—

Additional assets amounting to \$7,000,000 will be created for stockholders of the company under the reorganization plan now awaiting approval by the I-S. C. Commission, according to a survey to be published by Frazier Jelke & Co.

"The receivership and reorganization," it is stated, "will cost the stockholders approximately \$3,000,000 out of the \$70,000,000 cash assessment of which \$60,000,000 will be returned in new bonds while \$7,000,000 will be new money into the property."

Indications of recovery of the road appear in the \$8,000,000 reduction of fixed charges under reorganization and the increase in freight volume from 34,000,000 tons in 1921 to 50,000,000 tons last year, through economic improvement in the Pacific Northwest.

"In the event that Congress decides to fund the \$55,000,000 Government loan," it is pointed out, "stockholders of the St. Paul may benefit further through reduction in the cash assessment. Although the first \$25,000,000 of the Government loans matures March 1, Congress has yet to act on the proposal for funding these loans."

"A decided trend toward improvement in the revenue situation confronting the carriers in the Northwest is apparent despite failure of the I-S. C. Commission to heed the plea of these roads for an adjustment of freight rates in their favor."

"While agricultural products have decreased in volume, lumber and manufacturers' products have shown a corresponding increase. Since the falling off in shipment of farm products is attributed to the recent agricultural depression, the net result is expected to be an upward swing in freight volume in the Northwest during the next few years."

"Definite signs are at hand that show the Northwest is emerging from depression which has gripped it while other sections were enjoying prosperity following the post-war deflation period."—V. 124, p. 916.

Chicago & North Western Ry.—Preliminary Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and 15 rows of financial data including Gross earnings, Expenses, Operating income, Net oper. income, Total income, Interest, Net income, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, Surplus, and Earnings per share.

Chicago St Paul Minneapolis & Omaha Ry.—Preliminary Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and 15 rows of financial data including Gross earnings, Expenses, Operating income, Net oper. income, Total income, Interest, Net income, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, Surplus, and Earnings per share.

Cleveland Akron & Columbus Ry.—To Pay Bonds.—

The General Mortgage 5% bonds maturing March 1 1927 will be paid on or after that date upon presentation of bonds at the office of the Assistant Treasurer of the Pennsylvania RR., 330 Seventh Ave., N. Y. City, or at the office of the Treasurer of the Pennsylvania RR., Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa., or at the office of the Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Ohio & Detroit RR., 425 Pennsylvania Station, Pittsburgh, Pa.—V. 98, p. 522.

Erie Railroad.—Listing.—

The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of \$39,254,200 (total issue \$253,000,000) additional common stock, par \$100 per share, on official notice of issuance on conversion of 4% 50-year convertible bonds, series D, due April 1 1953, making a total amount of common stock applied for to date \$152,254,200.

The \$39,254,200 of common stock is required to provide for the conversion of \$19,627,100 4% 50-year convertible bonds, series D, due April 1 1953, convertible at the option of the holder into common stock at \$50 per share at any time after April 1 1918 and before Oct. 1 1927.

Financial Statements for Stated Periods.

Large financial statement table with 4 columns (Year Ended Dec. 31 '26, Year Ended Nov. 30 '26, Year Ended Dec. 31 '25, Year Ended Dec. 31 '25) and 30 rows of financial data including Operating revenues, Expenses, Total operating revenues, Operating expenses, Net revenue from operations, Taxes, Operating income, Net railway operating income, Gross income, Net income, Earnings Per Share, and Surplus.

Delaware Lackawanna & Western RR.—Stock Increased.—The stockholders on Feb. 23 increased the authorized capital stock (par \$50) from \$87,277,000 to \$87,407,500. The additional stock is to be exchanged share for share for the capital stock of the Lackawanna & Montrose RR., of which the D. L. & W. already owns all but two shares.—V. 124, p. 788.

East Tennessee & Western North Carolina RR.—Final Valuation.—The I-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$1,613,600 on the property of the company, as of June 30 1916.—V. 118, p. 2572.

Florida East Coast Ry.—Preliminary Earnings.—Calendar Years—1926, 1925, 1924, 1923.

Table with 4 columns (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and 10 rows of financial data including Gross earnings, Net after taxes, Net oper. income, Total income, Surplus after charges, Shs. com. stock outst'd'g, and Earnings per share.

Heldtton & Santa Fe Ry.—Bonds.—The I-S. C. Commission on Feb. 3 authorized the company to issue a first mortgage 6% bond in the principal amount of \$1,100,000, to be delivered to the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. in satisfaction of an equal amount of indebtedness.

Galveston Wharf Co.—Final Valuation.—The I-S. C. Commission has placed a final valuation of \$13,635,000 on the total owned and used property of the company, as of June 30 1917.—V. 123, p. 708.

Great Northern Ry.—Directorship Approved.—The I-S. C. Commission recently approved application of Vincent Astor to hold the position of director of this road, while at the same time holding a similar position on the Illinois Central RR.—V. 124, p. 917, 788.

Kansas City Southern Ry.—Valuation Case.—An appeal in the valuation case in which the Federal Court of Kansas City set aside and vacated an order of the I-S. C. Commission valuing the carrier at \$49,000,000 will be taken to the U. S. Supreme Court for review. It was announced at the Department of Justice Feb. 23. The Attorney-General, however, has taken no steps in the case and will not do so until the appeal is forwarded to Washington by the U. S. District Attorney at Kansas City.—V. 124, p. 108.

Lehigh Valley RR.—New Terminal Opened—Earnings.—A new passenger, freight and express terminal at Easton, Pa., was opened for service on Feb. 19 by this company. Confronted by the problem of providing a rapidly growing city with adequate facilities but with its tracks on a viaduct and with a high hill on one side and a river on the other, the company's engineers built a street level terminal directly under the railroad's main line. The new station is of brick and concrete of attractive design, supplemented by a covered island platform 1,000 feet long and 26 feet wide, with a passenger track on either side.—V. 124, p. 502, 231.

Table with 4 columns (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and 10 rows of financial data including Gross earnings, Expenses, Net operating income, Other income, Total income, Interest, Net income, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, Surplus, and Earnings per share.

Long Island RR.—Estimated Expenditures.—

Estimated expenditures totaling more than \$57,000,000 for improvements on the Long Island RR. during the next 5 years were presented at the hearing held Feb. 3 on the company's application for increased commutation rates. George Le Boutillier, Vice-President, summarized his estimates for the 5-year period (1927-1931) as follows:

Mandatory expenditures imposed upon the railroad by Federal, State or municipal authority. \$32,400,000
Expenditures to improve service and provide for increased traffic, road. 17,150,000
Expenditures for new equipment. 13,550,000

These three items total \$63,100,000, but \$5,880,000 of this amount is chargeable to operating expenses, making the net capital expenditures \$57,220,000. The largest mandatory expenditure is for the road's share of the expense of eliminating grade crossings, that item amounting to \$18,250,000.

Mr. Le Boutillier estimated that for the years 1927-1931 freight business would increase 24%, commutation business 50% and other passenger traffic 24%. Net railway operating income in 1931 would be \$6,746,000 at present rates. With the 20% increase in commutation rates it would be \$9,180,000. Adding the \$57,000,000 of new capital to \$117,000,000, which latter figure is the company's investment as shown by the road and equipment account, gives a total of \$174,000,000. According to Mr. Le Boutillier, the net railway operating income in 1931 would be, at present rates, only 3.87% on the investment, which is about 1% less than the company earned in 1925 and 1926, and that with the 20% increase in commutation rates it would be 5.27%.

It is also announced that the company will place within a short time orders for 117 steel coaches and 10 combination baggage and passenger cars, to cost about \$2,114,188. In addition, the company will put in service this year 114 new steel passenger cars now under construction, costing \$2,902,286. By the end of 1927 every passenger carrying car operated in both steam and electric service is expected to be of steel construction, making the Long Island RR. the first class 1 road in the United States to retire all wooden cars.—V. 123, p. 1904.

Los Angeles & Salt Lake RR.—Right of Commerce Commission to Value Railroad Property Upheld.—The right of the I-S. C. Commission under the authority of Congress to value railroad property was sustained by the U. S. Supreme Court Feb. 21 in the case of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake RR. The full text of the decision is given under "Current Events and Discussions" on a preceding page.—V. 123, p. 204.

Marion & Eastern RR.—Lease.—See Missouri Pacific RR. below.—V. 123, p. 1380.

Minneapolis St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Ry.—Budget.—The 1927 budget as announced by A. E. Wallace, Vice-President and General Manager, calls for the expenditure of more than \$3,000,000 this year. The major items include \$1,500,000 for expansion and improvement of right of way and equipment, \$525,000 for enlargement of the yards at Schiller Park, near Chicago, and \$500,000 for new rails on 52 miles in the Chicago district.—V. 122, p. 3451.

Missouri Pacific RR.—Lease of Marion & Eastern RR.—The I-S. C. Commission on Feb. 12 authorized the acquisition by the company of control, by lease, of the railroad of the Marion & Eastern RR. The Missouri Pacific owns all of the Marion's capital stock except qualifying shares held by directors. Under the lease now proposed the Missouri Pacific is to have full and exclusive control of the Marion's properties, with the right at its own cost.





Commonwealth Power Corp. (& Subs.)—Earnings.—

Gross earnings of this corporation and subsidiaries for January 1927 were \$4,647,909 and net earnings were \$2,258,400, surpassing the previous high record made in Dec. 1926 by increases of \$8,248 and \$8,379, respectively.

For the 12 months ended Jan. 31 1927, earnings applicable to dividends and retirement reserve amounted to \$10,752,313, an amount equal to \$29 23 per share on the outstanding 367,799 shares of preferred stock and \$6 92 per share on the 1,235,090 shares of common stock outstanding Jan. 31 1927. After provision for retirement reserve, earnings were equivalent to \$20 01 per share on the preferred and \$4 18 per share on the common as compared with \$14 45 and \$2 53, respectively for the same period last year, based on the same number of shares now outstanding.

January sales of electricity were 128,073,350 k.w.h. and of gas 527,667,900 cu. ft.—increases of 3,939,679 k.w.h. and 43,975,800 cu. ft., respectively over Jan. 1926. For the year ended Jan. 31 1927 sales of electricity amounted to 1,433,474,413 k.w.h. and of gas 5,983,634,400 cu. ft.—increases of 9.72% and 11.57% respectively over sales for 12 months ended Jan. 31 1926.—V. 124, p. 505.

Consolidated Gas Co. of N. Y.—Refinancing Plan Approved.—The stockholders on Feb. 21 approved the plan to increase the authorized common stock from 3,600,000 shares to 4,320,000 shares and to create an issue of 3,000,000 shares of new no par value preferred stock, as outlined in the "Chronicle" of Jan. 29, page 643.

The Committee on Securities of the New York Stock Exchange has ruled that the common stock shall not be quoted ex-rights to subscribe to additional common and new preferred stock on Feb. 25 and not until further notice.—V. 124, p. 1065.

Denver & Interurban RR.—Sold.—

This road, which operates an electric service from Denver to nearby northwestern points, was sold Feb. 17 at auction for \$88,850. The sale was at the instigation of the Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, trustee under the first mortgage bonds.—V. 124, p. 371.

Diamond State Telephone Co.—Earnings.—

Table with columns for Cal. Years (1926, 1925) and 1926, 1925. Rows include Cal. rev., Tel. oper. exp., Uncoll. oper. revs., Taxes assignable to operations, Total oper. income, Net non-oper. inc., Total gross inc., Rent & miscell., Interest.

Fall River Electric Light Co.—Trust Agreement.—

The directors in a circular to shareholders state that they have approved a trust agreement under which stockholders may deposit their stock. The agreement is to run until Dec. 31 1931, subject to extension to Dec. 31 1936. In the agreement the three trustees are authorized either to sell all, but not less than all, the deposited common stock at not less than \$60 a share, or to sell all of the deposited stock at such price as may be approved by three-fourths of the deposited stock. The company has \$5,229,175 of \$25 par value common stock outstanding.

The circular further states: "The directors feel that the trend in public utilities indicates that shareholders should protect themselves against the possibility that control of the company might pass without each shareholder having an opportunity to secure for his holdings an adequate price. Such prices, available to all, cannot be assured at present, inasmuch as purchasers are free to obtain majority control by acquiring scattered holdings, and disregarding the minority stock not sold."

Simeon B. Chase, Frederick O. Dodge and James E. Osborn have consented to act as trustees without compensation. Shares may be deposited with the B. M. C. Durfee Trust Co. in Fall River or Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Co. in Boston, Mass.—V. 123, p. 2653.

Florida Public Service Co.—New Power Plant.—

This company, a subsidiary of the General Gas & Electric Corp., has acquired property at Avon Park, in the south central part of Florida, and about 25 miles south of Lake Wales, as the site for a new steam generating power station, the initial capacity of which will be 12,500 k.w. The station is to be patterned after the recently completed power plant of the Florida company located 150 miles north of Lake Monroe.—V. 124, p. 790, 371.

Fort Smith Light & Traction Co.—Preliminary Earnings.—

Table with columns for 12 Mos. Ended Dec. 31—1926, 1925. Rows include Gross earnings, Net earnings before depreciation.

