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### The Financial Situation.

Perhaps the most important development of the week, at least as far as domestic events are concerned, has been the disclosures that the National Credit Corp., so prominently brought into view only a little over two months ago, and which was to accomplish so much for the benefit of the banking and financial world, has failed of its purpose or is proving entirely inadequate to accomplish the ends for which it was established. This revelation came in the testimony given before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency. It will be remembered that the basis for the National Credit Corp. was laid at a conference at the White House at Washington late on the night of Oct. 6, and, according to President Hoover's official announcement, "the purpose of this institution is to be the rediscounting of banking assets not now eligible for rediscount at the Federal Reserve banks in order to assure our banks, being sound, that they may attain liquidity in case of necessity." The New York Clearing House banks pledged themselves to contribute \$150,000,000, or 2% of their net demand and time deposits, and all the other banks in the country were to do the same thing, thereby providing a fund of at least, it was estimated, of \$500,000,000. The Credit Corp. also was to have authority to issue up to \$1,000,000,000 of debentures.

It has always been our belief that this Credit Corp. was in the nature of a magnificent gesture, of some value psychologically, but not likely to be of great utility otherwise. Now come eminent banking men, and testify to the same effect. No less of a banking authority than Melvin A. Traylor, President of the First National Bank of Chicago, went on record to express the view referred to. Mr. Traylor's testimony was given in the hearing on the proposal recommended by President Hoover in his annual message

that a \$500,000,000 Reconstruction Finance Corp. be established with the idea of extending aid generally and to assist the railroads and various other undertakings badly in need of funds. Mr. Traylor gave it as his opinion that the taking over, through the National Credit Corp., by banks which are in most liquid condition of slow-moving assets from less fortunate banks meant only a transfer of undesirable loans from bank to bank and eventually would mean that banks would find themselves with \$500,000,000 invested in such paper. Relief work of that description, Mr. Traylor contended, is the function of an organization outside of the banks themselves, under present conditions, and he pronounced the proposed Reconstruction Corp. as the proper agency.

Newspaper dispatches say that Mr. Traylor recommended what were termed two vital amendments to the present plan for setting up the Reconstruction Finance Corp. His first proposed amendment, it is stated, startled the Committee. It was that the Corporation make loans to banks which have been closed, a point on which he argued apparently to the point of convincing committee members, the Washington correspondent of the New York "Times" said in a dispatch under date of Dec. 22. His second proposed amendment, we are told, was that the Corporation be financed through a Government loan, instead of by proposed debentures guaranteed by the Treasury, as the Government's responsibility for repayment of the debentures actually would be the same and Government bonds or Treasury certificates could be floated at a lower rate of interest than debentures. Mr. Traylor's testimony, dealing solely with banks, was approved, Washington advices say, in later testimony by Wilson W. Mills, Chairman of the Board of the People's Wayne County Bank of Detroit, with the exception that Mr. Mills favored the issuance of debentures on the ground that the public "may get fed up on too many straight Government loans." Mr. Traylor testified that money might well be loaned to closed banks on their good but slow securities, thereby releasing an estimated \$1,750,000,000 tied up in those institutions and re-creating confidence which would bring out into circulation another \$750,000,000 which he estimated people were hoarding because of their lack of confidence in banks.

With reference to the defects of the National Credit Corp., of which he is Committee Chairman in his own Federal Reserve District, and the need of replacing it by some institution like the proposed Reconstruction Finance Corp., Mr. Traylor said:

"The National Credit Corp. was formed voluntarily by the banks of the country to meet an emergency that they felt clearly existed at the time. That emergency arose because of the believed inability for solvent banks to borrow against their collateral.

"As a matter of fact, banks had two avenues open, either their Federal Reserve membership or their correspondent relations, but there was a general public feeling that a number of banks had assets that were good, but too slow to meet requirements. This Corporation was formed, therefore, for the purpose of making loans against slow assets.

"What it meant was that the pooled assets of the banks would be loaned to borrowing banks against assets that were slow. The result is that to the extent that this pool loans against frozen assets they are taking into their own portfolios assets that, at the moment they come in, are subject to criticism as slow. To pursue this policy to the end would mean tying up \$500,000,000 in slow assets. Therefore, I believe this bill should be enacted at the earliest possible moment to relieve the banks from further tying up their assets."

The resumption of public confidence in banks would be sufficient reason for the adoption of the bill embracing the new organization, Mr. Traylor said, asserting that "if the confidence in our central banking institutions fails, then everything else fails."

Mr. Traylor was not alone in expressing the opinion that the National Credit Corp. was not functioning in the way expected. Last Saturday, George L. Harrison, Governor of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, in appearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Banking and Currency, and urging prompt action on the bill providing for the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corp., explained that the National Credit Corp., representing a pool of banking interests, could not be employed in the general situation and had not done so much as desired in relieving frozen credit in the banks. He said that the banks associated in the pool have not been called upon to pay their debentures in full because thus far aid had been furnished to weak banks through loans. Newspaper accounts say that Senator Bulkeley of Ohio insisted that the National Credit Corp. had not functioned and asked Ogden L. Mills, Under Secretary of the Treasury, the reason, and Mr. Mills replied that the National Credit Corp. had had a splendid psychological effect in re-establishing confidence of depositors and that hence the Credit Corp. had served a useful purpose. All this is of importance in showing that hasty action in new legislation, through an excess of zeal and overenthusiasm, often defeats itself.

Immediate action for the establishment of the \$500,000,000 Reconstruction Finance Corp. was also urged before the Senate Subcommittee on Banking and Currency as an aid to the railroads. Among those appearing on behalf of the railroads on Tuesday were Ezra Brainerd, Jr., Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Commission; Frederick H. Ecker, President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., and Morgan B. Brainard, President of the Aetna Life Insurance Co. Mr. Brainerd testified that the railroads will need between \$85,000,000 and \$156,000,000 above cash on hand to meet obligations maturing before May 1 1932. After citing obligations against railroads on Oct 31 totaling \$224,145,827, Mr. Brainerd testified that in the first quarter of 1932 railroads would have to pay \$2,677,550 on bonds, \$35,984,395 on loans and bills payable, and \$35,560,820 on equipment trust obligations. He said this information was not available from the files of the Commission, but was compiled by the Bureau of Railway Economics.

"For Class I operating railways (excluding lessor companies)," Chairman Brainerd reported, "the

total amount of bond maturities for the year 1932, including the amount for the first quarter, is \$70,299,827. The total of equipment trust obligations for 1932, including the amount given for the first quarter, is \$110,782,506."

Chairman Brainerd also testified that gross operating revenues of railroads had dropped from \$6,189,917,189 in 1928 to an estimated \$4,225,000,000, and net operating income, after deduction of taxes but before fixed charges, had shrunk in the same periods from \$1,194,487,806 to \$535,800,000.

The railroads are certainly in need of assistance, and this, moreover, must come very soon. The best means of rendering such assistance is a matter of judgment which must be left to the discretion of the lawmakers. The increase in rates granted by the Inter-State Commerce Commission is not going to count for much and none of the higher rates have yet gone into effect. A mental calculation suffices to show this. The increase at the outside is not expected to yield in excess of \$125,000,000, and is more likely to be \$100,000,000, or even less than that. Even at the latter figure, however, this averages only about \$10,000,000 a month. How far is this meager sum likely to go, and for the first installment of which it will be necessary to wait until the middle of March. Not only that, but under the pooling arrangement advances will first have to be made to the so-called weak roads. What, then, will be left for the strong roads which find themselves carrying large temporary loans, a renewal of which, it is admitted, it will be possible to arrange only with the utmost difficulty?

It must be remembered, too, that, at the best, ability to borrow, whatever the source, is nothing more than a palliative. In order to restore the credit of the roads it will be necessary that they shall be put once again firmly on their feet where they can earn their full fixed charges with a reasonable margin above that figure. Costs of operations will have to be reduced, and to attain that end it is absolutely necessary that wage schedules shall be lowered. However harsh this may seem, there is no alternative. And progress in that direction is so slow that security owners and the public are getting altogether out of patience with the tardiness displayed. Week after week is allowed to pass without any tangible results being in evidence. The wage controversy never gets beyond the conference stage. There are conferences and conferences, and still other conferences, and meanwhile the railroads are piling up heavy losses.

The time has arrived for votes of censure. Parleying and dilly-dally must now cease. Moreover, schemes for limiting the reduction to a single year must now be abandoned. A temporary arrangement might have possessed some advantage a year ago, but it is now too late. There must be a permanent reduction because necessity requires it. The salvation of the roads depends upon it. Confidence in the ability of the carriers to earn their charges can be restored in no other way. If there were now a reduction limited to a single year, the doubt as to whether there would be consent to a further prolongation, while the certainty that the prolongation could only be attained after further long series of conferences, would be fatal from the start. In such circumstances there could be no confidence in the ability of the roads to function on an enduring basis of prosperity. A process of adjustment to a lower basis of values and

to a lower scale of wages is now going on all through the industrial world, and from this process labor cannot hope to escape. Then, too, there is nothing inequitable or unjust in the request, since the cost of living has unquestionably been greatly reduced.

The reduction in wages must, moreover, be radical. There is no sense any longer in talking of a reduction of only 10%, because it is clearly inadequate to the needs of the situation. The reduction need not be uniform. Undoubtedly some roads can get along with smaller cuts than others, and where that is the case the workers ought to get the benefit. But action of some kind on the wage question, immediate action, is absolutely necessary. The railroad executives, each road for itself, should at once give notice of the reductions and then let the consequences (for which the wage earners alone will be responsible) take care of themselves. No other course, as already said, is now open, if a general breakdown of the whole railroad system is to be averted.

The burden of railroad taxation should also be lightened. It is now close to the confiscation point. Figures have been published this week showing that the railroads are now obliged to pay out one-third of their net income in taxes. Dr. Julius Parmelee of the Bureau of Railway Economics estimated on Wednesday that taxes would absorb one-third of the 1931 net revenue of American railroads.

Speaking of taxes, these are a crushing weight on general business, too, now that the country is so sorely afflicted with business depression. And nowhere is there greater need for a lessening of the tax burden than right here in the City of New York. In floating short-term obligations to amount of \$60,000,000, the present week, this city had to pay an interest rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ . And this at a time when the money market is glutted with short-term funds. This is the highest rate the city has had to pay on short-term loans for years. As recently as Sept. 24 the city was able to negotiate \$51,000,000 three months' loans at  $1\frac{3}{8}\%$ . The higher cost is due not alone to the fact that the money market has hardened, but that the city's credit must be expected to depreciate as the result of the vast amount of new obligations which the city is constantly turning out and the extravagant cost of the city administration. The city budget for the coming year was approved the present month and showed a further increase of \$10,526,114 on top of the long series of previous increases year after year back to the time of the mayoralty of John Purroy Mitchell. The budget for the new year is now up to the huge figure of \$631,366,297, and this does not allow for the large amounts of school money which the city receives from the State at large. Adding this on, the city's expenditures for the year are raised close to \$700,000,000.

With a population of, roughly, 7,000,000, this means a tax of \$100 per year per head of population, and an average tax for an ordinary family of four persons of \$400 per year. During the 10 years from 1922 to 1932 the city's budget has risen from \$350,516,524 to \$631,366,297. No inconsiderable portion of the increase for the 10 years is to be ascribed to the salary advances that have been made. Virtually everyone in the employ of the city government has had his salary raised in the interval. In the case of the higher officials the salary increases have been prodigious. Senator Borah is advocating a reduction of 10% in the salaries of all Federal employees

receiving above \$2,000 or \$2,500. Whether this be wise or not, some investigation certainly ought to be made of the additions to the city budget caused by the salary increases of the last 10 years. The Seabury Committee is vested with broad powers of investigation, and it would be rendering an inestimable service to the people of this city if it collected information to show the extent to which the city budget has been raised by a mere increase in rate of pay of those of every class and description in the employ of the city administration. The full amount of the increase should then be lopped off and the tax burden correspondingly lightened.

There are two chief features in the returns of the Federal Reserve banks the present week. One of these is the disappearance from the list of security holdings of the item termed special Treasury certificates for amount of \$197,500,000. This item represents special borrowing done last week by the United States Treasury on one-day certificates of indebtedness pending the collection of the income tax collections on the 15th of the month. Therefore, the elimination of that item was a foregone conclusion in any event, and, accordingly, its disappearance is devoid of any significance. The other striking change is the large increase in the discount holdings representing direct borrowing by the member banks at the Reserve institutions. These discount holdings of the 12 Reserve banks have risen during the week from \$697,908,000 to \$911,194,000, thus showing an addition in amount of \$213,286,000—obviously a very large expansion for the week. Analysis of the figures reveals that almost the whole of the increase was in the discounts secured by United States Government obligations as collateral. Here the amount has risen during the week from \$358,117,000 to \$561,374,000, and the increase appears to have grown directly out of the sale last week of the large mass of new United States obligations forming part of the Treasury's December program of financing.

The Treasury offered for subscriptions altogether new issues of securities to a total of \$1,300,000,000, "or thereabouts," and made allotments aggregating \$1,323,483,700. Some of the issues were only narrowly oversubscribed, and many banks put in subscriptions not because they really wanted the new securities, but because they wanted to prevent the offering from being only a partial success. What happened, therefore, appears to have been that banks making subscriptions of that kind obtained the funds for making payment by taking the obligations around to the Federal Reserve banks and obtaining loans on the same.

The other changes of the week are wholly along previous lines. Thus holdings of acceptances bought in the open market were further reduced during the week from \$307,077,000 to \$257,351,000. Concurrently there has also been another increase in the total of the acceptances held by the Federal Reserve Bank for account of their foreign correspondents, indicating that these foreign banks are still continuing to add to their investments in domestic bills in this market. This is a point worth noting, inasmuch as gold withdrawals for foreign account have again been on quite a large scale, the withdrawals for export for the week ending Wednesday night having reached a total of \$7,375,000, besides which \$11,378,000 was put under earmark during the week for foreign account. Moreover, there were withdrawals

of \$3,641,700 more of the metal on Thursday, though this was in part offset by the release of \$2,393,400 from earmark.

The result of the changes indicated, we mean the increase in the discount holdings and the decrease in the bill holdings, besides some increase in the holdings of United States Government securities (apart from the elimination of the special treasury certificates referred to) is that total bill and security holdings, which constitute a measure of the volume of Reserve credit outstanding, are reported slightly larger the present week at \$1,957,221,000 as against \$1,941,351,000 a week ago. Gold holdings are slightly lower at \$2,980,861,000 the present week against \$2,982,044,000 last week, and as there was, at the same time, a further large expansion in the volume of Federal Reserve notes in circulation, which this week are reported at \$2,661,206,000 against \$2,528,332,000 a week ago, the ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined is somewhat lower at 64.4% as against 65.0% last week.

Acres planted to winter wheat for the crop to be harvested next year is considerably reduced. This was expected owing to conditions that are well understood. The announcement of the Department of Agriculture at Washington makes this area for the past fall 38,682,000 acres. These figures compare with 43,149,000 acres announced a year ago as planted for the harvest of winter wheat last summer. The reduction this year amounts to 4,467,000 acres, or 10.4%, and the area is the smallest in many years. The condition of the new winter wheat crop in the United States, on Dec. 1 last, was 79.4% of normal. This is below the Dec. 1 condition of any winter wheat crop for the past eight years. The condition figures have been somewhat above 80% in each of the preceding eight years. The crop harvested this year was 86.3% of normal, on Dec. 1 1930, and this was the highest of any year back to 1923, when the Dec. 1 condition for the winter crop planted in the fall of that year was 88.0 of normal. The crop planted in the fall of 1922 showed a condition of 79.5% of normal, on Dec. 1 1922, and for the year before it was 76.0%.

All of these figures would suggest that a smaller production of winter wheat might be expected in the summer of 1932. For the crop harvested last summer there were later revisions of the area planted, the final estimate being 40,149,000 acres. Some reduction in the area planted the past autumn on account of winter killing will occur, but the extent of this cannot be foreseen. In 1927, the year of the large winter wheat acreage, the yield in the following summer was considerably below this year or last year. At anything like such an average production per acre as for the current year, the yield of winter wheat next summer would be well up with that of 1931. There was a reduction of 7% in acreage planted to rye the past fall as reported in the Department's report. Acres planted this year were estimated at 3,712,000 as compared with the 3,993,000 acres sown last year.

The stock market this week suffered a setback again and thus it appears that the sharp advance of last week proved short-lived. In fact, the upward swing seems to have been very much in the nature of a drive against the shorts, the short interest hav-

ing become unwieldy. The rise last week made further progress at the half-day session on Saturday, though there was somewhat of a downward reaction before the close of the session on that day. On Monday, the market became unsettled, mainly, it seemed as the result of sales to realize profits, but the declines were not large and trading was tame. On Tuesday the market once more regained tone, in the absence of any extensive liquidation, and prices evinced a rallying tendency, with the active stocks showing a recovery in many cases of the previous day's losses. On Wednesday, however, decided weakness developed, and prices quite generally moved lower once more. On Thursday the market became somewhat unsettled, but price changes were narrow and unimportant, as a rule.

There were quite a number of unfavorable developments during the week. Stocks were also adversely affected by the fact that the bond market showed a renewed manifestation of weakness. In the general weakness, Government bond issues did not escape, and all the different issues of United States obligations dropped below par with the single exception of the Treasury 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ s. The fact that New York City, on temporary borrowing for \$60,000,000, had to pay 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % interest attracted a great deal of attention. The effect, too, was to cause a softening in the municipal bond market, and weakness in Government bonds was a sequel to intimations from Washington that President Hoover's relief program involved issuance of considerable amounts of Government bonds or of debentures or some other form of obligation for which the credit of the United States would have to be pledged. Trade statistics were not of an encouraging character, one illustration being that owing to the Christmas shutdown steel mills were engaged to only 21% of capacity. It did not escape attention that in the holiday shutdown of 1930 production even then got no lower than 24% of capacity. Then, also, there was a further weakening in the prices of many steel products, while automobile concerns delayed in sending in their orders for the first quarter of 1932, the appearance of which the trade had been looking for for quite some time. Then, also, the returns of railroad earnings for the month of November now began to come in, and though comparison was with very poor returns in November last year, further heavy losses appeared in the figures for 1931. Unfortunately, too, there was very little evidence of progress in the negotiations between the roads and their union employees for the lowering of wage schedules, which is deemed an absolute prerequisite to improvement in the character of railroad results. The oil shares displayed distinct weakness on account of the appearance of statistics showing increases in stocks of oil on hand. The tobacco stocks also appeared to be under severe selling pressure on account of nervousness over the agitation for increased Federal and State taxes on cigarettes. American Tobacco B suffered quite severely as a consequence, and recessions likewise occurred in other stocks in the same group. Selling to establish losses in income tax returns also again featured.

Further dividend reductions and omissions, some by companies of considerable importance, constituted a further depressing agency. Thus the directors of the National Cash Register Co. omitted dividends on class A \$3 cumul. stock usually declared at this time. The St. Joseph Lead Co. reduced the

quar. dividend on common from 25c. a share to 15c. The Briggs Mfg. Co. reduced the dividend on common from 37½c. a share to 25c. a share. Associated Gas & Elec. reduced dividends on the class A stock. Among the dividend omissions of one kind or another in addition to that of the National Cash Register Co. were those of the Federal Water Service Corp. on the various classes of preferred stock; that of the American States Public Service Co. on the class A stock; that of the Burco, Inc., on the 6% cumul. pref. stock, and that of the Interstate Bakeries Corp. on the \$6.50 cumul. conv. pref. stock. On the Stock Exchange list 187 stocks dropped to new low levels for the year during the present week. Call loan rates on the Stock Exchange have ruled at 3% during the week.

Trading has been only moderately large and on a much lower scale of activity than last week. At the half-day session on Saturday last the sales on the New York Stock Exchange were 1,626,286 shares; on Monday they were 1,924,996 shares; on Tuesday, 1,397,038 shares; on Wednesday, 1,560,487 shares; on Thursday, 1,106,103 shares; Friday was Christmas and a holiday. On the New York Curb Exchange the sales last Saturday were 322,843 shares; on Monday, 349,867 shares; on Tuesday, 284,483 shares; on Wednesday, 314,212 shares, and on Thursday, 309,828 shares.

As compared with Friday of last week, prices show losses, as a rule, but in most instances only of moderate size. General Electric closed on Thursday at 24½ against 25 on Friday of last week; Warner Bros. Pictures at 25⁄8 against 3; United Corp. at 85⁄8 against 8¾; North American at 32¾ against 34¼; Pacific Gas & Elec. at 33¼ against 33½; Standard Gas & Elec. at 28 against 28¾; Consolidated Gas of N. Y. at 59⁄8 against 64; Columbia Gas & Elec. at 13 against 14; Brooklyn Union Gas at 75¼ against 79; Elec. Power & Light at 11 against 12; Public Service of N. J. at 53 against 55; International Harvester at 24 against 25½; J. I. Case Threshing Machine at 40 against 44¾; Sears, Roebuck & Co. at 32¾ against 34; Montgomery Ward & Co. at 7¾ against 7⁄8; Woolworth at 39½ against 40; Safeway Stores at 41½ against 43⁄8; Western Union Telegraph at 42 against 46½; American Tel. & Tel. at 115⁄8 against 121⁄8; Int. Tel. & Tel. at 8½ against 9; American Can at 61⁄8 against 64½; United States Industrial Alcohol at 26 against 27⁄8; Commercial Solvents at 7⁄8 against 8¼; Shattuck & Co. at 10½ against 10⁄8, and Corn Products at 39¾ against 41⁄8.

Allied Chemical & Dye closed on Thursday at 66¾ against 71 on Friday of last week; E. I. du Pont de Nemours at 54 against 55¼; National Cash Register at 7¾ against 9⁄8; International Nickel at 7½ against 8⁄8; Timken Roller Bearing at 19 against 19; Mack Trucks at 12¾ against 12¾; Yellow Truck & Coach at 3⁄8 against 3½; Johns-Manville at 17¼ ex-div. against 18⁄8; Gillette Safety Razor at 11½ against 11⁄8; National Dairy Products at 23 against 22½; Associated Dry Goods at 61¼ against 7½; Texas Gulf Sulphur at 22¼ against 22⁄8; American & Foreign Power at 7⁄8 against 7⁄8; General American Tank Car at 30 against 31; United Gas Improvement at 18½ against 18¼; National Biscuit at 39¾ against 40½; Coca Cola at 105¾ against 112; Continental Can at 33¾ against 35; Eastman Kodak at 81 against 85⁄8; Gold Dust Corp. at 17⁄8 against 16¼; Radio-Keith-Orpheum class A at 7⁄8 against 7⁄8; Standard Brands at 12¾ against 11⁄8; Paramount

Publix Corp. at 6⁄8 against 7½; Kreuger & Toll at 4¾ against 4⁄8; Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. at 25 against 29½; Drug, Inc., at 51 against 52½; Columbian Carbon at 33¾ against 36¾; Amer. Tobacco at 63½ against 69½; Liggett & Myers class B at 45 against 46⁄8; Reynolds Tobacco class B at 33½ against 35; Lorillard at 12⁄8 against 13⁄8, and Tobacco Products class A at 6⁄8 against 6⁄8.

The steel shares have continued their downward course on the further slump in the steel trade. United States Steel closed on Thursday at 37¾ against 41¾ on Friday of last week; Bethlehem Steel at 18¼ against 21¾; Vanadium at 12¼ against 14; Crucible Steel at 23¼ against 22, and Republic Iron & Steel at 4⁄8 against 4¾. In the auto group Auburn Auto closed on Thursday at 130 against 140 on Friday of last week; General Motors at 22⁄8 against 23½; Chrysler at 13¼ against 13½; Nash Motors at 15½ against 15⁄8; Packard Motors at 4 against 4; Hudson Motor Car at 10¼ bid against 11⁄8, and Hupp Motors at 4¼ against 4⁄8. In the rubber group Goodyear Tire & Rubber closed on Thursday at 14¾ against 16½ on Friday of last week; B. F. Goodrich at 3¾ against 4; United States Rubber at 3⁄8 against 4, and the preferred at 8½ against 7⁄8.

The railroad shares have suffered a new slump owing to the poor returns of earnings and the lack of progress in getting a reduction in wages. Railroad bonds, too, after their recovery of last week have again turned downward. Pennsylvania RR. closed on Thursday at 18⁄8 against 20 on Friday of last week; Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe at 83½ against 88; Atlantic Coast Line at 31 against 31; Chicago Rock Island & Pacific at 9⁄8 against 11¼; New York Central at 28¾ against 31½; Baltimore & Ohio at 16¼ against 18⁄8; New Haven at 20½ against 23⁄8; Union Pacific at 73½ against 80; Southern Pacific at 28⁄8 against 32⁄8; Missouri-Kansas-Texas at 4¾ against 5¼; Missouri Pacific at 7⁄8 against 9; Southern Railway at 7½ against 8¼; Chesapeake & Ohio at 26¾ against 28; Northern Pacific at 16 against 18, and Great Northern at 18¼ against 19.

The oil shares have continued depressed on account of accumulating stocks of oil. Standard Oil of N. J. closed on Thursday at 26¾ against 29⁄8 on Friday of last week; Standard Oil of Calif. at 24½ against 26¼; Atlantic Refining at 9⁄8 against 10¼; Freeport-Texas at 16⁄8 against 16; Sinclair Oil at 4½ against 4¾; Texas Corp. at 11 against 12; Phillips Petroleum at 4½ against 4¾, and Pure Oil at 3⁄8 against 4.

The copper stocks have again also declined. Anaconda Copper closed on Thursday at 10¼ against 11⁄8 on Friday of last week; Kennecott Copper at 11⁄8 against 12; Calumet & Hecla at 3¼ against 3⁄8; Phelps Dodge at 7 against 9; American Smelting & Refining at 18¾ against 21½, and Cerro de Pasco Copper at 13¼ against 14½.

Quiet and narrow pre-holiday markets were reported this week on the securities exchanges at London and Paris. Price movements were irregular, but chiefly in the direction of lower values, as most developments of the week were again unfavorable. The extent to which European trade has been rendered prostrate during the depression was illustrated by the week-end reports that the large German engineering firm of A. Borsig, Ltd., located at Berlin, had suspended payments after almost 100 years of ac-

tivity. Amsterdam reports indicated that a critical situation exists in the important flower bulb industry of Holland, while much concern was expressed in France regarding the great over-supply of wine. The announcements of a partial Hungarian moratorium and of sharp increases in Spanish tariffs were, of course, hardly of a nature to improve sentiment. A partial offset to these incidents was afforded, however, by the week-end report of a £5,000,000 expansion project of the Selfridge Stores in London, and the agreement reached in Brussels for curtailed production of copper by the important producers of the world. The official British report on unemployment this week reflects a decline of 54,722, to a total of 2,572,602.

Dealings on the London Stock Exchange were quiet at the opening, Monday, with movements of share prices uncertain. British funds were off at first, but regained most of their losses in later transactions. British industrial stocks were substantially unchanged, but some advances appeared among rubber issues. The Anglo-American group moved forward at first, but reacted later. Business Tuesday was again on a small scale, owing to the near approach of the holidays. British Government bonds were somewhat easier and a soft tone also appeared in the industrial list of stocks. International issues were marked down to conform with overnight reports from New York. The tone Wednesday was slightly better, chiefly because of a modest rally in British funds, occasioned by the Congressional acceptance of the Hoover moratorium proposal. Industrial stocks were dull, but advances outnumbered declines. The international group advanced slightly. Business was on a small scale Thursday, but prices showed slight improvement.

Trading on the Paris Bourse also was of small proportions in the initial session of the week. The market was thin and a few selling orders sufficed to lower quotations. The atmosphere was made heavy, moreover, by the Hungarian decision to declare a partial suspension of debt payments. Bank stocks and the oil and utility groups showed the greatest losses, dispatches said. In a further dull market Tuesday, prices again glided downward, but the recessions were modest in almost all cases. Bank stocks showed the only important losses. Although business Wednesday was on an even smaller scale than in previous sessions, some improvement in the trend was noted. Bank stocks regained most of their earlier losses of the week, and other groups also hardened. The tone Thursday was firm, notwithstanding limited trading.

Re-examination of the reparations question by the Advisory Committee of the B. I. S. was completed early this week, and a report rendered by the 11 experts which clearly opens the way for drastic action by the conference of governments which is expected to follow in January. The recommendations of the committee are contained in an 8,000 word report, of which an official summary was made public Thursday. Unanimous agreement by the experts is reflected in this document to the effect that the economic stability of the world can be reestablished only by an adjustment, through common accord and without delay, of all reparations and other war debts. The state of German economy will not permit the Reich to resume payment of conditional annuities when the Hoover year of suspension of intergovern-

mental debts ends next July, it is held. Although the terms of reference of the committee did not include consideration of unconditional annuities, it is suggested by the inclusive nature of the recommendations that these also be suspended, and observers in Basle draw the conclusion that the January conference of governments is likely to arrange a two-year prolongation of the moratorium period.

The conclusion drawn from its survey by the committee, as stated in the final chapter of the report, is that Germany would be justified in declaring, as she is entitled to do under the Young plan, that in spite of the steps she has taken to maintain the stability of her currency, she will not be able in the year beginning next July to transfer the conditional portion of her reparations annuity. The committee states further, however, that it would not consider that it had fully accomplished its task if it had not drawn the attention of the governments to the unprecedented gravity of the crisis, the magnitude of which undoubtedly exceeds the "relatively short depression" envisaged in the Young plan, to meet which the "measures of safeguard" contained therein were designed.

The Young plan arrangement of a rising series of annuities contemplated, it is pointed out, a steady expansion of world trade, not merely in volume but in value, in which the annuities payable by Germany would become a factor of diminishing importance. In fact, the opposite has been the case, the committee states. "Since the Young plan came into effect, not only has the trade of the world shrunk in value, but the very exceptional fall in gold prices that has occurred in the last two years has itself added greatly to the real burden, not only of German annuities, but of all payments fixed in gold," the report continues. "In the circumstances the German problem—which is largely responsible for the growing financial paralysis of the world—calls for concentrated action which the governments alone can take. But that problem has assumed world-wide range. There is no previous parallel in time of peace to the dislocation that is taking place, and it may well involve a profound change in the economic relations of the nations to one another. Action is most urgently needed in a much wider field than that of Germany alone. The economic interdependence of the various countries of the world needs no further proof. Recent years have most strikingly illustrated it. Since July last, for example, it has been evident that if the crisis by which Germany has been overwhelmed were not remedied it would spread to the rest of Europe, destroy the credit system so painstakingly built up and create profound repercussions in other parts of the world."

As a result of its comprehensive examination of the situation, the committee makes certain specific recommendations, and the governments are urged to note them with care. These considerations are: (1) that transfers from one country to another on a scale so large as to upset the balance of payments can only accentuate the present chaos; (2) release of a debtor country from a burden of payments which it is unable to bear may merely have the effect of transferring that burden to the creditor country which, in its character as a debtor, it in turn may be unable to bear; (3) adjustment of all reparations and other war debts to the troubled situation of the world—and this adjustment should take place without delay if new disasters are to be avoided—is the

only lasting step capable of re-establishing confidence. This final consideration is called "the very condition of economic stability." The committee holds finally that although the German Government is energetically defending the stability of its currency, steps are necessary to assure that these measures shall have permanent effect. Destruction of the work which the European governments have undertaken in recent years in order to re-establish the stability of currencies would mean an extremely disquieting setback, heavy with consequences, it is maintained. The report ends with an appeal to the governments to permit no delay in dealing with this great crisis which weighs so heavily on all alike.

The greater part of the report is devoted to the findings of the committee and to an analysis of the present situation in Germany. That country was particularly susceptible to the credit crisis because of the large volume of short-term credits outstanding, it is indicated. The external short-term debt, according to the census taken by the German Government, was 12,000,000,000 marks at the end of July. Prior to that date it was estimated that 2,900,000,000 marks had been withdrawn, the report continues, while withdrawals since that time under the standstill agreement are computed at 1,200,000,000 marks. The surplus of merchandise exports has been heavy, it is admitted, but this is held due partly to special causes and it is considered doubtful whether the movement can continue at its recent level. The series of measures taken by the Reichsbank to protect the mark is described, and consideration is also given the emergency decrees of the Reich Government for the balancing of the budget through increased taxation and reduced expenditures. The burden of taxation in Germany is now believed to be so high that there is no margin for further increase. The situation in the Reich is carefully related, in a subsequent chapter, to the world crisis and the interactions thus occasioned. A comforting word is uttered in this regard, the committee observing that every previous crisis has been followed by a period of stability and prosperity.

Of exceptional interest, also, in connection with the reparations and debts problems, are the indications from London and Paris of extensive conversations between the British and French Governments on these matters. Sir Frederick Leith-Ross, who holds a prominent post in the British Treasury, went to Paris Dec. 17 for a discussion which is considered preliminary to the coming meeting of governments on reparations and debts. He returned to London Wednesday, and the impression was gained, a dispatch to the New York "Times" said, that a Franco-British agreement on reparations is in sight. "The British Government has apparently accepted the French thesis of a temporary rather than a permanent solution of the German situation, with the retention of the principle of the Young Plan," the dispatch said. "The French have indicated they are willing to make large concessions to British financial demands, especially for the 'preferential' treatment of private debts." In Berlin the meeting of the international committee of bankers on German short-term credits was adjourned Tuesday for a brief Christmas holiday and sessions will be resumed Dec. 28.

Overwhelming approval has been given by both houses of Congress to a joint resolution approving

the one-year suspension of intergovernmental debt payments proposed last June by President Hoover, and the measure was signed by the President, Wednesday. The issue was never in doubt, notwithstanding the protracted and vehement debate that marked its consideration in the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was disclosed last week by Under Secretary of the Treasury Ogden L. Mills that 276 members of the House and 68 members of the Senate had pledged their support. The final votes were even more favorable to the measure than these figures indicated. The resolution was approved by a vote of 317 to 100 in the House, Dec. 18, while the Senate vote four days later resulted in acceptance by 69 to 12. As a result of the proposal, the United States Government is foregoing the collection of \$252,000,000 from foreign governmental debtors in the year ending June 30 1932. The sum is to be repaid over a 10-year period starting July 1 1933, with interest at 4%. The resolution as adopted includes the amendment which "expressly declares it to be against the policy of Congress that any of the indebtedness of foreign countries to the United States should be in any manner cancelled or reduced."

An announcement by President Hoover, Wednesday, that he had signed the measure was accompanied by a statement in which he expressed gratification regarding the strong support given the proposal by both parties. Mr. Hoover remarked further that the suggestion for the year's postponement of all intergovernmental debts "averted a catastrophe, the effects of which would have reached to the United States and would have caused the American people a loss many times the amount involved." After pointing out that the debts have not been cancelled or reduced, the President said: "In saving the collapse of Germany by the year's postponement the American people have done something greater than the dollars and cents gained from the maintenance of our agricultural markets, the prevention of panic and unlimited losses. They have contributed to maintain courage and hope in the German nation and to give opportunity for the other European nations to work out their problems."

Keen interest was taken throughout Europe in the Congressional debate on the resolution and the attachment of the rider or amendment expressing antagonism to any cancellation or reduction of debts. There was a tendency in Germany, Berlin reports said, to regard the debate as due largely to the French attitude on reparations. It was also suggested that lack of the business recovery which it was hoped would follow the debt suspension had caused disappointment. In the French capital some astonishment was occasioned by the amendment opposing debt revision or cancellation. "That declaration," a Paris report of last Saturday to the New York "Times" said, "will be of inestimable use to all on this side of the Atlantic who put the payment of reparations by Germany before any other financial or commercial consideration. It will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of France at the forthcoming reparations conference and stiffen the terms which will be sought from Germany, and it will make more difficult the task of the British Government in trying to put business before reparations." A London dispatch of Sunday to the "Times" stated that the tendency toward isolation revealed by the speeches in Congress is driving Britain to expect little assistance from the United States in solving the

problems of the war debts and reparations. "The speeches are having an educational effect which is likely to be as profound upon British foreign policy as upon American," the report continued. "The evidences of isolationism in Congress are strengthening a twofold determination in Britain: first, to strengthen every tie making for British Empire solidarity, and, second, to explore to the limit every opening for a united European policy, especially for a common Franco-British policy on debts and reparations."

Uncommon interest attaches to the opinions of prominent New York bankers on German political and private debts, expressed at hearings of the Senate Finance Committee, which is investigating foreign bond flotations in the United States. Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., was the first witness, his testimony being given Dec. 18. In addition to furnishing illuminating details of foreign bond flotations in which the Morgan firm played a leading part, Mr. Lamont made some reassuring comments regarding such loans. "I assume," he said, "that no loan has ever been made by any banker without the taking of proper precautions. As for German municipal issues, about which there has been so much talk, I don't think the German people are going to repudiate those. In no case, up to date, has the service been in default." Mr. Lamont termed "exaggerated" and "fantastic" the rumors that American banks are "loaded up" with foreign securities, and declared specifically that German short-term loans are not a danger to American institutions.

"There has been a great deal of misunderstanding and exaggeration in the public mind in regard to the extent of the holdings of American banks in short-term German bank credits," Mr. Lamont stated. "It is a very unfortunate misunderstanding and exaggeration because an entirely wrong impression, in our judgment, has been created. What has happened has been simply this, that the American banks, and the big banks generally, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, have had German banking correspondents for years, probably for generations, and they have been in the habit of granting commercial and sometimes other sorts of credits to these German banks for the financing of the exports of cotton, copper and all sorts of things. I have not looked at the portfolios of the banks in New York, but I happen to know that the largest amount of credit outstanding in any bank is \$70,000,000, or thereabouts, and it would be in the case of a bank whose other capital resources were so large that it was not a matter of danger or even of comment."

Charles E. Mitchell, Chairman of the National City Bank, was the second witness before the committee, beginning his testimony late Dec. 18 and concluding it on Dec. 19. When asked if he favored reduction or cancellation of intergovernmental debts, Mr. Mitchell replied that he was "prepared to leave the question absolutely where it belongs, in the United States Congress." Although not a believer in cancellation, he "inclined to the belief that here and there, at least, it will be determined that there should be some scaling." Reminded by Senator Gore that the Senate investigation grew out of the belief that a group of large New York banks desire to force a reduction or cancellation of the war debts, Mr. Mitchell expressed the opinion that the holdings of foreign securities in New York banks are in no case enough

to influence their determination in regard to cancellation one iota, or to affect their liquidity or resources.

When asked by Senator King last Saturday whether he believed the current suspension of intergovernmental payments will encourage the German Government to request a further moratorium next year, Mr. Mitchell replied that of course he could not tell. "But I think," he added, "we should all recognize that possibly there was set up by the original Dawes Commission a principle that since has been violated by all nations, a principle that appealed to me and still appeals to me to be a sound one, to wit, that debts created as a result of the war should be established in such amount that can be paid by that nation operating under all of the burdens that their creditors may be operating under during the life of that generation that had to do with the war." Citing the extension of the original Dawes plan payment period of 35 years to the Young Plan period of 62 years, Mr. Mitchell indicated that he viewed the matter from certain basic facts.

"Here we have in Germany to-day young men going into the universities who were not born when the great war started," he continued. "Those young men see that not only they, but their progeny and the progeny of their progeny, must pay and go on for these generations in paying a debt for which they, as individuals, were not responsible. They feel that they are under the heavy yoke, and my impression is that there is growing, as a result thereof, rebellion against the payment of the debt. I think it is something that is readily understandable, and if you ask me if it is my opinion that Germany will go through this entire period and pay off the amount of debt that has been set under these various plans for her to pay, I cannot conceive it to be possible, because I think that it will bring rebellion." When asked by Senator Watson if his views would not apply to England and France, quite as much as to Germany, Mr. Mitchell conceded that this would be so. Senator Reed pointed out that the statement applied with equal force to the growing generation of Americans who had nothing to do with the war, and Mr. Mitchell agreed that the argument is quite unanswerable and leads to an impasse. "The countries involved in this question have found a problem that is political and psychological," Mr. Mitchell stated. "I do not believe that it can be taken quite on the simple basis that the debt was contracted and the debt must be paid. I am not preaching, in what I say, any doctrine of cancellation. I want that to be clear. I am trying to develop some of the psychology of the people that may have a direct bearing on this question."

Otto H. Kahn, of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., appeared before the Committee Monday, and he justified on the basis of reasonable banking experience the granting of short-term credits in Germany by American banks. The bankers of England and Holland, with their long and admirable traditions, made much larger advances of this nature in Germany, in proportion to the resources of the two nations, than did the American banks, Mr. Kahn pointed out. He estimated that German short-term debts to American banks are "something in excess of \$600,000,000, which I do not consider an exorbitant sum for a great creditor nation to extend as an accommodation to an intelligent, hard-working European nation of the ability and proven and tested capacity of Germany." Mr.



Kahn expressed the belief that the German Government and municipalities will ultimately pay all debts to private individuals, but he expressly avoided any prediction in regard to reparations.

Mr. Kahn was asked by Senator Barkley what banking opinion is in regard to the priority of the European governmental and private obligations, assuming that both could not be paid. The banker pointed out, in reply, that privately held loans are not under any moratorium and that interest and sinking fund payments are being made regularly. "As to whether the governmental claims or private debts should have precedence, one necessarily can only express an opinion, which is subject to controversy and subject to error," Mr. Kahn continued. "My own belief is that the essential thing is to keep the economic life of a country going, because the government would very soon find itself out of funds unless the economic life is going. In order to keep the economic life of a country going, in order to pay taxes, in order to enable it to do its daily work, the sanctity of contracts must be protected to the limit of what is possible. It is of less importance that one government pay another government to the minute and upon the day what it owes, if it can by mutual consent secure a postponement, than that the confidence of the ordinary individual, dealing in one country with another individual in another country, or a business man dealing with another business man, should be profoundly shaken in the faith and credit of the business community with which he does business in another country."

Asked whether he advocated cancellation of governmental debts, Mr. Kahn replied that he has never advocated such cancellation. "But I have advocated in public that, if ever a nation is entitled to get its money back, the United States was entitled to get its war debts back," he added. We went into the war and we did our full share, God knows! We asked for none of the spoils, and we got what we asked for—none. It seems to me that in plain justice, in ethics, we have not a thing to apologize for in saying we want our debts paid, for which we did our full share. But I do not think that it is a matter of justice; it is a matter of expediency, and I think it should be dealt with as a matter of expediency. It is what at the moment is the most expedient or the best thing for America to do." Mr. Kahn's testimony was not completed when the Committee adjourned Monday, and he will again be heard when the Committee resumes on Jan. 4. Representatives of the Chase National Bank, the Guaranty Trust Co., and Dillon, Read & Co. also will appear thereafter, it is indicated.

Announcement was made by President Hoover, Tuesday, that General Charles G. Dawes, United States Ambassador to London, will head the American delegation to the general disarmament conference which is scheduled to begin at Geneva Feb. 2. The statement, coupled with the earlier indication that Senator Claude Swanson of Virginia will be a member of the Washington delegation, tends to set at rest the numerous rumors that the meeting will be postponed. That such reports are not taken seriously in Washington was demonstrated Monday, when President Hoover sent to the Congress a special message requesting an initial appropriation of \$450,000 to defray the expenses of the American delegation. In a report from Secretary of State Stimson,

accompanying the request, it was stated that the need for armaments limitation and reduction is now more urgent than ever, and that the "threat of a new race in armaments hangs like a dark cloud over Europe, disturbing political tranquillity and preventing that consolidation of peaceful and harmonious relations between nations without which a return to prosperity is impossible." The expenses of the delegation were estimated at \$55,000 a month, indicating that the meeting is expected to last the better part of a year.

Press dispatches from Paris and London suggesting the possibility of postponement have been frequent of late, and they all display marked pessimism regarding the prospects of genuine achievement at the conference. Such reports, obviously in the nature of political trial balloons, have not so far succeeded in disclosing any popular sentiment for delay. None of the larger governments appears willing, moreover, to take the initiative in an official move for postponement. There is also every indication that the gathering of 63 nations will be presided over by Arthur Henderson, former British Foreign Secretary, in accordance with the invitation extended to him in his personal capacity. Mr. Henderson now holds no office and is not even a Member of Parliament, and his prospective chairmanship of the conference is proving embarrassing to the British Government and the League Secretariat.

The new Spanish Government promulgated a tariff decree Wednesday that is clearly reflective of the world-wide movement toward prohibitive trade barriers. It is obvious that this movement, at the rate it is now being carried on, will soon result either in virtual suspension of international trade or else in complete collapse of the so-called protective systems and a return to sensible consideration of the problem. Fourteen classes of imports are affected by the Spanish decree, which is the first signed by President Alcala Zamora since taking office. The duties on the products, which include automobiles and telephone equipment, are raised to insurmountable heights, a Madrid dispatch to the New York "Times" states. "There is no equivocation about the motives actuating Spain," it is remarked. The tariff increases are clearly in the nature of reprisals, and these are to be carried further at the discretion of the Minister of Commerce, who is empowered to add more items to the list. Immediate revision of commercial treaties with "most-favored-nation" clauses also was decreed. These measures are temporary, the decrees state, and are to be reconsidered when world commerce returns to normal. Meanwhile, the French policy of applying quotas on imports of certain classes is causing due repercussions which promise to reduce French trade markedly. Canada denounced late last week her trade treaty with France, and Italy and Lithuania took similar action. Premier Renkin of Belgium announced Wednesday that he intends to make use of the powers conferred on the Cabinet to increase tariffs and regulate imports. The German Government recently began negotiations with Great Britain for modification of the new British anti-dumping duties, but Berlin was notified Dec. 18 that London is unable to make any concessions.

Difficulties experienced by the Hungarian Government in obtaining sufficient foreign exchange to

meet the service on external debt occasioned a long-anticipated announcement, Tuesday, of a partial moratorium. The suspension will mean the deposit in pengoes, within Hungary, of sums due for interest and amortization on approximately two-thirds of the aggregate external debt of about \$715,000,000. An attempt will be made to meet, in the currencies in which they are payable, the sums due on the remaining one-third of the foreign debt. Preference is to be given to the League of Nations, or reconstruction, loan of 1924, on which some \$4,000,000 is due annually, while if additional foreign exchange is available payments will be met similarly on the secured relief loan, the secured Treasury bills, the Caisse Commune obligation, the Austro-Hungarian State Railway, and the Danube-Save-Adriatic Railway loans, the payments to be made under the London protocol of Aug. 11 1931, and the pre-war city of Budapest loan, in the order stated. Payments due on the obligations named are estimated in a Budapest dispatch to the New York "Times" at \$20,000,000 annually, while the remaining service on foreign debt is said to be approximately \$40,000,000 annually. Service on the latter obligations, and also on the former in so far as they cannot be met in foreign exchange, will be deposited in pengoes at the rate quoted the day before sums are due, in an account at the National Bank of Hungary for the benefit of bondholders.

This partial or "transfer" moratorium was foreshadowed by the application for relief made by the Hungarian Government to the League of Nations Finance Committee and by recent pronouncements of leading Cabinet Ministers. The announcement thus occasioned little comment in international financial centers. American investments in the country were estimated at the end of last year at \$118,878,000. In the official statement of the Hungarian Government it was indicated that the suspension would be made effective Wednesday. The action was attributed to "the exceptional decline in the prices of the principal Hungarian exports and the consequent difficulty, in present circumstances, of obtaining sufficient exchange for foreign debt remittances." The National Bank of Hungary will receive authorization, it was further stated, to sell to Hungarian nationals foreign exchange for the purpose of meeting interest or discount and commission on short-term debts to bankers and others, and of giving effect to appropriate standstill arrangements which the Government intends to propose to short-term creditors in foreign currencies for a period of six months. Any interest earned by the pengo account at the national bank will be applied for the benefit of the creditors, less expenses incidental to administration. "The Hungarian Government," the announcement concludes, "will request the foreign governments concerned to accept temporarily similar arrangements as regards the outstanding clearing office payments. In the event of any monopolies or other public assets being disposed of abroad, the proceeds of such disposal will be applied to lightening Hungary's existing burden of external indebtedness."

A national election in Australia last Saturday resulted in the smashing defeat of the Labor groups headed by Prime Minister James H. Scullin and an impressive victory for the coalition of Right Wing Laborites and Nationalists, known as the United

Australia party, and headed by Joseph A. Lyons. Mr. Scullin resigned his office, Monday, without waiting for the final election returns, and advised Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs to send for Mr. Lyons, who promptly accepted the task of forming a new Cabinet. The overturn was hailed throughout Australia and was also viewed with gratification in conservative circles in England, where it was pointed out that the incident paralleled the British repudiation of Socialism at the general election in October. The policy on which the United Australia party went before the country is that of making Australia again an attractive field for the investment of money. "The only real choice the people had to make," Mr. Lyons declared last Sunday, "was between sound finance, as against currency inflation and political control of currency and credit. It was absolutely essential that there should be a complete restoration of confidence in government finance, together with a thorough belief in the soundness of Australia's banking system. The endorsement by a majority of the people of the policy for which our party stands should remove fear of a Government default, which was an important contributory cause to the present depression. Further, private enterprise will now be given a feeling of financial security which has been sadly lacking in recent months."

The new Prime Minister was a member of Mr. Scullin's Cabinet for a time, but he resigned when E. G. Theodore, a semi-inflationist, was invited to rejoin the Cabinet. He has repeatedly expressed himself in favor of closer trade relations with the United Kingdom and with other parts of the Empire, and is expected to urge preferential trade agreements at the Ottawa Imperial Conference next summer. The Cabinet will rely for support upon an anti-Labor bloc of 52 members in the new House of Representatives, as against a total Labor group of 23 members. In the House, which was prorogued Nov. 26, after 25 months of Labor rule, the Laborites numbered 40, while the opposition group consisted of 35 members. Although Mr. Scullin himself was returned to the House by a diminished majority, most of the former Ministers were defeated. The most conspicuous victim was former Commonwealth Treasurer Theodore, who resigned under charges of graft preferred by a royal commission, but who was later reinstated. The motion of censure on which the life of the Scullin Ministry hinged was based on a charge that Mr. Theodore had tried to influence voters with money granted by the Government for the relief of unemployment. The motion was voted and dissolution of the House quickly followed.

Japanese military forces in Manchuria began early this week a swift and determined movement toward Chinchowfu, which is expected to result in speedy consolidation of the Japanese control of Manchuria and withdrawal of all remaining Chinese troops behind the Great Wall, into China proper. Ample advance notice was given by the Japanese commander, General Shigeru Honjo, in recent weeks, that he intended to secure control of Chinchow, by whatever means might be necessary. The Nanking and Peiping Governments were warned repeatedly to withdraw the military forces of Chang Hsueh-liang, former War Lord of Manchuria. Control of Chinchow is considered necessary by the Japanese, as the city straddles the Peiping-Mukden Railway and is located on the narrow strip of land between

sea and marshes which affords communication between Manchuria and old China. The way for this movement was left open by the Japanese reservation to the resolution adopted unanimously by the League Council at Paris, providing for cessation of warfare. The right was reserved to suppress banditry, and the movement toward Chinchow is accordingly described officially as a drive against bandits. Japanese infantry, artillery and aerial forces combined in the drive, which began Monday. General Honjo issued a statement Tuesday to the effect that the Japanese forces will brook no interference from any source in their drive against bandits until the region is cleared. Washington reports of Dec. 18 stated that concern would again be expressed orally at Tokio by W. Cameron Forbes, the United States Ambassador, regarding the indications of army operations in the direction of Chinchow.

The National Bank of Czechoslovakia reduced its discount rate on Tuesday, Dec. 22, from 6½% to 6%. Rates are 8% in Austria and Hungary; 7% in Germany, Portugal and Italy; 6½% in Spain and Ireland; 6% in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Danzig and Czechoslovakia, and in England; 3% in Holland; 2½% in Belgium, and 2½% in France and Switzerland. In the London open market discounts for short bills on Thursday were 5¾@6%, the same as on Friday of last week, and also 5¾@6% for three months' bills, the same as the previous Friday. Money on call in London on Thursday was 3½%. At Paris the open market rate continues at 1⅞%, and in Switzerland at 1¾%.

The Bank of England statement for the week ended Dec. 23 shows a further small loss in gold holdings, amounting this week to £75,096. This, together with an expansion of £6,497,000 in circulation, brought about a falling off of £6,572,000 in reserves. The Bank's gold now aggregates only £121,353,268 as compared with £148,821,432 a year ago. Public deposits rose £2,615,000 and other deposits decreased £514,070. The latter consists of bankers accounts which fell off £1,056,121 and other accounts which increased £542,051. The ratio of reserve to liabilities is off sharply from 26.62% last week to 20.94% now. The ratio was 29.08% a year ago. Loans on government securities increased £6,140,000 and those on other securities £2,530,845. The latter consists of discounts and advances and securities which increased £664,614 and £1,866,231 respectively. The rate of discount remains at 6%. Below we furnish a comparison of the different items for five years:

BANK OF ENGLAND'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1931. Dec. 23. £	1930. Dec. 24. £	1929. Dec. 25. £	1928. Dec. 26. £	1927. Dec. 25. £
Circulation a.....	370,032,000	379,676,869	379,573,000	388,242,899	138,711,420
Public deposits.....	14,614,000	10,284,679	8,829,900	12,969,050	14,561,638
Other deposits.....	111,002,963	89,905,609	106,837,470	107,001,102	123,975,164
Bankers accounts.....	72,281,664	56,217,226	71,048,531	-----	-----
Other accounts.....	38,721,299	33,688,383	35,788,939	-----	-----
Govt. securities.....	67,605,906	51,736,247	67,123,855	67,296,855	48,578,992
Other securities.....	49,612,335	37,213,354	40,035,196	44,785,930	74,448,730
Disct. & advances.....	13,536,612	14,199,048	22,300,076	-----	-----
Securities.....	36,075,723	23,014,306	17,735,120	-----	-----
Reserve notes & coin.....	26,321,000	29,144,563	26,453,000	25,824,375	83,447,429
Coin and bullion.....	121,353,268	148,821,432	146,027,587	154,067,274	152,408,849
Proportion of reserve to liabilities.....	20.94%	29.08%	22.80%	21%	24½%
Bank rate.....	6%	3%	5%	4½%	4½%

a On Nov. 29 1928 the fiduciary currency was amalgamated with Bank of England note issues adding at that time £234,199,000 to the amount of Bank of England notes outstanding.