General Gas & Electric Corp.—Regular Dividends.—

Regular quarterly dividends on the following stocks of this corporation have been declared payable April 1 to holders of record Mar. 15, said dividends being for the quarter ending Mar. 31 1927: \$2 per share on the \$8 cummul. pref. stock, Class A; \$1 75 per share on the \$7 cummul. pref. stock, Class "A"; \$1 75 per share on the cummul. pref. stock, Class "B," and 37 1/2 c. per share on the common stock, Class "A."

Secretary O. Clement Swenson says: Holders of common stock Class "A" are given the right to subscribe to additional shares of common stock, Class "A," at \$25 per share to the extent of the dividends payable to them on April 1 1927. The Equitable Trust Co. of New York, transfer agent, will deliver to each of the holders of common stock, Class "A," entitled to the dividend payable April 1 1927, common stock, Class "A," or scrip certificates therefor, equivalent in amount, taken at \$25 per share, to the number of dollars of dividends to which each stockholder would be entitled, unless advised by the stockholder on or before Mar. 21 1927 that he does not exercise the right of subscription to which he is entitled and requests the payment of the dividend in cash.

Court Decision on Dividends on Class "A" Common Stock.

The Delaware State Supreme Court on Feb. 23 affirmed the decree of the Chancery Court which refused a preliminary injunction to enjoin the company from allowing the holders of Class A common stock to receive additional shares of Class A common at the rate of \$25 a share to the extent of their dividends.

The decree also denied an injunction to enjoin the company from issuing to Class A stockholders additional shares of such stock at less than the fair sales value unless they shall have been paid or set apart to the holders of Class B common, during any calendar year, dividends at the rate of \$1 50 a share per year, and unless such additional shares are issued to holders of the Class B common upon the same terms as they are issued to holders of the Class A stock.

The injunction was sought by Bodell & Co. of New York. The latter hold both Class A and Class B stock in the corporation.

The Court's opinion reads in part as follows: "There is nothing in the evidence which indicates that the directors did not believe the policy they proposed to pursue would be for the best interest of the corporation and all its stockholders. The evidence, which is necessarily opinion evidence for the most part, strongly supports such belief—there is nothing to the contrary."

"And the evidence also shows that the effect of the policy favored by the directors and opposed by the complainant so far as carried out, was profitable to the corporation. It enabled the company to raise a large amount of money, which was required to develop the business, by selling large blocks of Class A stock at fair price and at small expense without imposing any fixed charges on the corporation.

"The Chancellor found as a fact that it was the subscription privilege attached to Class A stock, together with the announced policy of the company, that enabled the directors to sell enough stock at a fair price to meet the financial requirements of the corporation.

"Basing our judgment on the evidence in the case, we reach the same conclusion as the Chancellor in regard to the beneficial effect of defendant's policy on the corporation.

"Taking a broad view of the situation, we think the just and equal rights of Class B stockholders under the certificate of incorporation have not been infringed, and that the acts of the directors objected to were performed in good faith, in the exercise of their best judgment, and for what they believed to be the advantage of the corporation and all its stockholders.

"There is one point made by the complainants in the lower Court that has not been considered, and need not be, because it was practically abandoned in this Court. Reference is here made to the contention that allowing Class A common stockholders to use dividends in buying other Class A stock at \$25 a share amounted to a declaration of a dividend to them over and above the preference which the certificate of incorporation allows as against the Class B common. The argument is that to the extent of the amount the "A" stockholders could receive for the stock purchased, over and above the \$25 a share they gave, they received a dividend in addition to the \$1 50 a year which alone they were entitled to receive before the "B" stockholders were paid a dividend of \$1 50 a year on their stock.

"The Chancellor said: 'The obvious answer to that contention is that, while to be sure a profit can thus be made and the Class A stockholder obtains more than his dividend of \$1 50 a year, the additional sum is not taken out of the earnings of the company. It is derived from the man to whom the stock is sold on the market.'

"The decree of the Chancellor will be affirmed."—V. 124, p. 643.

Havana Electric Ry.—March 1 Bond Interest.—

Speyer & Co. has notified holders of interim receipts representing Havana Electric Ry. 25-year 5 1/2% gold debentures that the interest due March 1 1927 on these debentures will be paid on and after that date at their office, 24 & 26 Pine St., N. Y. City, upon presentation of the interim receipts for the endorsement thereon of such payment.—V. 124, p. 791.

Interborough Rapid Transit Co.—Earnings.—

Table with columns for Month of January—1927, 1926, and 7 Mos. End. Jan. 31—1927, 1926. Rows include Gross rev., Exp. for oper. & maintaining property, Taxes payable to city, State & U. S., Available for charges, Rentals payable city for original subway, Rentals payable as int. on Manhattan Ry. bds, Miscellaneous rentals, Int. pay. for use of borrowed money & sink fund requirements, Int. on I. R. T. 1st mortgage 5s, Int. on I. R. T. 7% secured notes, Int. on I. R. T. 6% 10-year notes, Int. on equip. tr. cdfs, Sink fund on I. R. T. mtge. bonds, Other items, Dividend rentals: 7% on Manhattan Ry. stock not assenting to "plan of readj.", 5% on assenting Manhattan Ry. stock, Balance surplus.

—V. 124, p. 645.

International Power Co., Ltd.—Results for 1926—Acquisition.—

President I. W. Killam says in substance: "This company was incorporated and organized in Canada for the purpose of acquiring as a holding or operating company the ownership or control of operating electric light, power and public utility undertakings in Central and South America, the West Indies and elsewhere. The present paid-up capital, distributed among about 2,000 shareholders, is \$4,000,000 cum. 7% 1st pref. shares of \$100 each, \$2,000,000 6% 2d pref. shares of \$100 each (convertible into four common shares), and 100,000 common shares of no par value. The company now controls through stock ownership the following companies: (1) Venezuela Power Co., Ltd., which owns the electric light and power business in Maracaibo and Barquisimeto, Venezuela, with a combined population of 150,000; (2) San Salvador Electric Light Co., which owns the electric light and power business in the City of San Salvador and suburbs, Salvador, with a combined population of approximately 130,000; (3) Bolivian Power Co., Ltd., which owns the electric light, power, telephone and tramway business in La Paz, Bolivia, with a population of 110,000; (4) Demerara Electric Co., Ltd., which owns the electric light, power and street railway business in Georgetown, British Guiana, with a population of 65,000; (5) Newfoundland Light & Power Co., Ltd., which owns the electric light and street railway business in St. John's, Newfoundland, with a population of approximately 40,000. These companies serve a combined population of about 500,000 and carry on their business under favorable franchises from the respective governmental or municipal authorities.

Since these companies have been brought under the control of the International Power Co., its directors have initiated an active and energetic campaign of development with a view of increasing the business and earnings of the various plants. Considerable sums have been expended in capital improvements and extensions during the past year, including the installation of a large new steam power plant in Maracaibo, Venezuela, a hydro-electric plant in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, and increasing the capacity of the hydro-electric power plants in St. John's, Newfoundland, and La Paz, Bolivia.

The gross earnings of the companies above mentioned for the calendar year 1926 were approximately \$2,125,681, and net earnings after deducting operating expenses \$1,009,431, which, after providing for fixed charges and amounts applicable to outstanding minority shares of these companies leaves a surplus of \$492,000 applicable to replacement and other reserves of subsidiary companies and dividends on the outstanding first preferred stock of the International Power Co., Ltd. By continuing the policy of maintaining the plants in good operating efficiency and providing extensions and additions when necessary to meet the needs of the growing populations which these companies serve, there can be little doubt that the profits will increase considerably year by year. The officials of the various companies have made a very careful computation of the profits which the companies will earn during the current year, and they estimate the increase for this year at \$300,000.

The attention of the directors was directed to Porto Rico Rys. Co., owing to the fact that it is situated within the field of operation of the International Power Co., Ltd., and after giving the matter very careful consideration, the directors have come to the conclusion that it is desirable and in the mutual interests of the shareholders of the International Power Co., Ltd., and of the Porto Rico Rys. Co., Ltd., that the International company should acquire control of the Porto Rico company. (See latter in V. 124, p. 1067).—V. 124, p. 1066.

International Railway, Buffalo.—Annual Report.—

Table with columns for Calendar Years—1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Rows include Operating revenue, Operation and taxes, Operating income, Non-operating income, Gross income, Income deductions, Net deficit.

\$87,106 credited to fixed charges, being the amount contributed by I. R. C. stockholders through return of interest on underlying bonds held by voting trustees. b This loss from operation for the year 1923 represents strike costs.—V. 124, p. 236.

International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.—Proposed Consolidation.—

See all America Cables, Inc., above.—V. 123, p. 3319.









(e) Creditors of McCown & Co. unanimously accept Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Co. as trustee, p. 992. (f) E. W. Clark & Co. (Philadelphia) ninety years old, p. 993. (g) Trust companies in New York and elsewhere, p. 971-975.

Allerton Corporation.—Bonds Offered.—A banking group consisting of Parsly Bros. & Co., Philadelphia, Brokaw & Co., Chicago, J. A. Ritchie & Co., Inc., New York and Banks, Huntly & Co., Los Angeles, are offering at 97½ and int., to yield over 6.25% \$2,000,000 6% sinking fund convertible gold debentures. This offering of debentures will constitute the only funded debt of the corporation, which has net tangible assets of over \$3,300 for each \$1,000 debenture. The debentures will be convertible into class A common stock of the corporation, having a present book value of over \$64 a share. Further data in connection with this issue was given in V. 124, p. 1069.

Outstanding Notes Called for Payment.—All of the outstanding 5% conv. Gold notes, dated Feb. 1 1925 have been called for redemption June 15 at 101 and int. at the New York Trust Co., trustee, 100 Broadway, N. Y. City.

Holders of the above notes who may desire to redeem the same prior to the redemption date may obtain payment therefor at 101 and int. to the date of surrender upon presentation of their notes, with all unmaturing coupons attached thereto, at the trust company. See also V. 124, p. 1069.

Aluminum Co. of America.—Bonds Called.—All of the outstanding 12-year 7% s. f. debenture gold bonds, dated Oct. 1 1921, have been called for payment April 1 next at 105 and int. at the Bankers Trust Co., 16 Wall St., N. Y. City.—V. 124, p. 924.

Amalgamated Laundries, Inc.—Definitive Bonds Ready.—Throckmorton & Co. announce that definitive 10-year s. f. 6½% gold bonds are now ready for delivery at the Seaboard National Bank of the City of New York. (For offering see V. 123, p. 1508.)—V. 124, p. 925.

American Can Co.—Annual Report.—Calendar Years—1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Net earnings, Depreciation, Int. on debent. bonds, Res. for Federal taxes, Pref. dividends, Common dividend.

Balance, surplus, Previous surplus, Stock div. on com (50%), Profit & loss, Shs. com. stk. outst'd'g (par \$25), Earned per share, x Par value \$100 per share.

Comparative Balance Sheet Dec. 31. Assets—1926, 1925. Liabilities—1926, 1925. Plants, real est., &c., incl. new construction, Other investm'ts, Investments for employees' annuity fund, U. S. Gov. secur., Cash, Accts. & bills rec, Mat'ls & prod., Total.

x Consists of insurance reserve, \$4,095,854; Federal tax reserve, \$1,197,185; inventory reserve, \$4,059,731; miscellaneous reserve, \$970,930.—V. 124, p. 114.

American Car & Foundry Co.—Equipment Orders.—See Public Service Transportation Co. under "Public Utilities" above.—V. 124, p. 925.

American Express Co.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31.—Assets—1926, 1925. Liabilities—1926, 1925. Real prop & equip., Cash, Demand loans, Due from banks, Working funds, U. S. Securities, Other investments, Advances, Acpts. & letrs of cr., Bank guarantees, Acct.int. & accts.rec, Other assets, Total.

x Represented by 180,000 shares of no par value. The usual comparative income account was given in V. 124, p. 794.

American Laundry Machinery Co.—Earnings.—Calendar Years—1926, 1925. Net after all charges & taxes, Profit & loss surplus, Shares of common outstanding (par \$25), Earns. per share on common.

General Balance Sheet, Dec. 31, 1926. Assets—Permanent assets, Cash, Notes receivable, Accounts receivable, Empl. subscrip. for stock, Investments, Inventories, Deferred charges, Interest in foreign co's, Other assets, Total.

x After \$1,861,853 for depreciation.—V. 124, p. 1069. American Piano Co.—2½% Stock Dividend.—The directors have declared a 2½% stock dividend in addition to the usual quarterly cash dividend of 2½% (\$2 50 per share) on the common stock, payable April 1 to holders of record March 15. Like amounts were paid on Jan. 2 last. Previously cash dividends at the rate of \$8 per annum were paid on the common stock.—V. 123, p. 2781.

American Republics Corp.—Court Denies Injunction.—The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court denied Feb. 21 the application for an injunction restraining the corporation from carrying out the action of its directors to permit stockholders of the Galena Signal Oil Co. to exchange two shares of its preferred stock for three shares of common stock of the American Republics Corp. The suit was brought by minority stockholders on the ground that the exchange of stock had been voted through the influence of Pres. Joseph S. Cullinan because he and his family are large holders of Galena Signal Oil stock and that he needed additional American Republics shares to insure the re-election

of officers and directors friendly to Mr. Cullinan at the annual meeting. At the annual meeting James H. Durbin and H. C. McCarty were elected directors, succeeding T. P. Lee and L. F. Jordan. Other directors were re-elected. At meeting of directors John Walsh was elected V.-Pres., succeeding L. F. Jordan. J. S. Cullinan interests in full control. Counsel for the Lea faction indicated that the election of directors may be contested in Wilmington Chancery Court because the common stock of American Republics Corp., which had been exchanged three shares for two shares of Galena Signal Oil preferred, was voted at the meeting.—V. 124, p. 925.