The weekly statement of the Bank of France, dated Dec. 18, reveals a further gain in gold hold-

ings, this time of 70,188,167 francs. The total of gold is now 68,063,696,256 francs, in comparison with 53,283,850,425 francs a year ago and 41,387,666,642 francs the year before. An increase is shown in bills bought abroad of 206,000,000 francs, while credit balances abroad decrease 443,000,000 francs. Notes in circulation contracted 122,000,000 francs, reducing the total of notes outstanding to 82,526,000,000 francs. Circulation last year was 75,369,153,765 francs and the year previous it was 67,149,395,400 francs. French commercial bills discounted and creditor current accounts increased 194,000,000 francs and 175,000,000 francs, while advances against securities showed a loss of 40,000,000 francs. The proportion of gold on hand to sight liabilities stands this week at 60.20%, as compared with 53.78% last year and 47.86% two years ago. A comparison of the various items for three years is furnished below:

BANK OF FRANCE'S COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	Changes for Week. Francs.	Dec. 18 1931. Francs.	Status as of Dec. 19 1930. Francs.	Dec. 20 1929. Francs.
Gold holdings.....Inc.	70,188,167	68,063,696,256	53,283,850,425	41,387,666,642
Credit bals. abr'd.....Dec.	443,000,000	15,335,000,000	6,683,571,485	7,291,163,723
a French commer'l bills discounted.....Inc.	194,000,000	6,387,000,000	7,267,824,458	7,257,828,727
b Bills bought abr'd.....Inc.	206,000,000	9,189,000,000	19,408,400,248	18,771,058,912
Adv. agt. securs.....Dec.	40,000,000	2,794,000,000	2,930,070,961	2,543,144,243
Note circulation.....Dec.	122,000,000	82,526,000,000	75,369,153,765	67,149,395,400
Cred. curr. accts.....Inc.	175,000,000	30,531,000,000	23,712,182,800	19,322,255,735
Proport. of gold on hand to sight liabilities.....Inc.	.3%	60.20%	53.78%	47.86%

a Includes bills purchased in France. b Includes bills discounted abroad.

There have been no changes in money market conditions during the short business week now ending, funds remaining available at the levels established in earlier dealings. Call loans on the New York Stock Exchange have been 3% for all transactions, whether renewals or new loans. Withdrawals by the banks amounted to approximately \$10,000,000 Monday, but they were nominal thereafter. No offerings at concessions from the official level have been noted in the outside market. Time loans also remain unchanged. Brokers' loans against stock and bond collateral have again been repaid in substantial volume, the report of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showing a decrease of \$51,000,000 in the volume outstanding during the week ended Wednesday night. Gold movements for the same period consisted of exports of \$7,375,000 and imports of \$3,451,000. The stock of gold earmarked for foreign account increased \$11,378,000.

Dealing in detail with call loan rates on the Stock Exchange from day to day, 3% was the ruling quotation all through the week, both for renewals and for new loans. Time money is still inactive, and the market for this class of accommodation is practically without movement. Rates are unchanged at 3@4% on all maturities. These quotations are nominal, however, as each transaction is given special attention. The market for prime commercial paper had been very quiet this week, and while the supply is still short it has been sufficient to meet the present needs. Rates are unchanged. Quotations for choice names of four to six months' maturity are 3¾@4¼%. Names less well known are 4½%. On some very high class 90-day paper occasional transactions at 3½% continued to be noted.

The market for prime bankers' acceptances has again been very slow this week. The small supply of paper has proved sufficient to meet all demands. Rates remain unchanged from last week. The quota-

tions of the American Acceptance Council for bills up to 90 days are 3 1/8% bid, 3% asked; for four months' bills, 3 1/4% bid, 3% asked; for five and six months, 3 7/8% bid and 3 5/8% asked. The bill buying rate of the New York Reserve Bank remains unchanged at 3% on maturities up to 45 days, and at 3 1/8% on maturities of 46 to 90 days. The Federal Reserve banks show a further decrease this week in their holdings of acceptances, the total having fallen from \$307,077,000 to \$257,351,000. Their holdings of acceptances for foreign correspondents further increased from \$214,446,000 to \$238,648,000. Open market rates for acceptances are as follows:

SPOT DELIVERY.						
Prime eligible bills.....	180 Days		150 Days		120 Days	
	Bid.	Asked.	Bid.	Asked.	Bid.	Asked.
	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3
Prime eligible bills.....	90 Days		60 Days		30 Days	
	Bid.	Asked.	Bid.	Asked.	Bid.	Asked.
	3 1/4	3	3 1/4	3	3 1/4	3
FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.						
Eligible member banks.....						3 1/4 bid
Eligible non-member banks.....						3 1/4 bid

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

DISCOUNT RATES OF FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS ON ALL CLASSES AND MATURITIES OF ELIGIBLE PAPER.

Federal Reserve Bank.	Rate in Effect on Dec. 24.	Days Established.	Previous Rate.
Boston.....	3 1/4	Oct. 17 1931	3 1/4
New York.....	3 1/4	Oct. 16 1931	2 1/4
Philadelphia.....	3 1/4	Oct. 22 1931	3
Cleveland.....	3 1/4	Oct. 24 1931	3
Richmond.....	4	Oct. 20 1931	3
Atlanta.....	3 1/4	Nov. 14 1931	3
Chicago.....	3 1/4	Oct. 17 1931	2 1/4
St. Louis.....	3 1/4	Oct. 22 1931	2 1/4
Minneapolis.....	3 1/4	Sept. 12 1930	4
Kansas City.....	3 1/4	Oct. 23 1931	3
Dallas.....	4	Oct. 21 1931	3
San Francisco.....	3 1/4	Oct. 21 1931	2 1/4

Sterling exchange has been exceptionally quiet this week and showed a softer tone, following the trend which developed on Friday of last week when the exchange broke sharply, with cable transfers closing at 3.34. A sudden upswing, accompanied by considerable activity in trading, on Wednesday developed a range of from 3.41 3/4 to 3.42 3/4. This upturn is a usual event in the few days before Christmas and is attributed, as always, to the regular "window dressing" operations of foreign banks, which normally recall some of their funds from this market in order to present a favorable showing in their year-end statements. It is also known that there are considerable transfers for gift remittances at this season. While individual checks may be small, in the aggregate they create a marked demand for foreign exchange. Aside from these special transactions, all exchanges are exceptionally quiet in the period just prior to and subsequent to the Christmas holiday. There was no market yesterday (Friday) in any centre. The range this week has been from 3.37 3/4 to 3.43 3/4 for bankers' sight bills, compared with 3.33 1/4 to 3.46 1/4 last week. The range for cable transfers has been from 3.38 1/4 to 3.44, compared with 3.33 3/4 to 3.46 3/4 last week. The foreign exchange market is expected to continue quiet until the first week in January.

In all important respects the underlying situation of sterling presents no new features since the abandonment of gold on Sept. 20. However, part of the firmness which was displayed in trading on Wednesday is attributed in some quarters to improvement in sentiment as a result of the passage by the United States Senate of the Hoover moratorium plan. War

debt and reparations suspension are now assured until July. Gold continues to sell at a premium in London and was quoted several times during the week at a range of from 120s. 2d. to 122s. 1d. per ounce. This week the Bank of England shows gold holdings of £121,353,268, which compares with £121,428,364 on Dec. 16 and with £148,821,432 a year ago. At the Port of New York the gold movement for the week ended Dec. 23, as reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, consists of imports of \$3,451,000, of which \$1,995,000 came from Canada, \$633,000 from India, \$260,000 from Cuba, \$243,000 from Mexico and \$320,000 chiefly from other Latin American countries. Gold exports totaled \$7,375,000, of which \$4,439,000 was sent to Holland, \$2,190,000 to France, \$484,000 to Switzerland, \$200,000 to Belgium and \$62,000 chiefly to other European countries. There was an increase of \$11,378,000 in gold earmarked for foreign account. In tabular form the gold movement at the Port of New York for the week ended Dec. 23, as reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, was as follows:

GOLD MOVEMENT AT NEW YORK, DEC. 17-DEC. 23, INCLUSIVE

Imports.	Exports.
\$1,995,000 from Canada	\$4,439,000 to Holland
633,000 from India	2,190,000 to France
260,000 from Cuba	484,000 to Switzerland
243,000 from Mexico	200,000 to Belgium
320,000 chiefly from Latin American countries	62,000 chiefly to other European countries
\$3,451,000 total	\$7,375,000 total
Net Change in Gold Earmarked for Foreign Account. Increase, \$11,378,000	

On Thursday gold exports were \$3,641,700, of which \$2,791,700 went to Belgium, \$550,000 to France and \$300,000 to Holland. Imports were \$374,700, of which \$189,800 from England and \$184,900 from Straits Settlements. There was also a decrease of \$2,393,400 in gold earmarked for foreign account. Yesterday being a holiday (Christmas Day), there were no reports on the gold movement. During the week approximately \$20,251,000 of gold was received at San Francisco, of which \$18,688,000 came from Japan, \$1,063,000 came from Australia and \$500,000 came from China.

Canadian exchange continues at a severe discount. On Saturday last Montreal funds were at a discount of 19 1/8%, on Monday at 19 3-16%, on Tuesday at 17 7/8%, on Wednesday at 17 3/4% and on Thursday at 18 1/4%. On Monday Canadian papers carried accounts of a meeting of bankers with Prime Minister Bennett, at which the exchange situation was discussed. As a result of the meeting, J. A. McLeod, General Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia and President of the Canadian Bankers Association, forwarded a letter to the central bodies of such financial groups as banks, trusts, loan companies, stock exchanges and investment banking houses, outlining proposals for an unofficial "prohibition" of the purchase of Canadian or other securities in outside markets by residents of Canada. It is hoped by this means to overcome in some measure the severe discount of the Canadian dollar.

Referring to day-to-day rates, sterling exchange on Saturday last was dull with an easier tone. Bankers' sight was 3.38 1/2 @ 3.40 1/2; cable transfers, 3.39 @ 3.41. On Monday the market was quiet and softer. The range was 3.37 3/4 @ 3.39 1/2 for bankers' sight bills and 3.38 1/4 @ 3.40 for cable transfers. On Tuesday exchange was slightly firmer in a dull market. Bankers' sight was 3.39 1/4 @ 3.40 5/8; cable

transfers  $3.39\frac{1}{2}@3.41\frac{1}{8}$ . On Wednesday the market was firmer and more active. The range was  $3.41\frac{1}{4}@3.42\frac{1}{2}$  for bankers' sight and  $3.41\frac{3}{4}@3.42\frac{3}{4}$  for cable transfers. On Thursday the market was practically at a standstill, but still firmer. The range was  $3.42\frac{3}{4}@3.43\frac{3}{4}$  for bankers' sight and  $3.43@3.44$  for cable transfers. On Friday, Christmas, there was no market. Closing quotations on Thursday were  $3.43\frac{1}{4}$  for demand and  $3.43\frac{3}{4}$  for cable transfers. Commercial sight bills finished at 3.42; 60-day bills at 3.38; 90-day bills at 3.36; documents for payment (60 days) at 3.38, and seven-day grain bills at  $3.42\frac{1}{4}$ . Cotton and grain for payment closed at 3.42.

Exchange on the Continental countries is quiet and was more or less inactive in the early part of the week, but like sterling turned upward on Wednesday and for much the same reasons. French francs, however, have been weaker independently of any news affecting the other major currencies. Though trading in German marks is largely nominal, the rate moved up sharply on Wednesday to 23.79-23.80. This particular advance in the German rate is perhaps due chiefly to the passage of the Hoover moratorium plan, which as noted above, assures the suspension of war debt and reparations payments until July. At the same time favorable dispatches were received from Berlin regarding the work of the foreign short-term debt committee, and it now appears probable that these obligations will be extended over a period of years and will be gradually liquidated according to schedule. This is a much more satisfactory arrangement than mere postponement or "freezing" for a specified number of months, as a definite liquidation program can be followed.

French francs have followed a course all their own. On Thursday dispatches from Paris stated that a compromise has been reached in the demands of the French Senate Finance Commission and the Bank of France on the sterling loss bill. During the summer run on the British unit, the French Government virtually compelled the Bank of France to maintain its sterling holdings intact, which of course resulted in heavy losses by the Bank of France. The passage of the bill by the French Senate will enable the Bank of France to show a strong annual balance sheet, which is customarily published as of Dec. 24. The Bank of France statement as of Dec. 18 shows total gold holdings of 68,063,696,256 francs, which compares with 67,993,508,089 francs on Dec. 11 and with 53,283,850,425 on Dec. 19 1930 and with 28,935,000,000 francs following stabilization of the franc in June 1928.

Italian exchange fluctuated rather widely during the past few days. On Monday the unit was weak and opened at 5.07, but strong buying caused it to advance to  $5.11\frac{1}{2}$ , which was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points above Saturday's close and compares with the closing quotation of 5.09 on Friday of last week. According to figures just made public in Rome relating to the State budget, next year's estimated expenditures will total \$1,103,000,000, an increase of \$86,000,000 over the expenditure expected for the present fiscal year. The Treasury statement just published shows another deficit for the first five months of the present fiscal year, totaling \$73,000,000. Dispatches from Rome state that the Government is determined to keep down the note issue to the lowest possible level, and each new statement of the Bank of Italy shows a

small decrease in note circulation. The amount of bank notes in circulation on Dec. 10 was 14,152,000,000 lire, the lowest figure in the last five years. There has been a decrease of 7,746,000,000 lire since December 1920, when note circulation totaled 22,000,000,000 lire, the highest ever reached in Italy. In the first 11 months of 1931 Italian imports totaled 10,662,000,000 lire and exports were 9,046,000,000 lire. However, the excess of imports over exports decreased from 4,645,000,000 lire to 1,615,000,000.

Exchange on Czechoslovakia is quiet and has been remarkably steady for the past few years. It is commented upon at this time simply because the National Bank of Czechoslovakia reduced its re-discount rate on Tuesday from  $6\frac{1}{2}\%$  to 6%.

Hungarian exchange is at all times of minor importance in the New York market. Interest attaches to it at this time because on Wednesday a long predicted moratorium of two-thirds of the Hungarian foreign debt became effective. Hungary will pay most foreign debts in pengoes (Hungarian currency) instead of in foreign currency, but will continue to pay the interest amortization in foreign currency on the League of Nations loan of 1924, so far as exchange supplies allow. Further details regarding the action of the Hungarian Government will be found on another page. Baron Koranyi, the new Finance Minister of Hungary, declared a few days ago that Hungary would maintain the gold standard instead of pegging the currency to sterling or letting it drift. This latter point is considered to be a victory for France, which has been active in resisting the tendency to abandon gold wherever it arises. The market for Hungarian currency in New York is largely nominal. It has been steady for a long time around 17.50. The par of the pengo is 17.49.

The London check rate on Paris closed at 87.50 on Thursday of this week, against 84.75 on Friday of last week. In New York sight bills on the French centre finished on Thursday at  $3.92\frac{5}{8}$ , against 3.93 9-16 on Friday of last week; cable transfers at  $3.92\frac{3}{4}$ , against  $3.93\frac{5}{8}$ , and commercial sight bills at  $3.92\frac{5}{8}$ , against  $3.93\frac{1}{4}$ . Antwerp belgas finished at 13.94 for bankers' sight bills and at  $13.94\frac{1}{2}$  for cable transfers, against 13.90 and  $13.90\frac{1}{2}$ . Final quotations for Berlin marks were 23.75 for bankers' sight bills and 23.77 for cable transfers, in comparison with 23.73 and 23.75. Italian lire closed at  $5.09\frac{1}{4}$  for bankers' sight bills and at  $5.09\frac{1}{2}$  for cable transfers, against  $5.08\frac{3}{4}$  and 5.09. Austrian schillings closed at 14.15, against 14.15; exchange on Czechoslovakia at  $2.96\frac{1}{2}$ , against  $2.96\frac{1}{2}$ ; on Bucharest at  $0.59\frac{1}{2}$ , against  $0.59\frac{1}{2}$ ; on Poland at 11.25, against 11.25, and on Finland at 1.55, against 1.60. Greek exchange closed at  $1.28\frac{5}{8}$  for bankers' sight bills and at  $1.28\frac{7}{8}$  for cable transfers, against  $1.28\frac{5}{8}$  and  $1.28\frac{7}{8}$ .

Exchange on the countries neutral during the war, with the exception of Holland guilders and Spanish pesetas, shows no new trend. Swiss francs are, as they have been during the past few years, exceptionally firm. The Scandinavian currencies fluctuate in close adherence to the action of the pound sterling, with which they are closely allied through commercial interest. It will be recalled that Holland guilders broke sharply on Tuesday of last week, but recovered the next day. This week guilders con-

tinued to advance and have been above par most of the time. They were quoted on several occasions as high as 40.27, though there was a reaction to 40.15 on Wednesday and to 40.14 on Thursday. Par is 40.20. The recent break in guilders was due to reports widely current that Holland would go off the gold basis in order to meet increased Japanese competition in the Far Eastern markets. Similar reports have been circulated ever since the British crisis in September, and it has been denied frequently and emphatically in official quarters that any such abandonment of the gold standard would occur. Dutch colonial interests have favored a suspension of gold payments, claiming that the current low prices for their raw commodities make it impossible to compete with producing countries with depreciated exchange. Amsterdam, however, opposes this viewpoint on the ground that the loss to the country as a whole, through loss on foreign investments payable in guilders and lowered prestige of the guilder, would more than offset any gain to the export trade.

Exchange circles are interested in a Madrid dispatch on Wednesday stating that the Spanish authorities are considering the withdrawal of the Central Control Bureau from foreign exchange operations. This body was set up a number of months ago to control the peseta fluctuations and has been comparatively successful thus far. It has been a matter of comment that pesetas, which were a few months ago the widest fluctuating European currency, should have been so stable during the past three months. The stability was maintained through credits against gold deposited by the Bank of Spain with the Bank of France, but it is now believed that these credits have been practically exhausted and that the Bank of France is unwilling to extend its operations further in this direction. It is said in local exchange circles that if the operations of the control bureau come to an end the peseta will probably be allowed to seek its natural level again and a new period of fluctuation will set in.

Bankers' sight on Amsterdam finished on Thursday at 40.13, against 40.18 on Friday of last week; cable transfers at 40.14, against 40.19, and commercial sight bills at 40.05, against 40.00. Swiss francs closed at 19.53 for checks and at 19.53½ for cable transfers, against 19.51½ and 19.52. Copenhagen checks finished at 18.95 and cable transfers at 19.00, against 18.55 and 18.60. Checks on Sweden closed at 18.80 and cable transfers at 18.85, against 18.63 and 18.68, while checks on Norway finished at 19.05 and cable transfers at 19.10, against 18.35 and 18.40. Spanish pesetas closed at 8.47 for bankers' sight bills and at 8.47½ for cable transfers, against 8.46½ and 8.47.

Exchange on the South American countries is essentially unchanged, and for that matter that has been true for several months. These units are especially quiet during the Christmas season which is rather prolonged in the Latin countries. Quotations at present are steady with a shade of firmness, but trading is largely nominal. Advices from Buenos Aires state that the Banco de la Nacion is planning to assist grain growers in the orderly marketing of crops by advancing 75% of the value of wheat for a period of five months at 6½% per annum. To do this the Banco de la Nacion will have to rediscount the grain paper at the Caja de Conversion as the

supply of cash is limited. Under the present decrees the bank can do this so long as the gold in the Caja equals 40% of the note circulation. On Dec. 5, the gold stock, including 4,145,000 gold pesos held abroad, amounted to 273,472,478 gold pesos and note circulation 1,220,458,644 paper pesos. Rediscounts amounted to 305,912,053 paper pesos and it is estimated that advances up to another 340,000,000 paper pesos can be made on the present gold stock. Last week the Bank of Brazil decided that the rediscount section of the bank would accept coffee drafts up to 600,000 contos, about \$38,160,000 at present exchange rates or \$72,000,000 at par. A financial reform is planned to take place in Brazil immediately, which it is understood will include a clause whereby national and foreign banks would be obliged to deposit with the Bank of Brazil 10% of the total deposits in their current accounts, and the plan will have other stipulations which would virtually place in the hands of the Bank of Brazil the fiscal banking operations of the entire country.

Argentine paper pesos closed on Thursday at 25 15-16 for bankers' sight bills, against 25 15-16 on Friday of last week, and at 26.00 for cable transfers, against 26.00. Brazilian milreis are nominally quoted at 5.95 for bankers' sight bills and 6.00 for cable transfers, against 5.95 and 6.00. Chilean exchange is nominally quoted 12½, against 12½. Peru is nominally quoted 27.80, against 27.80.

Exchange on the Far Eastern countries presents no new features since the abandonment of the gold standard by Japan on Monday, Dec. 21. The Chinese units continue to rule relatively higher than in several months past owing to the better prices of silver. Silver is now around 30½ cents in New York and 20 5-16 pence in London. May silver in New York is around 31.75 to 32.20. Japanese yen are of course easier since the announcement of the gold embargo. While at present the yen seems to be receiving some sort of official support, or to put it another way, "unofficial control" nevertheless the market expects to see the rate go still lower. Yen broke in Tuesday's market to 38.25, but recovered before the close to 39.50. The recovery gave rise to rumors of support. Present yen rates compare with the closing price on Friday of last week of 42½, and with gold parity of 49.85. According to London advises the suspension of gold by Japan is regarded in Lombard Street as a measure of sheer economic necessity and it is pointed out that the foreign trade of Japan had been adversely affected by the fall in sterling, by the Chinese boycott since the Manchurian crisis developed and to some extent by the rise in silver, a bull movement which is equivalent to a bear movement on the Japanese yen. Through great efforts Japan had reduced its adverse balance of trade and this had necessitated heavy shipments of gold and further loss was foreshadowed by adherence to the gold standard. Much of the loss in gold, however, must be attributed to the flight of the yen from the low ruling rates for money in Japan in the past few years and the purchase of foreign securities both in sterling and dollars previous to the abandonment of gold by Great Britain in September. Again, much of the recent transfers of gold from Japan since the British crisis is attributed to Japanese interests which anticipated that Japan would follow Britain and place an embargo on metal shipments.

Tokyo dispatches on Saturday last stated that Viscount Takahashi, the new Finance Minister, has been investigating the extent of speculation in dollars by Japanese since the development of the Manchurian issue and has discovered it to be much larger than at first supposed. The amount had been placed at \$167,000,000, and it is now estimated to be nearer \$255,000,000, which was bought between Sept. 20, following the advance of the Japanese army in Manchuria, and mid-October. The Tokyo dispatches state that gold has been shipped to the United States to cover the \$167,000,000, but now \$88,000,000 more remains to be met. The Yokohama Specie Bank, it is understood, is covered in case of loss by guarantees given by the Bank of Japan and the Government is now considering what may be done to cover any eventual losses. On account of the better silver prices and the appreciation of the price of gold in the London market, India continues to ship large quantities of gold to London. The Indians regard gold as "treasure" and not as money. For generations India has been the world's greatest hoarder of gold and year by year an important part of the world's production has been taken by Indian buyers and thus has ceased to be available as a currency medium. In the same way that stocks and bonds have been selling in American and European markets for some time under "stress" to meet current cash or income requirements so the natives of India whose investments are in "treasure" are now selling gold for rupees. Merchants are scouring the country and offering attractive rupee prices for gold ornaments of the natives which are melted down into bars and shipped to London. The movement seems only to be at its beginning and will surely last so long as gold is at a premium. Up to the end of November £12,000,000 has been shipped, and it is known that over £6,000,000 is on the water. The movement is helpful to the Indian Government which is enabled to obtain large sterling balances required to meet interest and other payments. It

also keeps the rupee firmly pegged to sterling, which is, in turn, reaping a similar benefit since the sale of the bullion in London establishes British claims on gold countries.

Closing quotations for yen checks on Thursday were 40<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> against 42<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Hong Kong closed at 25<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>@25 11-16, against 25<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>@25 15-16; Shanghai at 33<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>@34 1-16, against 34<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>; Manila at 49<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, against 49<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>; Singapore at 41<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, against 41<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>; Bombay at 26.00, against 25<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, and Calcutta at 26.00, against 25<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.

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

Banks of	Dec. 24 1931.			Dec. 25 1930.		
	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
England	£ 121,353,268	£	£ 121,353,268	£ 151,316,227	£	£ 151,316,227
France a	544,509,570	d	544,509,570	426,267,680	d	426,267,680
Germany b	994,600	994,600	44,665,750	99,694,950	28,107,000	100,689,550
Spain	89,875,000	20,828,000	110,703,000	97,494,000	28,107,000	125,601,000
Italy	60,848,000		60,848,000	57,243,000		57,243,000
Netherl'ds	75,583,000	2,327,000	77,910,000	35,516,000	2,054,000	37,570,000
Nat. Belg.	73,053,000		73,053,000	37,072,000		37,072,000
Switzerl'd	60,964,000		60,964,000	25,620,000		25,620,000
Sweden	11,433,000		11,433,000	13,401,000		13,401,000
Denmark	8,015,000		8,015,000	9,560,000		9,560,000
Norway	6,559,000		6,559,000	8,136,000		8,136,000
Tot. wk.	1095803 988	24,149,600	119953 588 961,320,857	31,155,600 992,476,457		
Prev. week	1097327 728	24,322,600	121650 328 959,212,857	31,157,600 990,370,457		

a These are the gold holdings of the Bank of France as reported in the new form of statement. b Gold holdings of the Bank of Germany are exclusive of gold held abroad, the amount of which the present year is £6,497,550. c As of Oct. 7 1924. d Silver is now reported at only a trifling sum.

### Another Labor Government Rejected—The Australian General Election.

The defeat of the Scullin Labor Government in Australia in the general election on Dec. 19 marks the overthrow of a political regime which for somewhat more than two years has been governing the Australian Commonwealth on principles akin to those of the recent Labor Government in Great Britain. The Scullin Government came into power in October 1929, in succession to the coalition Government of Nationalists and Country party headed by Stanley M. Bruce. The defeat of the coalition Government was emphatic, Mr. Bruce himself, the leader of the Nationalists, four members of his Cabinet, and thirteen other members of the party failing of re-election. The membership of the House of Representatives returned in 1929 comprised 46 Laborites, 14 Nationalists, 10 Country party and 5 Independents. Complete returns of the current election were not available when this article was written, the counting of votes under a system of compulsory voting and proportional representation being a slow process, but incomplete returns on Tuesday gave the United Australia, formerly the Nationalist, party 38 seats, the Country party 16, Moderate Labor 14, Left Wing Labor 5 and Independents 2, a total of 75. A forecast of the composition of the new Senate, 18 of whose members, or one-half the total membership, came up for election, gave the United and Country parties 27 seats, Moderate Labor 7 and Left Wing Labor 2. In each House, in other words, the new United and Country coalition will have a majority of about two to one over the combined opposition.

State and personal factors count heavily, and to outsiders somewhat confusedly, in Australian politics, with the result that exceptional interest always attaches to the fate of individual candidates. Mr. Bruce, who was en route to Australia from England at the time of the election, was triumphantly returned, and it was reported on Thursday that he might be given an honorary post in the new Government. Dr. Earle Page, leader of the Country

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES CERTIFIED BY FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS TO TREASURY UNDER TARIFF ACT OF 1922, DEC. 19 TO DEC. 25 1931, INCLUSIVE.

Country and Monetary Unit.	Noon Buying Rate for Cable Transfers in New York, Value in United States Money.					
	Dec. 19.	Dec. 21.	Dec. 22.	Dec. 23.	Dec. 24.	Dec. 25.
<b>EUROPE—</b>						
Austria, schilling	\$.139435	\$.139535	\$.139464	\$.139192	\$.139421	\$
Belgium, belga	\$.139042	\$.139178	\$.139228	\$.139228	\$.139205	
Bulgaria, lev	\$.007150	\$.007150	\$.007150	\$.007150	\$.007150	
Czechoslovakia, krone	\$.029629	\$.029628	\$.029628	\$.029625	\$.029628	
Denmark, krone	\$.187750	\$.186700	\$.187500	\$.188577	\$.188487	
England, pound sterling	3.396726	3.390812	3.400238	3.420535	3.435416	
Finland, markka	\$.016431	\$.016350	\$.015900	\$.015612	\$.015766	
France, franc	\$.039348	\$.039343	\$.039338	\$.039305	\$.039267	
Germany, reichsmark	\$.236995	\$.236895	\$.237200	\$.237557	\$.237450	
Greece, drachma	\$.012883	\$.012872	\$.012877	\$.012889	\$.012888	
Holland, guilder	\$.401965	\$.402285	\$.402280	\$.401577	\$.401205	
Hungary, pengo	\$.174616	\$.174566	\$.174550	\$.174620	\$.174383	
Italy, lira	\$.050360	\$.050946	\$.050991	\$.050951	\$.050859	
Norway, krone	\$.186294	\$.185427	\$.186535	\$.187555	\$.187437	
Poland, zloty	\$.111792	\$.111856	\$.111856	\$.111868	\$.112012	
Portugal, esudo	\$.031500	\$.031500	\$.031500	\$.031700	\$.032175	
Rumania, leu	\$.005956	\$.005948	\$.005951	\$.005954	\$.005948	
Spain, peseta	\$.084670	\$.084677	\$.084620	\$.084635	\$.084590	
Sweden, krona	\$.188868	\$.188322	\$.188888	\$.190033	\$.190325	
Switzerland, franc	\$.195077	\$.195070	\$.195230	\$.195160	\$.195205	
Jugoslavia, dinar	\$.017806	\$.017794	\$.017797	\$.017783	\$.017803	
<b>ASIA—</b>						
<b>China—</b>						
Chefoo tael	\$.351250	\$.350833	\$.346666	\$.348333	\$.349375	
Hankow tael	\$.340312	\$.340937	\$.355937	\$.337812	\$.339843	
Shanghai tael	\$.336785	\$.336071	\$.330714	\$.332500	\$.335078	
Tientsin tael	\$.352916	\$.352500	\$.348333	\$.350000	\$.351041	
Hong Kong dollar	\$.253392	\$.252500	\$.250357	\$.251964	\$.252031	
Mexican dollar	\$.241875	\$.241875	\$.238750	\$.239687	\$.240625	
Tientsin or Pelyang dollar	\$.247500	\$.246666	\$.243333	\$.244583	\$.245833	
Yuan dollar	\$.244166	\$.243333	\$.240000	\$.241250	\$.242500	
India, rupee	\$.254583	\$.254791	\$.255416	\$.257500	\$.258208	
Japan, yen	\$.417031	\$.409062	\$.388750	\$.401093	\$.400166	
Singapore (S.S.) dollar	\$.391250	\$.393125	\$.391250	\$.395000	\$.395000	
<b>NORTH AMER.—</b>						
Canada, dollar	\$.809191	\$.805588	\$.808566	\$.819044	\$.818750	
Cuba, peso	\$.999250	\$.999250	\$.999250	\$.999250	\$.999250	
Mexico, peso (silver)	\$.392350	\$.393733	\$.398366	\$.400000	\$.399466	
Newfoundland, dollar	\$.807500	\$.803000	\$.805750	\$.817000	\$.816250	
<b>SOUTH AMER.—</b>						
Argentina, peso (gold)	\$.585594	\$.585757	\$.585332	\$.584905	\$.585544	
Brazil, milreis	\$.062018	\$.062081	\$.062081	\$.062021	\$.061950	
Chile, peso	\$.120750	\$.120750	\$.120400	\$.120500	\$.120500	
Uruguay, peso	\$.446000	\$.446000	\$.446000	\$.447666	\$.447666	
Colombia, peso	\$.965700	\$.965700	\$.965700	\$.965700	\$.965700	

HOLIDAY

or farmers' party, also came back with a large majority, as did John Latham, leader of the former Nationalist party. On the other hand E. G. Theodore, Commonwealth Treasurer in the Scullin Government and a conspicuous and disturbing figure in Australian politics for the past two years, was defeated by one of the candidates supported by J. T. Lang, Premier of New South Wales and leader of the Left Wing Laborites, and the Minister of Agriculture and Attorney General in the Scullin Government were also rejected. The political overturn, which Mr. Scullin declared was "a staggering blow," appears to have been very marked in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, where a correspondent of the New York "Times" reports that it was "equally decisive both in industrial and in agricultural areas," while the result in South Australia is described as the worst defeat that Australian labor has ever experienced.

The nature of the change that has taken place, however, is best illustrated by the career of Joseph A. Lyon, who is slated to head the new Government. Mr. Lyon is a Laborite who began his political career in Tasmania, where he was Treasurer and Minister of Education from 1914 to 1916 and later Premier and Treasurer from 1923 to 1928. In 1929 he was elected to the Commonwealth House, was appointed Postmaster General and Minister of Public Works and Railways in the Scullin Cabinet, and early in 1930 succeeded Mr. Theodore as Treasurer. Always moderate in his party views, he came into sharp conflict with the radicals of the Labor party over the conversion of a loan of some £28,000,000 which was shortly to fall due, an operation which he succeeded in carrying through in the face of a Labor demand that the matter be postponed for a year. The breach with the Labor following was never healed, and when, upon the return of Premier Scullin from the Imperial Conference at London, the Premier brought back into the Cabinet as Treasurer the former incumbent, Theodore, who had been under a cloud because of charges of graft made by the Queensland Government, Mr. Lyon resigned. It was with his leadership that the Nationalist and Country parties, the former now known as the United Australia party, agreed to offer joint opposition to Labor, and to this opposition the Scullin Government owes its defeat.

The Australian Commonwealth has thus duplicated in some of its features the radical readjustment of its Government that Great Britain has recently undergone. In each case a Labor party, grounded in the support of organized labor and professing principles essentially socialistic, has been defeated because of its inability to govern the country without inviting financial disaster, and a coalition Government dominated by conservative elements has taken its place. In each case the extreme radicals of the Labor movement, although a minority among the voters as well as in the national legislature, have been a disturbing and even disruptive influence, either forcing or paralyzing the Government's hand and wielding a power in legislation and policy out of proportion to their numerical strength. The soil was prepared for the policies which radical Labor followed, for even before the advent of the Scullin Government Australia had been widely known as a field in which experiments of a socialistic nature were being tried on an extended scale, and the country was often pointed to, along with New Zealand, as an example of what a "socially minded" State

could accomplish for general happiness and prosperity. Any one who recalls the severe financial strain to which the Commonwealth was subjected as the world-wide business depression developed, and the grave financial crisis from which Great Britain had to assist in extricating New South Wales and the Federal Government only last summer, will realize how unsubstantial those accomplishments were. When, with the financial ship on the rocks, the Scullin Government reluctantly accepted a program of sweeping economy and financial readjustment, it was too late to rehabilitate the Labor regime, and the country has now turned to more trustworthy leadership for guidance in its economic difficulties.

Mr. Lyon fought his electoral campaign in part on the issue of making Australia once more an attractive field for foreign investment, and he is quoted as saying that the new administration will conduct its financial affairs "in a manner to sustain complete confidence in the financial stability and honor of the Commonwealth." Having stoutly opposed inflation a year ago, when the conversion of the debt was under discussion, it is to be hoped that his opposition at that point may continue. Apparently he is a moderate protectionist, for Empire purposes at least, for he is reported as welcoming the new British tariff duties as opening the way to "a great expansion of reciprocal tariff agreements between the two countries." It is probably on the strength of these reports that London dispatches indicate an expectation that Australia will play a prominent part in the forthcoming Imperial trade conference at Ottawa. If the Ottawa conference accomplishes what many of those who are interested in it hope for, we may expect to see Great Britain and the dominions bound together in an Imperial tariff union, applying both the principle of protection and that of Imperial preference to the encouragement of industry and trade within the Empire. The scheme has many and serious difficulties to face, as past experience shows, and it certainly bodes ill for the general abatement of tariff duties which international trade so greatly needs, but the experiment is nevertheless one which the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations seem determined to try.

A special significance attaches to the Australian election because of the added impetus which it gives to the movement toward political and economic conservatism, under democratic forms, which has lately been so marked in Great Britain and which finds increasing support among thoughtful people in this country. When the circumstances which brought Ramsay MacDonald to his present position in England and marked Mr. Lyon for Premier of Australia are reviewed, it is clear that the social philosophy which affects to see in the State a reservoir of unlimited financial resources, to be drawn upon without restraint for the benefit of the many and replenished by drastic levies upon the possessions of the few, has no longer the appeal that it once had. The notion that the State was bound to do as much as possible of what individual effort had formerly done, and step in whenever and wherever the individual found need for special wisdom, experience or exertion and take the task off his hands, has become a good deal discredited. We are witnessing a conservative reaction, away from weak dependence upon government aid and in opposition to unasked-for government interference, and it is in that direction that the hope of recovery lies.



One immediate effect, of course, has been to produce some strange and contradictory political situations. A former Labor Premier whom his own party has repudiated heads a Government in Great Britain in which Conservatives are in a majority, and a former Labor leader who has repudiated his party in Australia heads a coalition Government there which is also predominantly conservative. It would seem entirely natural to expect that out of these anomalous situations there would eventually emerge new party formations, with party tenets restated and with organizations better fitted to express the people's will. Already it is being rumored in England that something akin to what on the Continent is known as a Centre party, representing the great middle group of voters who are as much opposed to extreme conservatism as they are to extreme Labor policies, may be taking shape quietly in Mr. MacDonald's mind, while the new United-Country coalition in Australia has essentially this moderate character. Whatever formal changes may be in store, however, the manifest trend is away from visionary and wasteful experiments which weaken the courage and ambition of the individual citizen and leave him burdened with debt, and back to saner and less costly practices. Every strengthening of such a trend is to be welcomed everywhere.

### *Superman and Superstate.*

An illuminating review of H. G. Wells's latest book, "The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind," by George Soule, in the New York "Times" Book Review, Nov. 22, casts much light upon the "purpose" of this most prolific writer. (Those of us without extensive leisure must rely on the reviews; we cannot read the books.) Mr. Soule finds Wells "guided by certain assumptions which—though he might deny it—serve the function of articles of faith. The war proved that the world is in abysmal confusion. The depression proves it again. The faith which Mr. Wells has in the possibility of perfecting human society leads him to grapple with the nature of this confusion. Proximately, it arises, he believes, from institutions like excessive nationalism in political and economic affairs, from the mismanagement of economic forces in the interest of particular groups and ancient habits." . . . "His leading articles of faith appear to be: first, that it is possible to better the course of human affairs; second, the way to do so is to educate large numbers of people, to improve their ways of thinking, and furnish them with a new stock of concepts."

Hence what appears to be a trilogy by this "leading pamphleteer of his generation"—"The Outline of History," "The Science of Life," and now "The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind." Each of these "pamphlets" is an encyclopedia, the last, in two volumes, containing 895 pages. The reviewer thinks that much of the knowledge contained in these books might readily have been compiled by another, less powerful in mind, than Wells, and, of course, lacking in his skill in presentation and arrangement and his force as a writer. In addition, Mr. Wells is a theorist, a devotee of his own principles, leaning far toward socialism. He may be, also, a colossal egotist in that he essays the task of looking over the whole realm of man's progress, thought and present condition.

Be this as it may, this reviewer, considering the current book, finds that the continuing purpose of Wells "is to break up the hard crust of belief that present economic arrangements are final and necessary, that they arise from an unchangeable 'human nature,' that they have always existed in essence and will continue to exist without important alteration. They are not, in any proper sense, a 'system' logically constructed for the utmost degree of workableness, or decreed by an inexorable fate. Rather, they are the confused outgrowth of a long development; they represent the midcourse of a process of groping from ignorance and primitive desire toward understanding and social coherence. They contain at once many obsolete survivals from earlier types of culture and many unfulfilled promises of something better. The fact that they do not fit into any neat scheme, that they do not comprise a really organic whole, is the very fact which makes it difficult for anyone—even Mr. Wells—to write a lucid and systematic description of modern economic society."

The review continues: "In breaking up the classical conception of unchangeable human nature in the shape of an 'economic man' whose competitive search for gain is supposed to be the essential basis of our economic order, Mr. Wells has made an interesting and new classification. He derives from Jung the concept of the 'persona' to indicate 'a man's guiding and satisfying idea of himself.'" Mr. Wells believes that what a man thinks he is and what he thinks his role is determine his conduct. "From the very beginnings of the human adventure and throughout the whole world to-day every human being is steering a cherished persona through the allurements, buffetings and frustrations of life." . . . "Three main types of persona are identified by Mr. Wells—the peasant, the nomad, and the educated man. Derivatives of these types are found throughout modern society. The peasant type still prevails, he believes—cautious, shrewd, mediocre, ruled by social taboos and superstitions. He is the average worker, the small business man, the traditionalist. The nomad type is adventurous, predatory, speculative—he has an acquisitiveness which is often confused by the Marxian with the acquisitiveness of the peasant, but which is really of a different kind. The educated persona, rooted in the priestly tradition, is essentially more disinterested, is moved more by general and social ideas. It has flowered into the professional man, the teacher, the artist." . . . Then: "Can we proceed with the task of thought and education with the hope that it" (the basic idea) "will in the end bring the necessary transformations?"

What is the average man, the average people, to do with these tremendous generalizations? How is the foundation to be builded? Can we suppose that education, however long continued, can exorcise from inevitable society of some kind this person (persona)? Our more common word is the "individual," of whatever class or derivative. Can he be ever taught to pursue something not in him, some cause, desire, idea, ideal, if not consonant with his thought at least not in antagonism to his natural well-being? Mr. Wells, as is well known, constantly dreams of a better future. Naturally, he conceives a possible perfection, a Utopian condition, a co-operative endeavor freed from our vulgar concept of individualism. Call it "human nature," call it what you please, can an emasculated individual, freed from the ego,

by any process of educative evolution, be made fit to sustain the imagined perfect social compact? There seems to us always a contradiction in this ideal of socialism—a State without individuals, and an individual without a State. How induce this transformation without a preconceived theorem? How bring it about without destroying the liberty of man? All the conflicts of history do not furnish a way!

"Confusion" there is, wide and deep. Nationalism there is, braggart and defiant—often descending into arrant chauvinism. Race there is, contradictory in color, language, characteristics, and in biologic differences. Peoples there are, saturated in traditions, indurated with religions, proud of achievements and possessions. States there are, with resources forever unequal, with boundaries and territories defined by militarism for the most part, incommensurate with populations and unlike in autonomies and rulers. Laws there are, woven of opposing conditions, the outgrowth of history, race, organization and reason. What mysterious and masterful alembic can transfuse these into a harmonious, even a peaceful, whole? And where, on what pinnacle above the molling and boiling "confusion," will the transformer, armed with his wand of the new ideal, stand to perform his gigantic work? Can mere "education" proceed along a road that has no signboards and no map? It is easy to blazon a picture on the walls of time; it is hard to realize it!

There are two experiments going on now, Fascism and Sovietism. Are they not tyrannies? Is the future man to be fitted to the mould made for him by the State or is he to remain free to mould the State? What, in this future miracle of justice, joy, and jubilation, will take the place of this "persona," who, through "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," follows his own inner concept, follows the "star" of his own creation? All these tremendous ideas are but vague shadows on an Unknown, no man can fathom. No wonder Mr. Wells is pessimistic about the condition and fate of man. We cannot, as a start in this gigantic processional toward perfection, eliminate war. We are trying, but as we try we are conscious of an active, aggressive sentiment that draws us back. As we contemplate a convention for disarmament, an incipient conflict breaks out in one of the oldest quarters of the world. Education in social and civic reform, we do not need. Every people on earth, as a collection of free individuals (at least in thought), is in favor of doing away with war, in favor of an arbitral settlement of international disputes. Alas, governments are not. Governments, proclaiming defense and protection, are impoverishing their peoples in "preparedness" for war.

If we cannot combine for this one step, in what way can we begin the educational program? We ride the prancing horses of Dream—whitheraway we know not. Yonder, somewhere, lies the Golden Age of Tranquility! In our strife to get there we lose our direction and travel in circles, travel from "prosperity" to "depression." Just now every people is drooping with despondency. Alas, we cannot begin our revival with saving and thrift, with frugality and temperance. We would whip ourselves into ecstasy by the old process of spending and speculation. We have an extremely useful device—credit. We have used it immoderately to live beyond our means, to lay inordinate taxes on the people, to im-

poverish future generations. Why talk of these grandiose dreams of plenty and peace, while unwilling to do the small things near at hand to start us on the right road? In grasping for the magnificent we lose our hold on the plain everyday betterment easily attainable.

Panaceas for all our ills we have in abundance. In the long run they are of no avail. The desperate "confusion" continues and increases. If it were not for the gainful occupations of men and women, by which they live; if it were not for their native common sense, independent of economics, politics, professionalism, and governments that assume to hold imperious powers, we should be drowned in the quicksands of our own efforts. What would the world be if it was out of debt? As it is, we pile one loan or bond issue on another, and because they only come close to us in taxes we tolerate their combined immensity, and careless of tomorrow (the next two or three generations) invent, make and buy the glittering baubles of pleasure we fancy is Progress. When, finally, the shoe pinches we squeal; we blame the laws we make in our own relief; we pick out a scapegoat in our politics on which to vent our spleen; in order to stave off revolution or at least riot, pay out charities by dole or otherwise, and on the whole live as though the hereafter, Utopian or other, could take care of itself.

Less of dream and more of duty; less of weasel schemes for immediate relief and restoration and more of rest, recompense, and restitution, to our fellows in the trenches of life; fewer vast schemes of a redeemed world and more efforts to harmonize the inescapable efforts to get food, clothing and shelter, would give us a beginning point in our hunger march toward Perfection. But we are unwilling to live in the open spaces of the country while we can crowd into tenements in the city. We are unwilling to build a civilization slowly, safely, sanely, while we can artificially rush the building to give employment to the many out of work brought on by our own speculative orgies; we are unwilling to change back to the normal growth that was the expansion of health and the vigor of exercise. If there is no Superman to lead us to the Superstate what is left to any people but to live plainly in the present, truth in the heart and Heaven overhead?

What the intellect creates the heart feels, and the conscience approves, *that* can come to the wide world in the evolution of time and toil. We well know, for the most part, what is wrong—but it cannot be cured in a decade, or a century. All peoples, all the time, are in too much of a hurry. Wise men, saturated with knowledge, can show us our faults—but their remedies, though plausible and sincere, though entertaining if impossible, are not enough. All the historical and philosophical tomes on all the shelves, are not enough. Each generation by its mode of living must contribute something to the fiber and sinew of that Golden Age wherein Perfection and Prosperity will grow from more to more. As men pass off the stage, leaving the small accretions of good behind them, the Dawn will grow brighter and brighter!

### **What Reserve Banks Say of Themselves.**

#### THIRD ARTICLE.

In a preceding article the open market policy of Federal Reserve banks, as reviewed by the banks themselves, has been analyzed. It was then seen that such open market operations have been engaged in chiefly with respect to

bankers' acceptances and Government securities; and the importance and significance of such transactions have been emphasized. The importance attaching to open market operations of the sort that have been common in recent years is obvious, especially when account is taken of the speculative relationships of the business; but no full judgment of the real meaning of the transactions can be formed until there is fairly full understanding of the conditions under which both acceptances and Government securities are prepared, and are offered for sale; and of the tendencies to which such transactions are subject. This article, accordingly, is intended to present the chief facts regarding acceptance operations.

ACCEPTANCE OPERATIONS, ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO COVER MERELY OPERATIONS GROWING OUT OF FOREIGN TRADE, BUT CHANGED IN 1917 TO INCLUDE DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCES.

And first, in this case as in that of open market operations in general, some background discussion is essential. The original Federal Reserve Act was evidently framed with great care, in so far as it had reference to the acceptance business, and resulted in permitting only the making and discounting (as well as purchase) of bankers' acceptances that grew out of "foreign trade." A review of the history of the situation leaves little doubt in the mind of any that this provision had originally reference to the foreign trade of the United States—that is, the foreign trade occurring between the United States and foreign countries.

The measure had hardly been placed upon the statute books, however, when steps were taken to secure its modification. What was desired was to have it, first of all, extended. The first step in this direction was taken in 1917, when Congress was induced to include in the legislation an amendment providing for domestic bankers' acceptances. It had earlier raised the amount permitted to be issued by any bank to the full equivalent of the bank's capital. Also, under the guise of financing war trade, permission was given for the creation of another 50% of any accepting bank's capital in the form of so-called "dollar exchange," it being the intention evidently that such dollar exchange should be short finance bills used to carry on the trade of countries that had seasonal exports, during the off seasons, when their shipments are very small. Various later efforts were made still further to enlarge and broaden the power so conferred, but they were not successful. Both the Reserve Board and Congress had, at length, taken the alarm, and were frightened at the abuses that had begun to develop almost upon the adoption of the new acceptance provisions.

#### BROADENING OF PROVISIONS BY ADMINISTRATIVE RULING.

There was even more dangerous progress in connection with administrative rulings. One of the first things the Reserve Board did was to permit the interpretation of the words "foreign trade" so as to include any foreign trade carried on by American citizens. Thus packing house interests were permitted to get financing at Reserve banks for the carrying of the trade between Argentina and Europe! Then, later, foreign trade was interpreted to mean any foreign trade by whomever carried on, so that the resources of Reserve banks could be used (for instance) to finance foreign trade between Germany and Poland. The very broadest interpretation was eventually given to the words foreign trade; and, at the last the interpretations thus came to border upon the ridiculous. Goods supposedly on the way to be shipped, but likely to sojourn a long time in a warehouse at some intermediate point were viewed as eligible as a basis for acceptance financing; and many other ways of making the acceptance into pure finance bill were turned up.

Space will not permit the review, even in outline, of the gross misuses that speedily crept into the acceptance business. The Reserve Board itself, aghast at the practices that

were in progress, issued letter after letter denouncing the "revolving credits," the "finance bills," the misinterpretations of the term "staple commodities" that were permitted and other aspects of the trade in acceptances that had begun to develop. All, however, was in vain, and finally the Board, growing tired of the warfare, and influenced (no doubt) by sundry of the new members who came into its membership after the election of President Harding, and who had hardly any knowledge of banking whatever, finally threw down the reins. In 1922 it granted to the Reserve banks what amounted to the power to make their own rules and regulations for eligibility. Deterioration was rapid after that; and has culminated in the German experience of the past summer. Of this more will be said later on.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE INSTITUTES INQUIRY BOTH INTO METHODS OF MAKING ACCEPTANCES AND INTO METHODS OF DEALING IN THEM.

In taking up the acceptance question afresh, the Senate subcommittee on banking has apparently recognized the necessity for an inquiry both into methods of making acceptances and into methods of buying and dealing in the paper—two different things, but both important, covering so broad a field that only a very general glance at the high points could be taken. However, the subcommittee has covered a large tract of acceptance practice in most lines, in a special questionnaire on the subject whose chief results are worthy of reproduction. The first question of the series has reference to "the factors making for an increased concentration of the acceptance business in the hands of a few institutions located in New York, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco. Among the reasons cited by the Federal Reserve banks were the concentration of banking resources in the cities named; their importance as domestic and foreign trade centers; their importance as settlement points; the volume of surplus funds concentrated in those centers and the prevailing low rates of interest; the fact that banking institutions located therein are better known and that their acceptances consequently command prime rates in the market."

ACCEPTANCES NOT WIDELY HELD, IN ADDITION TO BUSINESS HAVING FALLEN INTO HANDS OF A SMALL NUMBER OF BANKS WHOSE INTERESTS ARE PREDOMINANTLY FINANCIAL.

Whatever weight be assigned to these reasons for concentration as thus summarized by the Committee, the fact is, at all events, admitted that the acceptance business has tended to fall solely into the hands of a small number of banks whose interests are predominantly financial, and which are located in a very few places. Not over 250 banks have ever been able to make acceptances due to increasing obstacles in marketing, and a much smaller number—about 40—actually and habitually makes the bulk (86%) of them. The country banks have neither part nor lot in the business, and the whole past structure of assertion of good results to country banks arising from the acceptance business thus falls to the ground. Practice has tended more and more to limit the possibility that a small bank may get into the business.

Neither is it true that, as many had expected, the acceptances now made are widely bought by and help country and small banks. There have been many occasions in recent years when almost the whole body of acceptances was in the hands of the Reserve banks themselves, with the aid of foreign bankers who had been encouraged to place their funds in that form of investment—usually with the endorsement of some of the Federal Reserve banks—which thus became responsible for the entire experiment. At other times it has been possible, when rates paid offered a profit, to distribute the acceptances somewhat more broadly among the portfolios of member banks. During the past autumn accepting banks held only 40% of the total, and this was an unusual amount. As to all this the Committee has developed the major facts as follows:

*Boston* . . . discount markets arise in the larger centers because the bills originate there and funds for temporary investments tend to concentrate there. Before the establishment of the Federal Reserve Act, acceptances were executed in sterling form by several private banking houses.

*Chicago*.—Out of \$1,571,000,000 of bankers' acceptances outstanding on Dec. 1 1930, \$1,352,000,000, or about 86% of the acceptances of the first 40 accepting banks were of banks located in New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco, with the exception of one bank at Buffalo, one at Cleveland, and one at Philadelphia. These four cities are the principal financial centers of the country, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco being subsidiary to New York and each of the three serving its own particular territory; Boston, the New England States; Chicago, the Central and Western States; and San Francisco, the Pacific coast territory.

*Cleveland*.—(a) In this district there appears to be a lack of interest in the acceptance privilege granted under section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act except on the part of a few of our larger member banks.

(b) A preference on the part of many banks to loan their funds rather than their credit, even on transactions adaptable to acceptance financing, because of the better rate usually obtainable in loans.

(c) With only a few banks in this district availing themselves of the acceptance privilege and little interest on the part of our banks (with few exceptions) in purchasing bills, the volume created as well as the demand for purchases is not sufficient to warrant dealers in maintaining offices or carrying portfolios in this district.

*Dallas*.—The large capital structures of the banks in the cities mentioned provide for a sufficient volume of outstanding acceptances to make the commission revenue worth while. Moreover, the institutions in those cities are better known and therefore acceptance credits are sought from them, particularly where credits are desired by foreign banks on behalf of their customers. . . . It is a fact that the number of banks which have become familiar and conversant with acceptance practices has not yet reached sufficient proportions to create any large demand for purchasers outside of the centers mentioned. This results in a greater dependence, for the present at least, and probably for some time to come, upon the Federal Reserve banks to absorb acceptances that are put out to the extent that they are not absorbed by the purchases made by foreign banks. This is why Federal Reserve banks have adopted the policy of buying only indorsed bills, so as to necessitate the negotiation of a bill at least once in the market before it is purchased by a Federal Reserve bank. . . .

*Kansas City*.—So far as this district is concerned, commercial banks have not been interested in the creation of an acceptance market and the amount of acceptances originating in the district is very small, for the reason that our commercial banks have preferred to make direct loans at current rates rather than create acceptances on which they would profit only to the extent of the acceptance commission.

*Minneapolis*.—The following factors were important in concentrating the acceptance business of the country in New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco:

(a) The low rates which bankers' acceptances have yielded, and which make them undesirable as investments for banks in the interior where lending rates are higher and where it is possible to secure almost as large an income from interest on a correspondent bank balance as from investment in the bankers' acceptance.

(b) The prevailing use of other types of finance for domestic business, such as open credit, commercial paper, and direct bank loans.

(c) The concentration of import and export business in the cities named above.

(d) The lack of sufficient volume of open market types of loans in interior cities to warrant the growth of discount markets.

*New York*.—Important credit business naturally flows to the more important financial centers where are located the largest, strongest, and best known financial institutions. Most of the import and export trade of the country naturally flows through its principal ports and its financing is logically undertaken by the large institutions located in those cities. Discount markets can exist only when associated with and having access to money markets.

*Philadelphia*.—The value of an acceptance depends upon its salability, hence it must be accepted by an institution of the highest standing. Such institutions are located in the large cities, the majority, of course, being in New York. Transactions out of which acceptances originate, generally, are undertaken or finally completed by parties in the larger cities, or by those having financial connections in the large cities. The making of acceptances apparently has not proved attractive to many of the large banks, hence the comparatively few banks that make bills. . . .