Anglo-American Corp. of So. Africa, Ltd.—Output.—The following are the results of operations for Jan. 1927: Brakpan Mines, Ltd., Spring Mines, Ltd., West Springs, Ltd.

Associated Simmons Hardware Co.—To Show Profit.—Treasurer Leslie H. Thompson states that although the final audited figures for the year are not yet available, preliminary figures indicate that the company will show a profit after all interest and depreciation. It is also announced that there will be a very substantial reduction in bank loans as compared to Dec. 31 1925, and the ratio of quick assets to current liabilities will be over 6 to 1.—V. 122, p. 2656.

Auburn (Ind.) Automobile Co.—Output.—Month of January—1927, 1926. Production—1,250, 834.—V. 124, p. 926, 651.

Auto-Knitter Hosiery Co.—Stricken Off List.—The New York Stock Exchange struck from its trading list on Feb. 23 the no par capital stock of the above company. This action was taken because of the failure of the companies to maintain transfer agents in New York.—V. 124, p. 926.

Baltimore Tube Co.—Annual Report.—Calendar Years—1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Operating profit, Depreciation, Amort. of def'd chgs., &c, Balance, deficit.—V. 122, p. 2502.

Belding Heminway Co.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31 1926.—Assets—Fixed assets, Good-will, Cash, Accts. & notes rec. (less res.), Inventories, Investments, Deferred charges. Liabilities—Preferred stock, Common stock, 6% gold notes, Accts. payable and accrued (incl. Federal tax payable), Earned surplus, Capital surplus.

x After deducting \$2,282,014 reserve for depreciation. y Represented by 41,5032 shares of no par value. The income account was published in V. 124, p. 1070.

(Sidney) Blumenthal & Co., Inc. (& Subs.).—Report.—Calendar Years—1926, 1925, 1924, 1923. Net income, Depreciation reserve, Prov. for doubtful accts., Interest charges, &c., Federal tax reserve, Inventory written off.

Consolidated Balance Sheet Dec. 31. Assets—1926, 1925. Liabilities—1926, 1925. Land & buildings, Machinery & equip, Furn. & fixtures, Pats., good-will, &c., Cash, Note and trade acceptances rec., Life ins. policies, Accts. receivable, Inventories, Investments, Prv. stk. for empl., Deferred charges, Total (each side).

x Represented by 218,212 shares of no par value. y Available for pref. dividends and sinking fund and to increase stated capital. z 24,082 shares par \$100, stated at preference value of \$110 per share.—V. 123, p. 2659.

Bolivian Petroleum Co. (Nev.)—Stock Offered.—Curtis & Sanger, New York are offering at \$3 50 per share 200,000 shares capital stock of no par value. The stock is offered as a speculation. Transfer agent Bankers Trust Co. New York. Registrar American Exchange Irving Trust Co. New York. Capitalization—Authorized 1,000,000 shares; proposed to be presently issued and outstanding, 905,000 shares (no par value).

Data From Letter of Reginald H. Johnson, President of Bolivian Petroleum Corp. Properties.—Bolivian Petroleum Corp. organized in Delaware owns concessions on approximately 3,125,000 acres of prospective oil lands in the Lake Titicaca District in the Republic of Bolivia. Pursuant to an agreement between Bolivian Petroleum Corp. and the Atlantic Refining Co. Bolivian Petroleum Co. is being organized in Nevada for the purpose of acquiring one-half of the capital stock of Bolivian Petroleum Corp., the other half of which will be owned by the Atlantic Refining Co.

Atlantic Refining Company Contract.—The Atlantic Refining Co. has contracted with Bolivian Petroleum Corp. (the directors of which will be elected half by the Atlantic Refining Co. and half by Bolivian Petroleum Co.) to explore the concessions of Bolivian Petroleum Corp. and to provide Bolivian Petroleum Co. with all exploration reports. At the completion of the Atlantic Refining Co.'s explorations it may then exercise its rights to carry these concessions into exploitation in which case it may be done as a joint venture with Bolivian Petroleum Co. as an equal participant with the Atlantic Refining Co., but entirely under the latter's management. It is understood that the Atlantic Refining Co. will start its preliminary geological survey during the month of Feb. 1927.

Purpose of Issue.—The net proceeds from the sale of these shares will furnish the company with funds which may be used in joining the Atlantic Refining Co. in the development of acreage selected for exploitation and for other corporate purposes. Directors.—W. E. Allaun, Wichita Falls, Texas, Seth G. Brady, Sec.; Arthur C. Gwynne, (Jenks, Gwynne & Co.); Reginald H. Johnson, Pres. (Storey, Thornidike Palmer and Dodge); H. D. Montgomery, (Curtis & Sanger), J. B. Shearer (J. B. Shearer & Co.), Maxwell Stevenson, Vice-Pres. & Treas., James E. Whitney, Vice-Pres., R. S. New York.

Borden Co.—Additional Stock to be Offered Shareholders.—The stockholders of record March 9 will be given the right to subscribe on or before April 6 for \$3,154,500 additional capital stock (par \$50) at \$60 per share, to the extent of 10% of their holdings. Payment should be made in New York funds to the Seaboard National Bank, 115 Broadway, N. Y. City. Subscribers may pay the full amount of their subscriptions on April 6 1927, at which time they will be credited with interest at the rate of 6% per annum to Dec. 6 1927, viz: \$2 44 per share, making the net payment on April 6 1927, \$57 56 per share. Payment for shares subscribed for may, at the option of the subscriber, be made in four installments of \$15



Craddock-Terry Co., Lynchburg, Va.—Preferred Stock.

In order to provide additional capital to meet the growing demands of the company's business...

The average net earnings of the company for the five years 1922 to 1926 inclusive, after deducting taxes and reserves for depreciation...

The company's operations include its Lynchburg plants; its Baltimore branch; its Western department, operated as McElroy-Sloan Shoe Co...

Crown Cork & Seal Co.—President Against Plan.

In connection with the article in our issue of Feb. 19, Pres. Donald M. Liddell says: "In the first paragraph, where my name is incorrectly spelled Lyden, please note that I am not in favor of recapitalization..."

Cushman's Sons, Inc.—Listing.

The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing on or after March 1 of 1,503 shares additional of \$8 cumulative dividend preferred stock...

On Jan. 17 1927, the directors declared a dividend of \$3 per share on the common stock of the company...

Results for Calendar Years.

Table with 5 columns for years 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923, and 1922. Rows include Bread & cake sales, Baking & admin. exps., Interest, Operating profit, Other income, Total income, Depreciation, Federal taxes, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, Surplus, Profit & loss surplus, Shares com. stock outstanding, Earned per share.

(R. J.) Darnell, Inc., Darnell, La.—Bonds Offered.

Commerce Securities Co., Memphis, Tenn., is offering at 100 and int. \$300,000 1st mtge. gold bonds.

Dated Feb. 1 1927; due serially \$50,000 each Feb. 1 1929-1931. Principal and int. (F. & A.) payable at Bank of Commerce & Trust Co., Memphis, trustee.

Valuation of Mortgaged Properties.

Table with 2 columns: Description of property and Valuation. Rows include 30,850,000 feet hardwood stumpage, Mill, mill site, camp houses and equipment, 17,800 acres of land, Railroad tracks and right-of-way.

Security.—Bonds are secured by a closed first mortgage on property located in West Carroll Parish, La., reported to have a conservative valuation of \$876,750.

Company.—Owns and operates a thoroughly modern mill at Darnell, La., built in the latter part of 1922. A logging railroad runs from the plant into this timber and the stumpage can be cut, transported to the mill and manufactured into lumber at a minimum cost.

(W. S.) Dickey Clay Mfg. Co. (Del.).—Bonds Offered.

Harris Trust & Savings Bank, Foreman Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, and Commerce Trust Co., Kansas City, Mo., recently offered at prices ranging from 100 and interest to 101.50 and interest, to yield from 5% to 6% according to maturity, \$800,000 additional 1st mtge. 6% gold bonds...

Company.—With headquarters at Kansas City, Mo., has the greatest productive capacity of vitrified salt-glazed sanitary sewer pipe and kindred commodities in this or any other country.

Earnings Statement of the Consolidated Properties.

Table with 4 columns for years 1926, 1925, 1924, and 1923. Rows include Calendar Years, et earns after Fed. taxes, Annual bond interest charges.

Balance available for dividends and surplus \$503,465

Purpose of Issue.—Proceeds of this issue will be used to reimburse the company, in part, for the acquisition of new plants in California and Iowa and for extensions and additions to the property.

(W. L.) Douglas Shoe Co.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31.

Balance Sheet table with 4 columns for years 1926, 1925, 1924, and 1923. Rows include Assets, Inventory, Accounts receivable, Cash, Prepaid expenses, etc.

Dravo Contracting Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa.—Equipment

Trusts Offered.—The Bank of Pittsburgh N. A. is offering at 100 and div. \$77,000 serial 5 1/2% equip. trust certificates, series D, issued under the Philadelphia plan.

Dated Feb. 1 1927, due annually Aug. 1 1928-1932. Dividend warrants payable F. & A. Denom. \$1,000. Red. on any int. date upon 4 weeks' notice as a whole at 102 and div. Principal and div. warrants payable at Bank of Pittsburgh N. A., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Guaranteed unconditionally, jointly and severally, as to payment of principal and dividends, by endorsement of the Dravo Contracting Co. and the Ohio River Gravel Co.

Security.—These certificates, issued under the Philadelphia plan, whereby title to the equipment remains vested in the trustee until all certificates have been paid, will be secured by one new steel hull sand and gravel dredge, ladder type, equipped with buckets of two cubic foot capacity, being built by the Dravo Contracting Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dominion Foundries & Steel Ltd.—Earnings.

Earnings table with 3 columns for years 1926, 1925, and 1924. Rows include Calendar Years, Profit from operations, Interest paid, Depreciation, Discount and bond expense, Taxes, Balance, surplus.

Duncan Hotels Corp.—Notes Offered.

Chicago, and Link, Peiter & Co., Grand Rapids, are offering at 99 1/2 and int., to yield over 5.60%, \$600,000 one-year mortgage lien 5% gold notes.

Dated Dec. 1 1926, due Dec. 1 1927. Prin. and int. payable at Standard Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, trustee. Denom. \$1,000 and \$500 c.

Data from Letter of H. S. Duncan, President of the Corporation.

Corporation.—Will own or control through subsidiary companies a chain of hotels located in New York, Michigan, Illinois, Maryland and Alabama. The corporation will own in fee or control through stock ownership the operation of the following hotels:

(b) Wolverine Hotel, Detroit; (c) Bankhead Hotel, Birmingham, Ala.; (d) Deer Park Hotel, Deer Park, Md. (owned in fee by Duncan Hotels Corp. and leased to independent operator); and (e) Illinois Hotel, Aurora, Ill.

The Deer Park Hotel property is owned in fee and is leased to an independent operator at a net annual rental of \$44,450. The other properties now being operated by the subsidiary companies are under satisfactory leases to such subsidiaries.

Security.—Secured by the pledge with the trustee of all of the outstanding stock, except directors' qualifying shares, of the companies now in operation

Eastern Rolling Mill Co.—Extra Dividend.

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 37 1/2 c. a share and an extra dividend of 12 1/2 c. a share on the common stock, both payable April 1 to holders of record March 15.

Economic Investment Trust, Ltd.—Stock Offered.

Cochran, Hay & Co., Ltd., Toronto, are offering at \$52 50 per share \$1,250,000 convertible common stock (par \$50).

The common stock is to be fully paid and non-assessable. Dividends as declared and payable will be paid by check payable at par at any branch of the Trust's bankers in Canada, Yukon territory excepted. The present issue of 25,000 shares is convertible into preferred stock at the option of the holder on the basis of 1-20 shares of common stock in amounts of not less than 40 shares of the common stock and even multiples thereof.

Capitalization.—Authorized. Issued. Common stock (\$50 par) \$2,500,000 \$1,250,000 Preferred stock—5 1/2% cumulative redeemable 2,500,000 \*

\* The preferred stock has been created to make provision for conversions of common stock, when, as and if the conversion privilege is exercised by common stock shareholders.

Company.—Has been incorp. under the Companies Act, Canada, to carry on a business similar in character to that of investment trust companies in Great Britain. The business of the Trust is not to be confused in any way with the usual functions of the loan and trust companies in Canada. The primary purpose of the Trust is to afford safety of investment combined with maximum earning power through the broad diversification of its resources in all classes of investments, such as bonds of governments, municipalities and corporations, and the preferred and common stocks of financial, public utility and industrial corporations and loans secured by such obligations and investments.

Proper investigation will be made before the purchase of investments for the Trust's account. Not more than 5% of the combined share and loan capital of the Trust may be invested in the stock and bonds of any one company, Government or public authority, except bonds, and obligations of the Dominion of Canada and the Government of Great Britain.

Assets & Earnings.—It is intended that the assets of the Trust will consist entirely of cash and investments. Its earnings will be derived from the interest and dividends received from these holdings and will be available for dividends on the Trust's common stock.

Edwards Manufacturing Co.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31.

Balance Sheet table with 4 columns for years 1926, 1925, 1924, and 1923. Rows include Real est. & mach, Investments, Accounts receivable, Cash, Interest prepaid, Insurance prepaid, Inventory, Taxes unexpired, Capital stock, Accounts payable, Notes payable, Depreciation res., Interest accrued, Surplus and profit and loss.

Company reports a net loss of \$175,962 for the 6 months ending Dec. 31 1926, after depreciation and marking down inventories to market values. This compares with a net loss of \$14,907 the same period of 1925 and a loss of \$43,095 in the first 6 months of 1926.

Electric Auto-Lite Co.—Earnings, &c.

As a result of property expansion and largely increased manufacturing facilities, February sales of the company will be larger than for any previous month in the company's history, according to Pres. C. O. Miniger, who says: "February will show greater business than both December and November last year and from present orders and prospective business, our schedules and March will equal the final quarter of 1926."

Profits of the company for the first quarter of 1927, according to estimates will equal those of the first half of 1926 when company reported earnings of \$1,201,877 before Federal taxes equal to over \$4 a share on the 250,000 shares of stock.

In view of this showing the company is expected to retire all outstanding bank debt during the first half of 1927. Since company has no bonds or preferred stock, all earnings after payment of the bank debt will be applicable to the common stock.

Exchange Buffet Corp.—Earnings.—

Table with columns for Period (1927, 1926), and rows for Gross profit, Depreciation, Federal taxes, Dividends, Balance, surplus, Shares of cap. stk., etc.

—V. 123, p. 2783.

Financial & Industrial Securities Corp.—Rights to Stockholders.—

The corporation, which on Jan. 31 1927, showed total assets of \$45,016,205, including proceeds of financing, has announced through Ralph Jonas, Chairman of the directors, financing plans totalling approximately \$12,500,000 and involving subscription rights to both holders of preferred stock and of class A common stock of the corporation.

Holders of preferred stock of record Feb. 18, in advance of an offering to the common stockholders, are receiving the right to subscribe pro rata according to their holdings, for units consisting of 1 share of 7% cum. pref. stock (par \$100), 1 exchange warrant and 1/2 share of common stock of no par value, at \$123 50 per unit, plus div. on the pref. Each share of a pref. stock at present outstanding, entitles the holder to purchase 2-3 of a unit; inasmuch as the units will not be issued in fractions, subscription warrants resulting in fractional units will be increased to the next higher whole number of units.

These subscription rights must be exercised and payment made at the Investment Department of the Manufacturers Trust Co., 141 Broadway, New York, prior to noon, March 5, after which date the warrants will be void. Manufacturers Trust Co. and Redmond & Co. are the syndicate managers.

Class A common stockholders of record Feb. 18, are being notified in advance of an offering to the general public, of their right to subscribe to the preferred shares, exchange warrants and common shares not purchased by the preferred stockholders or their assignees on the same basis as the privilege extended to the preferred stockholders and at the same price of \$123 50 per unit.

This subscription privilege of the common stockholders may be limited in the discretion of the syndicate managers to 25,000 units (\$2,500,000 preferred) and is subject to the prior rights of the preferred stockholders.

According to the statement the corporation has enjoyed a remarkable growth since its incorporation in Jan. 1926. It acquired shares of stock in a number of important financial institutions and from certain predecessor syndicate interests which had been active for many years in the buying and selling of investment securities.

With reference to the exchange warrants included in the subscription units made available to the stockholders, it is stated that any of the outstanding preferred shares, whether presently or previously issued, but in no event more than 100,000 shares, when accompanied by an equal number of exchange warrants may be exchanged at the option of the holder for common shares on the basis of \$100 per share of preferred stock and \$45 per share of common stock (2 2-9 shares of common stock in exchange for 1 preferred share).

On Jan. 1 1927, in addition to the regular dividend on the preferred, an initial quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share was paid on the common stock, together with an extra dividend of 25 cents per share.

First Bohemian Glass Works, Ltd.—Director.— Alfred O. Corbin, a partner of F. J. Lisman & Co., has been elected a director.

First Foreign Equipment Trust Association.—Organ'd.

A permanent organization to engage in foreign railroad equipment trust financing along the lines adopted in this country, comes into being with the announcement by Freeman & Co. of the formation of the above company.

First National Stores, Inc.—1926 Earnings.—

The corporation reports for the year ended Dec. 31 1926 a net profit of \$1,835,860 after taxes and all charges.

Foot Bros. Gear & Machine Co.—Dividend Increased.—

The directors have declared four quarterly dividends of 30c. a share on the common stock, and four regular quarterly dividends of \$1 75 a share on the preferred stock.

Fox Office Building, N. Y. City.—Bonds Offered.— Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc. are offering at 100 and int. \$1,700,000 1st mtge. 6% sinking fund gold bonds.

Dated Jan. 1 1927; due Jan. 1 1942. Int. payable J. & J. at office of Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc. in New York and Chicago, without deduction for the Federal normal income tax, not in excess of 2% per annum.

Building.—The Fox Office Building is located and has an entire block frontage on 10th Ave. between 55th and 56th Sts., N. Y. City. The

property is owned in fee by the Fox Film Realty Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Fox Film Corp. This latter corp., the lessee, together with its subsidiaries, occupies the building in its entirety.

Security.—Bonds will be secured by a first (closed) mortgage on the real estate and fixed equipment owned in fee. The office building and fixed equipment, subject to the mortgage, have recently been appraised at \$1,853,474 by independent engineers, and the land has been valued at \$1,150,000 and \$1,092,000 by two independent appraisers.

Lease.—Fox Film Corp. has agreed to lease the property to be covered by the mortgage for a period of at least 3 years beyond the maturity of the bonds, at an annual net rental to the lessor of \$300,000, the lessee to pay in addition as rental, all the taxes, assessments, insurance, maintenance and operating cost on account of said building.

Sinking Fund.—Mortgage will provide for a sinking fund, beginning July 1 1927 and ending July 1 1941, to operate through Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., to retire bonds semi-annually at the rate of \$1,000 principal amount per annum.

Fox film Corp. and its subsidiaries, including the Fox Film Realty Corp., lessor, are controlled and managed by William Fox and his associates, men of long experience in the motion picture business, and their activities embrace all phases of the industry.

General American Tank Car Corp.—Equip. Trusts Offered.—

Chatham Phenix National Bank & Trust Co., New York is offering \$1,200,000 5% equip. trust certificates series D at prices to yield from 4% to 4.73%, according to maturity.

Dated Feb. 15 1927. Due serially in semi-annual installments from Aug. 15 1927 to and including Feb. 15 1930. Divs. payable F. & A. without deduction for the normal Federal income tax not exceeding 2%. Denom. \$5,000 c\*. Principal and dividends payable at Chatham Phenix National Bank & Trust Co., New York, trustees.

Security.—As security for these certificates there is vested in the trustee title, without encumbrance, to 700 new steel underframe tank cars of approximately 10,000 gallons capacity each, conservatively valued at \$1,505,000.

Calender Years— 1926. 1925. 1924. 1923. Net prof. before charges. x\$2,841,182 \$2,660,561 \$3,210,454 \$2,794,873

Capitalization.—The corporation has no mortgage indebtedness. On completion of this financing there will be outstanding \$13,229,000 equipment trust certificates.

General Motors Corp.—Listing.— The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of \$25,000,000 additional 7% cumulative preferred stock, making the total amount applied for \$134,916,000 (authorized \$500,000,000).

General Railway Signal Co.—Orders.— The company announces that it has received important orders from the Chicago Burlington & Quincy and from the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads for their automatic electric block signal requirements for 1927.

Globe & Rutgers Fire Insurance Co.—Annual Report.— The statement of the company covering 1926 business shows net surplus to policyholders as of Jan. 1 1927 of \$29,110,576, which compares with \$27,661,944 reported as of Jan. 1 1926.

Graton & Knight Corp.—May Issue Bonds.— The stockholders will vote March 2 on authorizing an issue of \$1,750,000 5 1/2% 20-year mtge. bonds for the purpose of funding bank indebtedness.

(F. & W.) Grand 5-10-25-Cent Stores, Inc.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31.—

Table with columns for Assets (Furn., fixt., &c., Net invest. in F. & W. Corp. Holding, etc.) and Liabilities (Cum. conv. pref. stock, Common stock, etc.) for 1926 and 1925.

Total—\$3,881,252 \$3,470,034 Total—\$3,881,252 \$3,470,034

(W. T.) Grant Co. (Mass.).—To Be Recapitalized.— This company has announced a reorganization plan that calls for the redemption on April 1 of the 8% preferred stock at 110.

















For account of bondholders, one-sixth of the int. and principal payments payable at the end of each six months, except that the monthly payments be made on Aug. 1 1936 and on the first of each month thereafter...

Security.—Secured by a direct closed first mortgage on the land owned in fee and the 15-story pent-house and basement, fireproof housekeeping apartment building to be erected. The property is located at 313-321 incl., West 86th St., N. Y. City, and has a frontage of 87 ft. on 86th St. by 100 ft. 8 1/2 in. deep.

The building will be 15 stories penthouse and basement in height of steel frame fireproof construction and will contain approximately 91 housekeeping apartments of 2, 3, 4 and 5 rooms each. The first floor will have an attractive lobby, a number of doctor's apartments and suites of 1, 3 and 5 rooms each.

Earnings.—Net annual income after deducting operating expenses, taxes, insurance and 10% allowance for vacancies, it is estimated, should be approximately \$105,578, which is over twice the heaviest annual interest requirements on this entire bond issue and considerably in excess of the amount necessary to meet all annual interest and principal payments.

Tower Mfg. Corp., Boston.—Omits Dividends.—

The directors on Feb. 19 voted to omit the quarterly dividend usually due at this time on the outstanding \$485,300 common stock, par \$5.

The directors state: "Radio business in general for the past three months, has been unexpectedly disappointing. Net profits for the current fiscal year to date (beginning June 1 1926) are approximately \$90,000, compared with \$177,000 for the corresponding period of previous year.

Transue & Williams Steel Forging Corp.—Balance Sheet Dec. 31.—

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities for 1925 and 1926. Assets include Property & plant, Cash, Notes & accts. rec., etc. Liabilities include Capital stock, Accounts payable, Accr. taxes, etc.

Total \$3,275,053 1925 / \$3,820,419 1926. Total \$3,275,053 1925 / \$3,820,419 1926.

Trinity Buildings Corp. of New York.—Tenders.—

The Guaranty Trust Co., 140 Broadway, N. Y. City, will until March 2 receive bids for the sale to it of 1st mtg. 20-year 5 1/4% s. f. gold loan certificates, due June 1 1939, to an amount sufficient to absorb \$50,328 at prices not exceeding 103 and interest.—V. 123, p. 991.

Truax-Traer Coal Co. (Del.).—Notes Offered.—Lane, Piper & Jaffray, Inc., and Kalman & Co. are offering at prices ranging from 6 1/2 to 7%, according to maturity, \$400,000 coll. trust 6 1/2% serial gold notes (with stock purchase warrants).

Dated Feb. 1 1927; due serially Feb. 1 1929-1933. Denom. \$1,000. Principal and interest (F. & A.) payable in United States gold coin, at office of Minnesota Loan & Trust Co., Minneapolis, trustee.

Data from Letter of E. M. Truax, President of the Company. Company is acquiring the established mines and properties of the Truax Coal Co. near Columbus, N. D., together with a two-thirds interest in the railroad operated for the service of the mines...

Security.—Will be secured by pledge of the total outstanding \$500,000 1st mtg. 7% sinking fund gold bonds of the company, which bonds are to be secured by a first mortgage upon all physical assets of the company...

Based upon the appraisal of Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc., Engineers, the properties near Columbus now to be owned by the company had on Dec. 31 1926, a depreciated value of \$561,577, in addition to which there will be reserve by the company, to be expended for equipment and improvements near Velva, the sum of \$350,000.

Earnings.—The properties near Columbus, being acquired from the Truax Coal Co., have been profitably operated for many years, the books of that company showing that it has not failed to make a profit in any year during the past 18 years.

Based upon the above -year average and the expected annual production at Velva, it is estimated that net earnings of the company available for interest, depreciation and income taxes will be at the rate of more than \$279,700 per annum.

Sinking Fund.—A sinking fund at the rate of 12 1/2 cents for each ton of coal shipped (with a minimum annual payment equal to 4% of the largest amount of the bond interest to be retired) will be used to retire by purchase or redemption the 1st mtg. 7% sinking fund gold bonds of the company, of which \$500,000 are now to be issued and pledged as security for these notes.

Stock Purchase Warrants.—Each note will have attached, upon original issue, a non-detachable warrant entitling the holder to purchase, prior to maturity of such note, or prior to redemption thereof if redeemed before maturity, full paid shares of common stock of the company in the ratio of 10 shares for each \$1,000 note.

Trumbull Steel Co., Youngstown, O.—New Director.—

W. H. Foster, President of the General Fireproofing Co., has been elected a director, succeeding W. H. B. Ward.—V. 124, p. 1083, 937.