*Richmond*.—In our opinion, the chief factors are: (1) That the dealers, or at least the large dealers, in acceptances are located in the money centers; (2) the accumulation of funds and the consequent slightly lower money rates prevailing in such centers have further tended to concentrate the acceptance business there; (3) the fact that in the interior (in this district, for example) the yield of acceptances is too low to attract banking institutions; (4) the tendency among dealers to encourage making acceptances payable in their centers; (5) a greater diversity in the character of acceptances available in money centers, which naturally prevails.

*St. Louis*.—In the early days we encouraged several dealers who tried to build up an acceptance business, but they soon gave it up as the banks in the Eighth District displayed very little interest in the acceptance business. In the infrequent instances where banks or others were inquiring about the market they seemed to prefer to go to New York.

*San Francisco*.—(1) San Francisco being so far removed from a primary market (New York), by distance as well as by time, makes the creation of a local market possible and to the direct advantage of acceptors and investors; (2) There is within the San Francisco district an important investment demand for acceptances and an original source of bills accepted by banks having their names well known in the bill markets; (3) Facilities given bill dealers by the Federal Reserve bank to carry bills when accommodation for that purpose is not available at the local banks.

The absence of these features makes it unprofitable for local dealers to operate in those Federal Reserve districts which can be adequately served from central points near at hand.

#### ORIGINAL OBJECTS FOR CREATION OF ACCEPTANCES HAVE FAILED OF ATTAINMENT.

We are thus warranted, by the testimony of the Reserve banks as summarized, in the opinion that the original objects brought forward, when the Reserve Act was framed, for the creation of acceptance paper—the affording of a substitute

for Stock Exchange loans which would be widely held in bank reserves; the establishment of a widely-diffused open market which would offer opportunity for trading in the liquid obligations of local banks; and the educating of the institutions to the notion of self-liquidation and the holding of liquid paper have failed. It is fair, however, to inquire whether there has been some substitute purpose to be gained in the place of those that were, in imitation of the experience of other countries, originally sought. What could this be? An answer might be found in the open market practice developed by the Reserve banks whereby bankers' acceptances were made to serve as one of the two chief media by whose use the Reserve institutions have placed funds in the market (through purchase), or let them out (through sale). But in order to have even this object satisfactorily complied with, it is of course absolutely essential that the acceptance, if not to be self-liquidating, should be at all events unquestionably payable or collectible, at maturity. This they have not been.

#### MORE AND MORE NEEDFUL TO RENEW ACCEPTANCES, THEREBY DESTROYING THEIR LIQUIDITY.

More and more it has been needful to renew acceptances, or to resort to "revolving credits," until at last these practices have culminated in the complete breakdown of liquidity in one large branch of the acceptance market—that originating in German transactions. The open collapse of Germany was six months later than the Senate subcommittee's inquiry, but the facts developed in the inquiry bring out the major causes leading up to the collapse, and these may be taken as typical of a whole range of facts reflecting the nature of the entire acceptance situation as developed under Federal Reserve supervision. The outstanding feature of that situation shown by recent statistics has of course been the rapid growth of finance bills made to carry goods in warehouse and to furnish loans to foreign countries at long maturity. On these points the subcommittee has made due inquiry and has received answers some of which are briefly summarized as follows:

*Boston*.—The increase in dollar exchange bills during 1929 was probably a reflection of the exceedingly tight credit conditions abroad.

*Chicago*.—With regard to the large increase in the volume of acceptances drawn for foreign storage and shipment between foreign countries, it appears that a substantial amount of this business originates in Germany and other central European countries and that it results, at least to some extent, from a continued shortage of capital and is not likely to be reduced until long-term loans can be floated in this country or in London or Paris. If long-term capital were readily available, it is the belief that the amount of this class of bills would be reduced to a considerable extent. We are unable to determine the cause of the increased volume of domestic storage bills in 1927 but are of the opinion that the still greater increased volume in 1929 was caused primarily by the surplus supply of commodities which was much greater than the demand. We are unable to determine the cause of the increase in the volume of export bills in 1927 and 1928. The increase in dollar exchange bills in 1920 was principally in bills executed for South American countries, caused by a surplus of commodities in those countries which they were unable to market readily and also due to the unfavorable exchange situation which created a demand for New York funds. With regard to the volume of import bills which has failed to increase as rapidly as the export bills, we are unable to determine the reason. With regard to failure of acceptances arising from domestic shipments to increase materially, this class of business is done largely through counter credits and is less suitable for acceptance credits. There does not seem to be much need for the development of the acceptance business along this line, as there is always plenty of counter credit available for this purpose.

*Cleveland*.—(a) More favorable rates, increased prestige of dollar credits abroad, and a lack of capital and sufficient banking facilities in Central Europe to carry on imports of raw materials and exports of finished goods without aid.

(b) The increase in domestic storage bills in 1927 over 1926 was approximately \$81,000,000, and a large part of this was reported as being drawn against cotton awaiting export.

The increase in 1929 over 1928 was approximately \$181,500,000, largely accounted for by agricultural products, grain, cotton, &c., awaiting export or other market. The increase reflected a desire to help the process of orderly marketing generally advocated.

(c) The increase in the volume of bills covering goods exported from this country in the years mentioned appears to follow the increase in value and volume of goods exported, which in those years were considerably augmented by the increased exportation of automobiles.

(d) The reason for the increase in dollar exchange bills in 1929 over 1928 appears to be increased merchandise exports. Coupled with this was the need of South American countries to provide dollar exchange to cover their imports, since their exports did not suffice. Curtailment of South American borrowings in this country during that period also affected the position of their exchanges.

(e) Import financing is, of course, subject to changes in the volume and value of our imports, and our import bills did increase every year since 1926. The increases between 1926 and 1928 were not great, but

a considerable increase in this class of bills was shown in 1929, reflecting the heavy sugar importations which took place in the fore part of that year and the large imports of silk at fairly high prices which occurred in the latter part of the year.

(f) Domestic shipment bills have never been a large factor in total acceptances created, as will be noted from the following schedule of the amounts of such bills created from 1925 to 1929 inclusive: 1925, \$25,600,000; 1926, \$28,686,000; 1927, \$20,959,000; 1928, \$16,197,000; 1929, \$22,830,000.

This indicates that other practices prevail, such as shipments against open account, with a cash discount for payment of the account before maturity, shipment against sight draft with bill of lading attached, or shipment against time draft with bill of lading attached. Both sight drafts and time drafts against bill of lading shipments covering commodities are readily discounted by banks for their customers.

*Dallas.*—During the period mentioned the margin of acceptance ability which the American banks desired to use was large and, due to a shortage of capital or loanable funds in foreign countries, it was probably easier to arrange commercial credits with New York banks than with banks in the countries from which the business came. The use of acceptances for carrying goods stored in domestic warehouses in 1927 was a convenient method of financing the carrying of commodities.

*New York.*—Dollar acceptance credit for foreign trade which does not touch our shores and for the storage of staple goods in foreign countries has increased importantly since 1926. The greatest demand for it has come from Central Europe, which since the war has lacked capital and sufficient banking facilities in Europe to carry on their imports of raw materials and exports of finished goods without aid from America. Also, much business of this sort that was formerly financed in London has come to America as the cost of American financing decreased in comparison with the cost in London. While American commissions are somewhat higher, the relative open-market discount rates have, during the greater part of the time, been working in favor of America.

The increase in the volume of acceptance credits against staples stored in domestic warehouses in 1927 and 1929 occurred most importantly during the autumn months of those years and doubtless reflected substantial agricultural production during those seasons, for which there was no immediate market demand. Commodity prices also are reflected in the dollar volume of credit.

*Philadelphia.*—The increase in acceptances drawn for foreign storage and shipment, from 1928 to the present time, has been due in part to a liberalization by the Federal Reserve Board of its ruling in regard to acceptances of this character. An increasing demand throughout the world for international short-time financing in the form of acceptances; the spread of interest rates between New York and London; a better understanding of bankers' acceptances; the service offered by our accepting banks, plus the stability of the dollar as a medium of exchange, were some of the principal factors responsible for the increase in the acceptances drawn for foreign storage and shipment. A large portion of the gain in 1927 in acceptances arising against goods in domestic warehouses was represented by American cotton awaiting shipment, the sale of which was temporarily checked owing to heavy stocks on hand in England.

*San Francisco.*—(a) Reason for rapid increase of foreign storage and shipment credits since 1926: (1) Renewed industrial activities in foreign countries, accompanied by increase of their external trade; (2) lack of working capital abroad induced purchases of American raw materials which could be financed by American credits; (3) long-term forward sales made European manufacturers call for well-advanced purchases of raw materials so that sale price can be matched against purchase price as a means of hedging.

(b) Reasons for increase of domestic storage credits, 1927 and 1929: (1) Sluggishness in movement of staples; (2) banks generally create bills more freely when they are indebted to Federal Reserve bank to keep down borrowings; (3) bank borrowers are more inclined to submit to secured (acceptance) credits when loan rates are above normal range and business is in a recession.

(c) Reason for increase of export bills during 1927 and 1928: (1) Owing to bill rates in United States being more favorable than in London, exporters used their foreign documentary drafts as a basis of acceptance credits instead of disposing of their bills to banks as foreign-exchange transactions; (2) for the benefit of the lower financing cost obtainable by the shipper in the United States, foreign buyers were willing to assume the risk of fluctuations in exchange.

#### STEADY GROWTH OF ACCEPTANCE AS A MEANS OF FINANCING MORE OR LESS FROZEN TRANSACTIONS.

The showing thus made seems to be conclusive as to the belief that there has been a steady growth of the acceptance as a means of financing long-term, storage, more or less "frozen" transactions chiefly arising out of a home surplus of farm products or out of trade between foreign countries which have lacked for working capital. In some aspects the financing of such needs is praiseworthy; but does it give rise to a kind of paper which should figure in the portfolios of "quick paper" held by member banks? Still more, should it figure as an element in the portfolios or reserves of Reserve banks, or for that matter of foreign banks, when held by them on behalf of such foreign banks. There can hardly be other than a negative reply to such a question; and yet it remains true that more and more of such paper had been appearing in the portfolios of Reserve banks prior to the German collapse. Impelled, moreover, by our example, various other countries had tended to break over their well established rules of banking, and were taking into their banking systems accommodation paper originating in Germany. The result has been the finding of the Wiggin Committee of last August, which has located officially not less than \$300,000,000 of such acceptances in American banks, with probably an equal amount in the banks of foreign countries. As

to the general character of the situation, it was already evident to the Chicago Reserve Bank as early as the beginning of this year, what was the origin of the trouble, the bank writing as follows:

From the information we are able to obtain, we are of the opinion that the lack of capital exports to Central Europe since 1929 has been an important factor in causing the increase of American acceptances against foreign storage and shipment of goods between foreign countries.

#### NOT FEASIBLE TO REQUIRE ACCEPTING BANKS TO HOLD ACCEPTANCES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

It might reasonably be expected, in these circumstances, that the Reserve banks would be disposed to resort to some means of bringing the acceptance business back to the well-tried plan of permitting dealings in this type of paper only when banks were in the habit of holding such paper for portfolio purposes. This also has formed the subject of inquiry and has elicited negative answers from Reserve institutions. The subcommittee asked:

To stimulate an investment demand for acceptances, should the Reserve banks follow a policy of refusing to purchase acceptances unless the accepting institutions hold bills, accepted by other institutions, equal to a substantial percentage of their own acceptance liabilities?

The banks replied:

*Atlanta.*—We believe that a Reserve bank policy of refusing to purchase acceptances unless the accepting institutions held bills, accepted by other institutions, equal to a substantial percentage of their own acceptance liabilities would be very impractical of enforcement, and it would tend to reduce the investment demand for bills as well as to reduce the total volume of bills outstanding. The banks would hesitate to purchase bills which they feared would not be eligible for immediate disposal to the Reserve banks. A further point to be considered is the fact that generally the season of the year when a member bank's acceptance liabilities are heaviest corresponds to the season when its supply of funds for investment is lowest. Such a change of Reserve policy would interfere with the mobility of short-term capital from one section of the country to another. The method by which the Reserve banks can most effectively encourage the investment demand for acceptances is to stand ready to take eligible bills off the hands of investing member banks at any time.

*Boston.*—We do not believe that it would be desirable to adopt a definite policy of refusing to buy acceptances from member banks unless the accepting institution holds bills accepted by other institutions equal to a substantial percentage of their own acceptance liabilities.

*Chicago.*—No. This would create an artificial situation in the bill market and in our opinion the market should be free from any such restrictions.

*Cleveland.*—In theory this might appear an effective means of stimulating an investment demand for acceptances, but it would not be so in actual practice since the purpose could be defeated by subterfuge.

*Dallas.*—No.

*Kansas City.*—This would not be practicable.

*Minneapolis.*—No.

*New York.*—We believe that Reserve banks should not adopt or follow a policy of refusing to purchase the acceptances of a given institution unless the acceptor holds bills accepted by others equal to a substantial per cent of their own acceptance liabilities. Such a policy, if effective, would require the immobilization of a portion of the assets of each accepting bank or banker and the character of the asset to be immobilized, i. e., bankers' acceptances, would be the class of investment which is and should be, we believe, most mobile.

*Philadelphia.*—Due to the artificial bill market we have at the present time, it is essential that the accepting banks carry at all times a certain proportion of their assets in acceptances of other banks, and properly so, but the amount should depend upon their condition at the time of purchase and should not be based upon a percentage of their own acceptance liabilities. A procedure of this sort is not conducive to a broader or healthier market.

*Richmond.*—We do not believe Reserve banks should follow this policy; we do not believe it to be practicable.

*St. Louis.*—No.

*San Francisco.*—No. It would be more constructive if Federal Reserve banks would educate accepting banks to the desirability of extending at all times (even when borrowing at the Federal Reserve bank) reasonable lines of credit to dealers at a cost not greater than that bid for 90-day bills.

It should not be (although it is) difficult for accepting banks to understand that their accepting privilege is of no value unless a market can be found for their bills. The dealers are rendering this service, and the banks creating bills should, for selfish reasons if for no other, support them instead of leaving such support (at times) entirely to the Federal Reserve banks.

#### RESERVE BANKS NOT INCLINED TO FAVOR CHANGES IN ACCEPTANCE PRACTICE.

Reserve banks are thus and elsewhere exhibited as unwilling to see broad change in existing methods designed to change acceptance practices and as preferring the same methods that have brought something like disaster as illustrated in the (subsequent) German breakdown. They apparently were still disposed at the close of last year to see a continuance of the situation which had been developed prior to that time with the business narrowly controlled and out of relation to business in general. The situation so revealed included the habitual supporting of the acceptance market entirely or nearly entirely by Reserve banks themselves, and the maintenance of a plan whereby both issue

and purchase of the paper was confined to an exceedingly small circle of banks. To this small circle appeal was made when it was desired to draw in funds, and through the same group funds were pushed out into circulation. The stock market was thus the chief regulator of the acceptance situation by determining whether there should be more or less of the paper in the Reserve banks, and the relation of the rate on acceptances to the call money rate.

**ACCEPTANCE BUSINESS UNDER EXISTING PRACTICE LARGELY A STOCK MARKET ADJUNCT AND A SOURCE OF DANGER.**

In these circumstances, it could hardly be expected that there would be a very close relationship between acceptance demand and the business situation or the commercial paper needs of the country. Reserve banks, in some cases, assert that the acceptance system has resulted in largely increasing the amount of self-liquidating paper in existence, but they give no evidence of it. Since it is so largely a stock market adjunct it is unavoidably inclined to have its whole being regulated or controlled by stock market conditions. It is not possible, surely, to develop an acceptance market on these lines, if it is to fulfill any purpose formerly known to European banking practice.

The conclusion thus becomes inevitable that the road of reform in acceptances is not through artificial regulations of an administrative nature, but is rather to be found in connection with the restoration of open market operations to their known and natural position as a part in the structure of central banking. Until that object is accomplished, it can hardly be expected that the acceptance will continue to be anything other than a constant source of danger—a nominally self-liquidating piece of commercial paper which is in reality a finance bill, or bit of "revolving credit" representing oftentimes surplus commodities in storage here or abroad, or frozen transactions embodying past debts and working capital requirements.

**The Course of Bond Prices.**

The "Financial Chronicle" is with this issue inaugurating the publication of tables illustrating the daily movement of the bond market. In the years immediately preceding the stock market crash of 1929 comparatively little interest was evinced by the "man on the street" in the action of the bond market. Apparently, the sole topic of importance to investor and trader alike was whether common stocks had moved up or down.

To-day the situation is reversed. Everyone realizes that the stock market is hovering around the lowest depths so far recorded during the depression. Yet it is felt, in informed quarters at least, that at the present time less attention need be paid to the daily movement of common stocks than was the case two years ago. Instead, with all conservative institutions (such as banks and insurance companies), interest has focused on bonds in this abnormal market, for upon the action of bonds in the past and the future depends the very stability of those institutions themselves.

The course of bond prices is reflected by the average yields and by indicated average prices calculated on the basis of those yields. Bonds have been classified both by quality, as shown by the ratings currently given by Moody's Investors' Service, and by major groups—rails, utilities and industrials. The method of rating and the bonds constituting the list at the present time are given below.

When any examination of the 1931 bond market is made, two features stand out. One is the fact that early in the year utilities displaced railroads as investments for safety, with the result that whereas utilities are now in the premier position, the carrier bonds—long regarded as the most stable form of investment—have fallen behind and are now out-ranked by both utilities and industrials.

The other feature is the relative stability which has been displayed up until September of this year by bonds carrying the highest, or Aaa, Moody rating. Although these obligations suffered a sharp break in price at that time, and

although their decline to date has been disturbingly continuous, they still are priced relatively high as contrasted with the lower-rated issues. The tables below picture the daily action of the bond market from the beginning of December to date as well as the weekly action in November. A line is added to show the corresponding figures a year ago at this time—that is, on Dec. 24 1930:

MOODY'S BOND PRICES.

1931 Daily Averages.	120 Domestic.	By Ratings.				By Groups.		
		Aaa.	Aa.	A.	Baa.	RR.	P. U.	Indus.
Dec. 24	68.27	82.82	74.70	70.85	54.08	53.89	78.56	75.32
23	68.45	83.22	75.03	70.58	54.30	54.03	78.56	75.55
22	68.76	83.22	75.03	70.14	55.82	54.66	78.45	75.70
21	67.86	82.68	74.27	69.01	54.46	53.35	77.89	75.25
19	67.42	81.74	73.95	68.33	54.30	52.75	77.44	75.10
18	65.29	81.22	73.20	66.35	50.97	50.04	75.37	74.11
17	62.56	79.77	72.48	63.33	47.42	46.12	73.18	73.51
16	63.66	80.94	73.00	64.77	48.35	46.74	74.42	74.74
15	64.14	80.94	73.33	65.01	49.03	47.37	75.04	74.86
14	65.29	82.00	75.13	65.87	50.15	48.36	76.30	75.86
12	66.39	82.68	76.11	67.01	51.26	49.29	77.55	76.48
11	66.89	83.54	76.11	67.49	51.77	49.81	78.23	76.80
10	68.04	84.06	77.27	68.92	53.18	50.83	79.47	77.83
9	69.03	84.76	77.73	69.96	54.22	51.79	80.53	78.47
8	69.86	85.04	78.53	70.76	55.26	52.54	81.37	79.12
7	69.86	85.04	78.65	70.49	55.41	52.38	81.49	79.30
5	69.70	84.76	78.77	70.85	55.14	52.75	81.25	78.80
4	69.50	84.76	78.77	70.67	54.40	51.91	81.25	78.96
3	70.13	85.32	78.89	71.75	55.20	52.68	81.86	79.46
2	70.53	85.63	79.01	72.02	55.53	52.82	82.46	79.40
1	71.37	85.77	80.32	73.04	56.35	54.17	82.84	80.02
Weekly—								
Nov. 27	72.65	87.06	81.30	73.69	57.97	55.59	83.58	81.21
20	75.17	88.57	83.19	75.95	61.54	59.46	85.36	82.22
13	77.55	89.62	85.02	77.98	64.80	63.02	87.08	83.27
6	76.56	88.26	83.97	77.17	63.93	61.59	86.41	82.56

MOODY'S BOND YIELD AVERAGES.

1931 Daily Averages.	120 Domestic.	By Ratings.				By Groups.			40 Foreign.
		Aaa.	Aa.	A.	Baa.	RR.	P. U.	Indus.	
Dec. 24	7.37	5.34	6.36	7.49	10.27	8.12	6.31	7.66	16.48
23	7.35	5.31	6.33	7.52	10.23	8.10	6.31	7.63	16.11
22	7.31	5.31	6.33	7.57	10.04	8.01	6.32	7.61	15.93
21	7.41	5.35	6.40	7.70	10.20	8.20	6.37	7.67	15.72
19	7.46	5.42	6.43	7.78	10.23	8.29	6.41	7.69	15.78
18	7.71	5.46	6.50	8.02	10.87	8.72	6.60	7.82	16.18
17	8.05	5.57	6.57	8.41	11.64	9.43	6.81	7.90	16.53
16	7.91	5.48	6.52	8.22	11.43	9.31	6.69	7.74	15.63
15	7.85	5.48	6.44	8.19	11.28	9.19	6.63	7.72	15.58
14	7.71	5.40	6.32	8.08	11.03	9.01	6.52	7.59	14.90
12	7.58	5.35	6.23	7.94	10.81	8.84	6.40	7.51	14.61
11	7.52	5.28	6.23	7.85	10.71	8.76	6.34	7.47	14.52
10	7.39	5.25	6.15	7.71	10.44	8.59	6.23	7.34	14.24
9	7.28	5.20	6.09	7.59	10.24	8.44	6.14	7.26	13.94
8	7.19	5.18	6.02	7.50	10.06	8.32	6.07	7.18	13.77
7	7.19	5.18	6.01	7.53	10.03	8.35	6.06	7.17	13.72
5	7.20	5.20	6.00	7.49	10.08	8.29	6.08	7.22	13.69
4	7.23	5.20	6.00	7.51	10.21	8.42	6.08	7.20	13.75
3	7.16	5.16	5.99	7.39	10.07	8.30	6.03	7.14	13.77
2	7.12	5.14	5.98	7.36	10.01	8.28	5.98	7.11	13.70
1	7.03	5.13	5.87	7.25	9.87	8.08	5.95	7.07	12.96
Weekly—									
Nov. 27	6.90	5.04	5.79	7.18	9.60	7.88	5.89	6.93	12.28
20	6.65	4.94	5.64	6.95	9.05	7.38	5.75	6.81	11.60
13	6.43	4.87	5.50	6.75	8.59	6.97	5.62	6.69	11.11
6	6.52	4.96	5.58	6.83	8.71	7.13	5.67	6.77	10.75
Yr. Ago.									
Dec. 24 '30	5.39	4.52	4.85	5.43	6.74	5.32	5.22	5.61	7.33

It will be seen that as compared to a year ago, the indicated average yield of the 120 domestic bonds has increased by 37%. In December alone the yield increase amounted to 5%. For the railroad group, where greatest changes have occurred during the year, the average price decline has been more than 50% since December 1930. The average price of the Aaa industrial bond one month ago was \$81.21, while on Friday it sold at only \$75.32, a loss of almost \$6 in one month.

**EXPLANATION OF MOODY'S RATINGS.**

Due to their wide use by investors and financial institutions, ratings are commonly accepted as ready measures of investment quality. Moody's Ratings have been applied to bonds longer than any other system. They are based on statistical studies of asset values, earning power and stability, combined with the judgment and experience of a staff of expert analysts. They are measures of investment quality and are not intended primarily as business forecasters or market indicators nor are they in any sense credit ratings.

The rating symbols are summarized as follows:

**Aaa**

Bonds carrying an Aaa rating meet the highest tests of every sort. Many such issues will have varying non-statistical characteristics, but such variations are usually unimportant and will seldom make an issue unavailable for this highest grade group if it measures up to the requirements of the "statistical rating."

**Aa**

Bonds carrying an Aa rating fall one scale lower than those of the very highest grade but in tests of asset value, earning power and stability they always rank well in the high grade field and frequently the difference in their statistical rating from that of the highest grade is but slight. All Aa bonds are well-protected high-grade investments.

**A**

Bonds carrying an A rating are also well up the scale as regards such tests as asset value, earning power and stability. While necessarily on a lower plane in these weighted averages, their classification as sound investments is fully demonstrated. They are somewhat more sensitive to changes.

**Baa**

Bonds carrying a Baa rating are also on a constructive plane and no bond is given a Baa rating unless it meets the uniform tests determined for all such issues. Baa bonds of many classes are often recommended to investors who do not exclusively seek the very highest grade groups and who want a larger income return than can be obtained among the Aaa, Aa and A classes. Bonds of this rating are not generally of institutional grade.

With bonds rated lower than Baa the speculative elements frequently overweigh any investment possibilities inherent in the issue. The position of a company with obligations rated in one of the classifications under Baa may, of course, so improve in the course of time that the rating on its bonds may justifiably be improved.

METHOD OF CALCULATING MOODY'S BOND YIELD AVERAGES.

The bonds used in these averages have been selected as representative of their respective groups—railroad, utility and industrial. The 40 railroad bonds consist of ten bonds each in the four upper ratings, Aaa, Aa, A and Baa. The utility and industrial bonds have likewise been selected according to rating groups.

The closing prices of the individual bonds are recorded each day. The yields are calculated on these prices and are averaged to determine the yields of each rating group. The yields of the various rating groups are then combined to form the averages of the railroad, utility and industrial groups. The above averages are further combined to form the averages for the 120 bonds, by ratings as well as in total.

Changes in the list of bonds are made very sparingly. It has been thought best to retain a bond in the list even though its yield is somewhat out of line with the yields of the rest of the bonds in its group, unless some good reason appears for changing it. It is necessary, however, to change the list of bonds occasionally, and this is ordinarily done only when fundamental conditions necessitate a change in the rating of any particular bond.

When a new bond is substituted for one which has been removed, a slight adjustment in the group average is usually necessary in order to keep the average on a comparative basis. The group average is determined as of the date of change, for the group as it has been constituted and for the new group. The difference between the yields of the two lists (which is usually very small) is then carried forward as an adjustment. In this way the changes in the list of bonds are kept from influencing the day-to-day movements of the averages which thus reflect merely the changes in market quotations.

To obtain the average prices corresponding to the averages of yields, average coupons and maturities are found for each group of ten bonds of the given rating and the average yield for this group is converted into a corresponding price by means of bond tables. Average prices for 120 bonds, for all railroad bonds, for all Aaa bonds, &c., are also obtained by a similar conversion of the corresponding yield averages.

The following is the list of bonds included in bond yield averages classified according to current ratings by Moody's Investors' Service:

RAILROADS.	
<p><b>Aaa</b> Atch. Top. &amp; Fe gen. 4s, 1905 Atlantic Coast Line 4s, 1952 Baltimore &amp; Ohio 1st 4s, 1948 Chesapeake &amp; Ohio gen. 4½s, 1922 Chic., Rock Island &amp; Pacific 4s, 1988 New York Central 3½s, 1997 Northern Pacific 3s, 2047 Norfolk &amp; Western 1st cons. 4s, 1996 Pennsylvania 4½s, 1965 Union Pacific 4s, 2008</p>	<p><b>Aa</b> Atlantic Coast Line 4½s, 1964 Chesapeake &amp; Ohio 4½s, 1993 Chic., Mil. &amp; St. Paul 4s, 1989 Chic. &amp; W. Indiana 4s, 1952 Great Northern 4½s, 1976 Erie 1st cons. pr. lien 4s, 1996 Kansas City Southern 3s, 1950 Nor. Pac. ref. &amp; imp. 4½s, 2047 San Antonio &amp; Aransas Pass 4s, 1943 Southern Pacific 4½s, 1968</p>

<p><b>A</b> Baltimore &amp; Ohio 5s, 2000 Central New England 1st 4s, 1961 Cleve., Cin. Chi. &amp; St. L. 4½s, 1977 Colorado &amp; Southern 4½s, 1980 Kansas City Southern ref. 5s, 1950 Missouri-Kansas-Texas 4s, 1962 N. Y., N. H. &amp; H. 4½s, 1967 New York Central 4½s, 2013 Rio Grande Western 4s, 1949 Texas &amp; Pacific 5s, 1977</p>	<p><b>Baa</b> Balt. &amp; Ohio conv. deb. 4½s, 1960 Boston &amp; Maine 5s, 1967 Chesapeake Corp. 5s, 1947 Chic., Terre Haute &amp; So. 1st 5s, 1960 Erie 5s, 1967 Missouri-Kansas-Texas adj. 5s, 1967 Missouri Pacific 5s, 1977 N. Y., N. H. &amp; H. deb. 4s, 1957 Western Maryland 4s, 1952 Chicago &amp; North Western 4½s, 2037</p>
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PUBLIC UTILITIES.	
<p><b>Aaa</b> American Tel. &amp; Tel. 5s, 1965 Bell Tel. of Pa. 5s, 1960 Cincinnati Gas &amp; Elec. 4s, 1968 Commonwealth Edison 4½s, 1957 Consolidated Gas, Elec. Light &amp; Power Balt. 4s, 1931 New England Tel. &amp; Tel. 4½s, 1961 N. Y. Gas, El. Lt., Ht. &amp; Pwr. 4s, 1949 Philadelphia Electric 4s, 1971 Pub. Serv. Elec. &amp; Gas 4s, 1971 West Penn. Pwr. 4s, 1961</p>	<p><b>Aa</b> Columbus Rwy. Pwr. &amp; Lt. 4½s, '57 Kansas Gas &amp; Elec. 4½s, 1980 Louisville Gas &amp; Elec. 5s, 1952 Metropolitan Edison 4½s, 1968 Northern States Pwr. 4½s, 1961 Ohio Power 4½s, 1956 Pacific Gas &amp; Elec. 4½s, 1957 Penna. Water &amp; Pwr. 4½s, 1968 Peoples Gas &amp; Lt. &amp; Coke 5s, 1947 Sierra &amp; San Fran. Pwr. 5s, 1949</p>
<p><b>A</b> Amer. Gas &amp; Elec. 5s, 2028 Appalachian El. Pwr. 5s, 1956 Columbia Gas &amp; Elec. 5s, May 1952 Detroit City Gas 5s, 1950 Indianapolis Pwr. &amp; Lt. 5s, 1957 Louisiana Pwr. &amp; Lt. 5s, 1967 North Amer. Edison 5s, 1969 Philadelphia Co. 5s, 1967 Texas Pwr. &amp; Lt. 5s, 1956 Utah Pwr. &amp; Lt. 5s, 1944</p>	<p><b>Baa</b> Amer. Water Wks. &amp; Elec. 6s, 1975 Florida Pwr. &amp; Lt. 1st 5s, 1954 Interstate Power 5s, 1957 National Pwr. &amp; Lt. 5s, 2030 Nevada Calif. Elec. 5s, 1956 Southeastern Pwr. &amp; Lt. 6s, 2025 Southern Colorado Pwr. 6s, 1947 Standard Power &amp; Lt. 6s, 1957 United Light &amp; Rwy. 5½s, 1952 West Texas Utilities Co. 5s, 1957</p>

INDUSTRIALS.	
<p><b>Aaa</b> American Radiator 4½s, 1947 Baldwin Locomotive 5s, 1940 Gulf Oil 5s, 1947 Illinois Steel 4½s, 1940 Liggett &amp; Myers 5s, 1951 Lehigh Coal &amp; Nav. "A" 4½s, 1954 Procter &amp; Gamble 4½s, 1947 Royal Dutch 4s, 1945 Stand. Oil of New York 4½s, 1951 Union Gulf Corp. 5s, 1950</p>	<p><b>Aa</b> Aluminum Co. of America 5s, 1952 American Smelt. &amp; Ref. 5s, 1947 Bethlehem Steel 5s, 1942 Bush Terminal 4s, 1952 Crane Co. 5s, 1940 Cudahy Packing 5s, 1946 Inland Steel 4½s, 1978 Lackawanna Steel 5s, 1950 Texas Corp. 5s, 1944 Union Oil of Cal. 6s, 1942</p>

<p><b>A</b> Abraham &amp; Straus 5½s, 1943 Bush Terminal Bldgs. 5s, 1960 Lorillard 7s, 1944 National Dairy Products 5½s, 1948 Paramount Broadway 5½s, 1951 Sinclair Pipe Line 5s, 1942 Sun Pipe Line 5s, 1940 Swift &amp; Co 5s, 1940 United Drug 5s, 1953 Youngstown Sheet &amp; Tube 5s, 1978</p>	<p><b>Baa</b> American Rolling Mills 5s, 1948 Crown Cork &amp; Seal 6s, 1947 Dodge Bros. 6s, 1940 Goodyear Tire &amp; Rubber 5s, 1957 McCrorry Stores 5½s, 1941 National Steel 5s, 1956 Paramount Publix 5½s, 1950 Pure Oil 5½s, 1940 Purity Bakeries 5s, 1948 Wilson &amp; Co. 6s, 1941</p>
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FOREIGNS.

Note.—The averages of yields on foreign bonds have been revised, due to the downward revision of foreign bond ratings made in September 1931. In the great majority of cases the rating of each bond on the list was at that time changed to the next lower rating.

It was decided, therefore, to carry forward the yield averages using virtually the same group of bonds, the "Aaa" bonds becoming the "Aa"

group, the "Aa" becoming "A," the "A" becoming "Baa," and the "Baa" becoming "Ba." Some changes were necessary in individual cases, as one or two bonds in each group continued with the same rating. Slight adjustments were necessary in the group averages, to care for these changes.

The revision of the averages was worked back to June 30 1931. Therefore, from that date, "Aaa" bonds became "Aa," &c., each rating group being one rating lower, but the entire list of forty bonds being substantially the same throughout.

The list of foreign bonds as at present constituted is as follows:

<p><b>Aa</b> Antwerp 5s, 1958 Batavian Petroleum 4½s, 1942 Belgium 6½s, 1949 Copenhagen 4½s, 1953 Denmark 4½s, 1962 France 7½s, 1941 Norway 5s, 1963 Norway Munic. Bank 5s, 1970 Soissons 6s, 1936 Sweden 5½s, 1954</p>	<p><b>A</b> Akershus 5s, 1963 Argentine "A" 6s, 1957 Bergen 5s, 1960 Danish Cons. Munic. 5s, 1953 Francia Ind. Dev. 7½s, 1942 Germany 5½s, 1965 Japan 5½s, 1965 Oriental Development 5½s, 1958 Oslo Gas &amp; Elec. 5s, 1963 Panama 5½s, 1953</p>
<p><b>Baa</b> Budapest 6s, 1962 Buenos Aires (City) 6½s, 1955 Finland 5½s, 1958 Gt. Cons. El. Pr. of Japan 6½s, 1950 Italy 7s, 1951 Poland 7s, 1947 Prussia 6s, 1952 Rome 6½s, 1952 Uruguay 6s, 1960 Vienna 6s, 1952</p>	<p><b>Ba</b> Buenos Aires (Prov.) 6s, 1961 Bulgaria 7s, 1967 Columbia 6s, 1961 (Oct.) Hungarian Cons. Mun. 7s, 1946 Karstadt (Rud.) 6s, 1943 Poland 6s, 1940 Ruhr Gas 6½s, 1953 Rumania 7s, 1959 Serbs, Croats &amp; Slovenes 7s, 1962 United Elec. Service (Italy) 7s, 1956</p>

DEATH OF CHARLES W. STEVENSON.—This paper has sustained a severe loss in the death of one of the most gifted members of its editorial staff. Mr. Stevenson was a member of the staff for almost a quarter of a century. During this time he contributed many of the ablest articles that have appeared in the paper. He had a wonderful command of language, with a wide vocabulary and a style and diction entirely his own. He wrote scholarly English, and his editorial discussions were always embellished with the choicest of words and expressions. These characteristics were particularly in evidence when he discussed such subjects as "Thanksgiving" and "Christmas." The article on the latter subject, which appeared in last Saturday's issue of our paper, was probably the last thing ever written by him, having evidently just been finished by him before he was stricken with cerebral hemorrhage on Saturday, Dec. 5. Deep faith and an exalted spirit always ran completely through such articles, and, being penned in poetic language, they commanded wide attention and called forth wide praise from admiring readers. The Editor never failed to receive many letters of appreciation after the appearance of such articles.

But Mr. Stevenson's contributions were not limited to this scope of work, though he excelled particularly in writing of that kind. He had a wide range of topics, discussing more especially subjects of banking and economics, in both of which he was well versed through deep study and wide reading. In addition, in the banking line he had some practical experience. In all these matters the columns of the paper were greatly enriched by his sound reasoning, clear thinking, lucidity of expression. In his early days, before his connection with the "Financial Chronicle," he was for a time a country banker, and thus gained an intimate knowledge of the problems of the country banker. He was born in St. Louis March 15 1859, but his home town was Warrensburg, Mo. The "Daily Star Journal" of Warrensburg, in commenting upon his death, notes that he wrote many poems as well as articles on financial subjects, and says that one of these latter, entitled "The Dignity of Banking," was later reprinted and sent to every banker in the United States. In these early days he was Cashier of the Bank of Warrensburg, which was later taken over by the People's Savings Bank of Warrensburg. A series of articles on the Louisiana Purchase was prepared by Mr. Stevenson for the St. Louis "Republic" before the World's Fair in 1904. These caused much favorable comment and were widely read. He also was associated with the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in 1913, and gathered all the historical data for the same. He was at one time Regent of the State School. Mr. Stevenson's father was Charles P. Stevenson, a medical doctor who came apparently from Kentucky. His mother was Martha Metzger, born in Baltimore, Md.

After the death of his mother, on Dec. 3 1910, Mr. Stevenson came East. He, however, spent very little of his time in New York City. During the last three of four years his health became impaired, and he was frequently obliged on that account to reside elsewhere, especially during the winter months, when the climate proved much too severe for him, and he then went out to California to live, usually at

San Diego. But he never discontinued his work for the "Chronicle," continuing to send his articles in with unvarying regularity. To the Editor his death is in the nature of a personal bereavement, close association with him for so many

years having led to a feeling of great endearment for him. As a matter of fact, while of a retiring disposition, Mr. Stevenson greatly endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact.

## Indications of Business Activity

### THE STATE OF TRADE—COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

*Thursday Night, Dec. 24 1931.*

An outstanding fact is that the retail trade in the United States is as a rule smaller than that of last year. This is the case almost everywhere throughout the country. Prices are low, but the people's finances are also low. They will not buy anything but the cheaper articles. Furthermore the weather has been too warm. It was 62 degrees in New York City yesterday, or an average of 20 degrees higher than that of a year ago. Cincinnati has of late had 62 degrees; Chicago, 52; Cleveland, 54, and Kansas City 60, with 64 at Philadelphia and 52 at Boston. These are of course remarkable temperatures for the final week of December. They are in strong contrast with the bitter weather spreading over Europe, and even North Africa. It comes to this on this side of the water that the high temperatures hurt trade in seasonable articles. Even where in some cities quantities sold approach those of a year ago, the dollar value is far below it. Heavy clothing and furs are hard to sell in the East and the Central West. In Chicago it is said the business in holiday goods both at retail and wholesale is up to the level of a year ago, but this is an exception that proves the rule. In this city the sales of men's and women's shoes are about as large as they were at this time last year but in no line is there any improvement here. Some cities, it is well to bear in mind, show a retail volume of business up to that of 1930 and in some cases better. Yet there is no evading the fact that the public as a rule has been buying less than in 1930, and that the attitude of the people in general is very conservative from a continued lack of confidence. Those who take an optimistic view say that at any rate the trading on the whole during the holiday season has been better than they expected. Some wholesalers have been busy at times with replacement orders. The idea is quite prevalent that the stocks held by retailers are down to a low ebb, and that if anything occurs to restore confidence retail buying is likely to leap to a very large scale.

Meanwhile heavy industries are still very dull. Iron and steel have been in slack demand. Some steel quotations have recently declined, and the fact is now more openly recognized. Collections in general have continued to be slow, though there are a few fortunate exceptions among cities here and there, which report a little more promptness. Men's clothing in general has been quiet. Philadelphia reports an over-production of such goods. The wool trade in Philadelphia has also been quiet, as well as that in hides and leather. Boston reports leather dull and unchanged and wool quiet. Manufacturers of women's shoes are doing a fair business but men's are quiet. Boston sends unfavorable reports about the holiday sales of dry goods. Chicago is looking for better orders from the Pacific Coast in the wholesale dry goods line. Some of the reports to wholesalers and jobbers stress the unusually small stocks now held by retailers after prolonged abstention from normal buying. Buyers have stuck to the policy of hand-to-mouth buying for fully a year past. The coal trade has been hit by warm weather, and coal mining is not up to the usual level of this time of the year. Wholesale business in coal has decreased during the past week and fuel oils have also suffered from the high temperatures. Kerosene alone has been in better demand at some advance in prices. The outlook for the petroleum industry on the whole is considered less favorable. Though proration is still under way, and determined efforts are being made to reduce production further, the output, as a matter of fact, has recently increased and prices have dropped. Gasoline sales have been smaller and stocks accordingly have increased. The automobile industry is still dull. The December output of cars, it is believed, will show some increase over that of November, but by no means enough to inject real snap into the industry. For that reason the auto buying of steel is very disappointing. Building is very sluggish, and there is little hope of immediate improvement. This affects the lumber trade as a matter of course. Seattle lumber mills are still running at only

25% of capacity and many are closed altogether until after the holiday. In the Central West flour mills are operating at from 40 to 75% of capacity. Los Angeles reports a little more activity in the motion picture industry than at this time last year.

The stock market, on the whole, has given no bad account of itself. It is, of course, no time to dogmatize about the movements of the stock market. Too often in the past a transient improvement at the Stock Exchange has seemed to "keep the word of promise to the ear, to break it to the hope." But that veteran of business, John D. Rockefeller, seems to think that the turn in the long lane of depression has come. Certainly it has got to come sometime. It may be that the bond market will lead the way. Wheat has declined 2 cents during the week, largely because of a lack of export demand, and it would seem that the prospects for foreign buying of domestic wheat are none too promising, with Argentina and Australia about to become active competitors for the European market. Meanwhile, the export buying is confined almost entirely to Manitoba wheat, whether for Atlantic or Pacific shipment.

Corn has declined 1 to 1½c., mainly because of a lack of a vigorous cash demand, which nullified the effects of small receipts; holding back of supplies by farmers, and a recent cut in the Government crop estimate of about 100,000,000 bushels. The cheapness of hogs also tends to militate against any improvement in prices for corn. Other grain has followed wheat and corn downward, but nowhere has there been any such depression as marked the trading in grain a few weeks ago. Provisions have been quiet and lard is off 2 to 5 points, with a larger hog crop than that of a year ago.

Cotton has practically stood still during the week. The large supplies are offset by the cheapness of the price and the steady demand from the trade for home and foreign account. Exports of cotton are making a better showing, especially to the Far East, which is buying more freely of American cotton than it did a year ago, taking advantage of the present cheapness of the American staple. Cotton trading is largely a waiting affair. The next big factor in cotton may be the acreage question. It will have to be cut to the quick or there will be trouble for the South. Sugar futures have advanced 2 to 4 points, but spot Cuban raws have remained at 1.10c. cost and freight, with trading very light. No conclusion has been reached at the Paris sugar conference. It is noticeable, however, that the 150 December notices issued on the 21st inst. were promptly stopped. And many think sugar is cheap enough. Coffee advanced a little less than half a dozen points in a dull market. But the offerings of actual coffee have been small, and in the background is the plan to destroy some 12,000,000 bags of Brazilian growth. Rubber has advanced 10 to 20 points and the belief seems to be deep seated in some quarters that a plan will be devised by England and Holland to restrict production to a telling degree. Hides futures have declined 10 points. Silver futures are off 50 to 65 points for the week. Silk dropped 10 points and cocoa 9. On the 19th inst., stocks and bonds again struck out for higher prices. Bonds in a sense set the pace upward. That injected new snap into a market that needed it. Advances were general, though towards the close there was some irregular reaction. One incident of the 19th inst., perhaps not without a certain significance, was a rise in Stock Exchange seats of \$9,000, one selling at \$131,000.

Stocks on the 21st inst. declined in some cases 1½ to 3½ points on profit taking after a sudden and perpendicular rise late last week. The pressure of selling had sensibly relaxed though prices were still on a somewhat slippery terrain. Declines took place of 3½ in International Silver, 3¾ in American Telephone, 3¼ in Union Pacific, 2¾ in Allied Chemical, 2½ in U. S. Steel common and Standard Oil of California, and 1¾ in Auburn and 1¼ in American Can. But fractional advances were scattered throughout the list. An extended list of domestic bonds moved upward oblivious of stock declines or anything else but a better



demand. Most United States Government bonds were lower though 3 out of 11 advanced slightly. Treasury 3s went to new low for the year. But this was about the only dark line in the bond spectrum. Most foreign issues advanced. If externals meant anything they seemed to mean something beneath the financial situation seemingly indicative of the stirring of new and hopeful forces in no slight degree due partly to the enlightening testimony of bankers before the Banking Committee of the United States Senate and partly to technical conditions.

On the 22nd inst. stocks declined at one time but rallied with rather significant readiness later. Again, back of it all, was a better bond market, especially for railroad issues, many of which rose 1 to 8 points. In fact domestic bonds in general were higher. Foreign issues were irregular and U. S. Government bonds were 1-32 to 12-32 points lower. Leaders in the rise in stocks were Auburn with a gain of no less than 9½ points, American Telephone with 2¾; Santa Fe, 2; International Business Machine, 3¾; Radio, pref. "A," 4¼; National Lead, 4, and Amer. Can & J. I. Case, 1¼; Amer. Smelting and Allied Chemical, 1½; Union Pacific, 1; Delaware & Hudson, 1½, and Santa Fe, pref., 2. Fifty stocks had an average rise of about 1¾. Stocks and bonds on the 23rd inst. were lower with sales of 1,560,487 shares of stocks. The declines were due mostly to profit taking on the eve of three holidays, though some of it was attributed to income tax selling. Popular stocks were down some 1 to 5 points and in a few cases more than that. Railroad stocks acted better than others. The industrial shares were under some pressure. The Hungarian moratorium had had little if any influence. It had been a foregone conclusion and seemed to have been mostly discounted. Taking stocks and bonds as a whole, it was clearly enough a pre-holiday realizing affair without special significance. A drop of 3½ points in Amer. Tel. & Tel. to nearly its lowest price this year was taken partly as a reflex of recent failures of New England banks. The selling of some other stocks was said to be partly due to this same cause. But mostly, it was a day of realizing after the recent rise.

The New York Stock Exchange will be closed on both Dec. 25 and Dec. 26. The Curb Exchange will also be closed on both days. The Chicago Stock Exchange, the Board of Trade, the Curb Exchange there and the Livestock Exchange will be closed Saturday, Dec. 26 as well as Dec. 25 for a three-day Christmas holiday. All the New York commodity Exchanges will be closed on both the 25th and the 26th inst.

On Thursday stocks were irregular in trading totaling only 1,106,103 shares, the smallest for a full day in 60 days. The closing showed prices for the pivotal stocks practically unchanged. A 10% cut in railroad wages seems certain. Wheat advanced ½ to 1c. and cotton 10 to 15 points. But stocks were sluggish. They made no response to news that the Young Plan advisory committee has recommended an extension of two years of the moratorium on intergovernmental debts. It seemed to indicate that the Young Plan is doomed. At any rate some doubt whether Germany will ever resume payments on the former scale. Apparently all this had been discounted. Certainly it fell flat. Bonds declined, led by United States Government issues, weakened by prospects of large government financing early in 1932. Railroad bonds declined moderately. German bonds were but slightly affected by the news from Basle.

The railroads of the country have served notice on more than 1,000,000 of their workers of a desire to effect a wage cut of 15% under terms specified by the Railway Labor Act, it was announced by Daniel Willard, President of the Baltimore & Ohio and chairman of a joint committee of nine presidents representing heads of all the major trunk lines. At the same time the western executives agreed to join the eastern and southern presidents conference in endowing a committee with plenary powers. Washington wired: "President Daniel Willard of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad told President Hoover he had confidence in the future amicable settlement of the railroad dispute which will save railroads \$200,000,000. This may be added to the \$100,000,000 provided for by the railroad credit corporation, and with this sum Mr. Willard said he looks forward to the future with considerable optimism."

Providence, R. I. wired that two cotton manufacturers in that State had decided to join in the movement in the South by curtailing operations 25% with a plan calling for the closing down of mills for one week of each month beginning with Christmas week. Charlotte, N. C. wired that print

cloth production by Southern mills will be reduced by more than 10,000,000 yards this week as a result of the extension of the Christmas holidays which is the first step in a program to be carried out for an indefinite period by some of the largest print cloth mills in the South. Gastonia, N. C. wired that full-time operation for the 21 yarn mills in the Chain of Textiles, Inc. is assured for 10 or 15 weeks beginning Jan. 1. Executives of the corporation said orders for delivery after Jan. 1 justified the belief that early in 1932 there will be a big increase in the textile business. Many of the orders are coming by telegraph indicating that the buyers want prompt delivery. Retailers, manufacturers and jobbers have been buying from hand to mouth and now find themselves with low stocks. Union, S. C. reports that 64 South Carolina mills will observe the Christmas holidays by a shutdown varying from two days to two weeks. These mills represent 2,727,200 spindles and 69,503 looms.

London cabled that at Manchester textile buyers and sellers were inclined to be extremely cautious on account of labor and other uncertainties. The tone was better, however, and import duties are said to be helping sentiment in some quarters. Manchester cabled on Thursday that cotton mill workers in that district refuse to accept an increase in working hours. This is in answer to the employers' suggestion that after Jan. 1 1932, the agreement made 12 years ago expiring, they will be at liberty to run the mills as many hours a week as they see fit. Detroit wired that Christmas trade by leading retail merchants is considerably below normal for the last decade, the result of continued mild weather, which still is well above the freezing point. This condition has proved especially unfavorable for the sale of sport goods and heavy winter clothing.

San Francisco wired that buying for the Christmas holidays continued to gain momentum there last week, with special sales showing gratifying results and with high grade merchandise offered for the first time in many years at prices not much above manufacturing costs. Stores, in general, are making every attempt to move their merchandise as rapidly as possible. Electric output in the United States for the week ended Dec. 19 was 1,675,653 k.w.h., a decrease of 5.3% from last year, according to the National Electric Light Association. High Point, N. C., wired that the Stehli and Hillerest silk mills there have announced that, beginning next Monday, they will give employment to 400 additional operatives. Officials said they had already notified the workers to report because orders in hand warranted capacity operation of mills.

Here on the 19th inst., the temperature was up to 58 degrees in a remarkably pleasant day for that date in the year. Chicago had 44 degrees; Cincinnati, 44 to 50; Cleveland, 38 to 42; Detroit, 38 to 40; Louisville, 52 to 58, and Milwaukee, 40 to 44. New York temperatures on the 21st inst., were 24 to 44 degrees. Boston had 18 to 40; Chicago, 42 to 50; Cincinnati, 40 to 60; Cleveland, 34 to 54; Denver, 38 to 62; Kansas City, 48 to 56; Milwaukee, 40 to 48; St. Paul, 32 to 40. Memphis wired Dec. 21, that flood waters on tributaries of the Mississippi River were spreading out over the fertile delta region. Hundreds of tenant farmers evacuated their homes. New Orleans wired that three small rivers overflowed in three Southern States: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and hundreds have fled from their homes. The levees were threatened at Asa, Miss. The oil fields in Arkansas have been inundated and about 400 producing wells have been put out of commission.

On the 22nd inst. it was 43 to 56 degrees here, an average of 50 degrees against 36 a year ago and 34 for 46 years. Chicago had 46 to 54, Cincinnati 48 to 54, Cleveland 52 to 58, Denver 40 to 58, Detroit 44 to 52, Kansas City 40 to 52, Milwaukee 42 to 54, St. Paul 38 to 48, Montreal 32 to 36, Omaha 44 to 48, San Francisco 48 to 52, Seattle 42 to 46, Spokane 28 to 42, St. Louis 44 to 56, Winnipeg 24 to 32. On the 23rd inst. New York temperatures were 49 to 62 degrees, an average of 56 against an average a year ago 20 degrees less than this. Chicago had 44 to 52, Cincinnati 46 to 62, Cleveland 46 to 54, Kansas City 40 to 60, and Winnipeg 18 to 26. Here on Thursday temperatures were still mild, being 47 to 56. The forecast was for rain on Thursday night and clear and colder by night on Christmas Day. In the Central West, temperatures were 42 to 62. On Dec. 24 the temperatures here were close to the high record for Dec. 24. Paris on that day reported the coldest weather in Central Europe for years past with 22 degrees Fahrenheit below zero in Bavaria. In Paris itself, mild weather with 41 degrees was registered. In the French Alps snow falls were heavy and deaths from exposure were reported even in North Africa. The cold has been severe in Italy and Spain. Heavy snows fell in Great Britain and the Continent from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. The death toll was placed at as high as 50.

#### Loading of Railroad Revenue Freight Still Small.

Loading of revenue freight for the week ended on Dec. 12 totaled 613,534 cars, the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association announced on Dec. 22. This was a reduction of 22,832 cars below the preceding week this year. It also was a reduction of 130,819 cars below the correspond-

ing week last year and 309,327 cars under the corresponding week two years ago. Details follow:

Miscellaneous freight loading for the week of Dec. 12 totaled 200,379 cars, a decrease of 13,176 cars below the preceding week this year, 61,795 cars under the corresponding week in 1930 and 121,724 cars under the same week in 1929.

Loading of merchandise less-than-carload lot freight totaled 197,558 cars, a decrease of 5,015 cars below the preceding week this year, 21,447 cars below the corresponding week last year and 47,485 cars under the same week two years ago.

Grain and grain products loading for the week totaled 30,179 cars, 2,480 cars below the preceding week this year, 9,353 cars below the corresponding week last year, and 13,816 cars below the same week in 1929. In the Western districts alone, grain and grain products loading for the week ended on Dec. 12 totaled 19,478 cars, a decrease of 8,366 cars below the same week last year.

Forest products loading totaled 19,084 cars, 1,218 cars below the preceding week this year, 14,978 cars under the same week in 1930, and 33,320 cars below the corresponding week two years ago.

Ore-loading amounted to 4,004 cars, an increase of 598 cars above the week before, but 2,389 cars under the corresponding week last year and 4,864 cars under the same week in 1929.

Coal loading amounted to 130,982 cars, 885 cars above the preceding week, but 18,091 cars below the corresponding week last year and 78,659 cars under the same week in 1929.

Coke loading amounted to 6,657 cars, 169 cars above the preceding week this year, but 1,884 cars below the same week last year and 5,262 cars below the same week two years ago.

Live stock loading amounted to 24,691 cars, a decrease of 2,595 cars below the preceding week this year, 882 cars below the same week last year and 4,197 cars below the same week two years ago. In the Western districts alone, loading of live stock for the week ended on Dec. 12 totaled 19,609 cars, a decrease of 551 compared with the same week last year.

All districts reported reductions in the total loading of all commodities, compared not only with the same week in 1930 but also with the same week in 1929.