Tubize Artificial Silk Co. of America.—Stock.—

Scholle Brothers are offering, subject to prior sale and change in price, a limited amount of the common stock, Class B, voting trust certificates at \$175 a share.

January sales of the company, it is stated, were the largest in the history of the organization, and current earnings, according to the bankers, are estimated at \$25 a share.

\$21 a share on the stock. The company, it is further stated, is in a strong cash position and calls were made recently for tenders for a substantial amount of the outstanding preferred stock in anticipation of sinking fund operations.—V. 124, p. 938.

United Fruit Co.—Secures Lease in Panama.—

The "Journal of Commerce" in a dispatch from Panama City says: The Panaman National Assembly has approved the contract between the Panama Government and the United Fruit Co., by which the latter is to acquire a 40-year concession on 16,000 hectares (49,520 acres) of land in the Tonosi Valley of Los Santos Province for planting bananas.

The company agrees to build a modern port at Tonosi for accommodating ocean liners. There will be concrete wharves, 70 kilometers (43 miles) of standard railway, the Tonosi River will be bridged and the town will be built up for housing the employees.

The company estimates that it will be possible to grow and ship 4,000,000 stems of bananas to the United States annually.—V. 124, p. 938, 519.

United Profit-Sharing Corporation.—Annual Report.—

Table with columns for Calendar Years (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and rows for Net profit, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, Balance, surplus, etc.

Balance Sheet December 31.

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities for 1926 and 1925. Assets include Furniture & fixt., Cash, Investments, etc. Liabilities include Preferred stock, Common stock, etc.

United States Distributing Corp.—Special Meeting.—

The stockholders will hold a special meeting on March 16 to follow the annual meeting in Richmond, Va. The purpose of the special meeting will be to vote on the proposed amendment of the certificate of incorporation to conform with a technical point raised by the Virginia Corporation Commission...

United States Envelope Co.—Balance Sheet Jan. 1.—

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities for 1927 and 1926. Assets include Plant investment, Trade-marks, patents & good-will, etc. Liabilities include Preferred stock, Common stock, etc.

United States Stores Corporation.—Gross Sales.—

Table with columns for Week End, Jan. 29 '27, Jan. 22 '27, Jan. 15 '27, Jan. 8 '27, Dec. 31 '26. Rows for Gross sales, Stores in op., etc.

United Verde Extension Mining Co.—Annual Report.—

Table with columns for Calendar Years (1926, 1925, 1924, 1923) and rows for Gross revenue, Other income, Total income, etc.

Comparative Balance Sheet December 31.

Table with columns for Assets and Liabilities for 1926 and 1925. Assets include Mining prop., Mach. equip., etc. Liabilities include Capital stock, Accts. payable, etc.

Vesta Battery Corporation.—Annual Report.—

Table with columns for Calendar Years (1926, 1925, 1924) and rows for Net sales, Operating expenses, Other income, Federal income tax, Preferred dividends, Balance, surplus, etc.

Consolidated Balance Sheet December 31. Assets— 1926. 1925. Liabilities— 1926. 1925.

Vulcan Detinning Co.—2% Back Dividend.—The directors have declared a dividend of 2% on the preferred stock on account of accumulations in addition to the regular quarterly dividends of 1 3/4% on the preferred and preferred A stock, all payable April 20 to holders of record April 14.

Waldorf System, Inc.—Dividend Rate Increased.—The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 37 1/2 cents per share on the outstanding common stock, no par value, payable April 1 to holders of record March 19.

Walworth Co.—Dividend Rate Increased.—The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 30c. per share on the common stock, no par value, payable March 15 to holders of record March 5.

Consolidated Income Account (Incl. Subsidiaries). Quarter Ended— Dec. 31 '26. Sept. 30 '26. June 30 '26. Mar. 31 '26.

Consolidated Earnings Year Ended Dec. 31 1926. Total Income— \$29,314,224 Other Income— 525,954

Warner Bros. Hollywood Theatre (Corp.), Los Angeles, Calif.—Bonds Offered.—S. W. Straus & Co., Inc., are offering \$800,000 1st mtg. leasehold 6 1/2% serial coupon gold bonds at par and interest.

Dated Nov. 1 1926; due serially 3 to 15 years. Denom. \$1,000, \$500 and \$100 c\*. Interest payable M. & N. Callable at 103 and int. for the first 5 years, and at 102 and int. thereafter; bonds and coupons payable at offices of S. W. Straus & Co.

Security Under Mortgage.—Bonds are secured by a closed first mortgage on the 99-year leasehold estate in the land and the building to be erected and its furniture, furnishings and equipment.

The land on which this building is to be erected fronts approximately 196 ft. on the north side of Hollywood Boulevard and approximately 223 ft. on the east side of Wilcox Avenue, being the northeast corner of that street intersection. This land is held under a 99-year leasehold dated June 1 1925. The building is to be a theatre, office and store building of steel frame and reinforced concrete full fireproof construction having exterior surfaced in cement plaster and cast stone trim.

The office and store unit of this building will be 4 stories high, occupying the street corner with store frontages of 120 ft. on Hollywood Boulevard and 150 ft. on Wilcox Ave., and will be constructed to carry 6 additional stories on both street frontages. This portion of the building will contain approximately 21,500 sq. ft. of rentable floor space. The fourth floor will contain a fully equipped broadcasting room of 3,000 sq. ft. area.

Valuation.—The property has an appraised value of \$1,582,392. Earnings.—Estimated net annual earnings \$107,511. Greatest combined annual interest and serial principal requirements \$74,355 leaving a surplus of earnings of \$33,156.

Warner Bros. Hollywood Theatre Corp. will have a cash investment in this property in excess of \$500,000.

Lease.—The theatre unit of this building has been leased for a term of 20 years from Nov. 1 1926 to Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., at a net rental to Warner Bros. Hollywood Theatre Corp. of \$10,000 per month and totalling \$2,400,000 for the period of the lease. This lease is assigned to the trustee under this bond issue for the further protection of the bondholders.

Guaranty.—Payment of principal and interest of these bonds shall be unconditionally guaranteed by Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.

Warner Sugar Corp.—Sale of Plant Approved.—The sale of the plant of this corporation at Edgewater, N. J., to the National Sugar Refining Co. was approved Feb. 21 by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which held that the purchase would not violate the consent decree signed in 1922 by the National company.—V. 124, p. 521.

Western Tablet & Stationery Corp.—Acquisition.—This company, it is announced, proposes to acquire the Hopper Paper Co., South Richmond, Va. See also V. 124, p. 1084

White Eagle Oil & Refining Co.—Sales.—Month of January— Station sales (gallons)— 1927. 1926.

Williamsport (Pa.) Wire Rope Co.—New Control.—The company has been reorganized, following the purchase of a large interest [of the late Joseph Cochran] by a syndicate headed by Robert Gilmore, Edgar Munson, Logan Cunningham and O. M. Ballard.

Willis-Overland Co.—Retail Sales Figures.—Since the price reduction was announced a short time ago by this company, retail sales of Whippets in less than two score important cities of the country, on Feb. 15 had reached a total of \$8,735,000.

(Wm.) Whitman Co., Inc.—Annual Report.—President William Whitman Jr., in the annual report for 1926, says in part: "The earnings of the company for the past year, after providing for Federal taxes, were 1.776 times the pref. stock dividend requirement, as compared with 1.77 for the year previous.

Balance Sheet December 31. [Including Acadia Mills, Monomac Spinning Co., Katama Mills, Mary Louise Mills, Tallapoosa Mills, Whitman Building Trust.]

Assets— 1926. 1925. Liabilities— 1926. 1925.

Yellow Taxi Corp., New York City.—New Directors.—Lee B. Morey, Carroll J. Sinnott and John F. McMahon have been elected directors.

(J. S.) Young Co., Baltimore.—Annual Report.—Calendar Years— 1926. 1925. 1924. 1923.

Balance, surplus— \$34,596 \$56,877 \$85,940 \$125,002 Previous surplus— 842,417 785,539 699,599 574,597

CURRENT NOTICE.

—On Feb. 11 C. H. Handerson, President of the Financial Advertisers Association and Assistant Vice-President of the Union Trust Co., Cleveland, Ohio, spoke before the Boston members of the Association. Following this talk, "Gus" went to Pittsburgh to address a meeting of the members there.

—Announcement is made of the formation of the Guy A. Thomas Co. with offices at 26 Broadway, New York; Chicago, Minneapolis and Buffalo. The company will originate and underwrite investment securities and operate industrial properties. Mr. Thomas was for many years general sales director of the Washburn-Crosby Co., in which he is still financially interested.

—The Union Trust Co., Chicago, has just issued the fifth edition of its "Radio Index and Log" in response to widespread demand. The folder lists almost 200 of the principal stations in the United States. The wave lengths and kilocycles of all stations are given, and three columns are provided for recording dial readings of the various stations which are classified according to call letters and wave length channels.

—The Colorado Title & Trust Co., Colorado Springs, announce the resignation of John F. Gallagher as manager of their bond department. They also announce that arrangements have been made with the investment firm of Hazlehurst, Flannigan & Co. to occupy the premises and take over their bond department.

—Alexander Gordon, formerly the resident partner of Brandon, Gordon & Waddell, has formed the firm of Alexander Gordon & Co., with offices at 180 1/2 Middle St., Portland, Me., to conduct a general business in municipal and utility bonds, legal for the New England market.

—H. J. Barneson & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, San Francisco Stock and Bond Exchange and the Los Angeles Stock Exchange, have opened offices in the Barneson Building, 256 Montgomery St., San Francisco, to conduct a general brokerage business.

—It is announced that Davis McDade & Co. of 208 South La Salle St., Chicago, has changed its name to Davis, Longstaff & Co., Ralph S. Longstaff, former Vice-President of Gorrell & Co., and Guy A. Thomas were elected new Vice-Presidents of the firm.

—Lebenthal & Co., 120 Broadway, New York, specialists in odd lot municipal bonds, announce that Edward Henefeld has become associated with them in their sales department.

—Rattle, Ludwig & Co., 25 Broad St., New York, have prepared an analysis of the Chicago Terre Haute & Southeastern Ry. 5% income bonds, due 1960.

—F. Donald Arrowsmith has been made assistant general sales manager of the bond department of the Bankers Trust Co., New York.

—McLeod Young, Weir & Co., Ltd., of Toronto, Canada, is now represented in New York by W. H. R. Jarvis at 5 Nassau St.

—De Wolf & Co., Inc., announce the removal of their Chicago offices to the One Junard West Monroe Building.

—Alpheus M. Geer has become associated with the sales department of Yeager, Young & Co., Inc.

# The Commercial Markets and the Crops

COTTON—SUGAR—COFFEE—GRAIN—PROVISIONS  
 PETROLEUM—RUBBER—HIDES—METALS—DRY GOODS—WOOL—ETC.

## COMMERCIAL EPITOME

Friday Night, Feb. 25 1927.

COFFEE on the spot was quiet with Rio 7s, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. and Santos 4s, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 18c. at one time. Santos offers on the 19th inst. for prompt shipment included Bourbon 5-6s at 15.90c. to 16.10c.; 4s at 16.35 to 16.60c.; 3-4s at 17.90c. and Rio 7s at 14.30c. Santos Bourbon new crop for November-December and January shipment were 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; part 3s and 5s were 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. At one time cost and freight offerings from Brazil were higher, but no sales were reported above 16.45c. for Bourbon 4s. For prompt shipment from Santos they included Bourbon 3s at 18 to 18.45c.; 3-4s at 17.10 to 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 3-5s at 16 $\frac{5}{8}$  to 17c.; 4-5s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 17c.; 5s at 16.30c.; 5-6s at 16.20c.; part Bourbon of flat bean 3-5s at 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 17c.; 6s at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Santos peaberry 4-5s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16.65c.; Rio 7s at 15.15c.; Victoria 7-8s at 14c.; Santos 4s for March-April shipment at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Bourbon 4s for April-June at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; part Bourbon 4s for April-June at 16.20c.; part Bourbon 3-5s for September-December at 16.05c.; 4s for November-January at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Spots were quiet at 18c. for Santos 4s and 14 $\frac{5}{8}$ c. for Rio 7s.

On the 23d inst. offers included Santos Bourbon 3s at 18 to 18.45c.; 3-4s at 17.10 to 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 3-5s at 16 $\frac{5}{8}$  to 17c.; 4-5s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 17c.; 5s at 16.30c.; 5-6s at 16.20c.; part Bourbon or flat bean 3-5s at 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 17c.; 6s at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Santos peaberry 4-5s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16.65c.; Rio 7s at 15.15c.; Victoria 7-8s at 14c.; Santos 4s for March-April shipment 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. On the 24th inst. prompt shipment from Santos included Bourbon 3-4s at 18 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 3-5s at 16.55 to 16.80c.; part Bourbon or flat bean 2-3s at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; 3-5s at 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 16 $\frac{5}{8}$ c.; 6s at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ c.; Santos peaberry 2s at 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; 4s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; 4-5s at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Rio 3-5s colory were here at 15.80c.; 7s at 14.60c. and Victoria 7-8s at 14c. to 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Bourbon 4s were reported sold at 16.55c. Spot demand was better and Rio 7s were quoted at 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. and Santos 4s at 17 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 18c. Milds were steadier, especially on Bogota. Fair to Good Cucuta 17 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Bucaramanga, natural, 24 to 25c.; washed, 23 to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Honda, 23 to 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Mexican, washed, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 28c.; Mandheling, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 39c.; Java, 34 to 35c.; Robusta, washed, 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Mocha, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Harrar, 26 to 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Mild coffees are said to have been much firmer since Monday. Vague reports are afloat about the Defense Committee restricting receipts. Any continued encouragement from Brazil would bring about another rally. There is no sharp demand but the selling is slackening. About 20,000 bags may be tendered during the month. It is not likely that they will all come out during the first notice days. To-day there was a moderate demand. Santos 4s, 17.85 to 18c. Rio 7s, 14.75c. Cost and freight offers showed little change.