Loading of revenue freight in 1931 compared with the two previous years follows:

Table with columns for years 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Five weeks in January, Four weeks in February, etc., up to Week ended Dec. 12. Total row shows 36,249,049 for 1931, 44,627,817 for 1930, and 51,345,761 for 1929.

The foregoing, as noted, cover total loadings by the railroads of the United States for the week ended Dec. 12. In the table below we undertake to show also the loadings for the separate roads and systems. It should be understood, however, that in this case the figures are a week behind those of the general totals—that is, are for the week ended Dec. 5. During the latter period only 15 roads showed increases over the corresponding week last year, the most important of which was the New York Ontario & Western Ry.

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED AND RECEIVED FROM CONNECTIONS (NUMBER OF CARS)—WEEK ENDED DEC. 5

Main table with columns for Railroads, Total Revenue Freight Loaded (1931, 1930, 1929), and Total Loads Received from Connections (1931, 1930). Includes Eastern District, Central Western District, and Grand total Eastern District.

Continuation of the table from page 4220, including sections for Railroad Districts (Allegheny, Poconos, Southern, Northwestern, Southwest), Central Western District, and Southwest District. Includes Grand total Southern Dist and Grand total Western Dist.

November Chain Store Sales Lower.

According to a compilation by Merrill, Lynch & Co. of this city, 46 chain store companies, including three mail-order concerns, show total sales for the first eleven months of 1931 of \$3,414,607,795, against sales of \$3,603,934,425 in the corresponding period of 1930, a decrease of 5.25%.

Results for November 1931 as reported by 46 chain store companies, including three mail-order concerns, show total sales of \$293,385,538, against \$325,565,395 in November 1930, a decrease of 9.88%.

Excluding the mail-order concerns, 43 chain store companies show sales for November 1931 of \$245,603,305, against \$267,587,241 in November 1930, a decrease of 8.21%.

During the latest week advances were shown in the prices for 18 commodities. This is the largest number of advances shown for the last several weeks. Lower prices were shown for 39 commodities. Higher prices were noted for wheat, corn, oats, cotton, hogs, copper, tin, silver, alcohol and creosote oil.

WEEKLY WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX—BASED ON 476 COMMODITY PRICES (1926-1928=100). Table with 5 columns: Group, Latest Week Dec. 19 1931, Preceding Week, Month Ago, Year Ago.

Electric Output in the United States During the Week Ended Dec. 19 1931 Showed a Decline of 5.3% As Compared with the Same Period Last Year.

The production of electricity by the electric light and power industry of the United States for the week ended Saturday, Dec. 19, was 1,675,653,000 kwh., according to the National Electric Light Association.

Arranged in tabular form, the output in kilowatt hours of the light and power companies for recent weeks and by calendar months since the beginning of the year, according to the National Electric Light Association, is as follows:

Table with 5 columns: Weeks Ended, 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928, 1931 Under 1930. Lists weekly and monthly electric output from Sept 5 to Dec 19.

Table with 6 columns: Company Name, 1931, 1930, Dec, 1931, 1930, Dec. Lists 46 chain store companies and their sales figures for 1931 and 1930.

Decline in Wholesale Prices, According to National Fertilizer Association, Not So Sharp During Week Ended Dec. 19.

The decline in wholesale prices during the week ended Dec. 19 was not as large as that shown for each of the immediately preceding three weeks. The wholesale price index of the National Fertilizer Association declined only three fractional points during the week ended Dec. 19.

Of the 14 groups constituting the index, four advanced, eight declined and two showed no change during the latest week. The groups which advanced were grains, feeds and livestock, metals, chemicals and drugs and fertilizer materials.

Because of irregularity of Labor Day holiday, change is calculated for the first two weeks of September. Note.—The monthly figures shown above are based on reports covering 92% of the electric light and power industry and the weekly figures are based on 70%.

Little Change in Industrial Activity in Philadelphia Federal Reserve District During October—Seasonal Gains Absent.

Industrial activity showed little change during October, although seasonal gains generally are characteristic of that month, says the Dec. 1 "Business Review" of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank.

Manufacturing was slightly less active than was to be expected and in early November registered customary declines. Awards for residential and factory buildings increased and the gain in contracts for public works was exceptionally large; nevertheless, payrolls failed to show proportionate increases.

extent and contributed to a rise of 10,000,000 in borrowings from the Reserve Bank. The Reserve ratio of this bank changed little. Member banks report a further decline in loans to customers; these loans are materially lower than a year ago, reflecting in a measure declines in business activity and in prices.

#### Manufacturing.

While some seasonal improvement in manufacturing activity occurred in October, sales and production in the aggregate failed to measure up to the volume of business typical for that month. Orders for manufactures reflected chiefly replacement demands, although those factories whose products are made principally for equipment purposes reported the continuance of unusually slack business. Prices of finished products declined a little further, but the drop in quotations for raw materials and semi-manufactured products was relatively greater.

Unfilled orders for manufactured products in early November showed a reduction from a month ago with the exception of such textiles as hosiery and cotton yarns. In comparison with last year, advance business continues materially smaller. Stocks of finished goods declined further and were almost uniformly smaller than a year before. This also appears to be true of the country as a whole with respect to manufactured goods but not raw materials which show accumulation when contrasted with inventories in recent years.

Factory employment in Pennsylvania showed a drop of 1%, while wage payments a gain of 2-10ths of 1% from September to October. Decreases in other industrial States, such as Delaware, Massachusetts, New York and Illinois were much greater than in Pennsylvania, ranging from 3 to 8% in employment and from 5 to 12% in payrolls. Indexes for the country as a whole show a decrease of 3% in employment and payrolls of the manufacturing industry. In comparison with a year ago, the Pennsylvania factory employment index was 17% smaller and the payroll index 33% less.

Production activity showed smaller than the usual gain, so that the seasonally adjusted index declined 4-10ths of 1% from September as compared with the decline of 5% in the National output of manufactures. The district index was 20% and the National index 13% lower than in October 1930.

More than seasonal gains occurred in the manufacturing groups comprising textile products, transportation equipment, foods, tobacco and radio and musical instruments. On the contrary, larger than usual recessions took place in the output of metals, chemicals, leather products, building materials and paper and printing.

Among individual textile products, the output of silk goods, carpets and rugs, cotton yarns and men's clothing cut in Philadelphia showed more than customary gains. This was also true of raw wool takings by carpet and other mills; National deliveries of wool fibers to factories declined 15%. Production of hosiery and cotton goods increased by smaller than the seasonal amount, while that of knit underwear decreased sharply contrary to the usual tendency.

In the food group, gains were reported for bread and bakery products, sugar and slaughtering of hogs, sheep and cattle. Canning and preserving, ice cream and the number of calves slaughtered declined more than is to be expected. The output of cigars did not increase as much as it should in October, while manufactured tobacco showed an exceptional gain.

Activity in the metal industry continued at an extremely low level and further decreases were reported for steel works and rolling mills, and iron castings, while electrical apparatus, and steel castings, registered rather small gains. Output of pig iron was greater than seasonal. In the transportation equipment group, operations of shipbuilding plants showed the sharpest gain, and the output of motor vehicles the largest relative decline.

The percentage decline in the output of shoes was nearly four times as great as is usual for October; the relative drop in the country's shoe production was even greater. Prices of shoes at wholesale declined fractionally from September but remained considerably above the pre-war level.

This was also true of leather. Hides and skins, the market for which is fairly quiet, were quoted at appreciably lower prices than in September, and the average was substantially below that of 1931.

Petroleum refineries showed little variation in output. Explosives increased seasonally, while the output of by-product coke remained stationary instead of moving slightly upward. Production of paper and wood pulp increased, while the rate of activity of printing and publishing decreased.

The output of lumber and planing mills showed gains contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, while that of brick registered virtually no change. As a result of slackened demand, production and shipment of cement showed an exceptional decline in November; production was the lowest in the past nine years, when allowance for seasonal changes is made. Cement stocks, while decreasing in the month, exceeded those of a year ago. Other building materials, such as paints and varnishes, pottery, slate and plumbing supplies, have displayed weakness with respect to prices and demand since the middle of last month.

The decline of 5% in the use of electrical energy by industries was smaller than usual, so that the seasonally adjusted index rose about 4% from September and was slightly higher than in October 1930. The increase of 4% in the total output of electricity was somewhat smaller than was to be expected.

#### Industrial Situation in Illinois, Reviewed by Industries, During November 1931.

Industrial employment decreased 3.3% and payrolls 5.2% in Illinois between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15, according to the reports of 1,410 Illinois industrial establishments, says Howard B. Myers, Chief of the Division of Statistics and Research of the Illinois Department of Labor, in reviewing the industrial situation in Illinois. Under date of Dec. 19 Mr. Myers continues:

Decreases of 5.2% in employment and 9.5% in payrolls were reported by the manufacturing industries. The non-manufacturing industries registered a loss of one-tenth of 1% in employment but a gain of two-tenths of 1% in payrolls during the period.

Nominal man-hours of work reported by 1,058 establishments showed a 4.5% decline from the preceding month. Manufacturing industries showed a 7.2% decrease in nominal man-hours while non-manufacturing industries showed an increase of 1.7%.

The severe curtailment in industrial activity revealed by the November reports brings employment and payrolls to the lowest levels yet recorded. The all-industry employment index of 68.1 for November 1931 is 16.7% below the index of 81.8 for November 1930 and 33.2% below the index of 101.9 for November 1929. The November 1931 payroll index, 52.3, is 25.2% below the level of a year ago and 45.9% below two years ago.

Manufacturing industries have experienced even sharper losses during the past two years than have all industries combined. Employment in factories has decreased 19.8% during the past year and 39.3% since Novem-

ber 1929. Payrolls in these factories have declined 32.5% and 57.4%, respectively, during the same periods.

With the exception of the paper and printing industries, which maintained a stationary employment volume, each of the main manufacturing groups made drastic curtailments in both employment and payrolls between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15. Leaving out of consideration the miscellaneous manufacturing group, which is represented only by three establishments, the decreases in employment ranged from 3.2% in chemicals, oils and paints to 25.4% in furs and leather goods. Payroll reductions ranged from 4.5% in the paper and printing group to 33.9% in furs and leather goods group.

The losses in furs and leather goods group were caused mainly by the shoe manufacturing industry. Twenty reporting boot and shoe factories laid off 29.3% of their workers and reduced wage payments 44.0% during the period. Seven tanning factories reported a 6.0% decrease in number of workers and a 10.2% decrease in wage payments. Miscellaneous leather goods industries also contributed to the reductions, while furs and fur goods registered an increase. Employment in the group as a whole has dropped 37.3% since last August, after registering steady increases during the first eight months of the year which totaled 26.0%.

The metals, machinery and conveyances group, represented by 397 reporting establishments, reduced employment 4.2% and payrolls 9.0% from October to November. Four of the 13 industry classifications in this group increased employment and three of these also showed larger payrolls. The three industries in which both employment and payroll gains were reported were tools and cutlery, agricultural implements and instruments and appliances. Agricultural implements plants, which are just beginning to show signs of resumed activity, are operating with slightly more than one-half the number of workers employed a year ago.

The most marked decreases reported in this group were in the manufacture of cars and locomotives and autos and accessories. The former decreased employment 10.6% and payrolls 19.2%, while the latter registered declines of 17.8% and 11.8% in these items. Twenty-six establishments in the metals, machinery and conveyances group reported that they had reduced wage rates during the period of this report. These reductions averaged approximately 10%. Weekly earnings for the group averaged \$20.37 as compared with \$21.49 a month earlier.

The stone, clay and glass products group reduced employment 5.9% and payrolls 8.5%. Every industry classification shared in the declines. Weekly earnings for the group averaged \$20.52 against \$21.39 in October. The manufacture of pianos and musical instruments escaped the general downward trend in the wood products group, but losses in other lines brought down employment 3.5% and payrolls 9.2% below the preceding month for the group as a whole. Average weekly wages dropped from \$19.02 to \$17.53.

The chemicals, oils and paints group decreased employment 3.2% and payrolls 6.8%, with all the reporting industries contributing to the declines. Average weekly earnings decreased from \$24.46 to \$23.56. The printing and paper goods group as a whole showed practically no change in volume of employment, increases in newspapers and periodicals, in edition book binding, and lithographing and engraving, offsetting losses in the manufacture of paper goods and in job printing. Payrolls, however, declined for all industries except edition book binding, resulting in a total decrease of 4.5% for the group. Average weekly earnings declined to \$28.77 from \$30.07 the month before.

All textile industries reduced both employment and payrolls from October levels, the knit goods industry experiencing the largest percentage reductions. Losses of 6.4% in employment and 12.7% in payrolls were shown for the group as a whole. Weekly earnings averaged \$16.08 as compared with \$16.89 a month earlier. The clothing and millinery group decreased employment 6.5% and payrolls 18.4%, reducing average weekly earnings from \$16.33 in October to \$14.27 in November.

In the food products group, several industries showed increases in employment, but payrolls went down substantially in all reporting lines. The payroll decreases ranged from 2.0% for bread and other bakery products to 35.4% for fruit and vegetable canning. The industries in which employment increased during the month were flour, feed and cereals, slaughtering and meat packing, beverages and cigars and other tobacco products. Employment decreased 3.7% for the group and payrolls declined 8.1%. Weekly earnings of the workers averaged \$24.27 as against \$25.29 in October.

The slight decline of one-tenth of 1% in employment reported by 343 non-manufacturing establishments for the October to November period, compares with increases of two-tenths of 1% reported for November 1930, and four-tenths of 1% reported for November 1929. Non-manufacturing payrolls increased two-tenths of 1% this November as compared with gains of four-tenths of 1% a year ago and 2.4% two years ago.

Wholesale and retail trade concerns added two-tenths of 1% more workers while reducing wage payments 1.4%. Gains of 4.7% in employment and 3.0% in payrolls by 44 department stores were counteracted by the decreases in all other lines, wholesale dry goods, wholesale groceries, mail order houses, milk distribution, and metal jobbing. Weekly earnings for the group averaged \$26.10 as against \$26.54 the preceding month.

The services group, including hotels and restaurants, and laundering, cleaning and dyeing establishments, experienced decreases of three-tenths of 1% in employment and six-tenths of 1% in payrolls. Weekly earnings in this group averaged \$18.47 against \$18.57 a month earlier.

Public utility concerns increased employment one-tenth of 1% and payrolls nine-tenths of 1%. Average weekly earnings for the group rose from \$31.44 to \$31.79. Thirty-seven coal mines reported declines of three-tenths of 1% in employment and 6.0% in payrolls. Operating schedules in these mines decreased considerably from October, and weekly earnings fell from an average of \$20.22 to \$19.43.

Employment declined in the building and contracting group, although operating schedules and payrolls registered increases. Seventy-six reporting concerns experienced a reduction of 3.7% in number of men employed but an increase of 9.8% in total wage payments. Average weekly earnings were \$38.70 in November, compared with \$34.49 in October.

Average weekly earnings for all reporting industries declined 52 cents, falling from \$24.54 in October to \$24.02 in November. Such earnings decreased from \$22.16 to \$21.12 for the manufacturing industries, and increased from \$28.32 to \$28.47 for the non-manufacturing industries.

#### Mr. Myers's analysis by cities follows:

Manufacturing activity continued to decline throughout the State during the period Oct. 15 to Nov. 15, employment decreasing 5.2% and payrolls 9.5%. These are the largest employment and payroll declines reported for any month since July 1930. Only two of the 15 cities for which figures are tabulated separately exhibited an improvement during the period covered by the reports. These were Danville and Sterling-Rock Falls.

Decreases in number of factory workers employed ranged from 1.3% in Peoria to 22.4% in Springfield. In payrolls, losses ranged from 2.1% in Peoria to 30.8% in Bloomington. Chicago factories fared better during this period than those located outside Chicago, the latter curtailing em-

employment 9.0% and payrolls 13.9%, compared with reductions of 2.8% in employment and 7.2% in payrolls for reporting establishments in Chicago.

Outdoor activities also declined in a number of the reporting cities, due to the fact that existing construction projects are being completed, while few new projects are being undertaken. The demand for farm labor, which has been greatly below normal all fall, showed a further decline during November.

Aurora.—Twenty-two factories reporting for this city decreased employment 6.0% and payrolls 15.3% during the October to November period. The only industry for which an increase in employment was reported was miscellaneous chemicals.

Bloomington.—Eleven factories reporting for this city decreased employment 22.1% and payrolls 30.8%, with all industries contributing to the sharp curtailments. The local railroad shops closed Nov. 14 and are not expected to reopen until Dec. 16.

Chicago.—A new low level in employment and payrolls was reached by Chicago factories in November. Reports from 551 factories show declines of 2.8% in employment and 7.2% in payrolls from the October levels.

Cicero.—Decreases of 3.3% in employment and 7.7% in payrolls were reported by 11 factories. The unemployment ratio registered 259.3 for November as against 269.7 for October.

Danville.—Employment remained unchanged while payrolls increased 3.0% in nine reporting factories. The payroll increase was due mainly to increased activity by a reporting brick yard.

Decatur.—Losses of 5.5% in employment and 3.2% in payrolls were reported by 19 factories of this city. Reports stated that the local railroad car shops worked 11 days in November.

East St. Louis.—Decreases of 7.0% in employment and 12.7% in payrolls were reported by 23 factories. The employment decline was the largest since November 1930, at which time both employment and payrolls registered declines of 11.4%.

Joliet.—Twenty-six reporting factories laid off 1.8% of their workers and curtailed payrolls 12.5%. The metals industry contributed heavily to these losses.

Moline.—Decreases in 17 reporting factories totaled 11.9% in number of wage earners and 17.4% in total wage payments. A large printing concern escaped the general downward trend in employment but not in payrolls.

Peoria.—Decreases of 1.3% in employment and 2.1% in payrolls reported by 34 factories reversed the upward trend of the two preceding months. Twelve metal industry concerns, however, continued the improvement noted during the past two months.

Quincy.—Employment decreased 3.8% and payrolls 13.2% in 15 factories of this city. Increases in both employment and total wage payments were shown for the paper and printing and food products groups.

Rockford.—Forty-three factories reported decreases of 2.7% in employment and 3.4% in payrolls. All industry groups except stone, clay and glass contributed to the curtailments.

Rock Island.—Employment decreased more than payrolls in reporting factories of this city, 11 plants registering a decline of 10.5% in the former item as compared with 4.7% in the latter.

Springfield.—Suspension of operations in a large shoe manufacturing plant and substantial curtailments in the metals industry group brought about a total decrease of 22.4% in employment and 23.6% in payrolls for eight reporting factories.

Sterling-Rock Falls.—Increases of 16.1% in employment and 15.2% in payrolls were reported by 11 factories of these cities. The increases were due almost entirely to the re-employment of nearly 100 men by an agricultural implements establishment.

All Other Cities.—This group of cities, represented by 256 reporting factories, decreased employment 11.3% and payrolls 17.7% during the period Oct. 15 to Nov. 15. All industries contributed to the decline, the drop in employment ranging from 2.1% in wood products to as high as 32.0% in furs and leather goods.

Statistics issued by Mr. Myers follow:

COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN ILLINOIS DURING OCTOBER 1931.

Table with columns: Industries, Per Cent. Change from a Month Ago, Index of Employment (Average 1925-27=100), Total Earnings Per Cent. of Chge. from October 1931, Average Weekly Earnings: Nov. 1931, Males, Females. Rows include All industries, Manufacturing industries, Stone, clay, glass, etc.

\* Figures omitted because fewer than 50 employees were reported.

Trade and Industry in Richmond Federal Reserve District During October and First Half of November Increased Slightly Less Than Usual.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in its Nov.30 'Monthly Review' says that October and the first half of November are expected to show a considerable increase in nearly all lines of trade and industry over recent months, and this year there was some increase, but it was less than occurs in most years.

In banking, October and early November witnessed an increase of rediscounts at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond of larger than normal proportions, and the circulation of Federal Reserve notes also increased more than is customary during the period.

in mutual savings banks increased moderately in October, but time deposits in regularly reporting member banks declined materially. Debits to individual accounts figures for four weeks ended Nov. 11 not only showed a seasonal decrease in comparison with figures for the four weeks ended Oct. 14, but were 19% less than aggregate debits in the four weeks ended Nov. 12 1930. The seasonal decline in debits last month was larger than occurs in most years. In comparison with the United States as a whole, the Fifth Reserve District made a good record in business failures in October, experiencing fewer failures and lower liabilities than in either September 1931 or October 1930, while the nation reported 11.2% more insolvencies and 25.5% larger liabilities last month than in October 1930. There was no improvement in employment conditions in October and early November, but on the contrary the completion of outdoor work undertaken during the summer months tended to add to the ranks of the unemployed. Coal production in October showed some seasonal increase over the output in September, but was much lower than production in October last year. West Virginia continued to lead in bituminous coal production in October, and showed somewhat less than the average decline in tonnage. The textile industry in the Fifth District increased consumption of cotton in October by 13.2% in comparison with consumption in October 1930, while the United States as a whole increased only 4.2%. In fact, the increase in consumption of cotton in October 1931 over October 1930 was greater in the Fifth District than in the United States, New England States having used less cotton last month. Spot cotton prices at the middle of November were slightly higher than a month earlier, but were about \$20 per bale less than prices at mid-November last year. The Department of Agriculture forecasts the 1931 cotton crop at 16,903,000 bales, the second largest production on record, and yields in the Fifth District are in line with the average. Cotton acreage was reduced in the district this year, and fertilizer was also used less extensively, but prospective yield is higher than last year on account of exceptionally favorable weather and very small weevil damage. The manufacture of tobacco has declined somewhat in recent months, but holds its own much better than most industries. Marketing of leaf tobacco is under way in the Fifth District, and good yields have made, been but prices paid the growers are the lowest in many years and for low grades there is hardly any sale. Large yields of nearly all crops are being harvested in the Fifth District this year, and in spite of disastrously low prices for nearly everything they have to sell the farmers are probably better off than they were a year ago, production of food and feed crops in large amounts this year making them less dependent on cash crops. The weather has been ideal for harvesting the year's crops, but winter grains have not had sufficient moisture for germination and growth, and fall plowing is behind the usual schedule. Construction of residences and industrial buildings continues at a very low level, but a considerable amount of public highway work and other projects outside the cities is keeping contract award figures about up to the level of the past year or two. Retail and wholesale trade in October felt the effects of unusually mild weather and consequently failed to show as large seasonal gains as in most years. In fact, wholesale trade in October fell below the trade of September in all lines for which information is available except dry goods. Both retail and wholesale trade in October fell materially below the volume of business done in October 1930.

**In its report as to wholesale and retail trade the Bank says:**

The weather in October was quite unfavorable for retail trade, being too warm and clear for the sale of fall merchandise, and as a result department store sales did not increase as much over September sales as in most years. October sales usually exceed September sales by about 40%, but this year the increase was only 26%. In comparison with last year's sales those of October 1931 show an average decline of 11.6% in 34 department stores, and the first nine months of 1931 dropped 4.8% below sales in the first three-quarters of 1930.

Stocks on the shelves of the reporting stores showed further seasonal increase in October, rising 9% over stocks on Sept. 30, but on Oct. 31 stocks were 9.6% less in selling value than stocks on hand on Oct. 31 1930. Stocks were turned an average of .362 times in October, and since Jan. 1 1931, stocks have been turned 3.041 times, a better figure than 2.739 times in the first nine months of 1930.

Collections during October showed a seasonal increase over September collections and were a little better than the average for October last year, 28.3% of outstanding receivables being collected last month in comparison with 24.6% in September 1931 and 28.2% in October 1930.

**Wholesale Trade.**

Sixty-four wholesale firms in five lines reported on October business to the bank. Sales in October in dry goods were 5% larger than sales in September this year, but the other lines failed to make the usual seasonal gain over the earlier month. In comparison with sales in October 1930, sales last month were materially lower in every line, ranging from a decline of 13.7% in drugs to a decrease of 23.2% in hardware. Total sales for the first nine months of 1931 were lower in all lines than sales in the corresponding period in 1930, drugs showing the smallest and hardware the largest decline.

Stocks on hand on Oct. 31 1931, showed a very slight increase in groceries over stocks on hand on Sept. 30, but the other lines reported stock reductions during October. On Oct. 31, stocks in all lines were materially lower than stocks a year ago, dry goods showing the largest decline, 29.2%.

Collections in every line showed a seasonal improvement in October over September, but were slower in every line than in October 1930.

**Stronger Undertone Noted in Business and Industry in Dallas Federal Reserve District in October.**

A notable improvement in public confidence and a stronger undertone in business and industry, engendered by the higher prospective crop yields and by the rising prices of some of the District's principal commodities, particularly wheat and cotton, according to the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank, were important developments in the Eleventh (Dallas) District during the past month. The Bank in its Dec. 1 "Monthly Business Review" adds:

Although unusually warm weather retarded the distribution of seasonal merchandise, department store sales recorded a substantial seasonal increase over the previous month, and reflected a smaller decline from a year ago than in September. Distribution at wholesale reflected some betterment, although consumer buying is still at a relatively low level as compared to previous years. Merchants are still limiting orders to immediate requirements, yet the gradually strengthening consumer demand and the firmer tone of prices in some quarters are creating a more cheerful sentiment. Debits to individual accounts at banks in principal cities reflected a gain

of 19% over the previous month, and the 20% decline from a year ago was the most favorable percentage reported since last January.

Building activity, as measured by the valuation of building permits issued at principal cities, showed a gain of 34% over the previous month, and while it was 35% below that in October last year, this decline was the smallest since mid-summer. Although the production and shipments of cement were lower than in the previous month, they evidenced a substantial gain over a year ago. Improvement was also noticeable in some of the other industries in this District.

Favorable weather during the past month enabled farmers to make rapid progress with the harvesting of cotton, and added to the prospective production of some late maturing crops. The Department of Agriculture in its November 1 report estimated the production of cotton in this district at a higher figure than a month earlier, and the grade and staple is turning out better than in the two previous years. Larger production was also estimated for some of the minor crops. The condition of ranges showed an improvement during the month, and that of livestock was well maintained. Reports indicate that animals will go into the winter in good shape and that there is an ample supply of dry feed available at reasonable prices.

There was a further expansion in the demand for Federal Reserve Bank funds during the past month. Loans of this bank to member banks, which stood at \$19,339,000 on Oct. 15, rose to \$26,068,000 on Nov. 3, and then showed a gradual decline to \$22,927,000 on Nov. 15. On the latter date, these loans were \$14,729,000 higher than on the corresponding date in 1930. Loans to customers by banks in larger cities also reflected a substantial increase between Oct. 7 and Nov. 12. The daily average of combined net demand and time deposits of member banks amounted to \$689,838,000 in October, as compared to \$724,824,000 in September, and \$831,071,000 in the corresponding month last year.

**Wholesale Trade.**

**Wholesale and retail trade conditions are indicated as follows by the Bank:**

Some improvement was in evidence during October both in the demand for merchandise at wholesale and in the general tone or sentiment underlying business in the 11th District. Increases over the previous month were reflected in the October sales of groceries, farm implements, and hardware through wholesale channels, and while dry goods and drugs showed declines of 2.9% and 3.7%, respectively, the former was less than the usual seasonal amount. The lines of groceries, dry goods, and drugs reported more favorable comparisons with the same month last year than were shown in September. While reports indicate that merchants are beginning to feel more confident regarding the present level of prices, commitments for future delivery are still being held to a minimum and most orders are being placed to satisfy current demands for merchandise. As a general rule, both wholesalers and retailers are carrying considerably smaller stocks than they had on hand a year ago. October collections in every line of wholesale trade showed further seasonal increases as compared to the preceding month.

Although business was somewhat spotty, the demand for dry goods in wholesale channels of distribution held up very satisfactorily during October. Sales reflected a decline of 2.9% from the previous month, which is less than the usual amount at this season of the year. As compared to the corresponding month last year, business during October showed a reduction of 20.2% while in September the decline amounted to 29.4%, and in August it was 38.0%. Stocks on hand reflected a decrease of 13.4% during October. In the volume of collections there was a further gain of 29.2%.

Contrary to the seasonal trend, distribution of groceries at wholesale in the 11th Federal Reserve District during October increased 3.6% as compared to the previous month. Sales were 18.8% below the volume of the corresponding month last year, whereas in September this comparison showed a decrease of 24.4%. Total sales during the four months ended Oct. 31 were 17.9% smaller than in the same period in 1930. Reports indicate that prices showed a firmer tone during the month than for some time past. The ratio of collections to accounts and notes outstanding rose from 64.2% in September to 69.2% in October.

Following the material increase which occurred in the previous month, a decline of 3.7% was reflected in the sales of wholesale drug firms in this District during October. Business was 16.1% smaller than in October 1930, and for the period between July 1 and Oct. 31 this year's sales averaged 17.6% under those a year ago. Orders were small and were restricted principally to merchandise of a staple or seasonal nature. The volume of collections during the month was 7.5% larger than in September.

A seasonal improvement of 5.1% was in evidence in the October business of reporting wholesale hardware firms in the 11th District. Despite this increase, the comparison with the corresponding month last year was somewhat less favorable than in September. Most of the demand was for replacement purposes or was stimulated by immediate requirements. During the months from July to October, inclusive, total sales were 33.0% less than in the like period of 1930. The month witnessed an appreciable gain in collections.

Despite a slight up-turn in the demand for farm implements at wholesale, the total sales of reporting firms during October continued considerably below those a year ago. Distribution during the month was 4.9% larger than in September, but fell 61.5% under the volume of October 1930. A further substantial increase was registered in the volume of collections during the month.

**CONDITION OF WHOLESALE TRADE DURING OCTOBER 1931.**  
(Percentage of increase or decrease)

	Net Sales Oct., 1931 Compared With.		Net Sales July 1 to Date Compared With Same Period Last Year.	Stocks Oct., 1930 Compared With.		Ratio of Collections During Oct. to Accts. & Notes Outstanding on Sept. 30.
	Oct. 1930.	Sept. 1931.		Oct. 1930.	Sept. 1931.	
Dry Goods.....	-20.2	-2.9	-28.3	-30.7	-13.4	28.8
Groceries.....	-18.8	+3.6	-17.9	-22.5	-0.5	69.2
Farm Implements..	-61.5	+4.9	-44.0	-10.4	-4.2	4.3
Hardware.....	-37.5	+5.1	-33.0	-15.5	-2.4	32.1
Drugs.....	-16.1	-3.7	-17.6	-17.7	-1.1	36.6

**Rail Trade.**

Reports to the Federal Reserve Bank from department stores in leading centres of this District showed some improvement in trade conditions during October. Sales of merchandise reflected a seasonal increase of 14.5%, and while a decline of 23.4% was registered as compared to the corresponding month of 1930, it was a more favorable percentage than that shown in the preceding month. Although business during October was further retarded by the prevailing mild weather, reports indicate that during the first half of November some lines of seasonal merchandise were accelerated by the attractively low price offerings. Distribution during the first 10 months of 1931 reflected a decline of 15.3% as compared to the same period of 1930.

Supplies of merchandise on hand on Oct. 31 showed a further increase of 3.5% over the previous month, but were 17.9% below those held at the



La Salle lines which comprise the La Salle V-8 and the V-12 and V-16 Cadillacs. The company has added 400 sales outlets during the past year.

The Studebaker Corp. is introducing new 1932 models, offered on four wheelbases, with prices ranging from \$840 to \$1,890, compared with previous range of from \$845 to \$1,950 on corresponding lines. The new models are equipped with an improved type of free-wheeling and synchronized shifting and comprise 22 body styles, including eight convertible models.

#### Canadian Minister of Trade Predicts Grain "Deficit"—Says Consumption Is Overtaking Production.

The following Canadian Press advices from Vancouver Dec. 19, are from the New York "Times":

A picture of the world consuming more foodstuffs in the form of wheat and rye than it was producing, was given here last night by Harry Stevens, Dominion Minister of Trade and Commerce, in an address to the Foreign Trade Bureau of the Board of Trade.

Increased production during the past 10 years had been accompanied by increased consumption so that this year there would be a deficit of 350,000,000 bushels of the two cereals to eat into the present so-called surplus.

But Mr. Stevens did not recognize there was a surplus. Cereals were unsold only because the millions of Asia had been robbed of their purchasing power through the demonetization of silver, he said. He stated further that there was actually under-production of the silver to meet present consumption. Simple lack of currency was the cause of the world's economic troubles, he said.

Mr. Stevens sailed from Vancouver to-day for Honolulu, where he will negotiate with Downie Stewart, New Zealand's Minister of Finance, on a trade treaty between the two Dominions.

#### Russia Reports Grain Crop Gain—Collections to Date Exceed Those of 1930, Official Statement of Soviet—Export Shortage Denied.

In its issue of Dec. 15 the new York "Evening Post" had the following to say in Associated Press advices from Moscow:

Collections of the 1931 Russian grain crop up to date exceed those of 1930, according to an official Government announcement. In 1930 upwards of 800,000,000 bushels was turned in at Government warehouses.

No figures on this year's crop were given out and there was no indication of how much the 1931 crop surpasses its predecessor. The announcement merely added that collections reached 84.4% of the 1931 plan on Dec. 10 and that the whole program would be fulfilled by the end of this month.

The report was considered as refuting previous reports abroad that this year's available export wheat from Russia would be considerably diminished. Such reports were regarded here by foreign observers as exaggerated, in spite of the intention to increase home consumption of grain in Russia.

The Communist Party and Soviet agricultural organizations have begun a drive against delays as part of a program to forestall any hitch in the program. These delays, they have charged, were due to "opportunism among collective farmers who have withheld grain for their own use," to "class enemies," such as rich peasants and to inefficiency of those responsible for collections.

Cutting off of credits extended for machinery and fertilizers on State and Collective farms has been threatened as a penalty for failing to fulfill quotas. Such credits last year amounted to half a billion dollars.

#### Appropriation for Australian Farmers Wheat Harvest Estimate.

The following cablegram from Adelaide, Dec. 18, is from the New York "Times":

The South Australian Government to-day voted for an additional \$500,000 appropriation to assist needy farmers next season. The Government had earlier appropriated \$500,000.

The South Australian wheat harvest is estimated at 44,500,000 bushels, but the Government says it probably will be higher because of late crops which cannot be estimated now. The yield is likely to be 10,000,000 bushels above last season, because nearly 4,000,000 acres are sown and the average yield is about 11½ bushels to the acre. Nearly 5,000 farmers have sown wheat.

#### Brazil Keeps Aranha as Finance Minister—He Pledges Payment of Foreign Debts and Explains Coffee Funding Plan.

Sebastiao Sampaio, Consul-General of Brazil in New York, announced on Dec. 17 that Dr. Oswaldo Aranha had been permanently appointed to the Finance portfolio in the Cabinet. We quote from the New York "Times" of Dec. 18, which also had the following to say:

In an interview to the Brazilian Press, Dr. Aranha declared he could announce for Brazil an exact budget with a surplus balance and even with the means for starting a program of urgent productive works and construction of which the country is in great need.

With reference to Brazilian foreign loans and their funding, he stated that it was practically accomplished. He emphasized that Brazil does not repudiate its debts and on the contrary wants to pay them.

He explained the new plan for the financing of Brazilian coffee. The National Coffee Council requires 600,000 contos of reis (approximately \$38,000,000 at to-day's rate of exchange) to take over the present stocks and to purchase the excess of the crops in order to maintain for the product the domestic prices which prevail at present. The National Coffee Council will draw against the Bank of Brazil during 16 weeks and at the same time it will turn over to the bank the proceeds of all its collections, including the export tax of 10 shillings per bag, in the total of 296,000 contos (about \$18,500,000). According to this arrangement on next April 7 it will still have a debt of 304,000 contos (\$19,000,000) with the Bank of Brazil, but it will then cease drawing against the bank, continuing, however, to turn over to it the proceeds of its tax collections, so that on Aug. 25 the total of the debt shall have been wiped out and a credit balance remain.

#### Farmers Receiving Less for Live Hogs Than Is Justified by Retail Prices, According to C. B. Denman of Federal Farm Board.

The following statement was made on Dec. 17 by C. B. Denman, member of the Federal Farm Board:

Farmers are receiving much less for live hogs than is justified by prices consumers are paying for pork products. On Dec. 15 prices at New York retail markets for good grade pork chops averaged 26 cents a pound, a reduction of 7 cents, or 21%, from the price Dec. 15 1930; ham 22 cents a pound, a reduction of 7½ cents, or 25%; sliced bacon 32 cents a pound, a reduction of 9 cents, or 22%; picnics 14½ cents a pound, a reduction of 5½ cents, or 27%, and lard 13½ cents a pound, a reduction of 3 cents, or 18%, from a year ago. Prices of live hogs at Chicago for the week ending Dec. 12 averaged only \$4.18 a hundredweight compared to \$7.92 for the corresponding week in 1930, a reduction of \$3.74, or 47%. The figures quoted were developed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture.

With agencies between the farmer and the consumer making little or no reduction in their margins, practically all the burden of supplying the consuming public with low-priced pork products is being carried by farmers. The percentage farmers receive of retail prices of pork products is the smallest on record. Current retail prices warrant considerably higher prices for hogs than farmers are receiving.

This statement is issued in the interest of agriculture and business generally, for upon hogs, more than any other commodity, depends payment of taxes and other bills in a very large section of our country.

#### To Urge Cost Prices on Coffee Roasters—Custom of Foregoing Profits from Market Rise Scored by J. R. Rosenthal.

An effort to persuade coffee roasters to use the market replacement cost of coffee in figuring resale prices on a rising market will be started by the National Coffee Roasters' Association, J. R. Rosenthal, Assistant Manager of the organization, said on Dec. 19, it was stated in the New York "Times" of Dec. 20, which further said:

The present habit of selling all stocks on hand on a basis of actual cost when the market rises, was branded by Mr. Rosenthal as "just another form of price-cutting" which upsets the market. The same conditions found in the coffee trade, he added, are true in the sale of all products where the cost of raw materials is the governing factor in the final price.

"The cost of coffee to the retailer," Mr. Rosenthal pointed out, "is to an unusual degree dependent on the green coffee prices, and quotations vary directly with changes in the green coffee market. When quotations are declining, sales invariably are made on the basis of market or replacement costs, but the actual cost is used as the determining factor when the market is rising. This policy of giving the retailer the advantage of market increases is hardly a matter of pure philanthropy. It is inevitable that some roasters and jobbers have stocks on hand at the original lower prices and are able to sell at a profit on prices below the market. Competitors with limited stocks are forced to meet these quotations, although they purchase supplies at the higher price.

"It should be clear that no permanent gain accrued to the company which attempts to take volume from competitors by passing legitimate market profits on to retailers. In the first place, the company which may be long on one rise may be short on the next. Secondly, the market profit on stocks on hand during a rising market is a legitimate profit, and if sound management policy is followed will be taken to offset market losses on stocks during periods of declining prices."

#### Brazilian Coffee Prices Firm—Commercial Moratorium Ended Dec. 10—New Import Duties.

Brazilian coffee shipments were light and prices firm during the past week, according to a cable received in the Department of Commerce from Commercial Attache Carlton Jackson on Dec. 17. Exchange strengthened to 15 milreis 75 reis to the dollar, according to the Department, which added:

The period of the foreign commercial moratorium ended Dec. 10 was not extended. Apparently, the supply of export bills is adequate for necessary commercial remittances. Dec. 10 also inaugurated the collection of import duties on the new basis. All commercially important countries, except Russia, are on the favored nation basis and, effective Dec. 12, are receiving the 35% reduction provided for in the decree of Sept. 11. The Federal Government has transferred all coffee defense to the National Coffee Council, which is forming a plan for the destruction of 12,000,000 bags at the rate of 1,000,000 bags monthly. The export tax on coffee has been increased to 15 shillings gold per bag.

#### Results of Sao Paulo Coffee Realization Plan for November.

Speyer & Co. and J. Henry Schroder Banking Corp., U. S. A., fiscal agents for the State of Sao Paulo 7% coffee realization loan of 1930, reported on Dec. 21 that remittances in transit and received for November amounted to \$1,561,710, while the monthly interest and sinking fund requirements for the loan amount to \$1,321,886. The announcement also said:

There should have been received from the sale of pledged coffee and from the special tax, a total of \$1,952,213, which includes provision for the reserve account and, according to Sao Paulo advices, the National Coffee Council will arrange for the remittance of the \$390,503 difference as soon as possible.

#### Reduction in Print Cloth Production by Southern Mills.

From the New York "Evening Post" we take the following from Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 21:

Print cloth production by Southern mills will be reduced by more than 10,000,000 yards this week as a result of extension of the Christmas holidays.



This cut is the first step in a program to be carried out for an indefinite period by some of the largest print cloth mills in the South.

Present plans call for a week's closing each month until the necessity for such action no longer exists. It comes as a result of overproduction in late October and November and demoralized price conditions.

**Southern Growers Holding Back Cotton from Market Because of Low Prices.**

The extent to which Southern cotton growers have been holding back their cotton from market because of the low prices is indicated by statistics on stocks on plantations and movement off plantations to Nov. 30, according to the New York Cotton Exchange Service, which on Dec. 22 said:

At the end of November this year there were 4,706,000 bales of ginned cotton on plantations, compared with 2,630,000 on the same date last year and 2,292,000 two years ago. The total of unpicked and unginned cotton at the end of November was 1,498,000 bales this year, against 919,000 last year, and 1,695,000 two years ago.

The amount moved off of plantations to the end of November, according to the Exchange Service, was 11,160,000 bales this year, against 10,599,000 last year, and 10,750,000 two years ago. While the movement off plantations was much larger this year than in the past two years, it was not in proportion to the supply on plantations, including the new crop. The plantation supply this year totaled 17,364,000 bales, against 14,148,000 last year, and 14,737,000 two years ago.

**Activity in the Cotton Spinning Industry for November 1931.**

The Department of Commerce announced on Dec. 18 that according to preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census 32,366,444 cotton spinning spindles were in place in the United States on Nov. 30 1931, of which 24,860,684 were operated at some time during the month compared with 25,188,112 for October, 25,236,916 for September, 25,622,526 for August, 25,825,718 for July, 25,898,026 for June and 25,796,748 for November 1930. The aggregate number of active spindle hours reported for the month was 6,014,182,395. During November the normal time of operation was 24 1/4 days (allowance being made for the observance of Thanksgiving Day in some localities), compared with 26 3/4 for October, 25 1/2 for September, 26 for August, 26 for July and 26 for June. Based on an activity of 8.93 hours per day the average number of spindles operated during November was 27,772,399 or at 85.8% capacity on a single shift basis. This percentage compares with 85.1 for October, 88.1 for September, 81.8 for August, 86.0 for July, 86.8 for June and 79.7 for November 1930. The average number of active spindle hours per spindle in place for the month was 186. The total number of cotton spinning spindles in place, the number active, the number of active spindle hours and the average hours per spindle in place, by States, are shown in the following statement:

State.	Spinning Spindles.		Active Spindle Hours for November.	
	In Place Nov. 30.	Active During November.	Total.	Average per Spindle in Place.
United States.....	32,366,444	24,860,684	6,014,182,395	186
Cotton growing States	19,081,744	16,967,916	4,773,910,184	250
New England States	11,914,784	6,899,878	1,081,240,842	91
All other States.....	1,369,916	992,890	159,031,369	116
Alabama.....	1,844,654	1,672,906	470,380,794	255
Connecticut.....	1,067,036	684,818	114,793,800	108
Georgia.....	3,249,968	2,855,216	771,709,942	237
Maine.....	977,796	705,552	120,487,308	123
Massachusetts.....	6,549,096	3,625,812	526,683,045	80
Mississippi.....	206,048	127,720	35,815,850	174
New Hampshire.....	1,188,520	801,794	147,326,657	124
New Jersey.....	373,276	205,864	34,479,468	92
New York.....	638,296	499,148	77,527,033	121
North Carolina.....	6,196,392	5,386,294	1,355,459,250	219
Rhode Island.....	2,015,072	996,792	162,324,537	81
South Carolina.....	5,702,284	5,434,430	1,723,135,469	302
Tennessee.....	621,200	553,504	188,387,611	303
Texas.....	282,100	175,588	42,596,444	151
Virginia.....	679,254	599,034	146,432,775	216
All other States.....	775,452	536,712	96,642,417	125

**Cotton Production This Season of Indian Government Below Last Year.**

The Indian Government, in its regular December crop report, estimates cotton production of India this season at 4,096,000 running bales of about 400 lbs. each, compared with 4,750,000 last year, a reduction of 654,000 bales, according to a cable to the New York Cotton Exchange Service. The latter on Dec. 21 added:

The cotton crop estimates of the Indian Government are usually considerably lower than trade estimates and calculations of the crop based on movement into commercial channels, but the reduction in the Government crop estimate is regarded as important as confirming trade advices that the Indian crop this year is much smaller than that of last year.

An estimate issued two weeks ago by the New York Cotton Exchange Service put the Indian crop, in terms of 400-lb. bales and exclusive of cotton used in the households of India, at 4,750,000 bales this year, compared with 5,731,000 last year. The Exchange Service estimates show a reduction of 981,000 bales against the reduction of 654,000 shown by the Indian Government's figures.

Advices from Liverpool to the Exchange Service state that Indian Oomra future contracts are selling at Liverpool at a farthing over American futures.

The relatively high price of Indian is attributed not only to the reduction in the Indian crop but to a strong holding movement in the interior of India. Indian natives have strengthened their position in terms of rupees by selling hoarded gold at the prevailing premiums. Exports of gold by India are estimated to have reached 23,000,000 pounds sterling and it is expected that they will continue until the internal inflation in India corrects the over-valuation of the rupee.

Trade advices indicate that consumption of Indian cotton outside of India will be much reduced, and foreign spinners will use American and other cottons in larger proportion, if present price relationships continue.

**Reduction in Wages Voluntarily Accepted by Union Carpenters in Cleveland.**

A Cleveland advice to the "Wall Street Journal" Dec. 17 says:

Union carpenters in Cleveland have voluntarily accepted a \$2 reduction in daily wages. The old contract of \$11 a day was to have been in effect until March, but a new agreement of \$9 a day, effective Jan. 1, has been signed.

**Wage Cut Accepted by Utica (N. Y.) Plumbers and Steamfitters.**

Associated Press advices from Utica, N. Y., Dec. 11, say: Utica plumbers and steamfitters have voted for a \$1 a day reduction in wages and a five-day week starting Monday morning. Conferences in the last few weeks and requests for such action from employers preceded the agreement. The move is expected to stimulate building if followed by other unions.

**Miners in Harlan and Bell County (Ky.) Vote to Strike Jan. 1.**

About 250 Harlan and Bell County miners, meeting here Dec. 13, formed a Kentucky district organization of the National Miners Union and voted to strike Jan. 1, says an Associated Press advice from Pineville, Ky., Dec. 13. The advice continues:

They would demand \$4.80 for top day men, \$4.40 for helpers and \$3.60 for unclassified labor; enforcement of the eight-hour day; reemployment of blacklisted miners; withdrawal of armed forces and release of all miners in jail for union activities.

**Shoe Prices Reduced by Melville Shoe Corporation.**

From the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 12 we take the following:

Melville Shoe Corp. has temporarily reduced prices on men's, women's and boys' shoes in its 478 John Ward, Thom McAn and Rival stores, by approximately 17.5% from prices prevailing a year ago. The stores are in 217 cities throughout the United States and extend as far West as Denver.

The reduction was made possible, according to Ward Melville, President, by the present position of raw materials, plus an increased effort on the part of the manufacturer to lower costs all along the line. The new prices in the three Melville chains range from \$1.95 to \$2.45 for Thom McAn boys' shoes to \$6.85, the top price for John Ward, with Thom McAn men's and women's shoes at \$3.30 and \$3.65, respectively, and Rival men's shoes at \$3.45 and \$4.45.

Melville Shoe Corp. enjoys a unique factory-distributor relationship, under which the factory makes its shoes at cost and shares in the retailers' net profit.

**Petroleum and Its Products—One-Day Shutdown Movement Spreading As Outlook Improves for Maintenance of Present Crude Price Structure.**

General approval of the Texas movement, voluntarily entered into by large producers there, whereby production is automatically cut about 15% by a complete one-day shutdown of both producing and refining operations, has brought about a sharp reversal in the situation which last week caused high officials to warn of impending disastrous action on prices if steps were not taken to remedy over-production.

At least 10 of the major companies operating in Texas have either already adopted the six-day week, or have indicated their decision to. Not only in the crude market has the price structure been strengthened, but it is believed that due to the prompt action taken to cut output, refinery products will also be greatly benefitted.

No report has been made as yet of the actual weekly reduction, but figures for the last week before the cut, namely, the week ended Dec. 19, show that there was an average of 2,317,300 barrels of crude run to stills daily. These figures also show that there was in storage on Dec. 19, 35,936,000 barrels of gasoline and 133,908,000 barrels of gas and fuel oil.

Reports from California indicate that the Standard Oil Co. of California has added another valuable unit to its reservoirs. This was brought about by the completion of the discovery well of Petroleum Securities Co. in the Kettleman Hills middle dome, where earlier drilling had not been successful. As yet, California producers have not discussed the advisability of adopting the one-day shutdown, depending upon their co-operative association to so control the situation that a definite periodical shutdown will not become necessary.

Although sentiment in the Mid-Continent area has improved considerably, there has not as yet been any definite favorable reaction on the refined market. However, pro-

ducers feel that this will begin to become effective within a few days, after the first week's reduction is felt through the different channels of refining and distribution.

Strong efforts are being put forth to win congressional approval of the oil tariff, which, its adherents claim, will solve many of the problems facing the domestic industry. There were no price changes of note during the week.

**Prices of Typical Crudes per Barrel at Wells.**  
(All gravities where A. P. I. degrees are not shown.)

Bradford, Pa.	.....\$1.85	Eldorado, Ark., 40	.....\$0.63
Corning, Pa.	......80	Rusk, Texas, 40 and over	......88
Illinois	......80	Salt Creek, Wyo., 40 and over	......85
Western Kentucky	......75	Darst Creek	......60
Mid-Continent, Okla., 40 and above	......85	Sunburst, Mont.	.....1.05
Hutchinson, Texas, 40 and over	......66	Santa Fe Springs, Calif., 40 and over	......75
Spindletop, Texas, 40 and over	......79	Huntington, Calif., 26	......72
Winkler, Texas	......71	Petrolia, Canada	.....1.75
Smackover, Ark., 24 and over	......55		

**REFINED PRODUCTS—MARKET HAS NOT YET REACTED TO CRUDE REDUCTION—EASTERN MARKET FAIRLY FIRM, WITH SECTIONAL CHANGES ONLY—KEROSENE SHOWS IMPROVEMENT DESPITE LOCAL CUTS.**

Refined markets throughout the country maintained a fairly unchanged status during the week, while distributors watched with keen interest the effects of the voluntary one-day per week shutdown in Texas, a movement which may spread throughout the entire Mid-Continent area. There were no important price changes made, with the exception of several sectional reductions. The most important of these was announced by the Standard Oil Co. of New York on Dec. 22, when this company reduced tank wagon prices on gasoline one cent a gallon in Buffalo and Rochester. However, the tank wagon change did not effect service station prices. The new prices are 14.8 cents a gallon in Buffalo and 15 cents in Rochester. Kerosene at both these points was also reduced 1½¢. per gallon both tank wagon and service station.

Reports from Chicago show that the gasoline market on spot deliveries has not shown any startling developments, as jobbers have been buying on a hand-to-mouth basis and, despite the cut in crude production, have failed to act to cover themselves ahead. U. S. motor gasoline in Chicago below 57 octane is quoted at 2½¢. to 2¾¢. per gallon.

Despite the reduction in kerosene prices in Buffalo and Rochester, this market as a whole has shown considerable strength during the week, with business being booked on a larger scale than had been anticipated. It is pointed out that the action in upper New York State was of local importance only, and resulted from competitive action on the part of nearby Pennsylvania distributors.

There has been no change in the tank car price postings here, and while some gasoline has been sold tank car for as low as 5¾¢. per gallon, this has been below 65 octane. However, reports continue that there will be a general reduction in the tank car price here shortly, probably ½¢. per gallon, which would bring the general market down to a 6¢. per gallon basis. While this is conceded by market leaders to be the trend, others declare that the reduction, if it becomes effective, will not continue for any great length of time, due to the crude production cut, the effects of which would not be felt normally for several weeks.

Movement of grade C bunker fuel oil continues on a steady basis with prices firm and unchanged at 60¢. a barrel, at refinery. Diesel is in the same position, with its price holding firm at \$1.30 per gallon, also at refinery.

**Price changes follow:**

Dec. 22.—Standard Oil Co. of New York reduces tank wagon prices 1¢. per gallon in Buffalo and Rochester; same company reduces kerosene prices 1½¢. per gallon, tank wagon and service station in Buffalo and Rochester.

**Gasoline, U. S. Motor, Tank Car Lots, F.O.B. Refinery.**

N. Y. (Bayonne)—	New York—	New Orleans, ex.	.....\$0.05-05¼
Stand. Oil, N. J.	Colonial-Beacon	Arkansas	......04-04¼
Stand. Oil, N. Y.	Crew Levick	California	......05-07
Tide Water Oil Co.	z Texas	Los Angeles, ex.	......04¼-07
Richfield Oil (Cal)	Gulf	Tulsa	......05-05¼
Warner-Quin, Co.	Continental	Pennsylvania	......05¼
Pan-Am. Pet. Co.	Republic Oil	Chicago	.....\$0.03¼-04
Shell Eastern Pet	Chicago	z "Texaco" is 07.	

**Gasoline, Service Station, Tax Included.**

New York	.....\$1.143	Cincinnati	.....\$1.18	Kansas City	.....\$1.149
Atlanta	......195	Cleveland	......18	Minneapolis	......162
Baltimore	......159	Denver	......19	New Orleans	......118
Boston	......16	Detroit	......131	Philadelphia	......11
Buffalo	......143	Houston	......13	San Francisco	......17
Chicago	......15	Jacksonville	......19	St. Louis	......129

**Kerosene, 41-43 Water White, Tank Car Lots, F.O.B. Refinery.**

N. Y. (Bayonne)	.....05¼-06	Chicago	.....\$0.02¼-03¼	New Orleans, ex.	.....\$0.03¼
North Texas	......03	Los Ang., ex.	.....04¼-06	Tulsa	.....04¼-03¼

**Fuel Oil, F.O.B. Refinery or Terminal.**

N. Y. (Bayonne)—	California 27 plus D	Gulf Coast "C"	.....\$5.55-65
Bunker "C"	.....\$6.00	Chicago 18-22 D	......42¼-50
Diesel 28-30 D	.....1.30	New Orleans "C"	......55

**Gas Oil, F.O.B. Refinery or Terminal.**

N. Y. (Bayonne)—	Chicago	Tulsa	
28 D plus	.....\$0.03¼-04	32-36 D Ind.	.....\$0.01¼-02
		32-36 D Ind.	.....\$0.01¼-02

**Crude Oil Output in United States Continues Increase Over Corresponding Period Last Year.**

The American Petroleum Institute estimates that the daily average gross crude oil production in the United States for the week ended Dec. 19 1931, was 2,430,300 barrels, as compared with 2,452,650 barrels for the preceding week, a decrease of 22,350 barrels. Compared with the output for the week ended Dec. 20 1930 of 2,202,200 barrels per day. The current figure represents an increase of 228,100 barrels daily. The daily average production East of California for the week ended Dec. 19 1931 was 1,921,100 barrels, as compared with 1,944,450 barrels for the preceding week, a decrease of 23,350 barrels. The following are estimates of daily average gross production, by districts:

**DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION (FIGURES IN BARRELS).**

Week Ended—	Dec. 19 '31.	Dec. 12 '31.	Dec. 5 '31.	Dec. 20 '30.
Oklahoma	545,350	538,650	555,050	462,350
Kansas	107,800	105,100	105,100	103,300
Panhandle Texas	52,600	53,000	52,600	75,000
North Texas	55,500	55,600	56,450	62,050
West Central Texas	26,600	25,850	25,850	29,800
West Texas	197,500	198,150	202,000	245,500
East Central Texas	56,850	56,750	56,800	41,150
East Texas	387,050	410,900	402,200	-----
Southwest Texas	58,250	57,000	55,850	84,750
North Louisiana	27,900	27,600	28,700	43,050
Arkansas	34,250	37,400	37,450	51,350
Coastal Texas	120,000	126,950	127,500	163,300
Coastal Louisiana	33,650	35,400	34,050	26,850
Eastern (not incl. Michigan)	11,050	109,500	111,150	102,500
Michigan	14,150	14,850	13,350	8,950
Wyoming	38,350	38,300	35,300	48,800
Montana	7,800	7,950	7,550	6,650
Colorado	3,950	3,800	3,950	3,950
New Mexico	43,500	43,700	43,950	39,000
California	509,200	508,200	495,000	602,400

Total 2,430,300 x 2,452,650 2,449,850 2,202,200  
x Revised due to error in transferring figures from detail report: Michigan total previously reported as 18,850 should have been 14,850; United States total previously reported as 2,456,650 should have been 2,452,650.

The estimated daily average gross production for the Mid-Continent Field, including Oklahoma, Kansas, Panhandle, North, West Central, West, East Central, East and Southwest Texas, North Louisiana and Arkansas, for the week ending Dec. 19, was 1,549,650 barrels, as compared with 1,566,000 barrels for the preceding week, a decrease of 16,350 barrels. The Mid-Continent production, excluding Smackover (Arkansas) heavy oil, was 1,526,750 barrels, as compared with 1,540,450 barrels, a decrease of 13,700 barrels.

The production figures of certain pools in the various districts for the current week, compared with the previous week, in barrels of 42 gallons, follow:

Oklahoma—	—Week Ended—	Southwest Texas—	—Week Ended—
	Dec. 19. Dec. 12.		Dec. 19. Dec. 12.
Bowlegs	14,050 13,900	Chapman-Abbot	1,850 1,900
Bristow-Slick	11,650 11,700	Darst Creek	19,250 17,900
Burbank	11,850 11,900	Luling	7,450 7,500
Carb City	19,600 18,100	Salt Flat	9,500 9,900
Earlsboro	15,900 12,800	North Louisiana—	
East Earlsboro	14,300 12,800	Sarepta-Carterville	800 800
South Earlsboro	6,000 5,600	Zwolle	5,150 4,750
Konawa	6,550 6,000	Arkansas—	
Little River	19,050 21,050	Smackover, light	2,900 3,150
East Little River	2,250 2,150	Smackover, heavy	22,900 25,550
Maud	2,050 2,150	Coastal Texas—	
Misson	9,550 7,600	Barbers Hill	20,700 22,800
Oklahoma City	186,600 191,100	Raccoon Bend	5,650 5,900
St. Louis	20,350 17,450	Refugio County	15,100 16,000
Seagriff	3,850 4,550	Sugarland	10,850 11,000
Seminole	12,700 12,150	Coastal Louisiana—	
East Seminole	1,400 1,250	East Hackberry	10,350 12,800
Kansas—		Old Hackberry	600 600
Ritz	17,050 16,600	Wyoming—	
Sedgwick County	17,550 14,950	Salt Creek	22,650 20,400
Voshell	10,950 10,800	Montana—	
Panhandle Texas—		Kevin-Sunburst	4,750 4,700
Gray County	32,350 32,900	New Mexico—	
Hutchinson County	12,750 12,800	Hobbs High	37,200 37,200
North Texas—		Balance Lea County	4,150 4,300
Archer County	12,000 12,000	California—	
North Young County	7,000 7,000	Elwood-Golets	22,000 22,000
Wilbarger County	11,650 11,700	Huntington Beach	22,000 22,000
West Central Texas—		Inglewood	13,600 13,600
South Young County	4,600 4,850	Kettleman Hills	61,500 59,200
West Texas—		Long Beach	76,200 75,000
Crane & Upton Counties	21,800 22,500	Midway-Sunset	50,200 51,200
Ector County	6,300 6,400	Playa Del Rey	22,000 23,000
Howard County	24,650 24,600	Santa Fe Springs	63,300 13,700
Reagan County	29,450 30,200	Seal Beach	13,700 13,700
Winkler County	35,100 35,100	Ventura Avenue	40,300 38,700
Yates	65,400 65,400	Pennsylvania Grade—	
Balance Pecos County	2,900 2,050	Alegany	8,100 7,800
East Central Texas—		Bradford	29,200 29,400
Van Zandt County	49,850 49,800	Kane to Butler	6,400 6,000
East Texas—		Southeastern Ohio	6,200 5,850
Rusk Co. Joiner	129,350 138,550	Southwestern Penna.	3,400 3,100
Kilgor	127,650 134,900	West Virginia	12,750 13,350
Gregg Co. Longview	130,050 137,450		

**Bulk Terminal Stocks of Gasoline and Gasoline in Transit Again Increase.**

The American Petroleum Institute below presents the amount of gasoline held by refining companies in bulk terminals and in transit thereto, by Bureau of Mines' refining-districts, east of California. The Institute's statement follows:

It should be borne definitely in mind that comparable quantities of gasoline have always existed at similar locations as an integral part of the system of distribution necessary to deliver gasoline from the points of manufacture to the ultimate consumer. While it might appear to some that these quantities represent newly found stocks of this product, the industry itself and those closely connected with it, have always generally known of their existence. The report for the week ending Aug. 22 1931 was the first time that definite statistics had ever been presented covering the amount of such stocks. The publication of this information is in line with the Institute's policy to collect, and publish in the aggregate, statistical information of interest and value to the petroleum industry.

For the purpose of these statistics, which will be issued each week, a bulk terminal is any installation, the primary function of which is to supply other smaller installations by tank cars, barges, pipe lines or the

longer haul tank trucks. The smaller installations referred to, the stocks of which are not included, are those whose primary function is to supply the local retail trade.

Up to Aug. 22 1931, statistics covering stocks of gasoline east of California reflected stocks held at refineries only, while for the past several years California gasoline stocks figures have included, and will continue to include, the total inventory of finished gasoline and engine distillate held by reporting companies wherever located within continental United States, that is, at refineries, water terminals and all sales distributing stations including amounts in transit thereto.

District.	Gasoline at "Bulk Terminals."			Gasoline "In Transit."		
	Figures End of Week.			Figures End of Week.		
	Dec. 19 1931.	Dec. 12 1931.	Dec. 20 1930.	Dec. 19 1931.	Dec. 12 1931.	Dec. 20 1930.
East Coast.....	6,596,000	6,641,000	7,099,000	1,912,000	1,709,000	1,864,000
Appalachian.....	379,000	372,000	417,000	-----	-----	-----
Ind., Ill., Ky.....	3,076,000	3,130,000	2,068,000	47,000	9,000	-----
Okla., Kan., Mo.....	533,000	463,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
Texas.....	240,000	258,000	182,000	-----	-----	51,000
Louisiana-Arkan.....	419,000	314,000	390,000	19,000	80,000	-----
Rocky Mountain.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total east of Calif.</b> .....	<b>11,243,000</b>	<b>11,178,000</b>	<b>10,156,000</b>	<b>1,978,000</b>	<b>1,798,000</b>	<b>1,915,000</b>
Texas Gulf.....	206,000	224,000	154,000	-----	-----	51,000
Louisiana Gulf.....	308,000	246,000	362,000	-----	80,000	-----

**Imports of Petroleum at Principal United States Ports Declined in November.**

According to figures collected by the American Petroleum Institute, imports of petroleum, (crude and refined oils) at the principal ports for the month of November, totaled 5,677,000 barrels, a daily average of 183,129 barrels, compared with 7,851,000 barrels, a daily average of 253,258 barrels for the month of October.

Imports at the principal United States Ports for the week ended Dec. 5, totaled 1,432,000 barrels, a daily average of 204,571 barrels, compared with 1,153,000 barrels, a daily average of 164,714 barrels for the week ended Nov. 28. The Institute in its statement shows:

IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM AT PRINCIPAL UNITED STATES PORTS. (Barrels of 42 gallons)

	Month of		Week Ended	
	November.	October.	Dec. 5.	Nov. 28.
<i>At Atlantic Coast Ports—</i>				
Baltimore.....	1,441,000	1,665,000	247,000	65,000
Boston.....	864,000	449,000	123,000	-----
New York.....	1,550,000	3,124,000	706,000	505,000
Philadelphia.....	858,000	829,000	202,000	-----
Others.....	389,000	1,260,000	154,000	288,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>5,102,000</b>	<b>7,327,000</b>	<b>1,432,000</b>	<b>858,000</b>
Daily average.....	164,581	236,355	204,571	122,571
<i>At Gulf Coast Ports—</i>				
Galveston District.....	118,000	189,000	-----	58,000
New Orleans & Baton Rouge.....	325,000	213,000	-----	131,000
Port Arthur & Sabine district.....	91,000	65,000	-----	65,000
Tampa.....	41,000	57,000	-----	41,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>575,000</b>	<b>524,000</b>	-----	<b>295,000</b>
Daily average.....	18,548	16,903	-----	42,143
<i>At all United States Ports—</i>				
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>5,677,000</b>	<b>7,851,000</b>	<b>1,432,000</b>	<b>1,153,000</b>
Daily average.....	183,129	253,258	204,571	164,714

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL IMPORTS. (Barrels of 42 gallons)

	Month of		Week Ended	
	November.	October.	Dec. 5.	Nov. 28.
Crude.....	3,320,000	4,215,000	789,000	506,000
Gasoline.....	530,000	1,045,000	294,000	114,000
Gas oil.....	92,000	63,000	-----	-----
Fuel oil.....	1,735,000	2,528,000	349,000	443,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>5,677,000</b>	<b>7,851,000</b>	<b>1,432,000</b>	<b>1,153,000</b>

a Of this total, 65,000 barrels of gasoline were imported in the Italian "S. S. Arcola" from Constanza, Roumania, arriving Dec. 1 1931.

**Gross Crude Oil Stock Changes for November.**

Pipe line and tank farm gross domestic crude oil stocks east of the Rocky Mountains increased 2,008,000 barrels in the month of November, according to returns compiled by the American Petroleum Institute from reports made to it by representative companies. The net change shown by the reporting companies accounts for the increases and decreases in general crude oil stocks, including crude oil in transit, but not producers' stocks at the wells.

**Receipts of California Oil at Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports Fall Off in November.**

Receipts of California oil, (crude and refined) at Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports for the month of November, totaled 1,061,000 barrels, a daily average of 38,733 barrels, compared with 1,616,000 barrels, a daily average of 52,129 barrels for the month of October, reports the American Petroleum Institute.

Receipts at Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports for the week ended Dec. 5, totaled 202,000 barrels, a daily average of 28,857 barrels, compared with 508,000 barrels, a daily

average of 72,571 barrels for the week ended Nov. 28. The Institute's statement follows:

CALIFORNIA OIL RECEIPTS AT ATLANTIC AND GULF COAST PORTS (Barrels of 42 gallons)

	Month of		Week Ended	
	November.	October.	Dec. 5.	Nov. 28.
<i>At Atlantic Coast Ports—</i>				
Baltimore.....	30,000	73,000	-----	30,000
Boston.....	-----	35,000	-----	-----
New York.....	684,000	598,000	142,000	172,000
Philadelphia.....	347,000	518,000	-----	231,000
Others.....	-----	289,000	-----	-----
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,061,000</b>	<b>1,513,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>433,000</b>
Daily average.....	35,367	48,806	20,286	61,857
<i>At Gulf Coast Ports—</i>				
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>101,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Daily average.....	3,366	3,323	8,571	10,714
<i>At Atlantic &amp; Gulf Coast Ports—</i>				
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,162,000</b>	<b>1,616,000</b>	<b>202,000</b>	<b>508,000</b>
Daily average.....	38,733	52,129	28,857	72,571

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL CALIFORNIA OIL RECEIPTS IS AS FOLLOWS: (Barrels of 42 gallons)

	Month of		Week Ended	
	November.	October.	Dec. 5.	Nov. 28.
<i>At Atlantic Coast Ports—</i>				
Gasoline.....	963,000	1,513,000	142,000	430,000
Fuel oil.....	95,000	-----	-----	-----
Lubricants.....	3,000	-----	-----	3,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,061,000</b>	<b>1,513,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>433,000</b>
<i>At Gulf Coast Ports—</i>				
Gasoline.....	101,000	103,000	60,000	75,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>101,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>

**Weekly Refinery Statistics for the United States.**

Reports compiled by the American Petroleum Institute for the week ended Dec. 19 from companies aggregating 3,665,600 barrels, or 95.2% of the 3,852,000 barrel estimated daily potential refining capacity of the United States, indicate that 2,317,300 barrels of crude oil were run to stills daily, and that these same companies had in storage at refineries at the end of the week, 35,936,000 barrels of gasoline, and 133,908,000 barrels of gas and fuel oil. Reports received on the production of gasoline by the cracking process indicate that companies owning 95.6% of the potential charging capacity of all cracking units, manufactured 3,245,000 barrels of cracked gasoline during the week. The complete report for the week ended Dec. 19 1931, follows:

CRUDE RUNS TO STILLS, GASOLINE STOCKS AND GAS AND FUEL OIL STOCKS, WEEK ENDED DEC. 19 1931. (Figures in Barrels of 42 Gallons.)

District.	Per Cent Potential Capacity Report-ing.	Crude Runs to Stills.	Per Cent Oper. of Total Capacity Report.	a Gasoline Stocks.	Gas and Fuel Oil Stocks.
East Coast.....	100.0	3,171,000	71.5	4,293,000	9,209,000
Appalachian.....	91.8	683,000	71.0	1,292,000	1,679,000
Boston.....	98.9	2,137,000	70.8	3,972,000	5,528,000
Ind., Illinois, Kentucky Okla., Kans., Missouri.....	89.6	1,663,000	54.6	3,324,000	4,805,000
Texas.....	91.3	3,950,000	73.7	7,463,000	11,848,000
Louisiana-Arkansas.....	98.9	1,217,000	75.4	1,185,000	4,030,000
Rocky Mountain.....	89.4	282,000	28.0	1,566,000	800,000
California.....	97.1	3,118,000	50.2	*12,841,000	96,509,000
<b>Total week Dec. 19.....</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>16,221,000</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>35,936,000</b>	<b>133,908,000</b>
Daily average.....		2,317,300			
<b>Total week Dec. 12.....</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>15,896,000</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>34,826,000</b>	<b>133,964,000</b>
Daily average.....		2,270,900			
<b>Total Dec. 20 1930.....</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>16,332,000</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>b37,074,000</b>	<b>137,017,000</b>
Daily average.....		2,333,100			
Texas Gulf Coast.....	99.8	3,070,000	82.5	5,756,000	8,787,000
Louisiana Gulf Coast.....	100.0	820,000	79.4	1,043,000	3,239,000

\* In California, they represent the total inventory of finished gasoline and engine distillate held by reporting companies wherever located within continental United States (stocks at refineries, water terminals and all sales distributing stations, including products in transit thereto). a In all the refining districts indicated except California, figures in this column represent gasoline stocks at refineries. b Revised in Indiana-Illinois district, due to transfer to "bulk terminals" of stocks previously reported as "at refineries."

Note.—All figures follow exactly the present Bureau of Mines' definitions. Crude oil runs to stills include both foreign and domestic crude. In California, stocks of heavy crude and all grades of fuel oil are included under the heading "gas and fuel oil stocks."

**Oklahoma to Cut Crude Oil Output—State Will Order Allowable of 475,000 Barrels a Day Against 546,000.**

The following from Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 24, is from the New York "Evening Post":

Crude oil output allocation for the various areas of Oklahoma for the first three months of 1932, as listed by the Corporation Commission to-day in a preliminary to its proration order, placed total allowable at 475,000 barrels a day, against the present allowable of 546,000 barrels.

The allocation would give Oklahoma City 160,000 barrels, against 180,000; Seminole, 135,000 barrels, against 150,000, and balance of the State would be allowed 180,000 barrels.

The Producers & Refiners Co. announced its Tulsa plant will be shut down ten days to clean up stocks accumulated since the decline in consumption.

It also was announced that the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana would shut down all of its refineries on Sundays to reduce production of gasoline and other products during the period of seasonal decline in demand.

**Unusual Activity in Metals Markets—Curtaiment News Revives Interest in Copper.**

In the last week the metal markets have given the best account of themselves that they have given for several weeks, reports "Metal and Mineral Markets," under date of Dec. 24, adding:

Following the announcement of the agreement on further curtaiment of copper production, demand was heavy, bringing about an increase in the price to 7 1/4 cents, delivered, but consumers have been out of the market since Friday.

Both lead and zinc have sold in the best tonnage since early November, with prices firm but unchanged. Silver closed the week yesterday at a net advance of one cent and tin gained a fraction of a cent for the period.

Copper has had a most interesting week. Early in the period demand was good, but in the last two days buying almost completely evaporated at 7 1/4 cents. The sales total for the week, however, was well over 10,000 tons, the bulk of which was for second quarter shipment.

Custom smelters and large producers are alike for the first time in months in their attitude toward the market. Everyone, consumers included, would like to see 8 cent copper or better on their year-end inventories.

Foreign business, especially from France, Italy and Belgium and Scandinavia, was excellent for a few days. The month's total booked by Copper Exporters is now about 27,000 tons.

**International Tin Pool Raises Release Prices—Tin Exports Less.**

From its Paris bureau the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 19 reported the following from Paris:

Minimum release price for holdings of the international tin pool's holdings has been raised to £165 a long ton, from £150, sterling, under the revised quota control scheme agreed to by participating members of the pool. At £165, only 5% of the holdings are releasable, and then only provided that the average spot price at London has remained higher during any preceding calendar month. At £176, the next price on the revised sliding scale, 10% of the holdings become releasable. Members of the pool have agreed to abide by the scheme for a period of three years from Aug. 12, or until the pool has been liquidated. Pool stocks now total 19,000 tons.

International Tin Committee reports that members' exports of tin in November came to 8,192 tons, against 9,761 tons in October. The drop in exports from Malay States to 2,608 tons from 3,386 tons is considered particularly satisfactory. Further cut in production at the rate of 15,000 tons yearly, as recommended at the pool's previous meeting, goes into effect Jan. 1 1932.

**Cement and Concrete Factories in Holland to Curb Output.**

A wireless message Dec. 4 from Amsterdam to the New York "Times" stated:

Most of the large cement and concrete factories in Holland will be closed after Jan. 1, and the army of unemployed will be increased by several thousand.

The decision was made at Arnhem by the owners and will first affect those plants with ring furnaces. Plants with reverberating furnaces will halt their production of bricks.

After May, it is expected, 25% fewer laborers will be needed because of the large amount of unbaked stone on hand in the factories now to be closed.

**Ougree Marihayé Elected President of International Wire Cartel at Brussels.**

Associated Press advices from Brussels Dec. 21 stated:

Ougree Marihayé was elected President of a new international wire cartel organized to day for a five-year period. Production for the first three months of 1932 has been fixed at 360,000 tons.

**Steel Production Falls to 21% of Capacity, Due in Part to Holiday Shutdown—Price of Finished Steel Lowest Since April, 1922.**

Downward readjustment of prices of some steel products, notably sheets, and continued weakness in others mark the year-end recession of activity in metal-working industries, reports the "Iron Age" of Dec. 24, which further adds as follows:

Several makers of sheets are soliciting business at concessions of \$2 a ton from prices that were put into effect on July 1, when a stabilization program was inaugurated that held fairly firm through the third quarter and most of the fourth. A recent break in automobile body sheets and some other finishes used by the motor car manufacturers has spread to all of the more commonly used grades. Makers of hot-rolled strip steel, having granted the usual concession of \$1 a ton to automobile companies, are trying to prevent this from becoming general.

Holiday shutdowns have reduced the rate of ingot production for the week to 21% of the country's capacity, but finishing mills may operate at somewhat higher schedules, as the idleness is more general in steel-making than in rolling departments. Although the Pittsburgh district has sharply curtailed to 15% for ingot output, the Chicago district, at 23%, has made a slight gain over last week, and there is some improvement also in the Valleys, while Cleveland mills will operate a part of the week at last week's 32% rate.

It appears clear that general consumption of steel has shown no marked change, but curtaiment is forced by the unwillingness of consumers and distributors to take in material until after Jan. 1. Most of the current orders are for January shipment. On the basis of these orders, together with expected replenishment buying and larger releases from the automobile industry, many of the steel companies believe they will be able to resume operations early in January at rates varying from 30 to 35%.

Steel buying in larger volume by the automobile industry is momentarily expected, little having been bought for first quarter. The change in plans by the Ford Motor Co. has not only held back the commitments of that motor car maker, but is believed to have had a halting effect on schedules of competitive companies. December output of cars is estimated at nearly 100,000, against about 65,500 in November. A further gain is expected

in January, but just how much will depend upon when assemblies are started by the Ford plants.

Signs are lacking of improvement in takings of steel by the railroads and the building construction industry, but the farm implement industry has released fairly large orders for pig iron at St. Louis, indicating nearby increase in activity.

Building work in the week took only 14,000 tons of structural steel, of which 3,300 tons will be used in the First National Bank Building, New York. New projects call for 22,500 tons, including 7,300 tons for a hotel in Chicago and 5,000 tons for a Federal building in San Francisco.

An order for 1,200 tons of plates for the repair of 500 Chicago Great Western cars is outstanding in the railroad equipment field and indicative of the small amount of railroad buying. However, some roads are taking prices on their general requirements for first quarter.

Independent sheet steel manufacturers operated in November at an average of 27%, or three points below the ingot output for the country. Sales were also at the same rate, while shipments declined to less than 25% of capacity. November was the poorest month of the year for the sheet mills.

Makers of bars, plates and shapes are quoting 1.60c. a lb., Pittsburgh, for first-quarter contracts. This price is holding in most instances on bars, but open quotations on plates and shapes are still frequently \$2 a ton less, with even sharper concessions on some of the larger tonnages of structural shapes. In this situation, some users of bars are bringing pressure for a reduction on that commodity, but mills have contracted with a part of their trade at 1.60c. Cold-finished steel bars have been formally reduced \$2 a ton to 2c., Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo.

Other price declines include \$1 a ton off on skelp, \$2 a ton on track spikes, \$6 a ton on track bolts, 15c. a ton on furnace coke and \$2 a ton on charcoal pig iron.

This week's changes bring the "Iron Age" finished steel composite price down to 2.075c. a lb., the low of the year, and the lowest since April, 1922, when quotations had risen above the extreme post-war dip to 1.998c. a lb. in February, 1922. The present level is \$1.54 a net ton above that point. The recovery in prices in 1922 was preceded by a rising trend in operations. A comparative table shows:

Finished Steel.			
Dec. 22 1931, 2.075c. a Lb.			
		High.	Low.
One week ago.....	2.095c.		
One month ago.....	2.116c.		
One year ago.....	2.121c.		
Based on steel bars, beams, tank plates, wire, rails, black pipe and sheets. These products make 87% of the United States output.			
1931.....	2.142c.	Jan. 13	2.075c.
1930.....	2.362c.	Jan. 7	2.121c.
1929.....	2.412c.	Apr. 2	2.362c.
1928.....	2.391c.	Dec. 11	2.314c.
1927.....	2.453c.	Jan. 4	2.293c.
1926.....	2.453c.	Jan. 5	2.403c.
1925.....	2.560c.	Jan. 6	2.396c.
Pig Iron.			
Dec. 22 1931, \$14.79 a Gross Ton.			
		High.	Low.
One week ago.....	\$14.79		
One month ago.....	14.96		
One year ago.....	15.90		
Based on average of basic iron at Valley furnace and foundry irons at Chicago, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Valley and Birmingham.			
1931.....	\$15.90	Jan. 6	\$14.79
1930.....	18.21	Jan. 7	15.90
1929.....	18.71	May 14	18.21
1928.....	18.59	Nov. 27	17.04
1927.....	19.71	Jan. 4	17.54
1926.....	21.54	Jan. 5	19.46
1925.....	22.60	Jan. 13	18.06
Steel Scrap.			
Dec. 22 1931, \$8.58 a Gross Ton.			
		High.	Low.
One week ago.....	\$8.58		
One month ago.....	8.75		
One year ago.....	11.25		
Based on heavy melting steel quotations at Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Chicago.			
1931.....	\$11.33	Jan. 8	\$8.58
1930.....	15.00	Feb. 18	11.25
1929.....	17.58	Jan. 29	14.08
1928.....	16.50	Dec. 31	13.08
1927.....	15.25	Jan. 11	13.08
1926.....	17.25	Jan. 5	14.00
1925.....	20.83	Jan. 13	15.08

In a summary of the iron and steel markets, "Steel" of Cleveland, Dec. 21, said:

Unusually early and unusually rapidly, the iron and steel markets are sinking into the year-end lethargy. Consistent with demand, steelmaking operations have declined more than 1 point to about 24% and for this week, due to Christmas holiday interruptions, the average will be a scant 20%.

The steel making rate will lose much of its significance until the first week of January because of a number of producers will be closed entirely, except for banked blast furnaces, until after New Year's Day. As consumption of steel also will be taking a holiday, orders will not accumulate as might otherwise be expected.

The combination of an unsettled price structure and restricted demand removes any incentive for consumers to cover for first quarter, and except at Chicago there is practically no inquiry for that delivery. At St. Louis some purchasers of pig iron have anticipated requirements because of the advance in freight rates effective early in January, but steel buyers have not been moved by this consideration.

Despite repeated disappointments, the steel trade still looks to the automotive industry for the first signs of expansion. Ford, after much hesitation, is reliably reported to have decided to meet intensified competition in the low-price field with a multicylinder car, probably a V-eight, and is expected shortly to release substantial orders. Lacking the spur of other models in its field, Chevrolet has slackened its pace.

If the railroad wage situation is adjusted shortly by a reduction, as expected, some increase in business should result from maintenance and repair work. Moderate size inquiries for general first quarter steel needs have emanated from the New York Central, Norfolk & Western, Virginia, Lackawanna, Chesapeake & Ohio and Chicago Great Western, on which bids will be submitted this week.

American tin-plate makers, whose operations recently have been higher than those in any other department of the industry, are facing intense competition from foreign sources, with increasing production in France, Italy, Japan and Spain excluding considerable American material from these markets. Standard Oil of New Jersey is to close soon on 100,000 base boxes.

Structural shape awards for the week, 8,430 tons, apparently reached the low point for the year, though action on 16,000 tons for the Pittsburgh post office is expected shortly. Fresh inquiry, amounting to 19,315 tons, is fairly encouraging. For vessels recently placed, the Sun Shipbuilding Co. has distributed 10,000 tons of shapes, plates and bars among four producers.

Price adjustments continue the most conspicuous feature of market developments. Important makers of bars, shapes and plates have re-

affirmed for the first quarter the 1.60c., Pittsburgh base, which for plates and shapes has been largely nominal. Deep concessions are being offered in strip and sheets to automotive manufacturers. Railroad spikes and tie plates have been reduced \$2 a ton.

Sheet bars are off \$1 a ton at Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Cleveland. Pig iron has been reduced 50 cents a ton at Pittsburgh, following similar action by valley producers. The Birmingham base on pig iron is weak; southern coke is down 50 cents, and Connellsville furnace grade 10 cents. "Steel's" composite of iron and steel prices now is \$30.28, eight cents lower than last week; the finished steel composite remains at \$48.82, while that for steelworks scrap is down 5 cents to \$8.14.

Indications are that the curtailment in the steel industry during the Christmas holiday period this year will not be as large as in the past three years the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 22 says. Estimates now are that for the week ended next Monday (Nov. 28) the average production of steel ingots for the entire industry may droop to somewhat below 20% of theoretical capacity. This would be a reduction of 4% to 5% from the rate of slightly less than 24% for the week ended last Monday (Dec. 21), adds the "Journal" which further states:

Such a reduction would compare with 11% in the rate of the U. S. Steel Corp. to 30% in the Christmas week of last year, with 10% in that of the leading independents to 30%, and with more than 10% in the average for the industry, to 24%.

For the holiday week of 1929 the average went down over 13% to between 39% and 40% of theoretical capacity, United States Steel showed a reduction of 14% to 50%, while leading independents dropped more than 13% to slightly better than 30%.

It was in the Christmas week of 1928 that the sharpest reductions were made. They amounted to from 22% to 28% and the various companies reported rates ranging from 55% to 60%.

Of course, the curtailment in the past three years started from a higher percentage rate of operation than in the current instances. Nevertheless the proportionate drop anticipated for this year is smaller than in those periods. This is viewed as encouraging by interests in the steel industry.

For the week ended Dec. 21 the average of steel ingot production is estimated at slightly under 24% of theoretical capacity. This compares with a fraction under 25% in the preceding week and better than 26% two weeks ago.

United States Steel is placed at about 25%, contrasted with a shade below 26% in the week before and 27% two weeks ago. Leading independents are fractionally above 23%, against better than 24% a week ago and somewhat under 26% two weeks ago.

**Bituminous Coal Output Continued Below Last Year's Figure—Anthracite Production Shows a Slight Increase.**

According to the United States Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, production during the week ended Dec. 12 1931 amounted to 7,274,000 net tons of bituminous coal, 1,246,000 tons of Pennsylvania anthracite and 21,500 tons of beehive coke, as compared with 8,784,000 tons of bituminous coal, 1,209,000 tons of Pennsylvania anthracite and 40,300 tons of beehive coke produced during the same week a year ago and 7,226,000 tons of bituminous coal, 1,240,000 tons of Pennsylvania anthracite and 19,000 tons of beehive coke during the week ended Dec. 5 1931.

During the calendar year to Dec. 12 1931 output of bituminous coal totalled 360,943,000 tons as against 438,404,000 tons in the calendar year to Dec. 13 1930. The Bureau's statement follows:

**BITUMINOUS COAL.**

The total production of bituminous coal during the week ended Dec. 12 1931, including lignite and coal coked at the mines, is estimated at 7,274,000 net tons. Compared with the output in the preceding week, this shows an increase of 48,000 tons, or 0.7%.

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

1931		1930	
Week Ended—	Week.	Cal. Year to Date.	Cal. Year to Date.
Nov. 28.....	6,430,000	346,443,000	8,705,000
Daily average.....	1,261,000	1,236,000	420,013,000
Dec. 5.....	7,226,000	353,669,000	1,674,000
Daily average.....	1,204,000	1,235,000	429,620,000
Dec. 12.....	7,274,000	360,943,000	8,784,000
Daily average.....	1,212,000	1,235,000	438,404,000

a Minus one day's production first week in January to equalize number of days in the two years. b Revised since last report. c Subject to revision.

The total production of soft coal during the present calendar year to Dec. 12 (approximately 292 working days) amounts to 360,943,000 net tons. Figures for corresponding periods in other recent calendar years are given below:

1930.....	438,404,000 net tons	1928.....	475,058,000 net tons
1929.....	507,838,000 net tons	1927.....	490,965,000 net tons

**PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE.**

The production of anthracite in the State of Pennsylvania showed little change during the week ended Dec. 12. Total output is estimated at 1,246,000 net tons, 6,000 tons more than in the preceding week. Production during the week in 1930 corresponding with that of Dec. 12 amounted to 1,209,000 tons.

*Estimated Production of Pennsylvania Anthracite (Net Tons).*

1931		1930	
Week Ended—	Week.	Daily Average.	Daily Average.
Nov. 28.....	641,000	128,200	1,080,000
Dec. 5.....	1,240,000	206,700	1,685,000
Dec. 12.....	1,246,000	207,700	1,209,000

As already indicated by the revised figures above, the total production of soft coal for the country as a whole during the week ended Dec. 5 is estimated at 7,226,000 net tons. Compared with the output in the preceding week, when working time was curtailed by the Thanksgiving Day holiday, this shows a gain of 796,000 tons. The following table apportions the tonnage by States and gives comparable figures for other recent years.

*Estimated Weekly Production of Coal by States (Net Tons).*

State—	Week Ended				Dec. 1923 Average. <sup>a</sup>
	Dec. 5 '31.	Nov. 28 '31.	Dec. 6 '30.	Dec. 7 '29.	
Alabama.....	208,000	188,000	297,000	427,000	349,000
Arkansas.....	29,000	23,000	47,000	52,000	25,000
Colorado.....	158,000	189,000	236,000	299,000	253,000
Illinois.....	1,071,000	827,000	1,310,000	1,744,000	1,635,000
Indiana.....	187,000	230,000	395,000	474,000	514,000
Iowa.....	75,000	63,000	92,000	116,000	121,000
Kansas.....	60,000	52,000	68,000	74,000	90,000
Kentucky—Eastern.....	563,000	477,000	796,000	982,000	584,000
Western.....	185,000	151,000	202,000	368,000	204,000
Maryland.....	39,000	34,000	52,000	62,000	37,000
Michigan.....	11,000	9,000	23,000	19,000	21,000
Missouri.....	80,000	65,000	65,000	114,000	69,000
Montana.....	70,000	67,000	70,000	82,000	64,000
New Mexico.....	36,000	32,000	40,000	61,000	58,000
North Dakota.....	46,000	42,000	46,000	59,000	27,000
Ohio.....	441,000	316,000	565,000	593,000	599,000
Oklahoma.....	38,000	32,000	63,000	108,000	58,000
Pennsylvania (bituminous).....	1,695,000	1,458,000	2,291,000	2,796,000	2,818,000
Tennessee.....	74,000	64,000	108,000	113,000	103,000
Texas.....	11,000	10,000	13,000	18,000	21,000
Utah.....	144,000	139,000	130,000	143,000	100,000
Virginia.....	194,000	168,000	228,000	260,000	193,000
Washington.....	49,000	45,000	61,000	60,000	57,000
W. Va.—Southern.....	1,281,000	1,146,000	1,658,000	2,041,000	1,132,000
Northern.....	446,000	431,000	612,000	716,000	692,000
Wyoming.....	132,000	137,000	135,000	156,000	173,000
Other States.....	3,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Total bituminous coal.....	7,226,000	6,430,000	9,607,000	11,942,000	9,800,000
Pennsylvania anthracite.....	1,240,000	641,000	1,685,000	1,852,000	1,806,000
Total all coal.....	8,466,000	7,071,000	11,292,000	13,794,000	11,706,000

a Average weekly rate for the entire month. b Includes operations on the N. & W. C. & O.; Virginian, and K. & M. c Rest of State, including Panhandle.

**BEEHIVE COKE.**

The total production of beehive coke during the week ended Dec. 12 is estimated at 21,500 net tons. This compares with 19,000 tons produced during the preceding week, and 1,228,300 tons in the week of 1930 corresponding with that of Dec. 12.

*Estimated Weekly Production of Beehive Coke (Net Tons).*

Region—	Week Ended			1931. to Date.	1930. to Date.
	Dec. 12 1931. <sup>b</sup>	Dec. 5 1931.	Dec. 13 1930.		
Pennsylvania.....	17,900	14,700	28,800	970,500	1,950,500
West Virginia.....	1,000	1,400	5,300	104,500	411,000
Tennessee and Virginia.....	1,600	1,700	4,600	103,700	230,200
Colo., Utah and Wash.....	1,100	1,200	1,600	49,600	101,400
United States total.....	21,500	19,000	40,300	1,228,300	2,693,100
Daily average.....	3,583	3,167	6,717	4,150	9,098

a Minus one day's production first week in January to equalize number of days in the two years. b Subject to revision.

**November Production of Bituminous Coal and Anthracite Shows Sharp Decline.**

According to revised figures released by the United States Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, 30,110,000 net tons of bituminous coal and 4,141,000 tons of anthracite were produced during the month of November, 1931. This compares with 38,609,000 tons of bituminous coal and 5,176,000 tons of anthracite produced in the corresponding month last year and 35,700,000 tons of bituminous coal and 6,551,000 tons of anthracite during the month of October, 1931. Statistics follow:

**MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF BITUMINOUS COAL AND ANTHRACITE IN NOVEMBER (NET TONS).**

Month.	Bituminous.			Anthracite.		
	Total Production.	No. of Working Days.	Average per Working Day.	Total Production.	No. of Working Days.	Average per Working Day.
1931—September ..	31,919,000	25.3	1,262,000	4,358,000	25	174,300
October.....	35,700,000	27	1,322,000	6,551,000	28	252,000
November a.....	30,110,000	23.6	1,276,000	4,141,000	23	180,000
1930—November b.....	38,609,000	23.3	1,657,000	5,176,000	23	225,000

a Revised. b Final figures.

**Recommendations of Committee of U. S. Chamber of Commerce Regarding Development of Employees' Annuity or Pension Plans.**

Ten recommendations looking towards improvement and development of employees' retirement annuity or pension plans are made by a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The report will be placed before the membership of the Chamber for action at the next annual meeting. The recommendations advanced by the committee follow:

1. Regard for the personal interests of their employees, for the welfare of society in general and for efficient administration of their own enterprises should prompt employers to develop some method for aiding in providing for the financial security of their superannuated employees.
2. The retirement of superannuated employees of long service on annuities is an aid to the profitable and efficient administration of business enterprises and is advantageous to employers, to employees and to the public. The annuity plan should provide for reasonable minimum payment.
3. The adoption of a definite retirement annuity plan should be given mature consideration by the management of every enterprise which has or is likely to have employees of long service, so that it may be in a position to make equitable provision for their eventual retirement.
4. Careful consideration should be given to the question of whether the entire expense of the retirement annuity plan should be borne by the employer, or whether the plan should contain provision for participation by the employees in the cost of the plan.
5. While the particular details to be made a part of a retirement annuity plan are affected by the nature of the enterprise, it is essential that definite provisions be incorporated specifying employees covered, retirement ages, service requirements, and the amounts payable upon retirement. Some provision also should be included for the retirement, in the discretion of

the management, of employees who, because of disability, become incapacitated for further service.

6. Although the importance of a well rounded employee thrift program is recognized, such a program cannot take the place of an adequate retirement system.

7. Funds which either employers or employees have paid into a contributory plan should be fully safeguarded either through insurance or trust funds. Even in the case of a non-contributory plan, it is important for the company to set aside and safeguard as fully as possible a fund to cover its liabilities under the plan adopted.

8. A progressive step toward assuring the benefits of employees' retirement annuities to the large number of employees who do not remain with the same employer until reaching the retirement age would be for employers having annuity plans to permit employees whose connection with the company is terminated after a reasonable period of service to retain their annuity credits, properly safeguarded, to help provide for their old age.

9. The adoption of public old age pension or relief Acts should not deter employers from making provision for their own retired employees, since the trend of such legislation, in the United States, is in the direction of making provision solely for the care of aged and impoverished citizens, and is not ordinarily applicable to employees on the payrolls of private concerns. In view, however, of the trend throughout the world in pension legislation, every company annuity plan might well contain a provision that would enable employers to deduct from the annuities payable to their employees any sums payable to these employees under public pension Acts, except those arising out of employees' own contributions.

10. Insofar as State or municipal old age pension or relief Acts make possible the more humane and more efficient care of aged and impoverished citizens, such Acts, when properly safeguarded by rigid eligibility requirements and restricted to the relief of the indigent, serve a valid social purpose and are not detrimental to the interests of American business.

Members of the committee making the report are:

- Redfield Proctor, Vice-President Vermont Marble Co., Proctor, Vt.; Chairman;
- M. A. Cudlip, Vice-President, Packard Motor Car Co., Detroit, Mich.;
- Otto P. Deluse, President Western Furniture Co., Indianapolis, Ind.;
- Ernest C. Draper, Vice-President Hills Brothers Co., New York City;
- H. W. Forster, Vice-President Brown, Crosby & Co., Philadelphia;
- James W. Glover, President Teachers' Insurance & Annuity Association of America, New York City;
- Charles W. Gold, President Pilot Life Ins. Co., Greensboro, N. C.
- C. J. Hicks, Exec. Asst. to the Pres., Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, New York City;
- Leroy A. Lincoln, Vice-Pres. Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., N. Y. City;
- R. V. Massey, Vice-President in Charge of Personnel, Pennsylvania R.R. Co., Philadelphia;
- John W. O'Leary, Vice-Chairman of the Board, Central Republic Bank & Trust Co., Chicago;
- C. O. Sherrill, Vice-President Kroger Grocery & Baking Co., Cincinnati, O.;
- Theodore Swann, President, The Swann Chemical Co., Birmingham, Ala.;
- Harold H. Swift, Vice-President Swift & Co., Chicago.

## Current Events and Discussions

### The Week with the Federal Reserve Banks.

The daily average volume of Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding during the week ending Dec. 23, as reported by the Federal Reserve banks, was \$1,965,000,000, an increase of \$59,000,000 compared with the preceding week and of \$627,000,000 compared with the corresponding week in 1930. After noting these facts, the Federal Reserve Board proceeds as follows:

On Dec. 23 total Reserve bank credit amounted to \$2,006,000,000, an increase of \$32,000,000 for the week. This increase corresponds with an increase of \$155,000,000 in money in circulation and a decrease of \$51,000,000 in Treasury currency, adjusted, offset in part by a decline of \$167,000,000 in member Bank reserve balances and an increase of \$7,000,000 in monetary gold stock.

Holdings of discounted bills increased \$118,000,000 at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, \$24,000,000 at Boston, \$21,000,000 at Chicago, \$20,000,000 at Philadelphia, \$16,000,000 at Cleveland, \$11,000,000 each at Richmond and San Francisco and \$213,000,000 at all Federal Reserve banks. The System's holdings of bills bought in open market declined \$50,000,000. Total holdings of United States securities declined \$148,000,000, the reduction of \$198,000,000 due to the retirement of the special Treasury certificate held last week being partly offset by increases of \$42,000,000 in holdings of Treasury certificates and bills and \$8,000,000 in bonds and Treasury notes.

Beginning with the statement of May 28 1930 the text accompanying the weekly condition statement of the Federal Reserve banks was changed to show the amount of Reserve bank credit outstanding and certain other items not included in the condition statement, such as monetary gold stock and money in circulation. The Federal Reserve Board's explanation of the changes, together with the definition of the different items, was published in the May 31 1930 issue of the "Chronicle," on page 3797.

The statement in full for the week ended Dec. 16, in comparison with the preceding week and with the corresponding date last year, will be found on subsequent pages, namely, pages 4291 and 4292.

Changes in the amount of Reserve bank credit outstanding and in related items during the week and the year ended Dec. 23 1931 were as follows:

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) Since		
	Dec. 23 1931.	Dec. 16 1931.	Dec. 24 1930.
	\$	\$	\$
Bills discounted.....	911,000,000	+213,000,000	+463,000,000
Bills bought.....	257,000,000	-50,000,000	-3,000,000
Special Treasury certificates.....	-----	-198,000,000	-----
Other United States securities.....	758,000,000	+50,000,000	+116,000,000
Other Reserve bank credit.....	79,000,000	+16,000,000	+4,000,000
<b>TOTAL RESERVE BANK CREDIT.....</b>	<b>2,006,000,000</b>	<b>+32,000,000</b>	<b>+581,000,000</b>
Monetary gold stock.....	4,465,000,000	+7,000,000	-124,000,000
Treasury currency adjusted.....	1,760,000,000	-51,000,000	-15,000,000
Money in circulation.....	5,733,000,000	-155,000,000	-719,000,000
Member bank reserve balances.....	2,001,000,000	-167,000,000	-366,000,000
Unexpended capital funds, non-members' deposits, &c.....	496,000,000	-1,000,000	+88,000,000

### Returns of Member Banks for New York and Chicago Federal Reserve Districts—Brokers' Loans.

Beginning with the returns for June 29 1927, the Federal Reserve Board also commenced to give out the figures of the member banks in the New York Federal Reserve District as well as those in the Chicago Reserve District, on Thursday, simultaneously with the figures for the Reserve banks themselves, and for the same week, instead of waiting until the following Monday, before which time the statistics covering the entire body of reporting member banks in the different cities included cannot be got ready.

Below is the statement for the New York member banks and that for the Chicago member banks for the current week,

as thus issued in advance of the full statement of the member banks, which latter will not be available until the coming Monday. The New York statement, of course, also includes the brokers' loans of reporting member banks. The grand aggregate of brokers' loans the present week records a decrease of \$51,000,000, the amount of these loans on Dec. 23 1931 standing at \$611,000,000. The present week's decrease of \$51,000,000 follows a decrease of \$28,000,000 last week and a decrease of \$673,000,000 in the 13 preceding weeks. Loans "for own account" decreased during the week from \$555,000,000 to \$553,000,000, loans "for account of out-of-town banks" fell from \$98,000,000 to \$51,000,000, and loans "for account of others" from \$29,000,000 to \$7,000,000. The amount of these loans "for account of others" has been reduced the past six weeks due to the action of the New York Clearing House Association on Nov. 5 in restricting member banks on and after Nov. 16 from placing for corporations and others than banks loans secured by stocks, bonds and acceptances. The present week's total of \$611,000,000 is the lowest since Feb. 1 1918, when the amount was \$510,179,000.

#### CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN CENTRAL RESERVE CITIES.

	New York.		
	Dec. 25 1931.	Dec. 16 1931.	Dec. 24 1930.
Loans and investments—total.....	7,175,000,000	7,258,000,000	8,045,000,000
Loans—total.....	4,420,000,000	4,451,000,000	5,749,000,000
On securities.....	2,231,000,000	2,208,000,000	3,366,000,000
All other.....	2,189,000,000	2,243,000,000	2,383,000,000
Investments—total.....	2,755,000,000	2,807,000,000	2,295,000,000
U. S. Government securities.....	1,778,000,000	1,836,000,000	1,234,000,000
Other securities.....	977,000,000	971,000,000	1,061,000,000
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	705,000,000	798,000,000	782,000,000
Cash in vault.....	68,000,000	52,000,000	104,000,000
Net demand deposits.....	5,162,000,000	5,376,000,000	5,832,000,000
Time deposits.....	789,000,000	810,000,000	1,209,000,000
Government deposits.....	166,000,000	264,000,000	35,000,000
Due from banks.....	57,000,000	71,000,000	94,000,000
Due to banks.....	864,000,000	923,000,000	1,090,000,000
Borrowings from Federal Reserve Bank.....	98,000,000	-----	70,000,000
<b>Loans on secur. to brokers &amp; dealers:</b>			
For own account.....	553,000,000	555,000,000	1,262,000,000
For account of out-of-town banks.....	51,000,000	98,000,000	294,000,000
For account of others.....	7,000,000	9,000,000	363,000,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>611,000,000</b>	<b>662,000,000</b>	<b>1,920,000,000</b>
On demand.....	451,000,000	500,000,000	1,403,000,000
On time.....	160,000,000	162,000,000	512,000,000
	<b>Chicago.</b>		
Loans and investments—total.....	1,597,000,000	1,625,000,000	1,999,000,000
Loans—total.....	1,084,000,000	1,112,000,000	1,438,000,000
On securities.....	637,000,000	661,000,000	835,000,000
All other.....	447,000,000	451,000,000	603,000,000
Investments—total.....	513,000,000	513,000,000	561,000,000
U. S. Government securities.....	301,000,000	300,000,000	258,000,000
Other securities.....	212,000,000	213,000,000	304,000,000
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	146,000,000	178,000,000	186,000,000
Cash in vault.....	21,000,000	21,000,000	17,000,000
Net demand deposits.....	1,019,000,000	1,084,000,000	1,275,000,000
Time deposits.....	420,000,000	427,000,000	601,000,000
Government deposits.....	16,000,000	26,000,000	25,000,000
Due from banks.....	130,000,000	125,000,000	150,000,000
Due to banks.....	248,000,000	283,000,000	354,000,000
Borrowings from Federal Reserve Bank.....	21,000,000	8,000,000	-----

**Complete Returns of the Member Banks of the Federal Reserve System for the Preceding Week.**

As explained above the statements for the New York and Chicago member banks are now given out on Thursday, simultaneously with the figures for the Reserve banks themselves, and covering the same week, instead of being held until the following Monday, before which time the statistics covering the entire body of reporting member banks in 101 cities cannot be got ready.

In the following will be found the comments of the Federal Reserve Board respecting the returns of the entire body of reporting member banks of the Federal Reserve System for the week ended with the close of business on Dec. 16:

The Federal Reserve Board's condition statement of weekly reporting member banks in leading cities on Dec. 16 shows increases for the week of \$299,000,000 in loans and investments, \$539,000,000 in Government deposits, \$63,000,000 in net demand deposits and \$76,000,000 in reserves with Federal Reserve banks, and decreases of \$69,000,000 in time deposits and \$36,000,000 in borrowings from Federal Reserve banks.

Loans on securities declined \$15,000,000 at reporting banks in the Chicago district and \$19,000,000 at all reporting banks. "All other" loans increased \$25,000,000 in the New York district, and declined \$6,000,000 at all reporting banks.

Holdings of United States Government securities, following the Dec. 15 issues by the Treasury, increased \$183,000,000 at banks in the New York district and \$339,000,000 at all reporting member banks. Holdings of other securities declined \$9,000,000 in the New York district and \$15,000,000 at all reporting banks.

Borrowings of weekly reporting member banks from Federal Reserve banks aggregated \$392,000,000 on Dec. 16, the principal changes for the week being decreases of \$26,000,000 in the San Francisco district, \$21,000,000 in the New York district and \$9,000,000 in the Chicago district, and increases of \$9,000,000 in the Philadelphia district, \$7,000,000 in the Cleveland district and \$6,000,000 in the Boston district.

A summary of the principal assets and liabilities of weekly reporting member banks, together with changes during the week and the year ending Dec. 9 1931 follows:

	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)		
	Dec. 16 1931.	Dec. 9 1931.	Dec. 17 1930.
Loans and Investments—total.....	\$20,963,000,000	+299,000,000	-2,121,000,000
Loans—total.....	13,212,000,000	-25,000,000	-3,046,000,000
On securities.....	5,741,000,000	-19,000,000	-2,006,000,000
All other.....	7,471,000,000	+6,000,000	-1,040,000,000
Investments—total.....	7,751,000,000	+324,000,000	+924,000,000
U. S. Government securities.....	4,336,000,000	+339,000,000	+1,122,000,000
Other securities.....	3,415,000,000	-15,000,000	-197,000,000
Reserves with F. R. banks.....	1,667,000,000	+76,000,000	-187,000,000
Cash in vault.....	259,000,000	+11,000,000	-34,000,000
Net demand deposits.....	12,168,000,000	+63,000,000	-1,603,000,000
Time deposits.....	6,004,000,000	-69,000,000	-1,176,000,000
Government deposits.....	544,000,000	+539,000,000	+296,000,000
Due from banks.....	1,012,000,000	+84,000,000	-469,000,000
Due to banks.....	2,540,000,000	+153,000,000	-894,000,000
Borrowings from F. R. banks.....	392,000,000	-36,000,000	+232,000,000

**Hoover Holds "Postponement" Better Word Than "Moratorium."**

President Hoover does not like the word "moratorium" as used in connection with the European debt situation, according to a Washington dispatch Dec. 18 to the New York "Times," which added:

He prefers the word "postponement," which, he thinks, more accurately describes his proposal before Congress.

The President's preference for "postponement" was disclosed at the White House breakfast conference this morning when he discussed the debt situation with Speaker Garner, Representatives Rainey and Snell, the majority and minority party chiefs, and other House leaders.

**Advisory Committee of Bank for International Settlements at Basle Concludes Germany Cannot Meet Reparation Payments Upon Expiration of President Hoover's Moratorium—Governments Urged to Take Immediate Action to Deal with Crisis.**

The special Advisory Committee appointed at the instance of the Bank for International Settlements to examine into Germany's ability to pay reparations as provided in the Young plan, has concluded that Germany will be unable to meet the required payments with the expiration of the year's moratorium proposed last June by President Hoover and approved by the United States Congress this week. The Advisory Committee of experts, whose study of Germany's financial position was begun early this month at Basle, presented its conclusions in a report signed at Basle on Dec. 24. A cablegram from Basle on that date to the New York "Journal of Commerce" said:

The experts, who were at odds first on the scope of their work, then on almost every point they agreed to take up and finally on the language of the report, managed to complete their draft before Christmas. Now the report will be submitted to the debtor and creditor governments, upon which will devolve the task of interpreting it.

The statement that Germany will not be able to resume payment of conditional reparations will leave to the governments the decision as to what is to be done about these payments, according to the text of the summary of the report. One possibility, that which was urged by representatives of

Holland and Switzerland, neutral nations during the World War, would be cancellation. Another possibility is extension of the moratorium.

*Moratorium Extension Hinted.*

By faint suggestion the report seems to point to the latter course. It is stated that the financial position of Germany cannot be understood clearly from the viewpoint either of booming prosperity or deep depression. While this would seem to mean that final settlement should not be arranged at the present time, it also attacks the settlement made under the Young plan on a high prosperity basis, so that no clear conclusion follows necessarily from the text of the summary, some of the representatives pointed out.

The summary says that the problem of Germany is the problem of the whole world and that, if it is to be solved, the solution must be broad in scope. This is interpreted by some as a suggestion to the governments to negotiate to include the whole scheme of intergovernmental debts in the program of their conversations.

Without offering a concrete solution, the report says that if a solution is not found rapidly, further difficulties edging on catastrophe will be witnessed. The question of reparations, it is said, has become "to a great extent the cause of the financial paralysis of the world."

*Gold Suspension a Factor.*

The report says that the abandonment of the gold standard by some countries and the erecting of tariff barriers increased Germany's burden in making payments. This statement was admitted only after considerable debate. This statement was insisted upon by the French, who take the position that Germany's difficulties cannot be laid exclusively to her reparations burden, but to other factors incident to the world-wide depression, and that when these factors are eliminated payments will be easier.

The following copyright account from its Basle correspondent Dec. 24 is from the New York "Herald Tribune":

The report of the Committee, headed by Alberto Beneduce, of Italy, running to more than 8,000 words and agreed on unanimously, declares that Germany is unable to pay her unconditional reparations annuity of \$157,000,000 in full, as well as completely unable to transfer her conditional Young plan annuity of \$268,000,000, and insists upon adjustment—which actually means reduction—of the reparations and the World War debts alike if the nations of the world are to emerge from their economic quagmire.

*Nine-Page Summary Issued.*

The complete text of the report cannot be made public until to-morrow, or several days hence, owing to the necessity of correcting the French and German translations, but the Advisory Committee has issued a nine-page summary giving all the important points stressed in the document.

The experts' conclusions, the report declares, are:

Transfers from one country to another "on a scale so large as to upset the balance of payments can only accentuate the present chaos."