Futures rallied 13 to 19 points on the 19th inst. on covering of shorts. The "futures" sales on the 19th inst. were only 26,000 bags but the tone was undoubtedly firmer due to covering and some outside buying on the theory that coffee is cheap. Rio 7s are 5 cents lower than a year ago and 2 cents under cocoa. Cost and freight prices were firmer. Brazil was offering less freely. Pressure from producing sources plainly had its effect at times. But invisible supplies, as distinguished from supplies in primary markets, have been reduced it is believed to a minimum. The supply and demand situation is to that extent better. This may tell later on. Others pointed out that despite the fact that there are only about 16,000 bags of Rios and Bahias afloat, coffee was not a popular purchase. Rallies did not hold. Yet it is conceded that after long selling the long interest acquired at high prices is not large. Rumors come from Brazil that the Defense Committee are about to come to the aid of coffee prices. Undoubtedly, until it does, confidence will be lacking. Nevertheless some feel that the time cannot be far distant when the statistical position of Rio coffee will assert itself with 16,000 bags afloat, stocks of these grades are very small here and in the country, and a rally is due. To some, however, it looked as though the Defense Committee had decided that it is best to allow the market to shift for itself within certain limits in the hope that prices will reach a stabilized level and buyers will then feel sufficiently confident to cover requirements in excess of hand-to-mouth needs. This some declare is a logical deduction from the aloofness of the Institute and pending some action on its part the opinion of not a few is that prices will drift to lower levels. To-day futures dropped 9 to 12 points with sales of 42,500 bags. Santos was irregular ending 175 reis lower to 50 reis higher. Speculation was sluggish. Rio opened 200 to 250 reis higher, but with March 450 reis under the final February price. Final prices show a rise for the week of 45 points largely on covering of shorts.

Spot unofficial	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	May	-----	13.35	September	-----	11.98	
March	-----	14.08	July	-----	12.60	December	-----	11.61

SUGAR.—Prompt Cuban raws were quiet late last week at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. with rumors that operators wanted 3 3-32c. c. & f. for large blocks of store sugar. The supply in store was put

at 600,000 bags. To some the immediate tendency of prices at one time seemed to be toward slightly lower levels, but owing to the estimated decrease of 800,000 tons in the production in Cuba and Czechoslovakia, two of the world's chief exporting countries, declines, it is suggested, may be slight, compared with a later rise when consumption begins to make noticeable inroads into stocks. On the 23d inst. sales here suddenly rose to about 215,000 bags at 3 3-16c. with English and Continental markets much more active. United States refiners, it was said, bought all sugars for shipment north of Hatteras at 3 3-16c. c. & f. for Cubas and the equivalent delivered price of 4.96c. for Porto Ricos after sales of Porto Ricos at 4.98c. delivered or 3. 5-32c. c. & f. European markets, largely American. They set the pace. If they continue to buy freely American refiners will have to keep step or be left behind. Holland and Marseilles have been buying at 15s. 3d. President Machado's trip to Washington has been postponed on account of illness. Futures on the 23d inst. advanced 2 to 6 points with sales of 74,500 tons. The market got its filip from increased European buying of the actual raw sugar. Refined was more active at 5.95 to 6.20c. On the 24th inst. 21,000 bags of Cuba sold at 3 3-16c. c. & f. but buyers were less eager after the previous day's big buying. There are sharp complaints here that new crop Cuban sugar is arriving here in much larger bags than the law permits; it is regarded as a subterfuge to get around the restriction decree. The Cuban authorities have been notified. Futures declined 5 to 7 points. No March notices appeared then or before that; 65,000 tons sold. Liquidation was more general owing to the pause in the spot market.

Receipts at Cuban ports for the week were 203,050 tons, against 189,556 in the previous week, 181,554 last year and 218,080 two years ago; exports, 94,411, against 95,392 in previous week, 106,203 last year and 143,122 two years ago; stock, 606,037, against 497,398 in previous week, 578,215 last year and 530,996 two years ago; centrals grinding, 173, against 173 in previous week, 174 last year and 177 two years ago. Of the exports, United States Atlantic ports received 31,605 tons, New Orleans 19,530 tons, Galveston 4,557 tons, Savannah 6,989 tons, Europe 24,052 tons, Canada 3,143 tons, Hongkong 2,857 tons and New Zealand 1,678 tons. Havana cabled: "Rain is wanted in Cuba." Sustaining factors in "futures" have been the absence of pressure on the part of Cuban producers and the buying of the distant months by outside interests; also there was a good European inquiry for Cuban raws under the market, and recent heavy withdrawals of refined against old contracts indicate that distributors' stocks have fallen off sharply. Despite the prospective increase in beet sugar production this year, some believe that there will be a close adjustment between supply and demand and that adherence to the long side is advisable. As some regard it, price unsettlements will be only temporary and soon prices will turn upward. Cuba is making sugar rapidly, it is true, but it is pointed out that this really means that the grinding period will come to a close all the earlier as mills reach their quotas. The Sugar Advisory Board extended the time allowed haciendados and colonos to reach their quotas to Feb. 19 at 5 p. m.

It is pointed out that the differential between raws and refined is now below 100 points. That is a far from satisfactory margin for refiners. It remains to be seen how long this situation will continue. A better demand for refined was reported at one time and with more reasonable weather that is expected to expand further. Stocks in distributors' hands are small. Some advised the purchases at 5.95c. basis. Buying on delayed contract at 6c. seems to some a good idea. There was a marked diversity of opinion as to the probable course of the market, at least until completion of tenders and liquidation in March. To-day futures closed unchanged to 4 points higher with sales of 62,800 tons. Spot raws were offered at 3 3-16c. with trade light; 3,000 prompt Cuba sold at 3 3-16c. Refined was quiet at 6 to 6.20c. London was dull and weaker; Peru sold at 15s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 15s. 3d. Licht cabled that the acreage in Europe will be larger, but the weather is not good for field work. Final prices show a rise for the week of 1 to 8 points.

Spot unofficial	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	July	-----	3.32@	December	-----	3.31@			
March	-----	3.14@	3.15	September	-----	3.41@	January	-----	3.11@	3.12
May	-----	3.20@	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----			

LARD on the spot was higher early in the week. Prime Western, 13.05 to 13.15c.; refined Continent, 13 $\frac{3}{8}$ c.; South America, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; Brazil, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. To-day on the spot trade was quiet with prime Western 13.10c., refined continent 13 $\frac{3}{8}$ c., South America 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., Brazil, 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. Futures were firmer at one time owing to light offerings, steadiness of hog prices and covering of shorts. Ribs were dull. Last week hog receipts at the West were 518,000, against 523,000 for the same week last year. On the 24th inst. futures advanced 3 to 8 points with cottonseed oil steady and hogs 10c. higher. To-day futures ended unchanged to 2 points lower. There was not much trading. Nor were







The following table shows the week's total receipts, the total since Aug. 1 1926 and stocks to-night, compared with last year:

Table with columns: Receipts to Feb. 25, 1926-27, 1925-26, Stock 1927, 1926. Rows include Galveston, Texas City, Houston, etc.

\* Houston statistics are no longer compiled on an interior basis, but only on a port basis. We are changing accordingly.

In order that comparison may be made with other years, we give below the totals at leading ports for six seasons:

Table with columns: Receipts at, 1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22. Rows include Galveston, Houston, etc.

Since Aug. 1- 1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22

\* Houston statistics are no longer compiled on an interior basis, but only on a port basis. We are changing accordingly.

The exports for the week ending this evening reach a total of 194,693 bales, of which 50,353 were to Great Britain, 7,140 to France, 40,768 to Germany, 8,086 to Italy, etc.

Table with columns: Week Ended Feb. 25 1927, Exports from, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan & China, Other, Total. Rows include Galveston, Houston, etc.

Table with columns: From Aug. 1 1926 to Feb. 25 1927, Exports from, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan & China, Other, Total. Rows include Galveston, Houston, etc.

NOTE.—Exports to Canada.—It has never been our practice to include in the above tables reports of cotton shipments to Canada, the reason being that virtually all the cotton destined to the Dominion comes overland and it is impossible to get returns concerning the same from week to week, while reports from the customs districts on the Canadian border are always very slow in coming to hand.

In 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 columns: Feb. 25 at, On Shipboard, Not Cleared for, Great Britain, France, Germany, Other Foreign, Coastwise, Total, Leaving Stock. Rows include Galveston, New Orleans, Savannah, etc.

\* Estimated.

Speculation in cotton for future delivery has been more active at rising prices. The advance was due partly to the remarkable activity in Liverpool; where daily sales of the actual cotton were 12,000 to 18,000 bales. The latter total was registered for two days in succession.

On the other hand, the technical position has been weakened by recent heavy covering. The shorts have been intimidated by the striking news from Liverpool and the strength of the spot situation there, not to mention the ease with which the big notices were handled here on the 23d inst.



MARKET AND SALES AT NEW YORK.

The total sales of cotton on the spot each day during the week at New York are indicated in the following statement. For the convenience of the reader, we also add columns which show at a glance how the market for spot and futures closed on same days.

Table with columns: Spot Market Closed, Futures Market Closed, SALES (Spot, Contr't, Total). Rows: Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Total for wk Since Aug. 1.

OVERLAND MOVEMENT FOR THE WEEK AND SINCE AUG. 1.—We give below a statement showing the overland movement for the week and since Aug. 1, as made up from telegraphic reports Friday night. The results for the week and since Aug. 1 in the last two years are as follows:

Table with columns: Feb. 25—, 1926-27, 1925-26. Rows: Shipped (Via St. Louis, Via Mounds, &c, Via Rock Island, Via Louisville, Via Virginia points, Via other routes, &c), Total gross overland, Deduct Shipments (Overland to N. Y., Boston, &c., Between interior towns, Inland, &c., from South), Total to be deducted, Leaving total net overland\*.

\*Including movement by rail to Canada.

The foregoing shows the week's net overland movement this year has been 24,361 bales, against 8,550 bales for the week last year, and that for the season to date the aggregate net overland exhibits a decrease from a year ago of 142,126 bales.

Table with columns: In Sight and Spinners' Takings, 1926-27, 1925-26. Rows: Receipts at ports to Feb. 25, Net overland to Feb. 25, Southern consumption to Feb. 25, Total marketed, Interior stocks in excess, Excess of Southern mill takings over consumption to Jan. 30, Came into sight during week, Total in sight Feb. 25, North. spinn's s takings to Feb. 25.

\*Decrease.

Movement into sight in previous years:

Table with columns: Week, Bales, Since Since Aug. 1, Bales. Rows: 1925—Feb. 28, 1924—Feb. 29, 1923—Mar. 1.

QUOTATIONS FOR MIDDLING COTTON AT OTHER MARKETS.—Below are the closing quotations for midding cotton at Southern and other principal cotton markets for each day of the week:

Table with columns: Week Ended Feb. 25, Closing Quotations for Middling Cotton on (Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). Rows: Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Norfolk, Baltimore, Augusta, Memphis, Houston, Little Rock, Dallas, Fort Worth.

NEW ORLEANS CONTRACT MARKET.—The closing quotations for leading contracts in the New Orleans cotton market for the past week have been as follows:

Table with columns: Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Rows: February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January, Spot, Options.

ACTIVITY IN THE COTTON SPINNING INDUSTRY FOR JANUARY.—Persons interested in this report will find it in our Department headed "Indications of Business Activity" on earlier pages.

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH.—Reports to us by telegraph this evening denote that the weather during the week in the northwestern portion of the cotton belt has

been unfavorable for farm work, and the usual farm operations are much behind an average season. In the southwest portion of the belt dryer weather prevailed and some plowing has been accomplished.

Mobile, Ala.—Farm work is progressing nicely in the uplands, but in the low lands the soil is still too wet.

Table with columns: Rain, Rainfall, Thermometer. Rows: Galveston, Texas, Abilene, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Delrio, Palestine, San Antonio, Taylor, New Orleans, Shreveport, Mobile, Ala., Savannah, Ga., Charleston, S. C., Charlotte, N. C.

The following statement we have also received by telegraph, showing the height of rivers at the points named at 8 a. m. of the dates given:

Table with columns: Feb. 25 1927, Feb. 26 1926. Rows: New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Shreveport, Vicksburg.

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 with columns: Receipts at Ports, Stocks at Interior Towns, Receipts from Plantations. Rows: Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 23, 30, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

The above statement shows: (1) That the total receipts from the plantations since Aug. 1 1926 are 11,046,956 bales: in 1925 were 9,513,514 bales, and in 1924 were 8,693,920 bales. (2) That although the receipts at the outports the past week were 210,193 bales, the actual movement from plantations was 184,807 bales, stocks at interior towns having decreased 25,386 bales during the week. Last year receipts from the plantations for the week were 93,687 bales and for 1925 they were 118,931 bales.

WORLD SUPPLY AND TAKINGS OF COTTON.

Table with columns: Cotton Takings, Week and Season, 1926-27, 1925-26. Rows: Visible supply Feb. 18, Visible supply Aug. 1, American in sight to Feb. 25, Bombay receipts to Feb. 24, Other India receipts to Feb. 24, Alexandria receipts to Feb. 23, Other supply to Feb. 23, Total supply, Deduct, Visible supply Feb. 25, Total takings to Feb. 25 a, Of which American, Of which other.

\* Embraces receipts in Europe from Brazil, Smyrna, West Indies, &c. This total embraces since Aug. 1 the total estimated consumption by Southern mills, 3,053,000 bales in 1926-27, and 2,860,000 bales in 1925-26—takings not being available—and the aggregate amounts taken by Northern and foreign spinners, 11,446,491 bales in 1926-27, and 11,056,165 bales in 1925-26, of which 7,923,091 bales and 7,171,965 bales American.

INDIA COTTON MOVEMENT FROM ALL PORTS.—The receipts of India cotton at Bombay and the shipments from all India ports for the week and for the season from Aug. 1, as cabled, for three years, have been as follows:

Table with columns: 1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25. Rows: February 24, Receipts at, Bombay.

Table with columns: Exports, For the Week, Since August 1. Rows: Bombay—1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25, Other India—1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25, Total all—1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25.

According to the foregoing, Bombay appears to show a decrease compared with last year in the week's receipts of 30,000 bales. Exports from all India ports record a decrease of 29,000 bales during the week, and since Aug. 1 show a decrease of 457,000 bales.

ALEXANDRIA RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS.—We now receive weekly a 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 with columns: Alexandria, Egypt, February 23, 1926-27, 1925-26, 1924-25. Rows include Receipts (cantars) and Exports (bales).

Note.—A cantar is 99 lbs. Egyptian bales weigh about 750 lbs. This statement shows that the receipts for the week ending Feb. 23 were 120,000 cantars and the foreign shipments 15,000 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.—Our report received by cable to-night from Manchester states that the market in both yarns and cloth is firm. Demand for both yarn and cloth is good. We give prices to-day below and leave those for previous weeks of this and last year for comparison:

Table with columns: 1926-27, 1925-26. Rows include Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. with sub-columns for 32s Cop Twist, 8 1/2 Lbs. Shirts, Cotton Midd'l g Up'ds, etc.

SHIPPING NEWS.—As shown on a previous page, the exports of cotton from the United States the past week have reached 194,693 bales. The shipments in detail, as made up from mail and telegraphic returns, are as follows:

Table listing shipping destinations and quantities, including New York, Houston, Galveston, Norfolk, Savannah, Charleston, Mobile, San Francisco, Philadelphia, etc.

Table listing shipping destinations and quantities, including SAN PEDRO, WILMINGTON, PORT TOWNSEND, TEXAS CITY, PENSACOLA, and a Total row.

COTTON FREIGHT.—Current rates for cotton from New York, as furnished by Lambert & Burrows, Inc., are as follows, quotations being in cents per pound:

Table with columns: High Density, Standard, High Density, Standard, High Density, Standard. Rows include Liverpool, Manchester, Antwerp, Ghent, Havre, Rotterdam, Genoa, etc.

LIVERPOOL.—By cable from Liverpool we have the following statement of the week's sales, stocks, &c., at that port:

Table with columns: Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25. Rows include Sales of the week, Actual exports, Total stocks, Total imports, Amount afloat.

The tone of the Liverpool market for spots and futures each day of the past week and the daily closing prices of spot cotton have been as follows:

Table with columns: Spot, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Rows include Market, P. M., Mid. Up'ds, Sales, Futures, Market opened, Market, P. M.

Prices of futures at Liverpool for each day are given below:

Table with columns: Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. Rows include Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February 1928.

BREADSTUFFS

Friday Night, Feb. 25 1927.

FLOUR.—Trade conditions do not as a rule deviate from week to week. It is idle to expect new or striking features. The demand is only moderate at best, where it is not actually small. Having tried the hand to mouth method of buying for several years, buyers have come to regard it as the best method, knowing as they do that prompt deliveries by the railroads of to-day are certain. Prices have been mostly steady. The export business has been negligible. Competition, it is said, from Argentina and Australia puts an effectual check on American and Canadian sales to foreign buyers. Flour in the United Kingdom was reported as very dull. Best Canadian patents were down 6d. per sack of 280 lbs. and Australian patents are also 6d. lower.

WHEAT dropped 1/8 to 7/8c. on the 19th inst. on light trading, pending the action of the President on the McNary-Haugen bill. Scattered liquidation with good snows was apparent. Last week's returns to the Grain Futures Administration showed a total of only 91,882,000 bushels of futures, against 263,203,000 bushels last year in the same week. Good snows occurred in parts of Kansas and Nebraska, including the western sections, where there is a deficiency of moisture. Export demand at the seaboard was light. Small amounts of domestic hard winters were sold. Liverpool closed 3/8 to 1/2d. higher in sympathy with





Chart I shows that, despite the cold weather in the Northwest early in the week, the period as a whole was warmer than normal practically everywhere. The weekly mean temperatures were slightly subnormal locally in the extreme Northeast and at a few points in the west Gulf area, but elsewhere they were above the seasonal average, and markedly so over the greater part of the country, being from 8 to 11 deg. warmer than normal over most of the western half, and from 4 to 8 deg. warmer than the East. In Atlantic coast districts, freezing did not extend farther south than eastern Virginia, but in the Gulf area the freezing line reached the central portions of Alabama and Mississippi, while in Texas it advanced well to the southern portion of the State. In the interior, sub-zero weather was reported to the central Great Plains, but in the East there were no below-zero temperatures at first-order stations.

Chart II shows that heavy to excessive rains occurred throughout the Pacific Coast States, and heavy falls were reported from the Great Basin. Over the area between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains, precipitation was generally light, with many stations receiving inappreciable amounts. In Atlantic States it was generally moderate to heavy, with some excessive falls in the more Southeastern districts and further generous amounts in the interior south Atlantic area. There was some heavy snowfalls in middle and north Atlantic sections.

While there was some interruption to farm work in the Southeastern States by rainfall, the additional moisture was beneficial and the soil is now generally in good condition. Plowing and other preparation for the planting of spring crops progressed as the weather permitted, but, at the same time, fruit trees continued to advance prematurely, although a cool period was favorable in causing some retardation. In fact, vegetation is prematurely advanced throughout the South, with some early fruit trees blooming as far north as Tennessee.

In the Southwest the generally drier weather was favorable in Texas where plowing resumed, but was too wet for working and the usual farm operations are much behind an average season. There was still some cotton picking in that area, while a little cotton was planted in extreme southern Texas, with much land ready for this crop in the extreme southeastern Cotton Belt. Frost caused some injury to tender vegetation in Texas and probably slight damage to early fruit in parts of the Southeast, but otherwise practically no harm from this cause occurred.

In the lower Missouri Valley the warmer and drier weather was favorable and some plowing and disking were accomplished, but otherwise in the interior valley States the soil was generally too wet for working. West of the Rocky Mountains generous precipitation in most sections was beneficial, except that damage resulted from heavy rains and slides in the far Southwest, particularly in parts of southern California.

**SMALL GRAINS.**—Over the major portion of the Winter Wheat Belt, fields were bare of snow during most of the week, although there was a good covering in the upper Ohio Valley districts and over the middle Atlantic area. Some unfavorable thawing and freezing conditions were reported in the northwestern portion of the belt and some heaving in parts of the Ohio Valley, but these were not widespread, and the wheat crop continues apparently in satisfactory condition in most sections. In the lower Missouri Valley, fields are greening up and they are furnishing pasturage in parts of Kansas, although continuing bare in the northwestern portion of that State. In southwestern districts the progress of wheat is good, and the increased moisture in the Southeast has been very beneficial to all cereal crops in that section.

The Weather Bureau also furnishes the following resume of the conditions in the different States:

**Virginia.**—Richmond: Warm first of week; cooler latter part, with generous rains. Mostly favorable for farm work, while cooler at close retarded development of fruit buds. Considerable progress in planting potatoes on the Eastern Shore.

**North Carolina.**—Raleigh: Temperatures abnormally high until Friday; decided drop to normal or slightly below thereafter, with rather heavy rain over most of State Saturday and Sunday. Lower temperatures latter part of week favorable in checking fruit buds, which are too far advanced. Pastures improved. Wheat and oats rather too far advanced. Rye, lettuce and cabbage doing well. Planting potatoes, beets and carrots.

**South Carolina.**—Columbia: Beneficial rains on 18th and 19th and soil generally fine for plowing, which progressed favorably except too wet in northwest. Mild weather developed peach buds about two weeks earlier than normal, but condition generally not yet dangerous. Pears, plums and strawberries blooming rather freely. Winter cereals, truck and tobacco and tomato sets improved. Potato planting continues.

**Georgia.**—Atlanta: Beneficial rains in coast districts, but plowing being delayed by frequency of rains elsewhere. Heavy frost Monday to southern limit of State, with probably very moderate damage to peaches and truck. Though below freezing in northern division, weather not sufficiently cold to damage cereals, which are growing rapidly. Tobacco in beds well advanced. Bedding sweet potatoes and sowing seed cane under way.

**Florida.**—Jacksonville: Light frost in west and interior of extreme north. Showers fore part and moderate to heavy rains Friday and Saturday improved soil throughout section and benefited melons, early corn, tobacco beds, oats, potatoes, other truck and ranges. Citrus groves show marked improvement; leafing where defoliated, and much bloom in some districts. Tomato planting continued in central. Satsuma groves in west budding. Potato planting continued. Much land ready for corn and cotton.

**Alabama.**—Montgomery: Temperature decidedly below normal Sunday and Monday, with freezing in central and north; remainder of week unseasonably warm. General, locally heavy rains middle of week. Farm work progressed slowly. Oats growing well. Planting potatoes becoming general; sweet potatoes being bedded in south. Pastures improving and truck doing well in south. Peaches, pears and plums blooming in nearly all sections; possibly damaged somewhat in north by freeze. Satsuma trees budding.

**Mississippi.**—Vicksburg: Frequent light rains in extreme north, with generally excessive rains elsewhere. Relatively cool Saturday to Monday; otherwise unseasonably warm. Vegetation generally advanced beyond average seasonal development. Farm work fair progress to Thursday. Pastures and truck good progress.

**Louisiana.**—New Orleans: Mid weather continued, except cold wave middle of week, but no freezing and no crop damage reported. Moderate rainfall Friday delayed drying soil for plowing and planting. Potatoes up. Some corn planted on high land. Strawberries beginning to ripen and appearing on market. Cane doing well; flooding rains of previous week beneficial to cane, drowning borers.

**Texas.**—Houston: Cold wave middle of week and frost nearly to coast, with some damage to tender vegetation. Light rainfall favorable for field work and plowing resumed. Some corn and cotton planted in extreme south. Progress and condition of wheat, oats, pastures, truck, and strawberries good. Truck shipments continue large.

**Oklahoma.**—Oklahoma City: Early part of week unseasonably warm, followed by cold wave, with rain turning to snow. Farmers far behind in preparation of ground for spring planting account inclement weather and wet soil. Some oats sown and potato planting begun. Still picking a little cotton. Winter grains satisfactory progress and generally good condition. Pastures fair.

**Arkansas.**—Little Rock: Favorable for farm work, except in north where rain, snow, sleet, and frozen ground interfered. Wheat, oats, rye, meadows, and pastures good. Peaches blooming in south; some killed by freeze; buds pink in north. Sowing oats, and planting potatoes and gardens. Radishes ready for market in two weeks.

**Tennessee.**—Nashville: Unusually high temperatures first half of week hastened budding of fruit trees and some early varieties blooming. Growth of all vegetation stopped by freezes second half, but no damage apparent to fruit. Winter grains and pastures continue in good to excellent condition. Ground too wet for plowing.

**Kentucky.**—Louisville: Temperatures high first half, below normal last half. Growth and budding checked by freezes. Precipitation moderate to heavy; largely snow in central and east. Some tobacco beds sown. Condition of rye and early wheat good to excellent; late wheat fair. Soil too wet to plow.

COTTON

New York, Friday Night, Feb. 25, 1927.

Textile markets have continued firm and active during the current week. One of the most interesting developments was the price advances of from 5 to 10 cents per pound for various grades of rayon yarns. It was claimed

that the latter are being sold and shipped in excess of production, while demand for finished fabrics continues on a liberal scale. In view of this increase in business, it is expected that if orders during the next thirty days are as numerous as they have been since the beginning of the year, there will be a distinct shortage and a scramble on the part of buyers to provide for second quarter requirements. Even now, some of the manufacturers are said to have run out of certain lower grades, while the finer ones are wanted in excess of the ability of mills to supply them. As to silk goods, although the total volume of sales was below par, a further expansion in demand was noted. This was particularly true of printed lines, crepes, metallic effects, sheer taffetas and some of the staples. Prices for the raw material were about 25 cents above the low levels of the season and evidently factors were coming to realize that if they wait much longer for lower prices based on the primary market, they will probably lose much business. Besides this, stocks have been materially reduced, which has resulted in factors taking a more optimistic view of the situation than for some time past. In regard to the floor covering division, nearly all of the selling agencies have been highly pleased with the volume of business during the current month. The market has displayed a firm undertone, mills have maintained their list prices and jobbers and retailers have been purchasing larger quantities. It is expected that the current volume of sales will continue throughout the month of March.

**DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS.**—Markets for domestic cotton goods maintained a firm undertone during the week. A feature was the active demand for wash goods of all kinds from all sections of the country, and repeat orders, especially from the South, suggesting an early start at retailing in that section. Among the more popular items have been printed cottons, rayon mixtures, tissues, swisses and ginghams. Orders have been so large that it was believed in the event of the current persistent demand being maintained a shortage will develop soon, due to the lack of mill preparation. As to ginghams, business has been steadily improving and was currently claimed to be much better than for some time past. Printed fabrics were selling much more freely, especially as the current style trend is toward white grounds with tiny bright colors and novelties in black and white. Demand for sheers has become increasingly active and it is expected that these will be a leading fabric for Spring and Summer wear. Orders have been particularly large for such cloths as dimities, batists, etc. The current season's lines of these goods are the most attractive ever offered to the trade and it was held that their unusual beauty and coloring was in a large way responsible for the attention they have been receiving. In the gray goods division prices have been firmer and not a few constructions are expected to be advanced shortly in view of their increasing scarcity and the premiums they command for early delivery. The outlook for price advances is particularly held probable for denims, which have been stronger and tending higher following the receipt of large orders. It is said that mills are well sold up and that constant requests for prompt shipment indicate a broad consumption. Print cloths 28-inch 64 x 64's construction are quoted at 5 1/4 c, and 27-inch 64 x 60's at 4 3/4 c. Gray goods in the 39-inch 68 x 72's construction are quoted at 7 1/4 c, and 39-inch 80 x 80's at 10c.

**WOOLEN GOODS.**—On Monday this week the American Woolen Co. opened their men's fancy woolsens and worsteds for Fall at prices approximating those recently established on the staple fabrics. For the most part the new prices were on a par with those prevailing for the Spring season and while none was lower, some showed increases from 2 1/2 to 5 cents. The new offerings included worsted mixtures and fancy woolen and worsted suitings and top coatings. The general market was favorably impressed by the new levels. The showings were well attended and the firmer appearance of the market has been an encouraging feature. Other producers have been following fast with their lines and it was held possible that practically all of the principal lines will be shown by the end of the month. In the women's wear division one of the leading independents showed its lines of Fall dress goods. This was the first one to get under way, and the others are not expected to follow before the first week of March. Prices were reported to be on a par with Spring levels, indicating a steady to firm trend in values.

**FOREIGN DRY GOODS.**—Strength of primary markets was an encouraging feature in the linen market. However, price advances of 5% in Czecho-Slovakia and other Continental markets and 2 to 3% in Irish and Scotch markets have not as yet found reflection in domestic markets. This has been due to the fact that importers have considerable orders placed at the old levels, while furthermore domestic competition has been keen enough to force the maintenance of current prices. Nevertheless it is claimed that it is only a question of time before the higher primary costs will be reflected here. In the meantime, most houses are said to have been transacting a larger business since the first of the year than they did for the corresponding period of 1926. Little change has been noted in the bur-lap market, as buying has continued light. Lightweights are quoted at 6.40c, and heavies at 8.70c.





Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Includes entries for Mocksville, No. Caro; Monroe, No. Caro; Monterey Park, Calif; etc.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Includes entries for Talco Ind. S. D., Texas; Tampa, Fla; Tampa, Fla; etc.

Total bond sales for January (338 municipalities, covering 471 separate issues) \$171,072,218. Subject to call in and during the earlier years and to mature in the later years. Not including \$32,480,000 temporary loans. Refunding bonds. And other considerations.

BONDS OF UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Includes entries for Hawaii (Territory of); Honolulu (City & County of); Hawaii.

The following items included in our totals for previous months should be eliminated from the same. We give the page number of the issue of our paper in which reasons for these eliminations may be found.

Table with columns: Name, Amount, Price, Basis. Includes entries for Hemphill County, Tex.; Jackson County Sch. Dist. No. 5, Ore.; Muscatine County, Iowa; Seattle Local Impt. Dist. No. 4093, Wash.

We have also learned of the following additional sales for previous months:

Table with columns: Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Includes entries for Ada, Ohio; Adena S. D., Ohio; Ainsworth, Neb; etc.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Lists various municipal bond issues with their respective details.

All of the above sales (except as indicated) are for December. These additional December issues will make the total sales (not including temporary loans) for that month \$144,232,936.

DEBENTURES SOLD BY CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES IN JANUARY.

Table with columns: Page, Name, Rate, Maturity, Amount, Price, Basis. Lists Canadian municipal debenture sales for January.

Total amount of debentures sold during January \$49,298,858

NEWS ITEMS

Denver (City and County of), Colo.—Tax Exemptions Total \$56,800,000.—Clem W. Collins, City Manager, announced Feb. 11 that Denver property worth more than \$56,800,000 is exempt from all taxes.

Property of the city and county, exempt under the present statutes, is worth about \$11,964,870, according to Collins. This property consists of public buildings, fire stations, libraries, parks and playgrounds and other miscellaneous property.

Other exempt property consists of charitable institutions, made up of hospitals, orphanages, homes, fraternal and miscellaneous property belonging to charities, valued at \$8,120,110.

Educational property is also exempt from taxation under laws, the announcement stated. This group of property consists of school sites and playgrounds, private schools and playgrounds, the Clayton school for boys, the Colorado seminary and various colleges, the total value of which is \$17,569,940.

Religious property is also free from taxation. Under this heading the announcement stated churches, parsonages and church equipment valued at \$7,266,140 have been exempted.

Property of the State situated within the city limits is also exempt. This property, consisting of public buildings, school lands and other miscellaneous property belonging to the State, is valued at \$9,219,160.

The statutes also exempt from taxation all property of the United States Government located in the city. This property consists entirely of public buildings valued at \$2,655,620, according to the report.

Department of Antioquia (Republic of Colombia).—\$2,500,000 Bonds Floated in United States.—Blair & Co., Inc., and E. H. Rollins & Sons, both of New York disposed of \$2,500,000 7% 20-year secured sinking fund gold bonds series C, of the Department of Antioquia (Republic of Colombia) at 96 1/2 and interest to yield 7.35% to final maturity. Date July 1 1925. Coupon bonds in denom. of \$1,000, \$500 and \$100 registerable as to principal only. Prin. and int. (J. & J.) payable in U. S. gold coin at the office of Blair & Co., Inc., New York, fiscal agents, free of all taxes, present or future, of the Department of Antioquia and the Republic of Colombia.

Further information regarding this loan may be found in our "Department of Current Events and Discussions" on a preceding page.

Jefferson City, Cole County, Mo.—\$120,000,000 Road Bond Issue Approved by Senate Roads Committee.—The Senate Roads Committee reported favorably on the Malang proposal for a \$120,000,000 bond issue, half to be used for the completion of the present State highway system of 7,640 miles, and the remainder to be apportioned among various counties and the City of St. Louis on the basis of automobile registration, no county to receive less than \$150,000. Concerning the proposal the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of Feb. 18, said further:

This proposal, which would be voted on at the next general election if passed by the Legislature, is believed to have had the support of the Automobile Club of Missouri. St. Louis and Kansas City would share in the distribution. Other incorporated municipalities would share in so far as the improvement of streets used for connections of State highways is concerned.

Consideration of this measure will put squarely up to the Senate the subject of determining whether the State is to adopt the pay-as-you-go plan or carry on road construction through a bond issue.

Theo Gary, who retired about three months ago as Chairman of the State Highway Commission, it is understood, favors the pay-as-you-go plan of completing the State road system, as does B. H. Piepmeyer, who retired a few weeks ago as Chief Engineer.

The House Roads Committee reported adversely a proposal to increase the State gasoline tax from 2 to 3 cents and to apportion one-third among counties on a basis of road mileage.

Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minn.—\$1,160,700 School Bond Program Approved.—The building of a girls' vocational school to cost \$900,000 and the Nokomis junior high school to cost \$475,000 is assured as the result of action by the board of estimate and taxation in approving a school bond program for 1927 amounting to \$1,160,700.

New York City.—Comptroller Berry Indicates City Tax Rate Reduction for 1927.—That the city's tax rate for 1927 would be lower than the previous year has been indicated by Comptroller Berry. The new rate, it is thought, will be 2.66 instead of 2.68, the 1926 rate. With regard to this tax rate reduction the "Journal of Commerce" of Feb. 19 said:

Comptroller Berry explained that this bright outlook was based on a compilation made by the Department of Taxes and Assessments, showing that the real estate of New York City will pay approximately one billion and a half dollars of the one billion six hundred thousand increased assessments as filed last October on the assessment roll.

Somewhat responsible for this result is the fact that the reduction of assessments, which was expected to reach \$400,000,000, will only amount to \$100,000,000.

\$250,000,000 Debt Limit.

It is expected by the Comptroller that the new computation of the city debt limit, which is to be presented on March 1, and against which corporate stock may be issued, will be about \$250,000,000.

Of this sum the Board of Transportation, through Chairman John H. Delaney, has put in a claim for \$182,000,000. This would only leave a small amount available to the city outlined some improvements that the city administration has listed. In spite of that the amount now quoted for debt limit is \$20,000,000 higher than that given out two weeks ago.

Comptroller Berry in an informal statement in which he surveyed the corporate stock and serial bond issue available to the city outlined some of the projects that will have to be financed by the city this year.

For docks and hospitals \$20,000,000 will be set aside; for Hunter College and City College building improvements, \$35,000,000; for street improvements, \$15,000,000; for subway contracts extensions on contracts Nos. 3 and 4 \$5,000,000, and for judgments and contingencies, \$15,000,000.

120,000,000 for Subways.

Together this makes a total of \$90,000,000, and 30,000,000 has to be set aside for emergencies.

In this list no allowance is made for water bonds, for new subway construction, and the elimination of grade crossings. The indications are that the city will not be able to spare more than \$120,000,000 for subway construction, if that much.

Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.—Attorney-General Declares Park Bond Issue Legal.—In answer to an inquiry by W. H. Hammer, Chief Clerk in the municipal accounting department of the State Auditor's office, Attorney-General John Fletcher declared that in his opinion Waterloo's park bond issues, the legality of which was questioned because the bonds were not voted upon by the people, are valid. The question was first raised by the taxing department of one of the railroads running through the city. Concerning the matter, we quote the following from the Waterloo "Courier" of Feb. 14:

Provides for Bonds.

Section 5800 of the code, 1924, provides that cities may issue bonds in the amounts needed for the purpose of paying for real estate for parks; notwithstanding the limitations of section 6238, providing that the annual interest on the aggregate of said bonds outstanding shall not be in excess of the sums specified therein." says the Attorney-General.

"Section 6238 provides the limitation of indebtedness that may be incurred by any political or municipal corporation in any manner, for its general and ordinary purposes, which may not exceed in the aggregate of 1 1/4% of the actual taxable value of property within the corporation.

No Provision for Election.

"There is no provision in Chapter 293, relating to park commissioners, or any other part of the statute, requiring the holding of an election to vote on the proposition of issuing bonds for park purposes under the provisions of Section 5800.

"Chapter 319, relating to the indebtedness of cities and towns and requiring an election to vote on the question of submitting bonds for certain purposes does not apply to issuing bonds for park purposes under the provisions of Section 5800. The statute relating to park commissioners is separate and distinct, and is complete in itself.

"We, therefore, are of the opinion that the park bond issue referred to is perfectly legal."

BOND PROPOSALS AND NEGOTIATIONS this week have been as follows:

AKRON, Summit County, Ohio.—BOND OFFERING.—B. J. Hill, Director of Finance, will receive sealed bids until 12 m. Mar. 21 for the following three issues of 4 1/2% coupon or registered bonds, aggregating \$3,550,000:

\$3,000,000 sewage disposal bonds. Due \$120,000 Oct. 1 1928 to 1952 incl. 200,000 street impt. bonds. Due \$20,000 Oct. 1 1928 to 1937 incl. 350,000 water works bonds. Due \$14,000 Oct. 1 1928 to 1952 incl.

Dated April 1 1927. Denom. \$1,000. Prin. and int. (A. & O.) payable at the National Park Bank, N. Y. City. A certified check for 2% of the amount bid upon, payable to the Director of Finance, is required.

ALBION SCHOOL DISTRICT, Calhoun County, Mich.—BOND OFFERING.—Margaret Ramsdell, Secretary Board of Education, will receive sealed bids until 2 p. m. March 4 for \$100,000 4 1/2% school bonds. Date July 1 1927. Denom. \$500. Due July 1 as follows: \$2,000 1930, \$2,500 1931 to 1938, incl.; \$3,000 1939 to 1944, incl.; \$3,500 1945 to 1947, incl.; \$4,000 1948 and 1949; \$4,500 1950, \$5,000 1951 to 1955, incl., and \$8,000 1956 and 1957. A certified check for \$1,000, payable to the public schools of Albion, is required.