The release of a debtor country from a burden of payments which it cannot bear "may merely have the effect of transferring that burden to the creditor country, which in its character as a debtor it, in its turn, may be unable to bear."

In other words, the experts state that a Young plan moratorium for Germany, while unavoidable, almost certainly will mean that Europe cannot pay its war debts to the United States.

*Third Conclusion Affects America.*

The experts' third conclusion is of particular interest to America. It reads:

The adjustment of all the reparations and war debts to the troubled situation of the world—and this adjustment should take place without delay if new disasters are to be avoided—is the only lasting step capable of re-establishing confidence. It is the very condition of economic stability.

Hence, by inference, the Beneduce experts call for resettlement of all the international debts, to which the American Congress has registered such strong opposition.

In conclusion, the report refers to reparations as "a German problem" and says:

"In the circumstances the German problem—which is largely responsible for the growing financial paralysis of the world—calls for concerted action which the governments alone can take. But the problem has assumed world-wide range. We can recall no previous parallel in times of peace to the dislocation that is taking place and may well involve profound change in the economic relations of the nations to one another. Action is most urgently needed in a much wider field than that of Germany alone."

*Conditional Annuity Opposed.*

Here, again, the experts point a finger at simultaneous reduction of the reparations and the war debts.

Outstanding in the report are this fact and the further one that the Advisory Committee records its belief that Germany ought to have relief from at least part of her unconditional reparations as well as her conditional annuity.

After definitely stating that Germany should be permitted to waive the conditional annuity, the conclusion adds:

"The Committee would not consider that it had fully accomplished its task if it did not draw the attention of the governments to the unprecedented gravity of the crisis, the magnitude of which undoubtedly exceeds the 'relatively short depression' envisaged in the Young plan, to meet which 'the measures of safeguard' contained therein were designed."

The Advisory Committee's spokesman admitted that this cloaked the Committee's verdict that Germany cannot pay the unconditional reparations either.

Accordingly, the report virtually recommends a complete moratorium on all reparation payments for Germany, despite the fact that the Committee's terms of reference prevented it from doing this openly.

The experts' report makes no reference to the term of years for which Germany's moratorium should extend, whether two years, as foreseen in the Young plan, or longer. It makes no direct reference to the private debts contracted in Germany or to the relation of the foreign "frozen" credits to reparations. It refers only indirectly to the effect of reparations on accentuation of the world crisis, in the paragraph where the "German problem" is cited as important.

*No Margin for Tax Increase*

On the positive side, however, the Committee declares that "the burden of taxation in Germany has become so high that there is no margin for further increases."

Also, in chapter two, the experts condemn tariff walls for their dangers and obstructions to recovery by pointing out "the contradiction that might arise between a system involving large annual payments by debtor to creditor countries while at the same time putting obstacles in the way of the free movement of goods."

"At the end of chapter two the report raises the question, Can Germany recover sufficiently to pay reparations again? and answers that she should be able to do so in the future.

"Every previous crisis," the report says, "has, in the end, been followed by a period of stability and prosperity, and it would be unjustifiable to

judge its prospects for the future on the basis of an exceptional period of depression . . . To assume that equilibrium will not be regained after the present crisis would be a counsel of despair. This is as true of Germany as of other countries. In past years she has built up an immense and powerful economic equipment . . . Although it is impossible to fix a date, it is nonetheless certain that this stability will ultimately be restored."

#### *Future Payment Qualified.*

The experts add succinctly: "With the assistance of the measures suggested in the conclusions of the Committee's report," that is, an immediate and virtually complete moratorium for Germany, plus reduction of reparations and war debts as early as possible.

As regards the unexpected linking of the war debts to reparations by the Beneduce Committee, Walter W. Stewart, American member of the Committee, to-night told the American correspondents that he regarded this as "broadly within President Hoover's moratorium proposal." He added: "To settle any disputes, I have not had one word from Washington since the Committee began its work, and I have not sent one word to Washington since I came here."

Mr. Stewart, together with the other neutral delegates, expressed agreeable surprise that the report was as strong and outspoken as it proved to be, and said it was much better than they had hoped for after the early sessions of the experts.

Mr. Stewart's testimony of complete independence as an expert probably records the American delegate as the only one of the seven whose nations are directly involved in the reparations subject who has not constantly experienced pressure by orders and political dictation from his Government during the work at Basle.

#### *Four Main Divisions of Report.*

The report falls into four main divisions. The introduction, analyzing Germany's present situation after "a devastating summer," records that Germany has suffered capital withdrawals in 1931 totaling 4,900,000,000 marks (\$1,166,200,000, using the mark's par of 23.8c.), outlines the drain of gold and foreign exchange from the Reichsbank of 1,700,000,000 marks (\$384,600,000), reviews Germany's unemployment, interest rates and railway crisis.

Chapter two describes the devastating effects of the world crisis, featured by the fall in prices. Here the experts state that Germany, from 1925 to 1930, received investments of no less than 30,000,000,000 marks (\$7,140,000,000) of new capital, "of which 22,400,000,000 marks (\$5,331,200,000) represented investment by public authorities." It also scores Germany's excessive expenditure, which caused great increase in her debts. "Through inflation," it says, "she had reduced her public debt by 1924 to a very small amount: by 1931 it had grown to 24,000,000,000 marks (\$5,712,000,000), of which one-third was for public undertakings."

Here the experts echo the criticisms of S. Parker Gilbert, American, former Agent-General for Reparation Payments under the Dawes plan, regarding laxity between the Reich's budget system and those of the Federal States and municipalities.

#### *Optimistic Note Sounded.*

Chapter two, nevertheless, ends on a note of optimism, that Germany should be expected to recover if the proper cures, international as well as national, are co-ordinated.

The third chapter summarizes the German emergency decrees, praises Chancellor Heinrich Brüning's efforts to avoid bankruptcy and to balance the budget.

The outspoken conclusions of chapter four have already been noted, and the keynote that the unprecedented world situation is linked to Germany's collapse, and urgent action must be taken "in a much wider field than that of Germany alone," the report ends by appealing to the governments to permit no delay in dealing with the crisis.

Dr. Carl Melchior, of Germany, Professor Charles Rist, of France, and Signor Beneduce will strive to-morrow to get the French and German translations of the text into full precision. The report then will either be published from Basle or from the capitals of all the governments concerned. This may be to-morrow or at any time during the next week.

References to the Basle meeting appeared in our issues of Nov. 28, page 3548; Dec. 12, page 3892, and Dec. 19, page 4082.

### **W. W. Stewart, American Delegate on Committee of Experts at Basle on References in Report to War Debts.**

Associated Press accounts from Basle Dec. 23 stated:

Commenting on the references to war debts in the experts' report to-day on Germany, Walter W. Stewart, the American delegate, said that "in a broad way" they were contained in the communique issued last October by President Hoover and Premier Laval after their conversations in Washington.

Asked whether mention of war debts was compatible with the views of the Washington Administration, Mr. Stewart said: "I think there is the same difference between the language of the report and the Administration's views as there is between the rider on the moratorium passed by Congress and the Administration's opinions."

### **United States Senate Adopts Resolution Previously Accepted by House Authorizing Postponement of Payments Due on War Debts—Resolution Signed by President Hoover.**

Congress on Dec. 22 completed action on the joint resolution authorizing the postponement of payments due on inter-government war debts. On that date, the Senate, at a night session, approved the resolution at 10 p. m. by a vote of 69 to 12. The House had previously, late Friday night Dec. 18, agreed to the resolution by a vote of 318 to 100. As we indicate elsewhere in this issue of our paper to-day President Hoover signed the resolution on December 23. Efforts in the House to amend the resolution as it came from the Ways and Means Committee on Dec. 17, (the Committee vote in favor of the resolution on that date was 21 to 4) failed on Dec. 18 and the resolution, as agreed to in the House and Senate is in the form in which it was given in

our issue of Dec. 19, page 4074. One amendment, proposed in the House on Dec. 18, was offered as follows by Representative Sanders of Texas:

Amend By Adding Sec. No. 6 as follows:

That for a period of two years from the date of the approval of this Act all Federal Land Banks are authorized and directed subject to approval of the Federal Farm Board (1) to withhold foreclosure of any mortgage securing a loan made by such bank if the borrower is in default under the terms of the mortgage, and (2) to extend the time for the payment of any installment due or to become due under the terms of any such mortgage for a period of not to exceed two years.

Representative Crisp made the point of order "that the amendment is not germane to the subject matter of the bill," and the point of order was sustained by the Chairman of the House.

Representative Parsons of Illinois proposed the following amendment:

Sec. 6. This agreement shall be predicated on the reduction of military and naval expenditures by the various governments in an amount equal to twice the amount of the payment postponed by the United States.

As to this Representative Crisp said:

Mr. Chairman, I am constrained to make a point of order against the amendment, in that it is irrelevant and not germane to the bill before the House for consideration.

The point of order in this case was likewise sustained. It is proper to say that the Chairman's ruling in each case came after both Representatives Sanders and Parsons indicated that they did not desire to be heard on the point of order. After the resolution had been engrossed and read a third time, a motion was made by Representative Blanton to recommit it, with instructions to the Committee to report back the resolution with all the provisions stricken out except section 5. The motion to recommit was rejected by a vote of 263 in opposition to 21 in favor. Following this the House took the resolution up for final passage, and agreed to it, as indicated above, by a vote of 318 to 100.

The resolution was reported to the Senate on Dec. 19 by Chairman Smoot of the Senate Finance Committee. From Washington on that date a dispatch to the New York "Herald-Tribune" said:

The moratorium resolution, which was hurried through the House last night . . . regardless of Party lines, promptly struck a snag in the Senate to-day. With Administration leaders determined to force it to passage before the holiday recess if possible, the resolution is threatened with a filibuster, led by Senator Johnson, which will force it over until after the holiday recess.

On Monday Dec. 21 the way was cleared for Congressional sanction of the resolution before the Christmas recess when the Senate adjourned at 5 o'clock that day, on motion of Senator Johnson of California, leader of the opposition. Washington advices Dec. 21 to the "Times" stating this added:

Mr. Johnson said he saw no reason why a vote should not be reached to-morrow [Dec. 22] or Wednesday [Dec. 23] at the latest. He will take the floor to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock to speak for an hour, and it is believed that the final ballot will be taken before midnight. Not more than 20 votes are expected against the resolution, and the number may not exceed 15.

While Mr. Johnson refused a request by Senator Smoot to consent to vote before midnight to-morrow, indications are that the ballot will come by that time. Senators are restive and the House has already passed an adjournment resolution, in which a majority of the Senate apparently desires to concur.

#### *Argue Over Length of Recess.*

The program to keep the Senate in session night and day until the moratorium resolution reached a vote was dropped this afternoon.

From the Washington account Dec. 22 we take the following regarding the Senate action:

Led by Senator Hiram Johnson, a small group of opponents battled for 11 hours to stave off the final vote, but they knew far in advance that they would be overwhelmed, and so contented themselves with making vigorous protests.

That Senator Johnson proposes to make the moratorium a Presidential issue appeared to have been intimated when he shouted that he was "ready to stand before the American people upon a proposition such as that advanced here to-day," but he later specifically denied that he had politics in mind.

#### *Senate Agrees to Recess.*

The issue was never in doubt. Sixty-eight Senators had already been pledged to support the moratorium, which postpones Europe's war debts to this country for a year, if Europe, in turn, foregoes collection of German reparations for a year. Besides, the Senate was ready for a recess for the Christmas holidays, to which it agreed a short time after the moratorium resolution was voted upon.

The resolution remained unchanged as sent to the Senate from the House, retaining the clause declaring it would be Congressional policy to oppose any debt cancellation or reduction.

Efforts to make Congress say it also opposed "postponement" failed, in spite of a desperate attempt to force through such an amendment. Likewise, Senator Johnson was beaten by a vote of 66 to 12 in an attempt to preclude debt forgiveness unless a foreign debtor has foregone the collection of unconditional as well as the other reparations annuities.

This amendment was directed at France, who, Senator Johnson to-day sharply charged, forced President Hoover to revise his original moratorium plans, because the French Republic successfully insisted that Germany must continue paying unconditional annuities.

#### *Other Amendments Beaten.*

Other amendments defeated included these:

By Senator Howell, Republican.—To prevent a moratorium agreement with any country unless there is a revision of the Versailles treaty, including return of the former German colonies; beaten, 63 to 16.



By Senator Howell.—Another amendment of the same character, but relating to future moratoriums; beaten, 63 to 16.

By Senator Gore, Democrat.—To postpone only 80% of the debts owed to the United States and apply the remaining 20% to unemployment relief; beaten by a viva-voce vote.

By Senator Nye, Republican.—To authorize a one-year moratorium from July 1 1931 on farmers' debts to the Federal Land Banks; beaten, 60 to 15.

By Senator Shipstead, Farmer-Labor, of Minnesota.—To declare it to be the sense of Congress that in "the light of documentary evidence" the United States should take steps to remove its further acquiescence in the theory of German was guilt; beaten, 64 to 15.

*Line-up on the Amendments.*

The dozen Senators supporting the Johnson amendment regarding the unconditional reparations annuities were: Blaine, Brookhart, Cutting, Frazier, Johnson, Norbeck, Norris, Nye and Schall, Republicans; and Bulow, Lewis and McKellar, Democrats.

Those voting for the first Howell amendment were: Blaine, Brookhart, Cutting, Frazier, Johnson, La Follette, Norbeck, Norris, Nye and Schall, Republicans; Bulow, Copeland, Dill, Lewis, Wagner and Wheeler, Democrats. On the second Howell amendment, the line-up was identical except that Senator Lewis voted no and Senator Costigan voted yes.

The Nye amendment to declare a farmers' moratorium was backed by Blaine, Brookhart, Frazier, Johnson, Norbeck, Norris, Nye and Schall, Republicans; Black, Bulow, Costigan, Harris, McGill, McKellar and Thomas of Oklahoma, Democrats.

Supporters of the Shipstead amendment were: Blaine, Brookhart, Frazier, Johnson, La Follette, Norris, Nye and Schall, Republicans; and Bulow and Wheeler, Democrats. This amendment read:

"It is hereby declared to be the sense of the Congress of the United States, in the light of documentary evidence accumulating since 1919, that the government of the United States ought to take such steps as will make it clear that it no longer will permit itself to be regarded even by implication under the terms of the Treaty of Berlin of June 1921, as acquiescing in the formal charge made in Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles to the effect that Germany alone was responsible for the war terminated by those treaties."

*Opponents Are Unrelenting.*

Opponents of the moratorium measure continued their attack from the time the Senate met at 11 a. m. Senator Johnson of California in a two-hour speech denounced the "International bankers" and President Hoover, with whom the Californian has clashed at various times.

*Shortridge Defends Measure.*

Administration leaders generally remained silent, allowing the opposition to spend its energy, and fearful that speeches favoring the moratorium would only lend fuel to the flames. Senator Shortridge, Republican colleague of Senator Johnson, however, defended the plan.

Mr. Shortridge appealed for prompt ratification of the agreement, contending that it had nothing to do with the question of whether debts should be reduced, readjusted or canceled. He said the moratorium was temporary and only permitted postponement of this year's payments to a later period.

*McKellar Attacks Moratorium.*

Senator McKellar, another bitter enemy of the moratorium, attacked President Hoover as "probably the greatest giver-away of other people's money in the world. He said that the President used "other people's money" to aid Belgium, then persuaded Congress to furnish \$100,000,000 for European relief, but now gave no money to "suffering Americans."

"When he looks at Europe it's a different matter," Mr. McKellar declared, and added that although it is proposed to "take money from the treasury for Europe, no money is there."

"No other President will get a majority of the Senate or House by Western Union telegrams," he said, alluding to the messages which the President sent to members of Congress. "If that system is done away with, the moratorium will have done some good."

When Senator McKellar chided those who had "signed on the dotted line," and now found, he said, that the moratorium was not the same which the President originally proposed, Senator Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, retorted:

"I would rather have the people of my State say I made a gorgeous mistake than to have them say I did not keep my word to the President of the United States."

*The Vote in Detail.*

The roll-call on the resolution was as follows:

**FOR RATIFICATION—69.**

*Republicans—36.*

Austin	Davis	Jones	Smoot
Barbour	Dickinson	Kean	Steiwer
Bingham	Fess	La Follette	Thomas
Blaine	Glenn	McNary	(Idaho)
Borah	Goldsborough	Moses	Townsend
Brookhart	Hale	Patterson	Vandenberg
Capper	Hastings	Reed	Walcott
Carey	Hatfield	Robinson (Ind.)	Watson
Cutting	Hebert	Shortridge	White
Dale			

*Democrats—38.*

Ashurst	Coolidge	Hawes	Sheppard
Bailey	Copeland	Hayden	Smith
Bankhead	Costigan	Hull	Trammell
Barkley	Fletcher	Hendrick	Tydings
Black	George	King	Wagner
Bratton	Glass	Lewis	Walsh (Mass.)
Broussard	Harris	McGill	Walsh (Mont.)
Bulkyer	Harrison	Morrison	Wheeler
Byrnes			

**AGAINST RATIFICATION—12.**

*Republicans—6.*

Frazier	Norbeck	Norris	Nye
Johnson			Schall

*Democrats—6.*

Bulow	Cannally	Dill	McKellar
Caraway			Thomas (Okla.)

*Pairs.*

For Ratification—Robinson (Ark.), Swanson and Neely.

Against Ratification—Howell, Gore and Shipstead.

*Absent and Unpaired.*

Couzens, Keyes, Logan, Metcalf, Odde and Waterman, Republicans, and Long, Pittman and Stephens, Democrats.

*Provisions of the Resolution.*

The moratorium resolution authorizes Secretary Mellon to make agreements with fifteen nations for the debt postponements. Yugoslavia is included, but she has entered into a separate arrangement, as she desires to retain certain payments due her from Austria.

Each nation permitted to postpone its debt payment, must defer reparations collections from Germany, except that France still receives the "non-postponables." The United States agrees not to collect the sums due from Germany for costs of the American Army of Occupation.

Debt payments, including principal and interest, which this country would ordinarily receive in the year concerned, but which she now foregoes, are:

Nation—	Total.	Nation—	Total.
Austria	\$287,556	Latvia	\$250,653
Belgium	7,950,000	Lithuania	224,545
Czechoslovakia	3,000,000	Poland	7,486,835
Estonia	600,372	Rumania	800,000
Finland	312,295	Jugoslavia	250,000
France	50,000,000		
Great Britain	159,520,000	Total	\$246,566,803
Greece	1,109,080	Germany, army costs	6,000,000
Hungary	69,342		
Italy	14,706,125	Total	\$252,568,803

The following is the resolution as enacted by Congress:

*H. Res. 147.*

To authorize the postponement of amounts payable to the United States from foreign Governments during the fiscal year 1932, and their repayment over a 10-year period beginning July 1 1933.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That in the case of each of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania and Jugoslavia, the Secretary of Treasury, with the approval of the President, is authorized to make, on behalf of the United States, an agreement with the Government of such country to postpone the payment of any amount payable during the fiscal year beginning July 1 1931, by such country to the United States in respect of its bonded indebtedness to the United States, except that in the case of Germany, the agreement shall relate only to amounts payable by Germany to the United States during such fiscal year in respect of the costs of the Army of Occupation.

Sec. 2. Each such agreement on behalf of the United States shall provide for the payment of the postponed amounts, with interest at the rate of 4% per annum, beginning July 1 1933, in 10 equal annuities, the first to be paid during the fiscal year beginning July 1 1933, and one during each of the nine fiscal years following, each annuity to be payable in one or more installments.

Sec. 3. No such agreement shall be made with the Government of any country unless it appears to the satisfaction of the President that such Government has made, or has given satisfactory assurances of willingness and readiness to make, with the Government of each of the other countries indebted to such country in respect of war relief, or reparations debts, an agreement in respect of such debt substantially similar to the agreement authorized by this joint resolution to be made with the Government of such creditor country on behalf of the United States.

Sec. 4. Each agreement authorized by this joint resolution shall be made so that payments of annuities under such agreement shall, unless otherwise provided in the agreement (1) be in accordance with the provisions contained in the agreement made with the Government of such country under which the payment to be postponed is payable, and (2) be subject to the same terms and conditions as payments under such original agreement.

Sec. 5. It is hereby expressly declared to be against the policy of Congress that any of the indebtedness of foreign countries to the United States should be in any manner cancelled or reduced, and nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed as indicating a contrary policy, or as implying that favorable consideration will be given at any time to a change in the policy hereby declared.

**President Hoover Signs Resolution Passed by Congress Authorizing the Postponement of Payments on War Debts.**

On Dec. 23, President Hoover signed the resolution, passed by Congress, authorizing the postponement of amounts payable to the United States from foreign governments during the fiscal year 1932. The action on the resolution by the House (on Dec. 18) and by the Senate (on Dec. 22) is indicated in another item in this issue of our paper. In its Washington dispatch Dec. 23 the New York "Times" said:

The President received the resolution at 11 o'clock this morning, but it was after 4 in the afternoon when he affixed his signature to make it law. There was no ceremony, as is sometimes the case when measures of major importance are signed. Eugene Meyer, Governor of the Federal Reserve System, was the only person present. The pen used was presented to Mr. Meyer.

With the signing of the bill, President Hoover issued the following statement:

I have signed the act authorizing the foreign debt postponement for one year. I am gratified at the support it received in the Congress as indicated by the approval (including those absent, yet who expressed their views) of 79 Senators as against 15 opposed, and the approval of 317 members of the House of Representatives as against 100 opposed. [The Congressional Record gives the House vote as 318 to 100. Ed.] It is further gratifying that both political parties strongly supported this proposal.

The suggestion of our Government for the year's postponement of inter-governmental debts among all principal nations, of which ours is only a part, averted a catastrophe, the effects of which would have reached to the United States and would have caused the American people a loss of many times the amount involved. No part of the debt owing to us has been cancelled or reduced; the postponed amounts are repayable over a period of about 10 years with interest at 4%.

In saving the collapse of Germany by the year's postponement, the American people have done something greater than the dollars and cents gained from the maintenance of our agricultural markets, the prevention of panic and unlimited losses. They have contributed to maintain courage and hope in the German nation, to give opportunity for the other European countries to work out their problems.

**Secretary of State Stimson's Statement Upholding Authority of President Hoover's Action in Proposing Postponement of Payments of Inter-governmental Debts.**

On Dec. 23, the following statement was issued by Secretary of State Stimson relative to the action of President

Hoover in the matter of the postponement for one year of inter-government debts:

"I have been surprised that the President's power to suggest and negotiate a suspension of inter-governmental debts should have been questioned.

"Under our system of government, the President is vested with the duty of initiating all international treaties, understandings or agreements. He holds in his hands the conduct of our relations with other countries. Such contracts as he negotiates are subject to confirmation by other branches of the Government; in the case of treaties, to the consent and approval of the Senate; in the case of contracts affecting the national Treasury or property, to the approval of Congress.

"From the very beginning last June of President Hoover's suggestion of an inter-governmental suspension of debts, he notified the world that it must be subject to approval by the Congress of the United States, and this restriction and reservation has been reiterated throughout the negotiations.

"His authority to do what he has done in regard to the year of debt postponement is no less or different than his authority exercised every day in the negotiation of treaties and international conventions. The only difference of method used by President Hoover in this case from that which the President of the United States normally follows, was that in this case, before even initiating the negotiations, he consulted with the leaders of Congress and obtained their approval of what he was doing. This approval has now been formally and abundantly given by the vote last evening."

#### Report of House Ways and Means Committee on Resolution Providing for Postponement of Payment on War Debts.

Below we give in part the majority report of the House Ways and Means Committee recommending the passage of the resolution providing for the approval of President Hoover's proposal for the postponement of payments on intergovernment debts for one year; the report, together with a minority report was presented to the House on Dec. 17; the resolution (to which reference was made in our issue of Dec. 19, page 4074) was passed by the House on Dec. 18, and by the Senate on Dec. 22. In part the majority report follows:

##### *Adverse Economic Developments in Europe.*

The testimony given before the Committee indicated that adverse economic developments in Europe had, by the beginning of 1931, placed the national economies of certain countries, particularly of Central Europe under severe strain. By June, it was evident that events were rapidly shaping toward major crisis, the repercussions of which would seriously affect economic conditions throughout the world and which could not but react adversely upon conditions in this country.

It had become apparent early in the year that economic conditions in Germany were deteriorating at a fairly rapid pace. In Austria, the disclosure of the unsound condition of the country's largest credit institution precipitated a crisis in that country in the latter part of May which necessitated the extending of outside financial assistance, and became so serious as to accentuate increasing apprehension regarding the economic and budgetary situation in Germany.

It became evident by the first of June that a slow run had begun upon German banks, in fact upon the central institution, the Reichsbank. Subsequently this run assumed major proportions.

Between the end of May and June 20, the outflow of funds from Germany resulted in a reduction of 1,000,000,000 reichsmarks, or approximately \$250,000,000, in the Reichsbank holdings of gold and foreign exchange. This represented approximately two-fifths of the bank's total reserves.

On Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, the withdrawals were so heavy that the reserves of the Reichsbank reached the legal minimum and it was obvious that unless some action was taken at once to change public sentiment and check the withdrawal of funds from Germany, the Reichsbank would be obliged to suspend its reserve requirements and in all probability go off the gold basis, with consequences most serious, not only to Germany but throughout the world.

To meet the impending crisis and to avoid the inevitable effects of the impending catastrophe upon conditions in the United States, as well as Europe, the President proposed, subject to confirmation by Congress, the postponement during one year from July 1 1931, to June 30 1932, of all payments on intergovernmental debts, reparations and relief debts, both principal and interest.

This proposal was made in the belief, which subsequent events seemed to justify, that timely action should contribute to relieve the pressure of adverse forces operating in foreign countries and should assist in the re-establishment of confidence.

The announcement of the proposal on June 20 resulted in the immediate termination of withdrawals of funds from Germany and increased prices of commodities and securities in world markets. Although these benefits were not entirely retained the impending catastrophe was averted.

The resolution under consideration authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury with the approval of the President, to conclude agreements with our debtor governments which have accepted the President's proposal of June 20 1931, and have given satisfactory assurances of their willingness and readiness to make with each of their debtor governments an agreement on substantially similar terms as the agreements proposed to be made with our debtors.

Section 2 of the resolution authorized the amounts postponed to be repaid over a period of ten years beginning July 1 1933, with interest at the rate of 4% per annum.

In July, 1931, the principal creditor governments met in London for the purpose of putting into effect the President's proposal, at which conference it was agreed that the amounts postponed should be repaid on the same conditions as specified in the resolution, except that the interest rate was 3%. In view of the fact that conditions had changed since that meeting in July and that the obligations of the United States Government are now selling on the market at a rate to yield about 4%, it is felt that a 4% rate is justified.

##### *Conditions Under Which Payments Would Be Made.*

The payments to be made under this resolution should, so far as possible, be subject to the same terms and conditions as the payments to be made under the original debt-funding agreements, except that there is to be no right of further postponement in respect of the payments in question and except that payments should be made in cash.

There may be a possible exception to the right of postponement in the case of Austria. It will be recalled that Austria has relief debts owing to nine different creditor governments. The conditions under which this

indebtedness was created make it necessary that the postponed payments be subject to uniform terms and conditions of repayment for all creditors.

Under the agreements now existing, the trustees of the League of Nations' reconstruction loan have the right to object in any year to the payments being made during that year.

Depending upon the action to be taken by all the creditor governments, it may be necessary to continue this right of postponement. In the case of Greece, part of its indebtedness is serviced through the International Financial Commission and it is advisable, if possible, to continue this arrangement with respect to the postponed payments on account of this indebtedness.

The provisions of Section 4 are necessarily broad in order to cover the cases of Austria and Greece, but the committee has the pledge of the Treasury that exceptions to the terms of existing agreements will be confined to the above-mentioned points.

The report concludes by quoting President Hoover's statement of June 20 announcing the debt moratorium.

The above is taken from the New York "Times" of Dec. 18, which also had the following to say regarding the minority report:

The minority report on the moratorium ratification resolution, filed by Representatives Sanders, Eslick and Vinson, complained chiefly of lack of time to consider the proposal, and criticized President Hoover's course.

The minority emphasized the view that the President overstepped his constitutional prerogatives, taking unto himself a matter which should be "determined by Congress in session, with proper communications thereon by the President of the United States together with full facts of existing circumstances."

Complaint was also made that the "documentary" evidence, referred to by administration, witnesses before the committee, had not been given to the House and could not be in sufficient time for clear judgment on the resolution.

They declared that only "generalities" regarding the German financial situation were laid before the committee.

"No evidence was adduced before us," the report went on, "that any of the foreign nations affected were financially unable and unwilling to make these payments. On the other hand, the nations affected by this resolution expended approximately \$2,000,000,000 for armaments and war preparations within the last fiscal year."

A table from the New York "Times" of August 2 showing the expenditure of 16 European nations for armaments in the last fiscal year was inserted.

The minority endorsed the argument of those who contend that the present moratorium of one year is "a forerunner and a curtain-raiser to debt cancellation or another moratorium."

The minority asserted that the original Hoover proposal of June made no mention of funding the suspended payments over a period of ten years, as provided in the Collier resolution.

Attention was called to the growing deficit in the treasury. The report said that to forego the collection of the \$252,000,000, due from foreign nations this year would amount to an additional tax of \$2 on every man, woman and child in the United States. It added:

"We commend the equivalent maxim known to every lawyer—be just to the American people before we are generous to the peoples of Europe."

#### Charles G. Dawes Named by President Hoover as Chairman of American Delegates to Geneva Conference on Disarmament to be Held in February—Hugh S. Gibson and Miss Mary E. Woolley of Mount Holyoke College Also Named as American Delegates to Conference.

On Dec. 22 President Hoover announced that he had designated Charles G. Dawes to head the American delegation to the Geneva conference on disarmament. The appointment of Mr. Dawes (U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain) to the Geneva conference, was made known as follows by President Hoover:

"General Dawes will head the American delegation to the Geneva conference. Mr. Fletcher, I am sorry to say, finds that he will not be able to accept membership on the Commission. The whole question of disarmament is and has been of profound interest to the women of the United States. They have shown great interest in it for many years. I have determined to appoint a prominent woman as a member of the delegation. I am now conferring with a lady of high fitness for the position as to her acceptance of that important mission."

The name of the woman delegate to the conference was announced by the President on Dec. 23. She is Miss Mary E. Woolley, President of Mount Holyoke (Mass.) College since 1900. It is stated that Senator Claude A. Swanson of Virginia, ranking Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will also be a member of the American delegation to the conference. It was expected that Henry P. Fletcher (whose resignation as Chairman of the U. S. Tariff Commission, was noted in our issue of Nov. 21, page 3365), would also attend the Geneva conference, but, as stated by President Hoover, Mr. Fletcher was unable to accept the appointment.

On Dec. 24 announcement was made that President Hoover has selected in addition the three indicated above, Hugh S. Gibson, Ambassador to Belgium, as a delegate to the Geneva Arms Conference. Associated Press advices from Washington reporting the selection of Ambassador Gibson said:

Along with the word of the selection of Mr. Gibson to-day it became known that Ambassador Dawes has been called here from his post at London for a conference with the President before the Geneva meeting.

Mr. Dawes will arrive in Washington about Jan. 10 and will sail back to Europe with the other members of the delegation and its advisors on the steamship President Harding Jan. 20.

Mr. Gibson has already been in the United States for conferences and will join the other delegates in Europe shortly before the Geneva sessions begin Feb. 2.

The woman delegate is sixty-eight, but does not look it. Her hair is brown, her step firm, quick. For thirty years she has been directing the school at South Hadley, Mass., even while carrying on her aggressive work on national and international affairs.

In appointing her, President Hoover responded to a highly organized and insistent demand from women.

Ambassador Dawes, it is stated, will sail for the United States Dec. 30.

### British Note Asks French Debt Moderation—Says Part of Reparations Has Been Loans from England and United States—New Beginning Demanded.

A cablegram from Paris Dec. 18 is taken as follows from the New York "Times":

Further revelation of the terms of the British Government's memorandum to France on reparations has served to indicate that the British Government, supported, it is believed, by Washington, intends at the forthcoming governmental conference not only to seek a final liquidation of the past but to try to make possible the beginning of a new and better financial order throughout Europe and the world.

This memorandum, it is believed, is couched in very different terms from past communications setting forth British views on debts and reparations. It is to some French ears reminiscent of the language of Viscount Snowden of Ickonsshaw at The Hague conference.

The British Government has also backed it up by sending to Paris Sir Frederick Leith-Ross of the British Treasury to explain in detail the British view and to discuss with the French technical experts the procedure which Britain desires to be followed.

Those who have read the British memorandum have been left with the impression that the abandonment of the gold standard by Britain has given her far greater freedom of speech and action than she has had for several years.

#### Gives Warning to France.

At least the memorandum sets forth that what France has been receiving in reparations from Germany in the past 10 years has been nothing other than money lent to Germany by Britain and the United States, plus the small margin of profit Germany was able to make out of her export trade as long as the British markets were unprotected.

If Germany's credit is destroyed and her markets abroad closed, then the conclusion drawn by the British Cabinet is that France will have to wait a very long time before she will ever collect any more reparations.

The memorandum takes as a point of departure that what is essential to obtain is that Germany's reparations payments must be so adjusted that her financial stability will be in no way jeopardized. It urges that her creditors must show wisdom and act on the same principles as if the matter were a normal business affair.

There is some insistence that if France and every other creditor comes forward with a series of minimum demands before Germany's capacity of payment is determined, then the whole position is falsified from the start.

The British also protest vigorously against the French contention that there must be a margin for the payment of war debts over and above the payment of reparations. If that is admitted, it is argued, it will mean Germany must bear the whole burden and France herself would make no sacrifice.

Under date of Dec. 20, a Paris cablegram to the New York "Journal of Commerce" stated:

The conference between the British and French Governments should result in complete collaboration in meeting the refusal of the American Congress to take any real action on the war debts.

An official communique stated that the conversations offered an opportunity for a "most amicable exchange of views on the financial situation, particularly on the problems coming before the future conferences of the Governments."

The future conferences referred to are those which must be held under the Young plan on reparations debts following the issuance of recommendations by the experts now meeting in Basle.

We also quote the following from London Dec. 20 to the same paper:

Strong pressure has been brought by France over the week-end on the British Government to present a united front to the United States on the question of allied debt payments to America.

The French position is that the attitude shown by the American Congress illustrates the utter futility of seeking voluntary cancellation by the United States.

The French point of view is not entirely shared by the British. Over any effort to unite against America on the debt question hangs the dispute between France and England on the priority of commercial or political debts of Germany. France still refuses to concede the priority of commercial over political credits and this discord overshadows everything else.

### Testimony of Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co. and Charles E. Mitchell of National City Bank of New York Regarding German and Other Foreign Loans—Commissions Paid, &c.—Mr. Mitchell Forecasts Debt Revision.

Both Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., and Charles E. Mitchell, Chairman of the Board of the National City Bank of New York City, presented to the Senate Finance Committee, on Dec. 18, their views on foreign financing, the hearing on the resolution calling for an investigation into the sale of foreign securities. A brief reference to the testimony of Messrs. Lamont and Mitchell appeared in our issue of Dec. 19, page 4079. As we indicated therein, Mr. Lamont, denying reports that American banks were "loaded up" with foreign securities, took occasion to declare that German short-term loans are not a danger to American banks. Mr. Mitchell declared the amount of foreign loans held by the New York banks was in no case sufficient to influence their judgment in regard to cancellation of the intergovernmental

debts. The following account of what they had to say is from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 20:

#### Foreign Obligations.

Asked his opinion as to whether foreign debts should be scaled down, Mr. Mitchell said that he was willing to leave that matter in the "place where it belongs," namely with Congress. He said that he did not believe in cancellation as it was generally spoken of, but that if any scaling were to be done, it should be left with Congress.

Mr. Lamont said that the total of long-term foreign bonds issued since the World War by J. P. Morgan & Co. was \$1,807,578,000, of which \$438,280,000 had been retired. Mr. Mitchell stated the total foreign loans of the National City Co., affiliate of the National City Bank, during the same period, was \$1,071,955,000, of which \$222,866,000 had been retired.

Mr. Lamont, testifying before the Committee in connection with the Johnson resolution (S. Res. 19) for an investigation of the sale of foreign securities in this country, made this statement, he said, because there "is a great deal of unwarranted and undue fear in the public mind about the soundness of large financial institutions and something should be said to relieve this pressure on their minds."

#### Charges Exaggerations.

He assured the Committee that there is "a great deal of misunderstanding and exaggeration as to the holdings of American banks in these short-term credits. A very wrong impression has been created. The American banks generally over the country have had German bank correspondents for years, granting commercial and other credits for financing of exports. Many have been so engaged and it is necessary to export trade."

"Yet the public has been inflamed with the idea of large figures," he continued. "They have had the New York banks loaded with these short-term credits. Of course, that is perfectly fantastic." The largest amount held by any one bank is \$70,000,000 in one New York institution. He stated that he could not give the total amount outstanding.

#### Lists Foreign Loans.

Mr. Lamont began his testimony by a listing of long-term loans made to foreign countries since the armistice. The amount loaned to the Argentine Government in various amounts from June 2 1925 to April 28 1927 totaled \$159,800,000, he stated, with a gross spread of from 3½ to 4%, and with no managing commission received by J. P. Morgan & Co.

Two loans to Australia, July 16 1925 and May 8 1928 totaled \$165,000,000, with a spread of from 2½ to 3%, and with a managing commission of one-eighth of 1%, he said, while two loans to Austria, June 11 1923 and July 15 1930, of \$25,000,000 each, totaled \$50,000,000, with no managing commission on the first and one-fifth of 1% on the second.

Compensation was declined in the case of the first loan to Austria in that the loan was considered in the light of a public duty, Austria being on the verge of collapse, Mr. Lamont explained. The amount outstanding now is below \$18,000,000.

#### Action by State Department.

The total of six loans to Belgium was \$260,000, with a spread of 6% in the early loans to 4% in the last loan, he said, no managing commission being received on the first two loans, three-twentieths per cent., on the third, .225% on the fourth, and one-fifth per cent. on the last two. One loan was made to Canada, April 25 1922, of \$105,348,000, with a gross spread of 2½%.

Senator Walsh (Dem.), of Massachusetts, inquired whether any of the contracts for loans had been approved by the State Department. Mr. Lamont explained that in 1920 President Harding had requested large bankers to let the State Department have cognizance of foreign bond issues and that it be extended the right to object. "That practice has been continued, though in recent years not so much has been made on it," he said.

"Does the State Department issue a confirmatory letter approving the issues?" Senator Couzens (Rep.), of Michigan, inquired.

#### Policies Regarding Loans.

"They don't do it in an affirmative form, Senator," responded Mr. Lamont. "They do it in a negative form." He added that the State Department is asked if it cares to interpose an objection and responds, if none arises, that it wishes to interpose no objection. "We construe this to mean that there is no point of high politics involved of such great importance as to lead the Government to say that it is an unwise policy to make the loans."

"If there is an objection, the loan is not floated, is it?" asked Senator Barkley (Dem.), of Kentucky. "Certainly not," replied Mr. Lamont.

Senator Reed (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, questioned if the absence of an objection was considered an approval of the security of a loan.

"In no sense have we given such construction to it," said the witness. "It is only a question of whether high politics are involved."

"They have not undertaken to pass on the security of loans?" Senator Reed asked. "Certainly not," replied Mr. Lamont.

Responding to questions by Senator Gore (Dem.), of Oklahoma, as to the public taking the loss on declines in securities, Mr. Lamont said that the private investor has been obliged to witness severe declines in Government bonds, foreign bonds, railroad and other bonds, and that it is "the great investment public on which these declines have chiefly fallen rather than the banks."

The loans were made to Germany, one Oct. 14 1924, under the Dawes Plan at 7%, and one in 1930 under the Young Plan at 5½%, Mr. Lamont continued. The first loan was \$110,000,000 and the second \$98,250,000, and the total of the two has been reduced to \$177,000,000, he said. The spread on the first was 5% and the second 4%.

Senator Bingham asked why American bankers were so willing to lend to Germany after her financial collapse. Mr. Lamont explained that the bonds constituted an unconditional obligation of the German Government and are payable in American gold dollars. Germany, he said, was put on a gold basis and there was no reason, and is none to-day, to question the good faith of the German Government and people to meet their obligations. He pointed out that payments were based on special revenues.

In regard to short-term loan credits in Germany, Mr. Lamont said that the aggregate of these credits in America, Great Britain, France and other countries "has been a cumbersome amount."

#### Loans Made to Chile.

Chile received a loan of \$24,000,000 Feb. 15 1921, all of which has been relieved, Mr. Lamont told the Committee. These were 8% bonds with a gross spread of 5% and non-managing commission, he said. Two issues were made to Cuba totaling \$59,000,000 on Jan. 15 1923 and July 1 1927, with 2.48% commission on the first and 122/1,000 on the second.

Three issues to France aggregated \$300,000,000, each of \$100,000,000, the first on Sept. 3 1920, the second May 23 1921, and the third Nov 24

1924, Mr. Lamont testified. The first has been retired, the second is below \$61,000,000, and the third below \$71,000,000. On these issues the gross spread was 5 to 6%, with no commission on the first two and ½% on the last. The first issue was at 8%, the second at 7½%, and the third at 7%.

Senator Johnson (Rep.), of California, asked if any of the French issues was bought outright by J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Lamont explained that all of them had been bought outright by the company and its associates, adding that four houses had been represented in each loan. He said, in response to further questioning by Senator Johnson, that the bonds were resyndicated at 1% up, one-half of 1% up and three-quarters of 1% up for the three issues, and that then they went to a third and final distributing syndicate, which carried the largest amount of the spread because of the larger part of the work, 4%, 4% and 3% for the three issues.

The prices originally paid, he said, were 94, 90 and 89, respectively, and their ultimate sale was at 100, 95 and 94.

Senator Bingham (Rep.), of Connecticut, asked why less profit was represented in the later issues.

"We call it spread because the greater part of it goes in the expense of distribution," Mr. Lamont responded. He said the reason it was larger in the first four years was that those were years of reconstruction in Europe and the public confidence had not been established. He stated that the contracts entered into specify the amount of the spread.

"Has anything been done on the part of your syndicate in the way of coercion to take these issues?" questioned Senator Harrison (Dem.), of Mississippi. "Not the slightest," replied Mr. Lamont.

Mr. Lamont declared further that the banks of the country are not loaded up with foreign bonds to the extent that the public thinks. "They think the bankers are loaded up with long-term bonds," he said. "That is the menacing point in the situation."

#### Italian and Japanese Loans.

Mr. Lamont said that loans to Italy include \$100,000,000 in 1925, \$12,000,000 to a corporation owned by the Government in 1927, and \$30,000,000 to the City of Rome in 1927.

Other loans were listed by Mr. Lamont as follows:

Japan, \$150,000,000 at 6½% interest with a spread of 5%, made following the earthquake; \$71,000,000 with a 4% spread in 1930; three issues guaranteed by Japan, city of Yokohama, \$20,000,000; city of Tokyo, \$20,000,000 and electric power company in Formosa, \$22,800,000 in 1926, 1927 and 1931, respectively. Switzerland, \$20,000,000 in 1923, now paid off, and \$30,000,000 in 1924. This, he said, completed the list of loans.

#### Domestic Credit.

"Has the volume of foreign credits conflicted with or impaired the ability of the domestic corporations, particularly the smaller ones, to secure credit?" Senator La Follette (Rep.), of Wisconsin, asked. "Unquestionably not," replied Mr. Lamont. He said he believed there was a connection between the foreign loans and the expansion of American export trade.

Mr. Lamont said that J. P. Morgan & Co. had given Great Britain the right to call on it at any time within a two-year period for \$100,000,000, and that it had been paid 1¼%. He stated that the company has no share in German short-term credit, and explained that it is not the financial agent of Italy.

"While I regard the question of foreign bond issues as undoubtedly an important factor in the whole situation, I do not deem it of equal importance to the domestic situation," Mr. Lamont said. "If we can address ourselves to certain phases of the domestic situation, the foreign situation will in a sense take care of itself."

Mr. Lamont urged early action by Congress on the proposal for an emergency finance corporation. Asked by Senator Couzens if the railroads could await such legislation, Mr. Lamont replied that if there were good signs that Congress would give early action the roads could wait.

In regard to reported refusals of New York banks to extend further loans to railroads, he said that certain roads are financed by short-term loans, which banking houses have accepted readily, but banks can not continue to lock up their forces indefinitely, and these loans must be refunded in bonds before long. J. P. Morgan & Co. acts for several railroads, he said.

#### Motives in Foreign Loans.

Mr. Mitchell told the Committee that it was the motive always of the National City Bank to make foreign loans in the sense that it was playing a part in the development of American trade and interests. Stating that the foreign investments "very largely control the volume of export business" of this country, he declared that banking interests which have floated loans should receive praise rather than criticism.

Senator Couzens raised the question as to whether these loans had not been used in foreign countries to produce goods to compete with American products.

Foreign loans of American banking interests outstanding in 1930, Mr. Mitchell said, totaled \$7,841,000,000. He pointed out that the greater proportion of foreign securities holdings were distributed among individuals.

In regard to holdings of German securities, Mr. Mitchell said that the National City Bank holds \$1,556,000 and that the National City Co. holds \$631,000. He said that his bank was not a manager in this country for the banks of any foreign country.

Approximately 15% of German short-term credits have been paid during the last few months, Mr. Mitchell stated. He explained that the amount of such credit now outstanding is between \$600,000,000 and \$700,000,000.

Mr. Mitchell declared that he did not believe Government and commercial credit in Germany should be considered as "one global thing." Regarding credit, he said that bankers figure on the basis of what is best for themselves, often taking a credit on which payment could be forced and adjusting it, believing it to be in their selfish interest to do so. "In the end you may do the same in regard to intergovernmental debts," he added.

In response to a question by Senator Harrison, he asserted that foreign loans had not contracted the credit for American banks and American people. He declared that in addition to foreign loans being dependent on the good faith of the people in the respective governments, the character of a people, their ability to work and produce, must be considered. "That is the kind of ability we find in the German workman," he said.

In the New York "Times" it was stated that a revision of reparations payments and of inter-Allied debts owed to the United States was pictured as inevitable by Mr. Mitchell on Dec. 19; he was emphatic in declaring his belief that payments probably could not be resumed at the end of the present moratorium period, and that it was unlikely that reparations ever would be completely paid by Germany. As

to what Mr. Mitchell had to say on Dec. 19 we quote the following from Washington on that date to the New York "Times":

The banker was called to testify primarily regarding loans floated in this country and sold to private investors, and he did not class such loans in that category. This testimony referred only to governmental obligations.

He said he believed that the present system where reparations and debts would be paid off over a 60-year period would eventually result in "rebellion in Germany."

Mr. Mitchell revealed that the National City Co. had handled \$1,071,955,000 in foreign bond issues since the World War, and had made a net profit of \$13,392,502 after deducting expenses. The company also made a net profit of \$11,363,501 as its share of profits in syndicate operations in foreign bonds totaling \$3,260,407,000, he said.

#### No Default on Commercial Loans.

Mr. Mitchell, in reply to questions, said there had been no default on any foreign commercial loans handled by the National City Co.

In testimony which departed somewhat from the matter of deals in foreign bond issues in the United States, for which he was subpoenaed to appear before the committee, Mr. Mitchell sketched the picture of generations of Germans born since the World War being faced with payment of the war reparations in future years.

He had a sharp interchange with Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, who argued that American "generations yet unborn" will object strenuously to being forced to shoulder the payment of additional burdens due to the default of debtors of the United States, it being conceded by Mr. Mitchell that defaults in reparations might lead to defaults in payments of the debts of the World War allies to the United States.

#### A German-American Impasse.

"There debts will have to be paid by the progeny of Americans who had nothing to do with the World War," said Senator Reed, "so why should they have to bear the burden, and the progeny of other nations go scot free?"

"I can't answer that," replied Mr. Mitchell.

"Then why won't the psychology of this country checkmate that other psychology?" asked Senator Reed.

"That is an impasse," replied Mr. Mitchell.

This testimony on reparations, war debts and the moratorium came as an interlude in a session of the committee, which concluded the examination of Mr. Mitchell that was begun yesterday with Senator Johnson of California in the role of chief interrogator. Senator Johnson, although not a member of this committee, was the author of a resolution calling for an investigation of foreign bond sales in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell had prepared for the committee a tabulation of all German bond issues floated in the United States by the National City Co. since 1919. Senator Watson called the lists, bringing out the profits of the company and dwelling on the issues for German commercial houses.

#### He Lists Bonds That Made Gains.

No German governmental issues were handled by the National City Co. except for possible participation by it in the Dawes and Young Plan loans, which were organized by J. P. Morgan, a detail which was not discussed.

Mr. Mitchell admitted that losses have been taken by American investors on many foreign bonds, but said the same was true of American bonds, adding:

"You must not get the idea that investors in foreign bonds have universally taken losses. By and large, I should say that the losses are less in foreign bonds than in domestic issues."

He filed with the Committee a long list of foreign bonds which have been called at prices which netted average capital gains to their holders of 10.05%.

Mr. Mitchell was the second witness heard during the inquiry, the first having been Thomas J. Lamont, a member of J. P. Morgan & Co., whose testimony was completed yesterday. The hearings will be continued Monday with the questioning, as now contemplated, of officials of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Dillon, Read & Co., the Chase National Bank, and the Guaranty Trust Co.

#### Profit of \$13,392,502 on Bonds.

Mr. Mitchell, in reply to questions by Senator Johnson, said that the National City Co. had handled foreign bond issues since the World War totaling \$1,071,955,000, on which a net profit had been made of \$13,392,502, after the deduction of \$2,378,398 for general expenses directly attributable to the bond issues. Of the so-called net profit, Mr. Mitchell said:

"It is the profit as best we can figure it on these particular items, but does not cover our general expenses of operating our business, nor any of our sales expenses."

Mr. Mitchell testified that his company also had made a net profit, figured in the same manner, of \$11,363,501 as its share from syndicate operations in foreign bonds totaling \$3,260,407,000.

As one example of the expenses and profits involved in foreign bond issues Senator Johnson questioned Mr. Mitchell about a \$32,000,000 issue floated in 1929 for the Lautaro Nitrate Co., Ltd., a British firm operating the largest nitrate factory in Chile. The direct expenses of this issue were given as \$181,541, and the net profit to the National City Co. as \$809,485.

The bonds were issued by the National City Co. and three associates which purchased the issue for 93¼, were sold to an intermediate group of five members for 94¼, the National City Co. also participating in this intermediate group, resold to a banking group of 76 dealers, the National City Co. again participating in a diminishing scale at 95¼, again resold to a selling group of 488 dealers for 96½, and finally sold to investors for 99.

#### All Made Gross Profit of Five Points.

This whole group, Mr. Mitchell pointed out, made a gross profit of 5¼ points out of 99, from which all expenses of issuance and sale of the bonds had to be deducted. The National City Co. made the largest profit on the transaction, he said, because its participation was larger than that of any other group.

Senator Harrison inquired if the National City had made a loan to the American I. G., American subsidiary of the I. G. Farben Industry of Germany, chemical manufacturers.

Mr. Mitchell said such a loan had been made, but it did not appear in this record, as it was a domestic loan. The money was "used quite completely in this country," Mr. Mitchell said. The National City has not floated any loans for the I. G. Farben.

Senator Harrison said he had the impression that the American I. G. had itself lent money to the I. G. Farben to use in the making of products sold in competition with those of American manufacturers.

Mr. Mitchell said that this might have occurred, but he was not aware of it. He offered, however, to furnish the Committee with a financial report of the American I. G., of which he is a director.

*Asks of German Loan to Russia.*

"Well, now, carrying out that idea," Senator Harrison asked, "have you any knowledge of Germany within the last two years loaning to Russia some \$400,000,000?"

"I do not personally have any direct knowledge of specific loans, but it is common understanding that the Germans have made advances to the Russians," Mr. Mitchell replied.

Q. And in all probability that was done on the credit that they received in America? A. Well, it is very difficult to trace the credits.

Q. Yes, but it had its influence, of course? A. Undoubtedly had some influence, though the amount that they have loaned, I am of the impression, is not large in the light of the whole economy of Germany.

Q. I understood it was \$400,000,000. I thought perhaps you could answer that? A. I cannot answer that.

Senator King of Utah asked a question:

Q. Would you have any knowledge, Mr. Mitchell, whether or not German industrialists had made loans to Russia with the view of securing trade in Russia? A. I think, Senator, that they have made the same character of loan, if you wish to call it that, that has been made by so many of the American companies. They sold goods with some advance payment and accepted deferred payments for the balance. It is the common practice not only of German companies but of many American companies as well.

Q. Do you think that any of the loans which may have been made to private corporations in Germany, if any have been made through your bank, or by Americans, in turn were loaned to Russia by the German industrialists? A. That is a very difficult question for me to answer. I would concede the possibility, in this way. Just as the General Electric Co. in the United States has sold to Russia, part cash and part deferred payments, so the Allgemeine Elektrizität Gesellschaft, which is the General Electric Co. of Germany, generally known as the AEG, which we have financed to some extent, has made similar arrangements in Russia. Now I cannot say that none of the money that we have loaned to the AEG has not found its way in one way or another into those smaller credits to Russia. It may have.

*No Defaults on Commercial Loans.*

At this point Mr. Mitchell submitted the schedule of bond flotations by the National City, which prompted a question from Senator Barkley of Kentucky whether there had been defaults in payment of interest or of service of principal on any issues handled by the National City Co.

Mr. Mitchell said that there had been no default on any foreign commercial loans handled by the National City Co.; the same answer was given by Mr. Lamont yesterday as to governmental issues handled by J. P. Morgan & Co.

"In other words, they have kept up their payments on all these private loans?" asked Senator Barkley.

"Yes," replied Mr. Mitchell.

Q. To what extent has there been any default on the part of either the industries or the governments of Europe that owe the United States money, and to whom this moratorium will apply? A. We have had no defaults from Europe.

Q. You speak of "we." Do you mean your institution, or do you mean generally the banking institutions of this country? A. I am speaking of our institutions. Whether there have been defaults on some issues with which I am not familiar—some of these municipal or other issues—I cannot say, but with respect to our own experience, no defaults.

"Will you indicate your idea of the trend, if you do not object?" asked Senator Gore.

"The trend is not good, Senator Gore, it seems to me. We have had no political or economic happenings in the last few months in Europe that have been particularly encouraging."

"In other words," said Senator Barkley, "it would be a miracle if within the next six months there would be a sudden change in the trend which would lead us to hope that at the end of that time we might not have to do this same thing over?"

"I think I will agree with that," the witness answered.

*Use to Which Loans Were Put.*

Mr. Mitchell's discussion of German and allied debts followed a question by Senator King as to whether he had knowledge of the uses to which money lent abroad was put.

Q. Have you been sufficiently in touch with the loans that have been made and the credits extended to know whether they are applied for the benefit of the State—I am speaking of Germany—or whether some of those loans were used in their military operations in strengthening the army of 100,000 soldiers, or arming them, or building 10,000-ton battleships, or any other naval craft? A. With respect to the issues that we have made, we have been meticulous in analysis prior to the issue that those issues were for productive purposes. And for your information, so long as Mr. Parker Gilbert was in Berlin, to the best of my knowledge and belief, we never proceeded with an issue until we had the analysis of Mr. Parker Gilbert to prove it to be of that character. Now as we made these loans, we demand regular reports from these companies. We have men in Germany who are in touch with these companies, and I think I can say without fear of contradiction that the moneys that we have given to German industries and have been covered by our loans to various entities have been used for the purpose set forth in our prospectus.

Q. Have you any information as to the disposition which would be made of the several hundred million dollars which would be paid if there were no moratorium, the disposition which would be made of that by Germany? That is to say, if Germany has a moratorium under which she is freed from the payment for one year of her obligations under the reparations, have you any information as to the use which Germany would make, assuming she has the money, of that money which would not go in reparations? A. I have no positive information on that, Senator.

Q. Has Germany made any indication as to whether or not she desires to use any of that money, if she has a moratorium and if she has the money—has she indicated for what purpose she wants to use it? A. Not so far as I know.

Q. Did France make any indication with respect to the utilization of the money if the moratorium were granted? That is, use by Germany? A. I am not in touch with the French Government.

*Effect of Moratorium on Future.*

Q. Then, so far as you know, it is no purpose of the German Government to be freed from the payment of the \$400,000,000 or \$500,000,000 to use that for military purposes? A. I have no knowledge of that at all, Senator.

Senator King then asked:

"Have you any information—and I concede that it would be only a guess or prophecy—as to the effect of granting the moratorium; that is to say, do you think it will encourage Germany to ask a further moratorium? Will

she in the future regard this as a breakdown of the wall, so that at the end of the year she will ask for a further breaking down of the wall?"

"I do not know, of course, Senator," replied Mr. Mitchell, "but I think we should all recognize that possibly there was set up by the original Dawes Commission a principle that since has been violated by all nations, a principle that appealed to me then, and still appeals to me, to be the sound one, to wit, that debts created as a result of the war should be established in such amount that can be paid by that nation operating under all of the burdens that their creditors may be operating under during the life of that generation that had to do with the war.

"Now, the Dawes Commission established that in the most direct way that they were permitted to, it seems to me, under the limitations that were upon them, by setting up 35 years as the term of payment for the railway and industrial debentures which secured the first Dawes loan.

*How Youth Looks at the Debts.*

"Now, that 35-year period become sixty-two years when the English came here, and with their laudable pride said to America, 'We owe so much, and England always pays her debts, and to pay this it will take us 62 years.' Therefore, 62 years became the general yard-stick instead of 35 years, if you please, by which we measure the capacity to pay.

"I may seem to be going a long way around, but I am stating this in order to come back to your question directly, because my mind operates from these basic facts. Here we have in Germany to-day young men going into the universities of Germany who were not born when the great war started. Those young men see that not only this day but their progeny, and the progeny of their progeny, must pay and go on for these generations in paying a debt for which they, as individuals, were not responsible. They feel that they are under the heavy yoke, and my impression is that there is growing, as a result thereof, rebellion against the payment of the debt.

"I think it is something that is readily understandable, and if you ask me if it is my opinion that Germany will go through this entire period and pay off the amount of debt that has been set up under these various plans for her to pay, I cannot conceive it to be possible, because I think that it will bring rebellion."

*"Not Preaching Cancellation."*

"Then this moratorium is permitting the camel to put its nose under the tent, and it will force itself into the tent, and it will result in a further demand for the complete extinguishment of the obligation; is that your philosophy?" asked Senator King.

"I would not go so far as to say that," replied Mr. Mitchell, "but all of this leads me to the conclusion that nationally the countries involved in this question have found a problem that is political and psychological, and that they must consider and handle. I do not believe that it can be taken quite on the simple base that the debt was contracted and the debt must be paid."

Following this series of answers to questions by Senator King, Mr. Mitchell stated:

"I am not preaching, Senator, in what I am saying, any doctrine of cancellation. I want that to be clear. I am trying to develop some of the psychology of the people that may have a direct bearing on this question."

"Would not that apply to every nation that owes us debts? Would it not apply to France and England, who owe this debt and who are to pay during the 62 years, quite as much as to Germany?" asked Senator Watson of Indiana.

"Yes, I would say so," conceded Mr. Mitchell.

Asked by Senator Gore of Oklahoma if there was not a legal and moral difference between the reparations paid by Germany and debts of other nations to this country, Mr. Mitchell conceded that point, but said:

"At the same time, I think that if reparations were not received by those Allied countries who owe us, that we would have developed the same character of thought and argument—to wit, that those inter-Allied debts are debts which, in reality, resulted from the war."

Senator Reed pointed out that most of the annuities under the Dawes Plan were fixed at 25 and not 35 years.

Mr. Mitchell said that what he had intended to make clear was his interpretation of the Dawes Commission's implied intention as expressed in the brief term of annuity payments.

"All right," conceded Senator Reed. "Now you say that there is growing up in Germany a psychology on the part of the younger people which leads them to want to accept all of the benefits created by preceding generations, without any of the obligations. That is understandable. Young people enjoy getting benefits and do not enjoy bearing burdens.

"But is it not reasonable to think that the same psychology will grow up over here that very large war debts were created, and that this money is going to be paid by a generation of Americans that had nothing to do with this war?"

"Now why should the progeny of Americans who had nothing to do with the war, progeny of Americans who were not even alive, pay this war debt, and the progeny of the people who started it go scot free? I confess I cannot see that, Mr. Mitchell."

"I grant with you," Senator Reed, "that that is quite unanswerable as an argument within itself," said Mr. Mitchell.

"Then why is not the psychology that is going to grow up in this country by refusing to cancel these debts going to be a complete checkmate to the psychology abroad that wants to have these debts forgiven?"

"It is an impasse that will retard the time of world development with respect to economy and exchanges, and understandings for a long time to come," replied the witness.

*He Discusses Wiggin's Views.*

Senator Reed asked Mr. Mitchell if he thought that the "repeated speeches" of Albert Wiggin of the Chase National Bank and head of the Wiggin Committee, advocating the complete cancellation of debts, did not "make the task of this Government very much harder in collecting these eminently just debts?"

"I have not any question," said Mr. Mitchell, "but that Mr. Wiggin, in making that expression, feels that that is the only way out. I think that any expression of that sort makes it more difficult for governments to sit down and view this question in all of its phases and reach an answer that in itself is sound. That is why I say to you, as I said yesterday, that I am not in favor of the cancellation program. Our institution has never taken the standpoint that we were for cancellation."

"I hope it will never be that," said Senator Reed.

"Why mention Mr. Wiggin alone?" interposed Senator Johnson. "Are you not aware that Mr. J. P. Morgan has said that he believes in cancellation of these debts?"

Mr. Mitchell said that he did not recall "exactly Mr. Morgan's statements."

Discussion of debts and reparations having been concluded, Senator Johnson requested 15 minutes, and in this time he read into the record, with the confirmation of Mr. Mitchell, a long list of selected bond issues for the accounts of foreign commercial houses issued by the National City Co., most of these being for the benefit of German interests.

Mr. Mitchell had come amply prepared for the questioning, and he was able not only to answer all questions relating to deals but to take from his voluminous brief case specimens of circulars describing the bonds in question.

Paralleling Mr. Lamont's description of the J. P. Morgan & Co. practices, he said that the bonds were allotted to banks for sale on the basis of purely voluntary agreements and without coercion.

**"Public Made Great Many Losses."**

Senator Thomas of Idaho brought out through questions that seldom, if ever, has the National City Co. suffered a loss on one of these bond issues.

Mr. Mitchell testified, however: "I think there are one or two in the syndicates managed by others that show red figures."

The resulting comment by Senator Thomas that "the public certainly made a lot of losses," brought a sharp retore from Mr. Mitchell, who said: "The public made a great many losses, as they have in all bonds and securities of any kind, Senator. But in this connection I would like to call your attention to the fact that the public has also made very large profits."

"I have here a group of 22 issues of foreign bonds which have been retired. These issues ran to the aggregate of \$425,000,000 principal account; they were sold to the public for \$416,015,000. In return upon redemption, the holders received a total of \$460,550,000, or a net profit of \$44,535,000, equivalent to 10.705% upon their original investment; and while they held that investment, as long as those issues were outstanding, they had a weighted average return of 7.85% in current interest, which was punctually received by those investors.

**"Losses Not Universal."**

"In other words, we must not get the idea that investors in those foreign bond issues have universally made losses."

Q. But they are now making losses? A. Just as they are with respect to domestic bonds.

Q. Any greater losses? A. I would be glad to give you some comparisons here of the shrinkage here.

Q. Are they greater or less? A. By and large, I would say they were less in foreign bonds than they were on domestic bonds.

Senator Gore asked that Mr. Mitchell also prepare a list of defaulted foreign bonds, but the witness said this would be difficult to collect. Instead, he offered for the record a selected list of foreign and domestic bonds showing the highs reached in 1929, 1930 and 1931, and present quotations. It was accepted by Senator Smoot of Utah, Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell declined to commit himself on a question by Senator Thomas as to whether domestic or foreign bonds stand the better chance of eventual payment.

Asked by Senator Johnson if member banks of the Federal Reserve System hold any of the foreign bonds sold by the National City Co., Mr. Mitchell replied:

"Oh, yes, of course they have. They have many. Of course, the Federal Reserve banks themselves have none—just the member banks."

The list submitted by Mr. Mitchell concerning foreign bond issues did not contain Canadian or Cuban issues, but he promised to forward these and have them in the Committee's hands by Monday.

**Bank Reports Expected to Detail Holdings of German and Other Foreign Obligations.**

The following is from the New York "Times" of Dec. 20: The attention paid by Wall Street last week to the testimony given by Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co., and by Charles E. Mitchell, Chairman of the National City Bank, before the Senate Finance Committee gave a clue to the interest in the annual reports of N. Y. City banks, due next month.

It is generally expected that the banks will mark down their portfolios to market values as of the close of the year and will inform stockholders and the public in general of the precise amounts of their individual commitments in Germany and other foreign countries that are now suffering financial distress. The totals of these investments have been a source of much conjecture.

Mr. Lamont told the Senate Finance Committee that the largest amount of German short-term investments held by any one bank was \$70,000,000 and that that institution's resources were so large that these holdings "are not even an occasion for comment." Mr. Mitchell offered figures to show that foreign bonds held by the banks are of comparatively small amount.

Notices mailed to stockholders last week announced that the National City Bank, the Chase National Bank and the Corn Exchange Bank Trust Co. would hold their annual meetings on the same day and at the same hour, Jan. 12 at noon. This unusual coincidence of meetings will result in an extraordinary concentration of banking developments. Investors who are shareholders in all three institutions will find themselves torn between their interests in the three meetings.

The Chase National Bank has notified its shareholders, who are identical with the shareholders in the Chase Securities Corp., that it will ask them to approve a reduction in the capital of the securities company. Other banks are expected to make important readjustments in their capital and reserves not only for write-down purposes, but to take account of mergers and other developments in the last year. As a result of the widespread discussion of security affiliates, it is said to be possible that some of the larger banks may decide to make public the portfolios of such adjuncts for the first time in history.

**List Supplied to Senate Finance Committee by President Mitchell of National City Bank of New York to Show that Losses in Foreign Securities Are No Greater Than in Case of Domestic Bonds.**

In support of his assertion that American losses in foreign securities are no greater than in domestic bonds, Charles E. Mitchell, President of the National City Bank of New York, has filed with the Senate Finance Committee the following comparison of prices on representative foreign securi-

ties; the list as given below is from a Washington dispatch Dec. 20 to the New York "Herald Tribune":

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF FOREIGN BOND ISSUES.

Issue.	Approximate Amount Outstanding.	1929 High.	1930 High.	1931 Dec. 16.
Austrian 7s, 1923-1943	\$19,506,000	105	108	80
Belgian 7s, 1925-55	47,397,000	110	115½	87
Denmark 6s, 1922-42	30,000,000	104½	106½	66
Finland 5½s, 1928-58	14,468,000	92	92	38½
French 7s, 1924-49	74,741,000	113½	121	111½
Paris-Lyons-Mediterranean RR 6s, 1922-53	38,953,000	102	105½	91½
German 7s, 1924-49	81,960,000	108	109½	48½
Berlin 6s, 1928-58	14,512,000	92	94½	15½
Dutch East Indies 6s, 1922-47	38,367,000	104½	103½	79
German Central Bank for Agri 6s 1927-60	48,380,000	88	90	30
Japanese 6½s, 1924-54	134,321,000	103	105½	83½
Chile 6s 1926-60	40,440,000	94	94½	11½
Argentine 6s, 1923-57	36,545,000	101	99½	44½
Central 4½s, 1928-50	49,738,000	88½	85½	42½
Italy 7s, 1925-51	91,373,000	97½	101	83
Peru 6s, 1927-60	45,583,000	90	84	6½
Brazil 6½s, 1926-57	56,921,000	96½	88½	15
Hungary 7½s, 1924-44	7,646,000	101½	104½	33½

DOMESTIC.

Security.	High 1929.	High 1930.	High 1931.	Pres-ent.
American Rolling Mills 4½s, 1933	101	97	69	
Alleghany Corporation 5s, 1944	112	105	87½	
Alleghany Corporation 5s, 1949	111½	104½	85½	
Alleghany Corporation 5s, 1950	99½	85	15	
American & Foreign Power deb 5s, 2030	90½	86	34	
Associated Gas & Electric conv 4½s, 1949	87	73	33	
Associated Gas & Elec conv 5s, 1950	88½	80½	37	
Baltimore & Ohio conv 4½s, 1960	104½	98½	34	
Canadian Pacific collateral 4½s, 1960	100	100	60	
Central of Georgia Ry ref & gen 5s, 1959	101½	105½	100	
Chesapeake Corp collateral 5s, 1947	100½	101½	100½	
Chicago & Eastern Illinois 5s, 1951	85½	84	50	
Chicago Milw St Paul & Pac mtge 5s, 1975	94½	96½	76	
Chicago Milw St Paul & Pac adj 5s, 2000	80½	78½	35	
Chicago & Northwestern 1st & ref 4½s, 2037	97½	100½	96	
Chicago & Northwestern conv 4½s, 1940	101½	103	93	
Chicago Rock Island & Pacific sec 4½s, 1952	95½	98	95½	
Chicago Rock Island & Pacific conv 4½s, 1960	101½	92½	25	
Chile Copper Co 5s, 1947	97	93½	95½	
Central States Electric 5s, 1948	90½	84	71	
Cities Service Co conv 5s, 1950	128	82½	42½	
Denver & Rio Grande ref & imp 5s, 1978	93½	85	32½	
Erie RR ref & imp 5s, 1967	98	97½	84½	
Florida East Coast 5s, 1974	80	81½	30½	
General Theatre Equip 6s, 1940	100½	74	3½	
Goodrich Co R F 6s, 1945	79	76	34	
Great Northern Ry gen 4½s, 1977	101½	99½	59½	
Gulf States Steel 5½s, 1942	99	100½	90	
Hudson Coal 5s, 1962	73	63	37½	
International Match conv 5s, 1941	100	47½	43	
International Match conv 5s, 1947	102	99½	30	
International Paper ref 6s, 1955	95½	94	69½	
International Telephone 4½s, 1952	95½	94	84½	
International Telephone 5s, 1955	99½	90½	40½	
Middle West Utilities conv 5s, 1933	99½	99½	42½	
Middle West Utilities conv 5s, 1934	99½	99½	41½	
Middle West Utilities conv 5s, 1935	99½	99½	46	
Florida East Coast 5s, 1974	100½	103½	97	
Paramount Publix 5½s, 1950	94½	89½	36½	
Pan-American Petroleum of California 6s, 1940	98½	78	15½	
Philadelphia Reading Coal & Iron 6s, 1949	110	83	33½	
Phillips Petroleum 5½s, 1939	94	97½	50½	
Postal Telegraph & Cable Co 5s, 1953	95	96½	74½	
Remington Rand 5½s, 1947	99	101	91	
St Louis & San Francisco 4½s, 1978	91½	95½	86	
St Louis Southwestern 1st term 5s, 1952	101½	102	97½	
Seaboard Air Line 6s, 1945	85	79	20	
Seaboard All Florida 6s, 1935	81	72	12½	
Skelly Oil Co 5½s, 1939	99½	84	48	
Wabash RR ref 4½s, 1978	92	96½	89½	
Wabash RR 5s, 1976	100½	102½	96½	
Warner Bros Pictures 6s, 1939	102½	96	10	
Waldorf Astoria Hotel 7s, 1954	113½	74½	29	
Warren Bros conv 6s, 1941	103½	74	18½	
Western Union Telegraph 5s, 1951	106½	104½	62½	
Western Union Telegraph 5s, 1960	105½	104½	61	
Youngstown Sheet & Tube 5s, 1978	104½	103½	57	

**Otto H. Kahn of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Before Senate Committee, Says Germany Will Pay—Would Put Private Debts Before Reparations—War Debt Postponement Praised—Give's Firm's Transactions—Helped Float \$1,136,750,000 Foreign Loans Since War—United States Claims Just, but Expediency Must Be Guide.**

A Nation should pay its debts to private persons first, then its debts to another Government, if such a hypothetical choice were faced, Otto H. Kahn declared before the Senate Finance Committee on Dec. 21. Reporting at length what Mr. Kahn had to say, a dispatch from Washington Dec. 21 to the New York "Times" is quoted herewith in full:

A partner in Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Mr. Kahn was the third leading New York financier to appear before the Committee, which, acting on a request of Senator Johnson of California, is holding a series of hearings on foreign loans floated in this country bearing on war debts and the moratorium. Preceding witnesses were Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co., and Charles E. Mitchell, head of the National City Bank.

Mr. Kahn in his statement as to priority was emphatic in saying that such a choice would be brought up by a condition assumed rather than actually existing.

"In order to keep the economic life of a country going, in order to pay taxes, in order to enable it to do its daily work, the sanctity of contracts must be protected to the limit of what is possible," he said. He added:

"It is of less importance that one government pay another government to the minute and upon the day what it owes, if it can by mutual consent secure a postponement, than that the confidence of the ordinary individual dealing in one country with another individual in another country, should be profoundly shaken in the faith and credit of the business community with which he does business in other countries."

In the case of Germany, he asserted, the Government would be left impotent if commerce were stopped and therefore both governmental and

private debts would be lost should the reparations receive priority over private obligations.

#### *Holds Moratorium Averted Disaster.*

Declaring that the moratorium action by President Hoover had prevented a catastrophe, Mr. Kahn voiced his faith in Germany's ability to pay her debts, but urged that expediency be the guide in dealing with obligations. "On the point of justice," he said, "I think we have a 100% case—a 200% case—but it evolves into purely a question of a careful study of what it is expedient for us to do. How can the world, including America, best get out of this mess it is in?"

"You do not subscribe to the European formula of doing so at the expense of America?" asked Senator Reed of Pennsylvania.

"I do not," said Mr. Kahn.

#### *Kuhn, Loeb & Co. Not Party to President Hoover's Plan for Debt Moratorium.*

Mr. Kahn put into the record a statement terming the allegation that Kuhn, Loeb & Co. or any of its officers had been parties to the President's plan for a moratorium as an "absolute falsehood."

He did not name the source of the allegation, but it was recalled that Representative McFadden of Pennsylvania, in a speech before the House, had named Mr. Kahn's private banking house as an adviser of the President in formulating the moratorium.

Mr. Kahn estimated, as have previous witnesses, that more than \$600,000,000 in German short-term securities are held by banks in the United States, and stated that he believed that to be a moderate total in consideration of the size and the business of Germany.

#### *Endorses Reconstruction Plan.*

Mr. Kahn testified that Kuhn, Loeb & Co. had issued foreign securities in the United States, either as originators of bond issues or as participants in syndicates, totaling \$1,136,750,000. He was unable to give an estimate of his company's profits.

Of these securities, \$577,750,000 were originated by his firm, while the remainder, \$559,000,000, were issued in association with J. P. Morgan & Co.

The issues of foreign securities were, in principle, passed on to investors. Mr. Kahn testified, after describing that the business of a banker is to "remain liquid." If a banker ties up much of his money in long term bonds, he ceases to fulfill his function in business, he said.

At the same time Mr. Kahn conceded, under questioning by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, that banks probably hold many such foreign bonds, either by original purchase or as security for defaulted loans.

Mr. Kahn was at pains to qualify almost every sentence of his testimony.

There was no qualification, however, of his espousal of greater co-operation between nations and in domestic matters. When asked his opinion of the proposed establishment of a Reconstruction Corporation as suggested by President Hoover, he endorsed it enthusiastically.

#### *Defines Bankers' Responsibility.*

The questioning of Mr. Kahn on the primary topic of bond flotations was limited to description of the sale of two Swedish loans totaling \$55,000,000 and four for the City of Oslo, Norway, totaling \$19,000,000. The first Swedish loan, for \$25,000,000, since has been paid off, Mr. Kahn testified. The hearing was closed before he had time to tell of other foreign loans by his firm.

Mr. Kahn was questioned on the obligations of the issuing houses to investors. He admitted, in reply to Senator Johnson of California, that the organizers of a foreign bond issue guarantee to obtain the loan for the borrower, and said that if the bonds fail to sell, "then we are stuck."

It also developed that Mr. Kahn's firm had participated in selling 175,000 shares of common stock of the North German Lloyd in America in 1928 at \$69 a share.

Questioned by Senator Couzens of Michigan as to the discretion of a banking house's handling the sinking fund for retirement of a foreign bond issue, Mr. Kahn said that such a bank "acts in a ministerial capacity and without discretion" and must redeem bonds only at the express instruction of its client.

In reply to a question by Senator Couzens as to the direct obligation of the issuing houses to the purchasers of the bonds they issue, Mr. Kahn defined the issuing house's responsibility to its client as follows:

"It has got to give to it, to the best of its ability, its advice and its service, as long as that loan is outstanding."

#### *Action in Case of Default.*

"Does that same obligation exist with respect to purchasers of securities?" asked Senator Couzens.

"Distinctly, so far as that is possible," replied Mr. Kahn. "It is naturally limited by financial considerations and by financial possibilities.

"But I do think that an issuing house has that responsibility, that continuing responsibility, to render to its constituents, from whom it bought the issue on the one hand, and on the other hand, to the public to whom it sold the issue."

Questioned as to responsibility of an issuing house in the event of defaulted interest or principal, Mr. Kahn said:

"The issuing house considers it its responsibility to do everything in its power to reconstitute and re-establish the solvency and the good credit of the property; to protect the bondholders against any undue exactions that might be demanded of them; to work out the best possible plan of reorganization, and to give advice in all due fairness to the bondholders concerned; to give its efforts, its experience, its ability fairly and properly to deal with the situation after the default has been created."

#### *Defaults Held "Very Limited."*

Mr. Kahn said his concern sometimes was required to set up bondholders' protective committees. The company, he went on, always kept in touch with bondholders' committees, and rarely gets a fee for acting on such a committee.

"But your officials may go on such a committee and receive a fee for so serving, as I understand," he was asked.

"Such a fee is more or less a nominal one," Mr. Kahn answered. "It may be a few thousand dollars, but it is not a fee of any exorbitant dimensions.

"Generally speaking, it is safe to assume that an issuing banker serving on a protective committee would, as such, receive no more than any other banker serving on the committee; that the compensation of the man serving on such a committee is, by any standard, a moderate one; that the expenses of various kinds, such as taxes, are heavy in comparison with and over and above any compensation which the banker may receive for serving as a member of a protective committee."

When Senator La Follette asked about defaults on foreign bonds, Mr. Kahn replied:

"In the case of Germany there are hardly any in default. In the case of South America and Central America, unfortunately, the great majority are in default."

Senator La Follette recalled an estimate given another committee that in October there were \$261,000,000 of foreign securities in default.

"I should say it was an underestimate," Mr. Kahn said.

Mr. Kahn was asked by Senator Smoot of Utah, Chairman of the Committee, how many defaults his firm had experienced in the past 20 years, and replied that "the number of defaults in our case is very limited." He added that there had been only one failure among its foreign loans, that being the Mortgage Bank of Chile. Its domestic failures, he said, had been few, but had included the recent receivership of the Wabash RR.

Mr. Kahn was asked to tell the manner in which foreign borrowers approach investment houses for loans. He replied that they usually used one organization, except for the Argentine Government, which, he said, has almost a principle to rotate in this matter.

Mr. Kahn, replying to questions by Senator Barkley of Kentucky, said that all foreign loans "are, in principle, passed on to the public."

"The essential virtue of the banker," Mr. Kahn went on, "and particularly the private banker, is that of liquidity. If that were not so, he would very soon find himself so locked up with the issues put out that he could not continue.

"Consequently, his effort is to buy bonds and sell them.

"He is a merchant. He is a merchant to that extent and so much so that, in England, the ordinary appellation of such a banker still in use is that of merchant banker. He does not call himself a 'banker,' but a 'merchant banker,' unless he is a house of deposit, which we are not.

"The essential interest of the private banking business, the issuing business, is that the bankers buys securities of such a nature that he feels reasonably confident he can sell them to the public, and, having sold them, he is then free to go on with other business. If he locks himself up by retaining his own goods, he will very soon be so locked up that his usefulness as a banker will have ceased.

#### *Tells of "Moral Obligation."*

"And I might add that we have frequently made it our business, a contingent part of our obligation, that, if there is an undue or unjustifiable decline in bonds, if there is not a fair market for the bonds, we have more than once gone into the market in order to afford opportunity to such people as may want to sell, or as are compelled to sell, within the limit of proper prudence and within the limit of our ability, for them to do so."

Mr. Kahn discussed the "moral obligations" of bankers, as he sees them, in continuing testimony dealing with "banking prejudices."

"We are human," he said, "and, being human, I suppose we are actuated by ordinary human motives, one of the motives being to do what we can to discharge our moral obligations.

"And another motive is not to discharge them at the expense of somebody else. I think that is just as strong and decent a human motive as the other.

"Another one is to do what we can as American citizens to be helpful in the situation, which is one that concerns not only the banker, but as well the farmer, the workingman, the consumer, the producer and all of us. We are in the same boat.

"If ever a banker was called upon to divest himself of any banking prejudices, and to give the best, the most unbiased, the most impartial advice he is capable of, that time is now. I am quite sure we all feel it.

"I am quite sure that, in advising to the extent we are called upon to advise what should be the attitude of our government in economic and financial affairs, where the bankers' interest is indirectly involved, we are always seeking to divest ourselves of our banking prejudices to the extent that they may exist."

#### *Banks Hold Few Long-Term Bonds.*

"Mr. Kahn, conceding that to the full, nevertheless there is the banking prejudice that you want to see securities retain the value at least that you sold them for to the public?" asked Senator Johnson.

"Very naturally."

Q.—And, if legitimately and within your duties as you have described them, you can maintain the price of those securities as you put them out, of course you do it? A.—Yes, but may I amend my assent to this by saying not to maintain the price but maintain the value.

Q.—Maintain the value? A.—Yes. Those bonds are held by hundreds of thousands of American citizens. They are not held by banks, they are not held by rich men, but are held by hundreds of thousands, and probably by millions, of American citizens.

Q.—Could you tell me what banks, if any, hold foreign securities at the present time? A.—I do not know. Not having access to the portfolios of the banks, I am unable to answer that question definitely, but I will say that I do not think many foreign bonds are held by banks. I think they are very widely distributed. It would apply to short-term foreign credits. I doubt whether there are any great quantity of long-term foreign credits in existence.

Q.—Do I understand you to say that, so far as your knowledge extends, the banks are not holding short-term foreign credits? A.—Indeed they do, yes.

#### *Short-Term Loans Not Large.*

"And they hold them to a very large extent, do they not?" Mr. Kahn was asked.

"Very large" is a relative term," he replied. "I think the total of the short-term credits which have been extended abroad is not relatively (and by relatively I mean in relation to the total resources of the country) a very large sum.

"As I stated this morning in coming down here, if I may be permitted to make a remark of that nature, that if the World War had continued one month longer than it did—and we all expected it to continue five or six months longer, for the best authorities thought the war was going to end in the spring of 1919 instead of in the Autumn of 1918—if the war had continued one month longer, we would have spent as much and probably more in that one month than the entire amount which we have placed in Germany either in bonds or long-term credits."

Q.—I have seen in an article by Mr. Frank Simonds the statement (I believe it was on yesterday) that there were \$2,800,000,000 of securities that Germany had out in all countries? A.—Yes.

"And that it was much larger than it was generally considered to be?"

"That is in all countries," Mr. Kahn answered. "That only means, perhaps, an additional justification for what the American banks did in making short-term loans and in giving credits to Germany.

"England was living right across the street, so to speak, from Germany. She had an age-old prestige for judgment and wisdom in the matter of international financial borrowings. We were perfectly justified in following, in our judgment of what was reasonable banking practice, the example of a wise old nation like England, being right there, and of a wise old nation like Holland, being next door to Germany, who, in proportion to their resources, gave larger short-term credits to Germany than America did.

#### *Short-Term Loans \$600,000,000.*

"Will you state how much short-term credits are held in America."

"My estimate is that it is something in excess of \$600,000,000," Mr. Kahn said, "which I do not consider an exorbitant sum for a great creditor nation to extend as an accommodation to an intelligent, hard-working European nation of the ability and proven and tested capacity like Germany.

"It may be locked up for a while, yes; but that is the ordinary risk of the business.

"And the granting of credits for the purpose of facilitating trade—and thereby stimulating the entire economic life of all the world, a repercussion of which is bound to redound to the advantage of America—the granting of such credits is a legitimate, natural, old-established banking function."

Asked by Senator Johnson what the effect would be on German short-term credits if Germany went off the gold standard, Mr. Kahn replied:

"Well, that is rather a dual subject involving a great many cases. We have the case of England, where thus far it has not affected any foreign obligation of the British Empire. To what extent Germany—if it had to undergo the additional shock of going off the gold basis, especially after the horrible experience which its people underwent during the period of inflation—to what extent the German nerves would break completely if that additional blow fell I am unable to say."

#### *Britons Meeting Obligations.*

"I ask you now what effect Germany's going off the gold basis would have on short-term obligations."

"Senator Johnson, England's going off the gold standard has had no effect upon private obligations of the British Empire in a general way. They are meeting their obligations as they did before."

Q.—With the reduced pound or the same standard dollar? A.—With the gold standard dollar to the same extent that the loans cover it.

Q.—But these short-term loans made by American bankers to Germany are payable in gold marks? A.—No, payable in the gold dollar, all of them.

Q.—So that, if Germany were to go off the gold basis, your contention is that these short-term credits extended to commercial houses and banks in Germany, would not affect our loans to them? A.—I did not say that, if you will pardon me. I did not wish to convey that impression. Great Britain's nerves and Great Britain's economic situation are very different from the German nerves and the German economic situation, and what Great Britain can stand is very different from what Germany can stand. As a matter of fact Germany, to all intents and purposes, is not on the gold basis now, because of the essence of the gold basis is a free flow of gold, which does not exist in Germany.

#### *Control of Paper Currency.*

"Then that is true of Canada, too?" Mr. Kahn was asked.

"It is true of Canada for the time being to a limited extent, yes," he replied. "They still say that Germany is on the gold basis, when, as a matter of fact, Germany is on a gold basis for the purpose of measuring bills, and it is not on the gold basis for the purpose of internationality for the time being. And what would be the effect if Germany slid off the gold basis I am not prepared to say."

"It would not be helpful to American credits?"

"No."

"The psychology of the situation would be bad, to say the least?" asked Senator Barkley.

"Yes, particularly as to the psychology of the situation in Germany if we look back at the horrible times they went through when they were off the gold standard," said Mr. Kahn.

"But isn't that the difference between what they call control of paper currency and what happened in Germany, where it was a case of uncontrolled paper currency?" asked Senator Couzens.

"The question is, to what extent can you control paper currency," Mr. Kahn replied.

#### *Praises Britain's Stability.*

"It has been demonstrated that some of these countries are controlling paper currency, otherwise they would not be getting on as they are since they went off the gold basis."

"One of the countries being England," replied Mr. Kahn, "which is particularly distinguished by steady nerve, by stability, by coherence of its population.

"It is relatively easier for England, with her natural qualities and her position and condition, to manage a paper currency than any other country."

Senator Couzens asked if it were conceivable that America could "manage" a paper currency as European countries are doing, and Mr. Kahn replied, "I think America has pretty well demonstrated in the past she can deal with any necessary task that she is called upon to face."

"Is it not conceivable to you that with the present high value of the gold dollar these debts will never be paid on that basis."

"It is conceivable," conceded Mr. Kahn, but he added: "That embraces, of course, the entire question as to what should be done with those debts, both in the way of reparations and debts due to America."

#### *Favors Reconstruction Corporation.*

Mr. Kahn gave his support to President Hoover's proposed Reconstruction Corporation in replying to Senator Couzens's questions concerning the ability of domestic debtors to pay off their debts at the present high value of the gold dollar.

"That is where the great advantage comes in of the corporation known as the War Industries Corporation (the proposed reconstruction corporation) which is essentially a corporation that protects the debtor," replied Mr. Kahn. "And rightly so; rightly so. I think the debtor is entitled at this time to all the protection that the government and the moral sense of the community can throw around him.

"I think it is a wicked thing to compel the debtor—in extraordinary times like these, in the face of which he stands helpless to deal with them—it is a wicked thing for the bank to go to extreme measures, but it should make it possible for him to tide things over.

"That should be done, I think, because it can be significantly done by the Government. It should be done by everybody else. It should be done to the extent that there is as much protection as possible by the banks. It should be done by the public to keep from putting an almost unreasonable strain on the banks.

"And I think a man who hoards money and makes the problem of the banks still greater ought to be publicly denounced in these times.

"I think we all ought to stand together to prevent the whole country from being unduly damaged by the extraordinary emergency which, I am wholly confident, can be and will be overcome, but which, for the time being, no one individual is capable of dealing with, and no debtor ought to be called upon to deal with alone."

#### *"Moratorium Avoided Catastrophe."*

"Is it your opinion that Germany can ever pay off the enormous amount of money she has borrowed for her government, her municipalities, and her industries?" Mr. Kahn was asked.

"In the long run, Senator, I think almost anything can be done," he answered. "Germany has demonstrated in the past such an extraordinary capacity for hard work, for mastery of difficulty, and for self-control, that, unless she is driven to a point where her nerves crack, to the point of helplessness, I think she will ultimately pay her debts.

"By paying her debts, I mean the private debts, the municipal debts, the government debts that the government owes to private individuals.

"I do not wish to be understood as making any forecast in the way of reparations, for that opens up an entirely different chapter; that opens up, of course, the chapter of the allied debts to America."

Q.—Yes, but would you feel it was a good loan now? Would your house underwrite another loan to Germany now? A.—At this moment, no.

Q.—Could you estimate the good that was done to Germany by this one year's moratorium proposed by the President? A.—I believe it was an absolutely vital thing at the time.

Q.—Did it accomplish its purpose? A.—It accomplished the avoidance of the catastrophic result. I think it did a great deal of good, and if it could have gone through with the universal acclaim and acquiescence that originally seem to be indicated, it would have been of incalculable value. As it is, it was of great value.

#### *No Connection With Moratorium.*

"Is Germany worse off to-day than she was in June 1931?" asked a Senator.

"Intrinsically, no; actually, yes, but intrinsically, no," Mr. Kahn said. He went on:

"This, perhaps, gives me a legitimate opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to say one word as to something which was said in another place. I should like to say very emphatically—probably it is not necessary to say it—that no member of my firm—no one connected with my firm—had anything to do whatsoever with the granting of the moratorium; with any attempt to influence the President to take the step he did, or with any kind of propaganda whatsoever.

"No member of my firm is, or ever has been, nor is my firm in any contact with any foreign government, except to the extent—and the extent is rare—in which we do business with foreign governments.

"I want to say it, as emphatically as I can, that any allegation which connects us in the remotest manner with the negotiations or proceedings of the moratorium, or with President Hoover whatsoever, in the matter, is utterly and outrageously unfounded.

"I would like to say at the same time, if I may, one word say in regard to connecting Paul Warburg with my firm. Perhaps this may be worth while to answer that Mr. Warburg is a Democrat and supported Mr. Smith and not President Hoover."

#### *Economic Life Held First Essential.*

The question of priority concerning reparations and governmental debts as opposed to private obligations represented by foreign bonds sold in this country was brought up by Senator Barkley.

"If we were justified in assuming from the economic conditions, now or in the future, that those public and private obligations could not be paid, is there any consensus of opinion in the banking world as to which should have priority: the loans in the United States or the loans in the governments of Europe?" he asked.

"Senator, may I say, first, that privately held loans—that is, loans issued by cities and corporations in the shape of long-term bonds—are not, as yet, under any moratorium," replied Mr. Kahn. "They are paying their interest and sinking fund, and have done it right along.

"As to whether the governmental claims or private debts should have precedence, one necessarily can only express an opinion, which is subject to controversy and subject to error. My own belief is that the essential thing is to keep the economic life of a country going, because the Government would very soon find itself out of funds unless the economic life is going

#### *Economic Life Interwoven.*

"In order to keep the economic life of a country going, in order to pay taxes, in order to enable it to do its daily work, the sanctity of contracts must be protected to the limit of what is possible," Mr. Kahn continued.

"It is of less importance that one government pay another government to the minute and upon the day what it owes, if it can, by mutual consent, secure a postponement, than that the confidence of the ordinary individual dealing in one country with another individual in another country or a business man dealing with another business man should be profoundly shaken in the faith and credit of the business community with which he does business in other countries.

"And I think the economic life of all countries is so interwoven that the economic prosperity of one country is bound, in one way or another, to have its repercussions here.

"It does not necessarily mean that that country will buy goods and chattels here; it does mean that the economic capacity of that country will be treated in one way or another, in the most indirect ways, and that will favorably reflect upon the economic condition of America, and those repercussions will result here.

"It will help her cotton; it will help her wheat; it will help her copper, and it is bound to do so.

#### *A Question of Expediency.*

"Now it seems to me it is a question of expediency," said Mr. Kahn, "of figuring out in what way will the postponement, if it is necessary—and that is a question of examination; that is a question of research and of impartial and hard-boiled judgment—to what extent will an inevitable postponement be of least damage to the United States and to the people of the United States and to all the world, and to confidence, which is the most essential part upon which the trade of the world rests.

"My personal belief is that the maintenance and sanctity of contracts between man and man is an absolutely vital thing for the economic life of every country, and that no government can go on and be capable and potent unless it has behind it a capable and patent and solvent country.

"The direct resources of the country are drawn, not from the air, but from the labor, the enterprise, and the capacity and the honesty of the people over which it rules.

"If a choice must be made, I should say they should either take precedence or they should, at least, be put on something slightly better than a parity."

"Do you believe that private obligations should take precedence over governmental obligations?" asked Senator Johnson.

"That is putting it in rather a harsh way, Senator, and I would like to avoid answering it in that way," replied Mr. Kahn.

"It is putting it in a plain way," persisted Senator Johnson.

"It is a situation that does not confront us, and I would like to avoid giving a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical situation," parried the witness.

#### *Best for Us Held Best for World.*

Questioned concerning France's debt to us, Mr. Kahn said he saw no lack of that country's capacity to pay.

"Then you do not advocate any cancellation of the debt that France owes to us, do you?" asked Senator Reed.

#### *Never Advocated Cancellation of War Debts.*

"I have never advocated the cancellation of the debt," replied Mr. Kahn. "But I have advocated in public that, if ever a nation is entitled to get its money back, the United States was entitled to get its war debts back. We went into the war and we did our full share, God knows! We asked for none of the spoils, and we got what we asked for—none." He continued:

"It seems to me that in plain justice, in ethics, we have not a thing to apologize for in saying we want our debts paid, for which we did our full share.



"But I do not think that it is a matter of justice; it is a matter of expediency, and I think it should be dealt with as a matter of expediency. It is what at the moment is the most expedient or the best thing for America to do.

"In that I put America first. What is best for America to do is best for the world to do, because, at the present juncture, if ever, the repercussion of the misery of the situation of one upon the other is strong and inevitable; the repercussion of the prosperity of one upon the other is strong and inevitable.

*Avoids Political Question.*

"I think what we should do, inasmuch as the question has been asked, and if I may say so without impertinence," Mr. Kahn went on, "is to ascertain most diligently in what way will maintaining the justice and the right of our case—and without apologizing for what we claim and are rightly entitled to—in what way can we best serve that interest, which is a world interest, and our own.

"That is a very large question. I am not prepared to argue that. It involves consideration not merely of a financial but of a political nature. "It necessarily and rightly belongs to statesmanship, and, with all due respect, Senator, I do not believe I should be called upon to answer it categorically, because it is beyond the province of a banker to answer categorically so many elements which are not of a financial nature."

Q.—Now, you say you see no evidence of a realization in Europe that we have, in effect, cancelled all of our war debts in France? A.—Yes, sir. Q.—And that what we are claiming from France now is merely the repayment, in effect, of those advances we made after the fighting was over—to enable her to buy foodstuffs and materials which constitute her economic life? A.—That is true, but they do not know it.

*A "Good Word" for England.*

"Now, Mr. Kahn, as a banker, do you think it is practically expedient or necessary for us to make any further surrender to France, in view of her capacity to pay, in order to buy her to do the prudent and wise thing toward Germany? Do you think that is necessary?"

"Senator," Mr. Kahn replied, "may I not include in my answer to that the general statement that I have made: that, from the point of view of adjustment, I think we have a 100% case—a 200% case.

"I think we have been generous beyond precedent, almost." Discussing the case of England, Mr. Kahn said that for that country, "I would like to say a good word, because I think they were the first to step up to the captain's desk and say: 'We are under obligations. Give us the best terms you can.'

"I would like to say that, as I think England is entitled to have a good word said for her," he went on.

"And, apart from that, I think, it is purely a question of the study of what is expedient for us to do, leaving sentiment or abstract justice or even moral obligation behind us for the time being, and find out: How can the world, including America, best get out of the mess that we are in now?"

"The European formula is very simple to get out of the mess, and that is by laying it on America," a Senator said. "You do not subscribe to that, do you?"

"I do not subscribe to that, Senator," answered Mr. Kahn. "If it were possible to find a way by which all these reparations and war debts, which hang around the neck of the world like a millstone, could be taken out and sunk in the ocean, I should welcome it.

"But there is no such way that I can devise or have ever been able to devise," he continued.

"And, inasmuch as there is no such way, and I do not believe any one has suggested such a way, the next best thing is—very calmly and with great self-control, and great self-restraint, and with a little swearing and cussing beneath our breath—to try to evolve something which will come as near being a helpful consideration and solution of an extraordinary situation where almost everybody's nerves are on edge and some are nearly frazzled. That, I am bound to say, is not a financial problem."

"And you do not think a temporary emergency justifies a permanent reduction of those debts?"

"I do not," Mr. Kahn declared.

*Stimson's Aides Prepare Data.*

Mr. Kahn's testimony was not completed when the Committee adjourned to-day and he will reappear on Jan. 4. It was indicated that the hearings may last for a considerable time next month.

Several other bankers were on hand to-day in response to summonses, but they were not called to testify and will not be heard until Mr. Kahn's testimony has been concluded.

Secretary Stimson, asked to-day about the plans of the Committee to obtain information from him bearing upon the State Department's approval or rejection of foreign loans in recent years, said he had been asked to produce certain papers, but had not yet been asked to appear personally before the Committee. The Department, he added, was preparing the information for the Committee.

Senator Smoot, the Committee Chairman, plans to call Secretary Stimson, at the request of Democratic members, when the Committee reassembles after the holiday recess. Senator Borah of Idaho to-day criticized the amount charged by syndicates to float foreign loans, but other members of the Committee hold that the "spread" of from 2 to 6% charged is not a large percentage to be divided among the syndicated guarantors of the loans and the sales organizations.

**Senator Davis Sees America as World's Santa—Asks if It Is Not Time to Stop "Helping the Thankless"—Points to War Debts—Europe Pours Huge Sums Into Arms Yet Balks at Paying Us, He Declares.**

Characterizing this country as "the world's greatest Santa Claus" and recalling that some have accused us of being "a Shylock," Senator James J. Davis declared regretfully at Sharon, Pa. on Dec. 20 that the world was approaching Christmas Day in a spirit far removed from the teachings of Christ. We quote from a Sharon dispatch to the New York "Times," which also had the following to say:

"Is it not time," he asked, "that we began to think less of helping the thankless and more of helping our own folks?"

Here for a brief visit with his father, David J. Davis, the Senator spoke on world armaments and war debts before members of the men's Bible class of the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

"There is war and rumors of war," Senator Davis stated. "Most of the so-called civilized and Christian nations are armed to the teeth, and from 80 to 85% of all money raised by taxation in these lands is being spent for the purpose of war.

"And yet the governments of these countries that appear to have unlimited wealth to spend upon armies and navies that are working with might and main for the purpose of making themselves invincible for the coming struggle, which is being so freely prophesied, complain of the burden—the very slight burden, as I will show—which they say is involved in paying a small part of the indebtedness that they owe to our country for loans made in war time, and for a considerable period after the war was over.

"And even among ourselves there has been a persistent demand in some quarters that those war debts shall be canceled.

"Uncle Sam is the world's greatest Santa Claus. The net cost of the war to the United States, counting only the cost in dollars and cents, was placed by the Treasury Department at approximately \$40,000,000,000.

"These debts have been so greatly reduced that France is to pay only 47 cents on the dollar and Italy 25 cents. And yet Uncle Sam is accused by some nations of being a shylock.

"The great question before the American people today is 'Shall we relieve the taxpayers of the European nations from the burden, slight as it is, in order to add to the much greater burden that the American taxpayers are already called upon to endure?'"

"Is it not time that we began to think less of helping the thankless and more of helping our own folks? The American worker does not ask for charity; he asks for work. But how can we provide it if we are compelled to break our backs paying the debts that European governments owe us and have agreed to pay?"

Senator Davis returned to Washington tonight.

**England Using Little, if Any, of Federal Reserve Credit—United States System Cuts Holdings of Bills Payable in Foreign Currencies in November.**

From the New York "Herald Tribune" of Dec. 19 we take the following:

The Bank of England passed another month end without having to use any, or at least no substantial amount, of its credit with the Federal Reserve. This month's Federal Reserve Board "Bulletin" shows that the System owned \$33,386,000 of bills payable in foreign currencies as of Nov. 30, as against \$33,501,000 at the end of October, a reduction of \$115,000.

The use being made by the Bank of England of its Federal Reserve credit, which now amounts to \$75,000,000, is reflected in the System's foreign currency bill holdings. The figure of \$33,386,000 now reported by the Federal is large enough to account for the \$25,000,000 credit to the Reichsbank, with \$8,386,000 besides. If the System's credits to Austria and Hungary are reported in the foreign bill holdings, then the Bank of England, it was supposed, was not using any of its credit here; but if the Austrian and Hungarian credits are included under the item due from foreign banks in the System's statement (which is possible, since the credits were advanced through the Bank for International Settlements), then the Bank of England was using approximately \$8,000,000 of its Federal Reserve credit.

During October a decline of \$15,503,000 occurred in the Federal's foreign bills because of repayments by the Bank of England. In September the Bank of England paid off \$96,411,000 of its credit, which, when originally extended on Aug. 1, amounted to \$125,000,000. When this credit matured on Oct. 31, the maximum amount was reduced to \$75,000,000 and extended for three months.

The Bank of England also has a \$75,000,000 credit with the Bank of France. There have been reports that the Bank of England would repay this debt at the end of January by means of a gold shipment, since it apparently has more difficulty in obtaining francs than dollars. In connection with the repayment of \$100,000,000 of its credits on Oct. 31 the Bank of England shipped £15,000,000 of gold.

**Ontario Cuts Salaries—Reductions for Provincial Employees Range from 2% to 20%.**

United Press advices as follows from Toronto are taken from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 21:

Provincial employees have received salary cuts ranging from 2% to 20% W. H. Price, acting prime minister, said the cuts, which affected even employees earning \$1,000, were made because of the unfavorable exchange situation.

The reductions will be effective until Oct. 1 1932, with renewal optional at that time.

**No Foundation for European Reports That United States Will Go Off Gold Standard.**

From its Washington correspondent on Dec. 16 the New York "Journal of Commerce" reported the following:

There is not the slightest foundation for reports circulated in European capitals that the United States will be off the gold standard in two months, it was said at the office of Undersecretary of the Treasury Ogden L. Mills.

These reports were held by some officials to be a continuation of the anti-dollar propaganda noted in recent months.

The United States, it was pointed out, is in an exceptionally strong position and could gain nothing from embargoing gold exports. The monetary gold stock Dec. 9 was \$4,437,000,000, a decrease of but \$139,000,000 from the same date a year ago, despite the heavy outward movement which followed the gold embargo in London.

During recent weeks there has been an inflow of gold. The Federal Reserve ratio Dec. 9 was 66.1%, compared with 65.6% the week before.

**Adverse Exchange Rate on Canadian Dollar to Cost Toronto \$1,100,000 on Jan. 1.**

From Toronto Dec. 12 Associated Press dispatches said: The adverse exchange rate on the Canadian dollar in the United States will cost the City of Toronto \$1,100,000 on Jan. 1. The Finance Commissioner, George Wilson, will request the City Council on Monday to report that amount to meet the exchange in New York.

The Finance Commissioner made a proposal to Ottawa that the Dominion Government provide for the shipment of gold to New York so that there would be no loss in exchange.

"I have had a good deal of correspondence with Dominion officials upon this matter," Mr. Wilson said, "but the Government finally made it clear they did not intend to provide gold for the municipalities for obligations in New York. So far as I can gather, the Dominion requires its gold to take care of its own obligations."

### Premier Bennett of Canada Says There Has Been No Discussion in Canada on Question of Abandoning Gold Standard.

Associated Press accounts from Ottawa Dec. 14 stated: R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, said to-day regarding rumors that Canada would go off the gold standard: "You can say authoritatively no action has been taken in any manner, shape or form, nor has the matter been discussed since my return." Mr. Bennett spoke after a meeting of the Cabinet Council. He returned yesterday from a three-week trip to England.

### Loan Bill to Aid French Farmers—Government Preparing for Advances Which Are to Fall Due in 30 Years.

The following copyright advices from Paris Dec. 12 are from the New York "Evening Post":

Somewhat hastily the Government is preparing a bill designed for the relief of the National Farmers Syndicate, which, affected by the fall in prices for agricultural commodities, has been unable to repay advances previously made and now due. The sum involved, about 50,000,000 francs, is not considered great, but it is regarded as indispensable that confidence be restored.

The bill provides for an advance of 100,000,000 francs redeemable in 30 years. The Minister of Finance will control the activities of the syndicate, which are regarded as having been somewhat imprudent.

### Paris Sees Evidence of Sterling Support—Theory that London Is Withdrawing Capital from America.

Under date of Dec. 11, a wireless message from Paris to the New York "Times" said:

The strong resistance shown by sterling this week to the downward tendency was due apparently to British intervention in support of the market. Purchases of sterling here seemed to be offset by sales of dollars, which would account for the week's movement of French and American exchange. On the supposition that London has been supporting exchange through withdrawing capital from America, such action is considered here as conducive to firmness in sterling because great amounts of English money were certainly sent abroad early in the autumn because of fears inspired by the Labor Government.

If this money were to be brought home, conditions might be created similar to those existing in France during 1926. The British market seems to have great confidence that the deflation of sterling will bring about economic recovery in that country; but as Paris sees it, the effect of depreciated sterling is probably exaggerated. No one here is surprised that economic conditions in England do not yet seem much improved. The British Government is also evidently encountering great difficulties in agreeing on the details of their own new financial policy. For these and other reasons French financial circles are reserving opinion concerning the future of sterling.

### France Increases Import Duties on Shoes.

The French import duties on all types of shoes were increased by a law published in the French "Journal Officiel" for Nov. 29 1931, according to a cablegram from Commercial Attache Fayette Allport, Paris. Under date of Dec. 2 the Department likewise said:

The law changes the former ad valorem rates of duty on shoes to specific rates, but provides that the new specific duties cannot amount to less than 25% ad valorem in the minimum tariff and 50% ad valorem in the general tariff. The former duties ranged from 12% to 18% ad valorem in the minimum tariff, and from 48% to 72% ad valorem in the general tariff. Imports of shoes from the United States were formerly dutiable at intermediate rates ranging from 18% to 27% ad valorem.

Changes were also made in the French tariff classifications on shoes.

### Drop in Ontario Gold Output in November—Eleven Months Figures Exceed Those for Year 1930.

Canadian Press advices from Toronto, Ont., Dec. 18, stated:

Ontario's gold mines produced in November bullion to the value of \$3,666,270, or \$81,830 less than the \$3,748,100 reported for October. September was the year's record month, with \$3,850,284.

For the 11 months ended on Nov. 30 Ontario's mines report a gold production of \$38,893,993, against \$35,518,862 in all of 1930.

Kirkland Lake mines in November produced gold to the value of \$1,949,816, against \$1,981,189 in October. Porcupine mines at \$1,579,296 showed a drop of \$91,739 from the previous month.

### Gold Mines Paying More to Canadians—Dividends and Bonuses Rise \$2,487,598 to \$14,821,208 for This Year—Larger Gold Output Urged.

Dividends and bonuses declared by Canadian gold mining companies in 1931 exceed those declared in 1930 by \$2,487,598, it is calculated from the reports of those corporations said a Toronto dispatch Dec. 19 to the New York "Times," which likewise stated:

The amount paid this year is \$14,821,208, compared with \$12,333,610 last year. These mines have paid in dividends to date \$133,834,133. Bonuses this year amount to \$2,360,357.

The payments this year were swollen by \$1,800,000 additional from Lake Shore, \$65,990 additional from Sylvanite and \$825,000 distributed by Wright Hargreaves, which paid no dividends in 1930.

Gold bullion of approximate value of \$40,000 monthly continues to be produced in the Central Manitoba Mines, according to T. C. Anderson, Vice-President, on his return from Boston where a directors' meeting was held. Ore is being taken out of three shafts and values are running fairly even. Operations were held up for several days in October as a result of a fire at the mill but repairs were made.

### Urges Larger Gold Output.

An increase of gold production in this Province was urged this week by Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines in Ontario, in an address at the Albany Club.

"Why should not our efforts to dig more gold be intensified?" Mr. McCrea said. "There are great areas to be unearthed. Present conditions offer great opportunity for the production of gold, to employ our people, to furnish markets for farmers and manufacturers, to buttress our national indebtedness and to give stability to Canada and Canada's currency."

"We are especially fortunate in being gold producers. Were we not, we would have to purchase gold from other countries, paying premiums for it. In our production of gold we employ 7,500 men and pay them wages of more than \$12,000,000 with an additional \$13,000,000 annually for supplies and equipment. We pay to Canadian shareholders the dividends from the earnings of the mines, and we pay our own Canadian people the premiums on the gold to add to the circulation and buying power of our depreciating currency."

### French Metal Reserves—Minister of Finance Scores Abuse of Gold Standard—Bank to Defend Holdings.

Paris advices to the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 17 said:

Considerable comment has been evoked through the speech made by Finance Minister Flandin in the debate on the Bank of France bill in which he referred to the abuse of the gold standard.

M. Flandin disclaimed any idolatry of gold on the part of France but declared that the Bank must be enabled to defend its metallic reserve against eventual retirement of foreign capital which has taken refuge in France. This declaration is taken as indication that the Bank of France intends to dispose of its foreign balances before selling gold. M. Flandin condemned the "Anglo-Saxon" devices of the gold exchange standard and open market operations as being the origin of most of the post war difficulties by preventing the unhampered and natural operations of the gold standard.

"In the monetary world," he said, "almost all the innovations which we have known since the war had simply the object of dissimulating reality but reality is now avenging itself. To-day, the most urgent task is to reconstitute a monetary system which will endure. For us, that system is the gold standard."

### Mexican Gold and Silver Tax.

In its issue of Dec. 21 the "Wall Street Journal" carried the following item from Mexico City:

Regulations governing percentages of values of gold and silver that the Federal Government will collect as taxes on production of these metals during next year, follow as announced by Minister of Finance:

Gold: as metal, 10.5%; concentrates, 10%; imprecipitates or impure or mixed in bars, 9.25%; and refined, 9%, when its official worth a kilo is 1,333.33 pesos a kilo. Silver: as metal, 7.5%; concentrates, 7%; imprecipitates or in bars, 2.75%, and refined, 2.50%, when its official value is 26.65 pesos a kilo.

### Attack on Gold Basis Denied by Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain—Calls Letter Saying He Held Britain's Return Unlikely an "Unscrupulous Invention."

Prime Minister MacDonald on Dec. 21, at Lossiemouth, Scotland, branded as "unscrupulous invention" the contents of a letter said to be circulating in financial circles on the Continent and in New York, outlining what it described as his views regarding the question of Britain's return to the gold standard. Associated Press accounts added:

A copy of the letter which was sent to Mr. MacDonald and about which considerable mystery hangs, appears to have been written by an unidentified observer of the British situation, whose nationality has not been revealed. It attributes to the Prime Minister statements he is said to have made to "a Lord" in a conversation regarding the sterling situation.

It quotes Mr. MacDonald's views as follows:

"It is absolutely necessary that the budget be balanced satisfactorily for at least three years and that the balance of trade turn in favor of England. Whether England would ever return to the gold standard he could not say, but taking into consideration the present feeling within the Cabinet and within the country, he as Prime Minister did not think it likely."

The letter said that Mr. MacDonald was asked by the Lord about the Government's intentions with regard to the gold standard and that he replied that in no circumstances would the Government consider stabilization before 1934.

"There's not a word of truth in it," the Prime Minister said to-day. "The whole thing is an invention. It is one of several attempts made recently to create prejudice against the pound and to damage British credit abroad. The opinions attributed to me have not even a shadow of likeness to the opinions which I hold."

### Paris Coins "Banksters," As Designation for United States Financiers.

The following (copyright) from Paris Dec. 21 is from the New York "Evening Post":

It probably would shock American financiers who are differing with the financiers of France as to America's German credits to know the word that is being applied to them in some circles of Paris banking.

They are being called "banksters." This is supposed to be a neat and telling combination of "banker" and "gangster."

Editorial comment in the "Post" of Dec. 22 follows:

"Bankster."

Our Paris dispatches say that some financiers in that charming city have coined the above word for American bankers who now do not see eye to eye with them in the matter of German payments. The word is supposed to be "a neat combination of 'banker' and 'gangster.'" As an abstract term of satire it has its elements of philological strength. But we might warn the financial wits of Paris that such words are dangerous. They do not conduce to National good will, something that may be of real importance to imperious France, who grows more and more isolated as the weeks go on. They do not back up the objectives of the American visit of the suave M. Laval. The spiritual ancestor of "bankster" is "Uncle Shylock." And we do not know of any four syllables in our language that have cost Europe more in American than has that same bitter jest "Uncle Shylock."

**Paris Bourse Closed Dec. 25 and 26.**

The Paris Bourse closed Christmas Day and will also be closed to-day, Dec. 26.

**Bank of France and French Ship Bills Adopted by France—Senate Votes \$100,000,000 Credit to Offset Pound Sterling Losses—Steamer Line Restricted—Deputies Grant \$12,000,000 Loan but Insist on Government Control.**

The following Paris cablegram Dec. 23 is from the New York "Times":

In both Houses of Parliament to-day the Government managed to work its way through the dangers besetting it, permitting Premier Laval to let it be known that he would read the decree of closure to-morrow to this particularly stormy extraordinary session. However, the Government has come through only after compromising on important projects.

The Chamber passed to-day the measure extending a credit of \$12,000,000 to the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique—the French Line—but at the price of taking control of the company out of private hands and putting it into the Government's. The Senate, in turn, passed the much-discussed measure by which the Bank of France's losses of \$100,000,000 due to the fall of the British pound will be covered by Government aid, but its financial commission forced Messrs. Flandin and Moret to agree to put a heavier burden of repayment on the Bank of France than had been proposed.

Although some delicate questions remain to come up to-morrow, and in the present state of tension anything is likely to happen, it is now taken for granted that M. Laval's government will survive into the new year at least.

The Bank of France bill caused more anxiety, not only to the Government but to the Bourse than any other measure before this session. According to tradition the bank has to publish its year's balance sheet to-morrow. Considering the poor showing it would make if it had to take a loss of 2,500,000,000 francs because of the drop in sterling exchange, there was good cause for worry. Bank of France shares have been dropping steadily on the Bourse, having lost 215 francs yesterday. To-day's news of the Senate Committee's action led to their regaining 160.

The measure provides that the State shall give the Bank of France a Treasury bond equal to the deficit caused by the drop in sterling. The Government sinking fund then will give in exchange for that bond other negotiable bonds. Repayment will be made partly by a Government budgetary annuity and partly by the Bank of France itself.

The Senate Finance Committee's opposition resulted in the bank agreeing to pay an initial instalment of \$10,000,000 instead of \$8,000,000.

The Senate vote to-night brought a victory of 183 to 67. The Chamber's passage of the French Line credit by a vote of 333 to 221 came only after a radical change in the Government's original plans, and even then the bill was debated heatedly until late into the night. The result again gives striking evidence of how the French Government has been forced to take over the functions of private business. The extent of State control is beginning to assume a resemblance to war times.

The measure, as approved, provides that the Government shall have a majority on the board of directors of the French Line as well as a majority of shares of the company. Through the entire Administration, in fact, the State will have the right to designate "half plus one" of the administrators. Likewise, the company must furnish a statement of its receipts and expenditures every quarter and submit every project costing more than \$20,000 to the Ministry of Merchant Marine.

Before it adjourned for the night the Chamber sought to have its say regarding the Bank of France bill also, but Mr. Flandin asserted the change made in the Senate was voluntarily made by the bank through a letter leaving the text of the measure unaltered. When Leon Blum, Socialist, insisted on the lower House voting, Premier Laval put the matter of whether it should go to a vote of confidence, winning by 320 to 258.

**Belgium Not To Abandon Gold.**

From Brussels Dec. 23, Associated Press advices stated: Baron Maurice Houtart, the Finance Minister, said to-day the Belgian cabinet never had considered and did not intend to consider devalorization of the Belgian franc. The gold standard was and must be the beginning and end of Belgium's financial policy, he said.

**Belgian Chamber of Deputies Authorizes Negotiations With France and Holland for Organization of Economic Union—Prague in Receptive Mood.**

From the New York "Times" we take the following Brussels cablegram Dec. 10:

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies today adopted by a slim majority a resolution authorizing the government to begin negotiations at once with France and Holland for organization of an economic union of these three Continental countries which still adhere to the gold standard.

The same paper reported the following from Prague Dec. 10:

Denying that Czechoslovakia was a vassal of France, Foreign Minister Benes in a statement to the Senate Budget Committee today again intimated that the nation was willing to co-operate in promoting Central European economic solidarity. He hinted that Czechoslovakia would even be willing to take the initiative but added that, if there were any danger that her motives might be misinterpreted, she could afford to wait.

His statement was rendered all the more important by the fact that an agrarian conference of representatives of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia opened today in Sofia in the presence of representatives of the League of Nations international agrarian board.

Dr. Benes said Czechoslovakia, in discussing treaties with Hungary and other Balkan States, had not acted merely under France's pressure, but since 1927 had vainly tried to cultivate better commercial relations with Germany and Austria.

**Sept. 30 Figures of Handel-Maatschappij H. Albert de Bary & Co. of Amsterdam.**

The Handel-Maatschappij H. Albert de Bary & Co., N. V., Amsterdam, closely connected with the Deutsche Bank und Disconto-Gesellschaft, Berlin, recently reported

by cablegram the figures of its statement of Sept. 30 1931, as agreed to by the ordinary general meeting of Dec. 12 1931. The figures follow:

<b>Assets—</b>	
Cash in hand and with Nederlandsche Bank.....	Fl. 20,935,297.33
Balances on call with Dutch Banks.....	Fl. 1,009,161.69
With banks and bankers abroad.....	18,968,761.92
Treasury bills of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.....	19,977,923.53
Bills receivable.....	9,920,500.00
Coupons and foreign money.....	894,638.59
Loans to banks and bankers abroad.....	258,826.47
Loans against Stock Exchange securities at call and short notice.....	4,970,152.80
Debtors—Against shipments of merchandise.....	Fl. 11,435,501.48
Other advances.....	13,650,349.53
Guaranties.....	Fl. 1,447,421.93
Investments and participations in syndicates.....	2,327,733.73
Participations in the N. V. Internationale Crediet Co., Amsterdam.....	1,237,500.00
Premises Heerengracht 448-452.....	300,000.00
	<b>Fl. 89,375,792.00</b>
<b>Liabilities—</b>	
Capital.....	Fl. 15,000,000.00
Reserve fund.....	7,500,000.00
Deposits and current accounts.....	62,961,357.56
Acceptances.....	1,335,307.59
Reimbursement credits with foreign correspondents.....	1,055,014.15
Guaranties.....	Fl. 1,447,421.93
Undivided profits.....	1,520,552.77
	<b>Fl. 89,375,792.00</b>
Gross profits amount to.....	Fl. 3,251,922.30
Deducting expenses.....	1,762,188.63
Leaving net profits, including carry over from 1930, of.....	1,520,552.77

**The further information in the cablegram says:**

Of this amount Fl. 1,000,000 will be used for strengthening the reserve for contingencies, while the remainder Fl. 520,552.77 will be carried forward on new account. The board of managers reports that investments and participations are taken at an extremely careful valuation, in no case above present quotations. Ample reservation is made before hand for doubtful debts. The reservation of an additional Fl. 1,000,000 is to be considered as a further measure of precaution. The company has thought it advisable not to pay a dividend considering the present extraordinary world situation, although such a distribution would have been perfectly warranted by the results.

Adolf Kohn of this city, in making the figures available, said:

The many friends of Messrs. de Bary among local banking circles will be gratified to see that the Dutch banking house has managed, also in this year, to maintain its traditional liquidity, although deposits have been reduced by about Fl. 30 millions and outstanding acceptances from Fl. 24 millions to Fl. 1,300,000. Total liabilities on Sept. 30, amounting to about Fl. 65 millions, are covered by liquid means of the first rank by more than 80%. The managers expect that the strong position of the company will enable them also in future to devote their energies to the cultivation of the international banking business as heretofore.

**Bulgaria to Force Loan—High Officials and Wealthy Persons Will Be Compelled to Subscribe.**

Bulgaria is preparing to join the ranks of nations with financial restrictions because of the economic depression, said a cablegram Dec. 20 from Sofia to the New York "Times", which also said:

The Finance Ministry is preparing restrictive measures for next year, including a forced loan to which high officials and private persons enjoying large incomes will be obliged to subscribe.

Importations of luxuries will be prohibited to prevent a decrease in foreign exchange reserves.

**Hungarian Government Declares Moratorium on Foreign Debts—League of Nations Loan to Be Paid in Foreign Currency—American Investments in Hungary.**

What is termed "a transfer suspension on foreign debts" was declared on Dec. 22 at Budapest by the Hungarian Government on foreign debts, effective Dec. 22, Associated Press accounts from Budapest on Dec. 22 stated:

An official statement explained the step was necessary because the foreign trade balance was insufficient to provide a surplus of foreign currencies acceptable to Hungary's creditors.

It had been evident for some time, the Government statement said, that the Nation would not have the means to cover the service of all its foreign obligations much longer. Hungary's foreign trade brings in principally the currencies of nearby nations, which are not acceptable to Hungary's creditors.

A decree issued by Finance Minister Friedrich Koranyi announced that all available foreign currencies in the Nation would be used first for service on the 1924 reconstruction loan, amounting to approximately \$4,000,000. If any remained, the Finance Minister said, it would be used in payment of other debts.

The Government statement explained that the moratorium had been deferred as long as possible at the request of foreign representatives.

To prevent a halt in commerce the National Bank will put at the disposal of Hungarian citizens sums needed to carry on and also will cover the service on the credit-freeing agreements.

The Government said the measure was in the interest of Hungary and her creditors, that the pengo (Hungarian currency) would be covered by a gold reserve and foreign currency stock, as stipulated by law, and that it was the Government's duty to see to it that public and private obligations were fulfilled in pengos if not in gold.

From the New York "Herald Tribune" of Dec. 23 we take the following:

*Budapest Decree Received Here.*

A copy of the decree announced by Finance Minister Friedrich Koranyi, received here yesterday by George de Ghika, Royal Hungarian Consul General, follows:

"Owing to the exceptional decline in the price of the principal Hungarian exports and the consequent difficulty in present circumstances of obtaining sufficient exchange for foreign debt remittances, the Hungarian Government is under the necessity of suspending the payment abroad in foreign currencies with certain exceptions of the Hungarian financial obligations, public and private, as from Dec. 23 1931.

"The Hungarian Government accordingly proposes to apply the foreign currency at its disposal in the first place to the service of the 7 1/4% State loan of the Kingdom of Hungary 1924, and then, so far as the supply of foreign exchange permits, to the secured relief loan, the interest or discount on the secured treasury bills, the service payment of the Caisse Commune, the Austro-Hungarian State Ry., the Danube-Save-Adriatic Ry., the payments to be made under the London protocol of Aug. 11 1931, the service payments of the pre-war loans of the City of Budapest under the Ostende agreement of Aug. 14 1925, and for the purpose of preserving the commerce of the country.

"The Hungarian Government will authorize the National Bank of Hungary to sell to Hungarian nationals foreign exchange for the purpose of meeting interest or discount and commission on short-term debts to bankers and others, and of giving effect to appropriate standstill arrangements which the Government intends to propose to short-term creditors in foreign currencies for a period of six months.

Holders of all State or State guaranteed loans other than loans payable in pengoes or of the loans of Hungarian public authorities or other loans excluding short-term loans the service of which is not fully met in foreign currencies are called upon pending final settlement to postpone their claims for the next 12 months on the deposit pengoes being made as mentioned below. In so far as these pengoe deposits earn interest, such interest, less the expenses incidental to their administration, will be applied for the benefit of the creditors.

"The Hungarian Government and the National Bank of Hungary will guarantee that for the aforementioned period more favorable arrangements will not be made in any particular cases referred to in the preceding paragraph. In the mean time, the full service of all such loans will be collected in pengoes at the rate quoted the day previously by the National Bank of Hungary and paid into a blocked account at the National Bank of Hungary for the benefit of the bondholders. This account will be administered by the National Bank in agreement with the adviser at the National Bank, who will consult with any representative whom the creditors as a body may nominate on all matters concerning the management of the account.

"The Hungarian Government will request the foreign governments concerned to accept temporarily similar arrangements as regards the outstanding clearing office payments. In the event of any monopolies or other public assets being disposed of abroad, the proceeds of such disposal will be applied to lightening Hungary's existing burden of external indebtedness."

From Washington on Dec. 22 advices to the New York "Times" said:

American investments and credits in Hungary are estimated to total \$179,000,000, including \$134,400,000 of governmental and corporate securities, nearly all of which are in private hands. American investors, according to experts, will probably lose between \$12,000,000 and \$14,000,000 in the coming year as a result of the embargo.

#### Hungarian Envoy Denies Gold Ban Rumor.

The New York "Evening Post" published the following from Berlin Dec. 19 (copyright):

Rumors current in European capitals that the Hungarian Government intended to abandon the gold standard were denied to-day by the Hungarian Ambassador to Berlin.

The Ambassador declared that he had telephoned to Premier Karolyi in Budapest and had been informed that the rumors were false that the Government had pledged its word not to abandon the gold standard, and that the pledge would not be broken.

#### German Bond Holdings—Those of the National City Bank \$1,556,000, Mr. Mitchell Said.

The National City Bank holds \$1,556,000 in German bonds, according to Charles E. Mitchell, its President, and not \$1,566,000,000, as was stated in the New York "Times" to-day in a dispatch dealing with Mr. Mitchell's appearance on Dec. 18 before the Senate Finance Committee. This was noted in a Washington account Dec. 19 to the "Times" which added:

In another part of the same dispatch which dealt with the details of Mr. Mitchell's testimony, the correct figure appeared.

#### Loan Rules Severe, Germans Complain—Borrowers Assail Insistence on Rediscountable Bills by American Banks—Laid to Misunderstanding.

The insistence by American banks that their short-term credits extended in Germany shall be classified according to whether they are eligible for rediscount at the Federal Reserve banks and that ineligible credits shall be secured by collateral deposits has occasioned misunderstanding among German debtor banks, according to foreign advices reaching Wall Street last week, it was noted in the New York "Times" of Dec. 20, which also had the following to say:

The German bankers incline to the belief that their American creditors are endeavoring to make use of an academic ruling of the Federal Reserve to justify unreasonable demands upon hapless German debtors. They see unnecessary severity in the stipulations advanced by Albert H. Wiggin, Chairman of the governing board of the Chase National Bank, who is now in Berlin negotiating a new "standstill" agreement on behalf of the banks in this country.

This attitude, New York bankers explained last week, springs from the difficulties that European bankers have in recognizing the distinctions between the American and European methods of acceptance finance. In Europe it is common for banks to draw on their correspondents by means of unsecured bills that do not relate to any specific commercial transactions; in other words, "clean" or "finance" bills.

In this market, however, such bills are ineligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve banks and are looked upon with great disfavor by the

discount market. When it was discovered last summer that some German acceptances held here were finance bills and that part of this paper actually had found its way into the Reserve banks, the disclosure amounted to a mild scandal in the money market.

#### Deal Reflected in Acceptance Market.

The bills were withdrawn from the market, as they matured and the credit which was being advanced through them to German banks was converted into simple cash advances. This was the explanation in large part of the drop of \$155,237,795 in the volume of outstanding dollar acceptances based on goods stored in or shipped between foreign countries in July, August and September.

Accepting banks here excused the German banks on the ground of their unfamiliarity with this market's requirements, but determined in future to demand more rigid proof of the documentary character of bills drawn.

They feel that the German banks should replace objectionable credits so far as possible with bills eligible for rediscount at the Federal Reserve. Where it is not possible to supply eligible bills, they think the German debtors should offer some security for their credits and should pay a higher rate of interest than is charged on eligible credits.

This is the origin of the American demand for the deposit of security against unsecured credits now in this market. That security, it has been suggested, could take the form of commercial paper, stocks, bonds or other instruments which would allow the creditor banks to lay hands on some assets in the event that the credits were not paid. An arrangement of this character would not involve sending the security here, but might be worked out through the deposit of proper collateral in Germany with the Reichsbank, or in a neutral country with some other institution, such as the Bank for International Settlements.

#### Counter Proposal from Germany.

What is viewed as an alternative proposal was described in dispatches from Berlin late last week referring to the concentration of German non-commercial short-term debts in a trust company, which would issue in exchange bonds carrying 5% interest and maturing in equal annual installments over ten years.

This is similar to the plans previously advanced by Emile Francqui of Belgium and Hermann Schmitz, head of the German dye trust. Bankers here originally objected to such a plan on the ground that the credits in question were essentially short-term in nature, were meant to finance current trade operations and were to revolve in the process of prompt liquidation on maturity, offset by the creation of new bills arising out of new but similar commercial transactions.

Reports from Berlin last week describing as "severe" the terms as presented by Mr. Wiggin upon which American banks are prepared to enter into a new agreement for maintaining short-term credits to Germany, after the expiration of the current "stillhaltung" agreement on Feb. 29, elicited little comment from bankers here beyond the remark of one distinguished financier, who said he hoped the reports were correct.

Leading bankers here have refused to share the popular alarm for the safety of their credits to Germany, but they are adopting a somewhat grim attitude in their discussions of the German debt problem. The opinion exists in some quarters that undue difficulties have been interposed in the matter of Germany's private debts by the desire of the German authorities on the one hand to present a picture of complete destitution and the desire of the Allied creditors for the account of reparations on the other to prove Germany's capacity to continue reparations payments.

The private credits, from the viewpoint of the bankers, were extended along sound lines and should automatically liquidate themselves if due time is given. The attempt to lump them together with reparations as part of a single problem is, accordingly, resented.

#### Germany Reported Liquidating Commercial Obligations to American Banks—Chase National Bank Reduces Commitments.

In its Dec. 21 issue the "Wall Street Journal" said:

Germany has been steadily liquidating her commercial obligations to American banks. The repayment of such credits as a matter of fact, has taken place almost regularly. Within the last three months an estimate by German bankers is that such obligations have been liquidated to the extent of 16% in London and in New York.

For the most part, the German obligations are self-liquidating, and on the whole, they are adequately secured, either by cash or securities quoted on exchange other than in Germany, while a part is guaranteed by the German Government and German industry. A small portion is represented by so-called "trade acceptances," or one-name paper, but even this is for the account of high grade German concerns.

The Chase National Bank, which is one of the biggest lenders, is known to have reduced its commitments substantially in recent weeks. At present, such commitments of the Chase in Germany represent less than 5% of the bank's total loans and investments, and about 3% of total resources. At no time have they exceeded \$85,000,000, whereas the current figure of less than \$70,000,000, marks a drastic reduction from the peak.

#### German Deposit Rates Cut.

From the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 21 we take the following from Berlin:

Interest rate on savings deposits has been reduced to 4% from 6% and rate on monthly deposits has been cut from 7% to 6% owing to the reduction in interest rates on bonds and mortgages.

#### Foreign Payments Cut Berlin Reserve—Reichsbank's Last Moderate Loss Due to Rapid Deposits and Interest on Bonds—German Decrees Criticized.

From the New York "Times" we take the following from Berlin Dec. 18:

The comparatively slight decline in the Reichsbank's reserve shown by the return of Dec. 15 was attributed partly to repayments of mark bank deposits to foreigners and partly to purchases of exchange for interest payment on external bonds. The banks consider indefinite continuance of interest payments on such bonds to be assured, always supposing that the reichsmark holds at gold parity and that no priority is established for reparations payments after expiration of the "Hoover year."

Reduction of the Reichsbank rate to 7% has had the effect of increasing applications for credit. To this is ascribed the small decline during the first half of the month in outstanding Reichsbank accommodation. This decline has retired only 45% of the credits outstanding in the last

week of November, whereas the decline in the corresponding period of last year was 64%.

It is officially estimated that the Government's compulsory reduction of interest rates will save business debtors nearly half a billion marks per annum. The economists nevertheless continue to condemn the measure. Gustav Stolper, editor of "Der Deutsche Volkswirt," denies that the cost of capital will be lower. Alfred Lansburgh, editor of "Die Bank," regards the Government's whole price-cheapening program as mistaken. He says that the Government should have attempted to check contraction in values instead of further reducing values. There are other authorities who declare that the Government measures, being designed to lower the general price level, will end by harming Germany as a debtor State.

At the same time, the attitude of the producers toward the Government's measure continues relatively favorable. The reduction in railway freight returns alone will save business 300 million marks yearly. It is officially calculated that the immediate wage reduction in different branches of industry under Bruening's decree will be between 10 and 14%. That would leave wages 16 to 21% below 1930, when the highest level was reached.

#### German Interest Rates—Berlin Banks Official Says Reduction Would Affect Holders of Bonds.

The following from Berlin is from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 17:

Georg Solmssen, a general manager of Deutsche Bank und Disconto Gesellschaft, points out in the report of the German Bankers Association that German bankers unanimously oppose a reduction in German interest rates because the property of German and foreign owners of German bonds would suffer. Bankers and bondholders, however, must accept Bruening's decision as the last effort of Germany to overcome her difficulties, until definite international arrangements ease the situation. Herr Solmssen states that the present and all other possible efforts will be fruitless if the international discussions do not bring concrete results.

Further amalgamations in German banking are termed inevitable in order to reduce high overhead expenses with the present reduced volume of business.

#### Fall in German Savings—Reduction in Deposits During Mid-Year Crisis 108,000,000 Marks.

The "Times" reported the following from Berlin Dec. 18:

Savings bank deposits in Germany, as now reported for Nov. 1, amounted to 9,936 million marks, comparing with 11,044 millions at the end of March. This seems to indicate that the loss in actual savings deposits during the panic crisis of mid-summer was more than 1,100 millions.

#### Support by Germany Urged for German Bonds at New York.

According to Berlin advices Dec. 19 to the New York "Times," the Berlin "Tageblatt" demands editorially that Germany herself should intervene to support her external bonds on Wall Street, in the face of the extravagant marking-down of prices for them in that market. The message continued:

The "Tageblatt" asserts emphatically that interest will continue to be paid punctually on these bonds, but it points out that the collapse in New York's quotations injures Germany's international credit.

It admits the difficulty in such intervention, which would have to take the form of buying up bonds on the New York market and which, therefore, would involve the weakening of the Reichsbank's reserve through the resultant remittances in payment.

An item regarding permission sought by German companies to support their bonds in New York appeared in our issue of Dec. 19, page 4081.

#### Germany's Budget Deficit—Seven Months' Shortage Small—Surplus in Ordinary Revenue.

A cablegram as follows from Berlin Dec. 18 is taken from the New York "Times":

The Reich's ordinary revenue during the completed seven months of the financial year is stated as 5,170 million marks, with ordinary expenditure at 5,131 millions. Extraordinary revenue was 26 millions, extraordinary expenditure 81 millions.

Since the beginning of the financial year, 245 millions of floating debt has been repaid. The total now stands at 1,747 millions.

#### Berlin Not Disturbed Over Trade Balance—November's Lower Export Surplus Seasonable—11 Months' Increase Over 1930 \$286,000,000.

The decrease in Germany's export surplus from the 387 million marks in September and the 396 million of October to 267 million in November was occasioned particularly by reduced export of iron and steel, coal, ships, machines and textiles, said Berlin advices Dec. 18 to the New York "Times" which further observed:

To most countries with a recently depreciated currency, exports decreased materially, but shipments to England increased. It is, however, generally believed that the decrease in exports during November was partly, if not mainly, attributable to merely seasonal causes. In 1930, November exports decreased 142 million marks from October, which is 13 million more than the decline this year.

The important fact is that the export surplus for the first 11 months should have reached so great a sum as 2,624 million marks, as against 1,420 million in the same months of 1930. So far as imports were concerned, the total for November was practically the same as in October, when it was 483 million marks, as compared with 448 million in September.

#### German Forward Exchange Market.

The "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 21 is authority for the following from Berlin:

While forward transactions in foreign exchange remain forbidden the Reichsbank is now permitting importers and exporters to trade foreign currencies against each other but not against marks, if such trading represents genuine imports or exports. Banks are excluded from this privilege. An exporter who has a bill payable in sterling at 90 days can thus sell against dollars or francs to an importer who has a bill to meet in sterling. No considerable development of such transactions is expected.

#### Russian Debts to Germany.

From its Berlin bureau the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 21 reported the following:

An official statement reveals that Russian debts to Germany amount to Rm. 1,200,000,000 which run from three months to four years. Of this total, Rm. 700,000,000 have been guaranteed by the Reich and financed through the Reichsbank and Gold Discount Bank.

#### Great Britain Tells Germany Duties Must Stand—Note Says No Concessions Are Possible Until Adoption of a Permanent Tariff Policy—Germans See Pact Broken.

In reply to the German suggestion of several weeks ago that negotiations open for modification of the British anti-dumping duties in favor of German goods, the British Ambassador has submitted a note stating that his Government regrets it is unable to make any concessions. This is learned from a cablegram Dec. 18 from Berlin to the New York "Times" which continued:

It is pointed out that the present import duties are only provisional, and the note states that only when a permanent tariff bill is adopted can such negotiations be successful.

The British Government leaves it to the judgment of the German authorities whether they want to send a delegation to London to discuss the matter in keeping with the existing Anglo-German trade agreement.

In governmental circles here it is contended that the damage to German exports will be permanent, although the present British tariffs may be temporary. The provision in the trade agreement obliging the two governments to start negotiations as soon as the measures of one country threaten to damage the other is interpreted here as meaning that these negotiations are not a mere formal procedure, but must lead to a bearable compromise. The German Government, therefore, is inclined to regard the British refusal to consider any concessions as a violation of the trade agreement, which would lead to German reprisals.

It is taken for granted that in order to avoid a conflict of this kind the government will send a Commission to London. Germany finds herself in the weaker position, as German imports from Great Britain are only a fraction of her exports to Great Britain. German tariff reprisals, especially with respect to British coal, could therefore easily be balanced through British counter-measures.

#### Germany Can't Pay, Dutch Expert Says—Young Plan Group at Basle Told Transfer of Reparations Appears Impossible.

The necessary transfer of reparations payments by Germany appears impossible, Hendryk Colijn, Dutch economist on Dec. 14, told the Young Plan Advisory Committee at Basle, studying Germany's capacity to pay reparations. An Associated Press cablegram from Basle to the New York "Evening Post" added:

This, he said, is partly because reparations did not originate from business transactions and partly because of the reluctance of creditors to receive payments from Germany in the form of goods.

It is impossible, he said in the course of a general discussion of business conditions, to analyze the world's economic crisis without reference to public debts. He intimated that prompt measures must be taken.

The French were understood to have tried to sidetrack the general debate, but Colijn, who has presided over several League of Nations tariff commissions, delved into the commercial policies of several nations whose delegates took part in the discussion.

In German quarters this debate was watched very closely in the belief that it would reveal the attitude of the several experts more clearly than will the Commission's final report.

Originally to-day's meeting was to have considered a summary of the position of the German railways.

Outside the Committee it became known that the Swiss have expressed concern at the rapidity with which property in some of their cities and towns is falling into German hands.

Whole sections of Zurich were reported to have been purchased during the flight of capital from Germany, and reliable estimates placed the amount of German capital in Switzerland at between three and four billion marks.

Simultaneously a report came from Berne that the Swiss Government had abrogated a commercial treaty with Germany, effective next February. The two countries have been fighting a tariff war for some time.

#### Germany Blames Reparation Agent—Debt Comptroller, Banker Says, Transferred Payments Out of Borrowed Funds—Short-term Loans Fatal.

Associated Press advices as follows Dec. 15 are from the New York "Evening Post":

George Solmssen, President of the German Bankers' Association, appealed to Germany's creditors, in an address before the Association to-day, to "make an effort to understand Germany's position."

"This has been the hardest of all post-war years," he said. "Encroachments on private property which we resisted to the last we submit to now because we have reached a point where all which calls itself German must stand together."

He blamed the agent-general for reparations for transferring reparations out of borrowed money instead of out of surplus exports.

"If the German Government now calls upon the Fatherland for a last defensive effort until a definite international settlement is reached, it must be emphasized again and again that efforts are vain unless such a settlement meets the requirements of the world's economic needs."

He made no effort to conceal past mistakes in the utilization of borrowed capital by both public and private concerns.

"But," said he, "we were encouraged in taking up short loans by all foreign financial advisers, even by the reparations agent himself. We all erred in believing that the period of short-term capitalization would be merely transient."

### Deficit of German Railways Reported at Basle—Receipts Furnishing Guarantee for Reparations Said to Show 10% Loss—French Still Insist on Payment According to Treaties Unless United States Will Reduce War Debts.

The German railways, whose receipts furnish a guarantee for the payment of Germany's unconditional annuities under the Young Plan, are now facing a deficit of at least 10%, it was reported on Dec. 15 to the special Advisory Committee of the Bank for International Settlements examining the German claims for relief from reparations payments. A Basle cablegram on that date to the New York "Times" went on to say:

Dr. Homberger, Director of the Reichsbahn, came in person to supplement a written report he submitted on the subject in response to the Committee's request last week for information. This report concludes a series presented by Germany to establish, first, the crushing burden of Germany's foreign debt; second, the impossibility of maintaining a balanced budget, and, third, the diminishing hope of Germany of maintaining her favorable trade balance.

But in the face of this picture of Germany's prostration the experts to-night had not yet reached an agreement on the general purport of their proposed report to the World Bank and the interested governments. After two days of conferences they appointed, not a drafting committee but what was defined in a communique as a "preparatory committee to consider the preliminary questions bearing upon the conclusions of the Advisory Committee's work."

#### Agreement Still Lacking.

The fact that this Committee, headed by Alberto Beneduce, the Chairman, and including Sir Walter Layton of Britain, Charles Rist of France and Dr. Carl Melchior of Germany, was designated as a preliminary committee indicates that no agreement on the scope of the committee's report has been reached. Otherwise a drafting committee, pure and simple, would have been named and would have been charged with drawing up a report.

Instead, another long private conference was proceeding in Signor Beneduce's apartments to-night in an effort to reach a compromise.

As the negotiations progress it becomes more apparent that the only compromise that can obtain unanimous adhesions will be a report of a strictly conservative character. That is to say a report in complete conformity with the Young Plan, advising the Government that it is no longer possible for Germany to make conditional payments and recommending in general terms a conference which might adapt reparations to existing and probable future conditions.

In this report there is unlikely to be a place for any great part of the statistical information submitted to this Committee, since the delegates find it impractical to give proof to such figures as their estimate of the Reich's foreign assets. Other figures are of a nature to bring criticism on one country or another, and the report, seeking to avoid controversial features, would leave these questions to the governments to consider themselves.

#### Threat of Ruin Seen.

On the other hand there are those who contend that the information communicated to this committee shows beyond doubt that regardless of Chancellor Bruening's decrees and regardless of the contributory reasons which resulted in the present situation, Germany unquestionably is in a position which in a very short time will end in ruin.

The Young Plan, they contend, was framed at the peak of world prosperity, without the slightest conception that such a depression was possible, and, as the railway report to-day shows, did not reckon with contingencies which would shake even the unconditional payments. It is therefore argued by this group that the Young Plan at present is unworkable and probably never will be.

It is argued by others, in accordance with reasoning said to have been credited to Walter W. Stewart, United States delegate, that while reparations are clearly impossible now, it is easily conceivable that a certain level of prosperity not equaling the bumper year of 1929 may be touched in the future, when some reparations might be possible. Therefore, they say, the duty of the Committee is to recommend the suspension of payments for the present and to urge the governments to frame a new plan in proportion with future possibilities.

Outside all these arguments stand the French with the written text of The Hague agreements, stipulating that the unconditional payments are intangible, and of the Young Plan as a permanent and final reparations settlements. They also insist that reparations cannot be reduced until the United States Congress has made a definite commitment concerning reductions in war debts.

#### Two More Subcommittees Named.

In this situation it is improbable that any further meetings of the full committee will be held until the preliminary subcommittee converts itself into a drafting committee. Two other subcommittees were appointed to-day—one headed by Hendryk Colijn of Holland, to study questions relating to the Reich budget, such as the educational appropriation which occupied the Committee Saturday, and one of railway experts headed by Otto Rydbeck of Sweden, to examine the details Dr. Homberger will submit, supplementing his statement of to-day.

That statement is of interest not only because the Reichsbahn receipts furnish a definite sum annually as a guarantee for the unconditional reparations, but also for the fact that the reasons for the difficulties are particularly traced to the growing competition of motor transport with the railways.

Dr. Homberger said the receipts for 1929 reached 5,400,000,000 reichsmarks (about \$1,350,000,000). They have fallen to an estimate for 1931 of 3,860,000,000 marks (about \$950,000,000), or 28% less than for 1929.

After all possibilities of economies are exhausted through decreased salaries and reductions in staff, the saving cannot exceed 18%, he declared.

"The shrinkage was caused in the first instance," Dr. Homberger said, "by the economic depression, but may also be attributed to the growing competition of other forms of transport, in particular motor transport. It is true that Germany was the first country to resort to legislation for the regulation of relations between rail and motor transport, and the Reichsbahn has succeeded in cheapening the costs of carriage and facilitating door-to-door service.

#### Urges New Rate Reduction.

"Nevertheless a further increase in the competition of motor transport is to be expected. A new rate reduction amounting to 300,000,000 marks is justified in view of the measures introduced by the Reich for the lowering of prices and by the reductions in staff and materials. The year 1931 will close with a deficit and while in 1932 the effects of the emergency decrees will be felt, the prospects do not appear favorable."

The subcommittee of statisticians working to compile an estimate of Germany's net indebtedness was completing its study to-night and is expected to report to-morrow.

### German Banks Lose Deposits in October—Total Now 30% Below April Peak—Foreign and Inland Credits Reduced.

Advices as follows from Berlin are taken from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 16:

Deposits in the largest German banks at the close of October showed a further decline from the month previous and recorded a full 30% drop from the April totals of deposits, which were the largest for 1931. Foreign credits have evidently been withdrawn to the full since the conclusion of the Standstill Agreement—these credit withdrawals including mark balances (in part), stock exchange credits (following sales by foreigners) and seasonal credits.

In addition, foreign acceptances falling due during the April to October period were not renewed in entirety. Inland creditors also withdrew funds from the large banks just prior to the Prussian diet vote on Oct. 16 and these funds have only returned in part since that date. Totals of deposits in the six big banks for April, and from August through October, follow:

	October.	September.	August. (Highest 1931)	April
DD-Bank-----	2,960,000,000	3,052,000,000	3,200,000,000	3,973,000,000
Dresdner-----	1,394,000,000	1,491,000,000	1,515,000,000	2,112,000,000
Danat-----	1,341,000,000	1,355,000,000	1,382,000,000	2,187,000,000
Commerzbank--	1,054,000,000	1,119,000,000	1,146,000,000	1,429,000,000
Reichskredit--	450,000,000	449,000,000	479,000,000	601,000,000
Berl Handelsges-	301,000,000	307,000,000	338,000,000	399,000,000
Total-----	7,500,000,000	7,773,000,000	8,060,000,000	10,681,000,000

The DD-Bank is generally considered the strongest large commercial banking institution in Germany, but has suffered loss in deposits for this very reason as foreign credits have to a large extent been handled through this bank. The Government has likewise forced it to give advances to certain industrial and commercial concerns in dire need of funds to pay off bank loans elsewhere. Deposit losses have been off-set by increased indebtedness at the Reichsbank but currently neither the position of these banks nor of the Reichsbank causes much concern.

### Germany Seizes Foreign Exchange—Wiggin Committee Told Proceeds Have Been Applied to Debt Payments.

Associated Press accounts from Basle, Dec. 12, are taken as follows from the New York "Evening Post":

Almost all the foreign exchange in Germany resulting from the recent favorable trade balance has been seized in an effort to repay debts, experts of the Reichsbank told the Young Plan Advisory Committee to-day.

The Committee to-day took up the task of investigating the situation of the Reichsbank since the report of the Wiggin Committee last August. Two members of the German delegation outlined the present condition of the bank, enlarging on the Wiggin report which was concerned chiefly with short-term credits.

They advised the Committee that no influx of foreign exchange could make it possible to repay the credits at the present speed.

The German representatives said extraordinary means have been taken to repay the debts falling under the "freezing" arrangement agreed upon in August. This arrangement was an understanding among foreign bankers not to demand payment of short-term credits until Feb. 29 1932. They reiterated that one billion reichsmarks have been repaid in the period from July 3 1931 to mid-November.

The investigation of the Reichsbank's condition probably will be completed to-day. A request by the Committee for information on German railways resulted in the sending of a high railway official from Berlin. He is expected to arrive for Monday's session.

### German Sales Tax Increased.

A German Government decree of Dec. 9, increased the Federal sales tax from 0.85% to 2% ad valorem, effective Jan. 1 1932, including all products except bread, bread grains and kindred products, it is stated in a cablegram received in the Department of Commerce from Commercial Attache H. Lawrence Groves, Berlin. In announcing this on Dec. 12, the Department also said:

Imported goods are to be subject to the same tax, except for a few important food products, essential raw materials and semi-manufactures. Hitherto, the German sales tax was not levied on the import transaction.

### Large Berlin Mill Suspends Payment—Borsig Machine Works, Unit of the Second Greatest German Group Seeks to Continue—Other Plants Unaffected.

Under date of Dec. 18, a cablegram from Berlin to the New York "Times" said:

The firm of A. Borsig, Ltd., of Berlin-Tegel, the largest member of the Borsig Concern and the oldest Berlin machine works, suspended payments to-day as a result of the depression, which for a long time had not permitted work at full capacity.

The plant, which is known as a model of efficiency, is employing 3,700 workmen at present, and the orders on hand amount to nearly \$3,000,000.

The Borsig Concern, next to the Krupp Works, is the largest German group owned by one family. It comprises extensive coal mines, steel furnaces and mills in Upper Silesia and a locomotive works, and is the largest unit among Berlin machinery manufacture plants, with a capital of 10,000,000 marks (about \$2,400,000).

The Berlin plant, which was organized as a limited liability corporation, owned by two brothers, Conrad and Ernst von Borsig, had a turnover in 1929 of around \$10,000,000. The turnover for 1931, including December, will be more than \$7,000,000.

Half of the orders for 1931 were Russian, and 80% of all the orders came from abroad. By July the corporation could still hire new men. Its financial difficulties were said to be the direct result of the failure of several debtors and substantial losses through the depreciation of foreign currencies, especially in connection with business done with India and Egypt. This firm built the pumps for the Assuan Dam, among other things.

It is hoped here that negotiations with the creditors will lead to a settlement which will permit the plant to carry on work.

No exact figures about the liabilities and assets are available so far. The two Borsig brothers are among the most respected German industrialists. Ernst Borsig until recently was a member of the Board of the Federation of German Industries.

The machinery plant was founded in 1837 by the grandfather of the present owners, and since then had grown without interruption. Its specialties were boilers, steam engines, air compressors, refrigerators and pumps.

### Italy's Next Budget Set at \$1,103,000,000—Cabinet Approves \$86,000,000 Increase for the Fiscal Year.

From the New York "Times" of Dec. 20 we quote the following from Rome Dec. 19:

The Cabinet Council met to-day under Premier Mussolini's chairmanship and began its examination of the State budget for the next fiscal year. It approved only the estimates of expenditure of the various Ministries, leaving forecasts of the revenue to its next sitting.

According to figures made public, next year's estimated expenditures will total \$1,103,000,000, an increase of \$86,000,000 over the expenditure foreseen for the present fiscal year.

As the Ministries of Finance and Education have been obliged to increase their estimated expenditure by \$26,000,000 because they have shouldered certain expenses formerly borne by the provinces and municipalities, which are thereby relieved of that burden, however, the true increase in expenditure amounts to only \$60,000,000.

The estimated expenditure of the three military Ministries—War, Marine and Aeronautics—is exactly equal to the present year's, for trifling increases in the naval and aeronautic budgets are compensated for by a decrease in the budget of the War Ministry.

Estimated military expenses altogether total \$276,000,000, or almost precisely 25% of the total budget. Of this sum \$156,000,000 will be spent by the Ministry of War, \$81,000,000 by the navy and \$39,000,000 by the Ministry of Aeronautics.

The Ministry of War is the only one which shows a decrease compared with the present fiscal year, and the decrease is only \$260,000. In addition to those foreseen for the Ministries of Finance and Education, the chief increases are shown by the Ministry of Communication, which will pay large subsidies to steamship lines, and the Ministry of Agriculture, which will push its land reclaiming scheme.

The treasury statement published to-day shows another deficit for the first five months of the present fiscal year, totaling \$73,000,000. Cash reserves at the treasury's disposal amount to \$122,000,000 while both the public debt and fiduciary circulation showed further decreases during November and now stand at \$4,842,000,000 and \$750,000,000, respectively.

### Italy's Raw Silk Industry Threatened.

Drastic reduction in prices obtainable for cocoons in Italy materially reduced the 1931 production, according to Consul Homer Brett, Milan, in a report made public through the Commerce Department. With regard thereto the Department on Dec. 9 said:

Production in 1931 was 34,458,500 kilograms of raw silk, compared with an average of slightly more than 52,000,000 kilograms in the three previous years, Mr. Brett quoted trade figures.

Any serious curtailment of silk production in Italy will force Germany to seek elsewhere for requirements. According to Vice-Consul Howard Elting Jr., Dresden, Germany, raw silk imports by Germany originated almost entirely from Italy in the past year.

### Organization of Italian Share Institute in Italy—Further Wage Reductions in Italy Prohibited.

The organization of the Italian Share Institute, previously announced, was considered by Italian economic leaders to be the outstanding development of November, according to a radiogram received by the Commerce Department from Commercial Attache M. M. Mitchell, Rome. The Department on Dec. 10 added:

This credit organization was established for the purpose of financing industry by 10-year loans against shares and for direct participation in industries themselves through purchase of shares.

The Institute is capitalized at 500,000,000 lire and is authorized to issue bonds and shares, and with the proceeds lift industrial shares from bank portfolios, particularly those of the Banca Commerciale.

It is expected that frozen assets will thus be liberated and made available for ordinary short-term commercial credit operations. It is at the same time contemplated to permit the Government to exercise a greater directive control over the general financial and industrial activities of the country.

The Government has prohibited further wage reductions, except in most exceptional circumstances. The unfavorable foreign trade balance for the first 10 months of 1931 was less than half that for the corresponding period of 1930. October, like September, showed a favorable trade balance and the Government has indicated its intention of surveying all foreign trade relations with the idea of achieving permanent improvement in this balance through tariff bartering. There is an increasing feeling in Italy that the present trade agreement with Russia is somewhat burdensome to Italy, inasmuch as Russia gets long-term credits for purchases but cash for

sales. Suggestions are that the agreement might be revamped and made more satisfactory through a greater exchange of goods for goods.

The Bank of Italy continues to increase its metallic hold holdings which are now equivalent to 39% of circulation and make total reserves 50% of all obligations. Circulation has again been decreased and loans and discounts are slightly up. Bank clearances showed a sharp increase but corporation investments a net decrease of 210,000,000 lire.

The decision of the Banca Commerciale Italiana to relinquish its holdings of industrial stocks was referred to in our issue of Nov. 7, page 3038. In our issue of Nov. 14, page 3180, reference was made to the formation of the State Industrial Bank of Italy to release frozen assets of banks.

### Speyer & Co. in Receipt of Funds to Pay Jan. 1 Coupons of Hungarian Consolidated Municipal Loans—Hungary Remits for 7½% State Loan Payment on Feb. 2.

Speyer & Co. announce that (partly from reserves created at the time of the issue of these loans) they have the necessary funds to pay the Jan. 1 1932, coupons of the Hungarian Consolidated Municipal 7½% Loan of 1925 and of the 7% Loan of 1926, and also to redeem at par on that date the \$173,500 Consolidated Municipal 7½% Bonds drawn for the sinking fund.

The full amount required to redeem on Jan. 1 1932, \$96,500 Consolidated Municipal 7% Bonds (drawn for the sinking fund) has not yet been received.

Speyer & Co. also announce that, as regards the 7½% State Loan of the Kingdom of Hungary, the necessary funds to pay Feb. 1 1932 coupon, and to comply with the 1931 sinking fund provisions, have been received.

### Amortization Funds Available for Purchase of Bonds of Uruguay.

The Chase National Bank of the City of New York, as successor fiscal agent, has notified holders of Oriental Republic of Uruguay external debt 5% gold bonds of 1915, that it has received \$13,125 as an amortization fund, which, together with an unexpended balance remaining in its hands of \$151, is available for the purchase of the above bonds at a price below par and accrued interest. Tenders should be made before noon on Dec. 31 to the corporate trust department, 11 Broad Street. The right is reserved to reject any and all tenders.

### Bonds of Kingdom of Roumania Monopolies Institute Drawn for Redemption.

The Chase National Bank of the City of New York, City Bank Farmers Trust Co., and Dillon, Read & Co., as American fiscal agents, are notifying holders of Kingdom of Roumania Monopolies Institute 7% guaranteed external sinking fund gold bonds, stabilization and development loan of 1929, due Feb. 1 1932, that \$446,300 principal amount of these bonds have been drawn by lot for redemption on Feb. 1 1932, at par out of the sinking fund moneys received by the American fiscal agents. Such drawn bonds will be paid upon presentation at the offices of any one of the fiscal agents on and after the redemption date from which they will cease to bear interest. The notice calls attention to the fact that \$40,200 previously drawn have not yet been presented for payment.

### Japan's Suspension of Gold Ascribed to "Sheer Necessity."

Japan's suspension of gold payments was regarded in the London market as a measure of sheer economic necessity. said a London cablegram Dec. 19 to the New York "Times," which likewise stated:

The foreign trade of Japan had been adversely affected by the fall in sterling, by the Chinese boycott since the Manchurian episode developed and to some extent by the rise of silver, a bull movement which is equivalent to a bear movement on the Japanese yen.

Through great efforts Japan had reduced its adverse balance of trade, but this had necessitated heavy exports of gold, and further loss was foreshadowed in case of adherence to the gold standard. In the circumstances, it is believed that Japan could not afford to run the risk of further depletion of its gold reserves, which would merely have postponed the crisis.

### Japan Sends Gold to Pay for Goods—Lack of Acceptance Credits from American Banks Compels Shipments of Metal—\$25,000,000 Coming.

From the New York "Evening Post" of Dec. 24, we take the following:

Announcement was made to-day that the Yokohama Specie Bank had shipped 20,000,000 yen in gold to the United States and that 30,000,000 yen additional would be forwarded to this country in the near future, a total of about \$25,000,000.

It was learned at the office of the bank in New York that this gold is sent to finance Japanese imports, principally of cotton. This is now being done virtually on a cash basis, while heretofore the trade was financed in the American acceptance market.

#### Banks Restrict Credit.

New York and other American banks are cautiously restricting their lines of credit even in the acceptance market, and in some localities outside of New York are able to provide acceptance credits to cover only the importing and exporting business in their own territory. This is said to be true of most Boston banks. With the yen at 41 cents for cables, against a par value of 49.8 cents, this means that Japan is still paying its trade balances here in gold as the cheapest means of settling.

The Japanese Government in placing an embargo on gold on Dec. 6 inserted a clause allowing shipments to be made by special permission and is giving authority to the Yokohama Specie Bank to make the present shipments.

#### Yen Contracts to Be Paid in Gold.

Gold recently imported from Japan will be employed in part to pay for forward purchases of the yen before it went off the gold standard at a time when the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Japanese Government were supporting Japanese currency. These contracts are due for settlement at the end of the year.

It was pointed out at the bank to-day that the reluctance of American banks to provide acceptance credits tends to hamper trade between the two countries. However, it is expected that Japanese silk bills will soon balance the trade and thereafter gold shipments will become unnecessary.

### Japan Loses Heavily in Dollar Speculation—\$12,500,000 Must Be Paid by Central Bank to Cover Private Purchases—Troubles Laid to Gold Embargo.

The following wireless message from Tokio Dec. 21 is from the New York "Times":

Viscount Takahashi, the new Finance Minister, has been investigating the extent of speculation in dollars by Japanese since the development of the Manchurian issue and has discovered it was much larger than had been thought.

He has found, according to the Japanese newspapers, that Jonnosuke Inouye, the Finance Minister in the Wakatsuki Cabinet, underestimated the amount of dollars bought here when he put the total at \$167,000,000. Viscount Takahashi now puts the amount at \$255,000,000, which was bought between Sept. 20, following the advance of the Japanese army in Manchuria, and mid-October.

Gold has been shipped to the United States to cover the \$167,000,000, but now \$88,000,000 remains to be met. With the yen off about 15%, the Yokohama Specie Bank, which controls the dealings in exchange, stands to lose about \$12,500,000 through the purchase of gold with yen in order to meet this demand, or more if the yen should fall further.

The Yokohama institution is covered in the transaction by a guarantee given by the Bank of Japan and the Government is now considering what it will do to cover the loss.

Mr. Inouye blames the present Government for the situation in which it finds itself. He states that if the Cabinet had not so hurriedly reimposed the embargo on the export of gold by ordering it the day after the change in Government, it would have been possible to put the loss on the speculators in dollar exchange and not on the country.

In publishing the above, the "Times" said:

Following the reimposition of the gold embargo, the Tokio "Asahi" estimated that firms which had been buying dollars in anticipation of this step would save between \$30,000,000 and \$60,000,000 through it. The newspaper estimated that about \$200,000,000 was held speculatively, the principal holders being the Mitsui Bank, \$50,000,000; the Sumitomo Bank, \$20,000,000; the Mitsubishi Bank, \$10,000,000, and various trust debenture and insurance companies, making up the remainder.

### Heavy Transactions on Tokio Stock Exchange Following Reopening on Dec. 18 Result in Closing in Afternoon of Next Day.

A Tokio account as follows is taken from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 19:

The Stock Exchange was forced to close Saturday [Dec. 19] afternoon, due to the tremendous volume of business. On Friday [Dec. 18] total transactions amounted to 850,000 shares, the largest since the outbreak of the World War.

The market was closed immediately after the enactment of the embargo on gold exports and was reopened for business again on Thursday, when trading was orderly.

The closing of the Tokio Stock Exchange following the placing of an embargo on gold exports by Japan, and the reopening of the Exchange on Dec. 18 was noted in our issue of Dec. 19, page 4083.

#### Japanese Balance of Payments.

The following from Tokio is from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 19:

Complete report on Japanese invisible trade for 1930 shows an import excess of 15,000,000 yen, making the total adverse balance of international payments, including the import surplus in the visible foreign trade, of 175,000,000 yen.

Based on trade figures thus far available, it is estimated that the excess of visible imports over exports for 1931 will amount to about 134,000,000 yen.

#### Loans and Credit in China Curtailed, Attache States.

Due to the political situation and the banks' curtailment of loans and credit advances to safeguard their liquid reserves, the Shanghai money market continues tight, Commercial Attache Julian Arnold has stated, according to the "United States Daily" of Dec. 17, which also further quoted the Department of Commerce as follows:

Trading in the Shanghai realty market in November exceeded all expectations, with transactions aggregating upwards of 4,000,000 taels (\$1,600,000), or about 30% greater than for October. The Shanghai share market is maintaining steadiness.

The Manchurian trading situation remains unchanged, with transactions stagnant, according to Assistant Trade Commissioner C. E. Christopherson, via radiogram from Mukden Dec. 9.

The approved budget of the South Manchurian Railway for 1933 estimates income of 18,000,000 yen, and expenditure totaling 17,000,000 (par value of yen \$0.4985). The 1932 budget estimated total income of 21,000,000 yen and expenditures of 19,000,000.

### Resignation of Premier Scullen of Australia—Action Follows Defeat of the Labor Party.

United Press accounts to the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 21 from Melbourne, Australia, said:

The Australia's Laborite Premier James Scullin has resigned following the defeat of his party in Saturday's (Dec. 19) election, and advised the Governor General to receive Joseph Lyons, leader of the victorious United Party, to form a new government.

The United Party won 37 of the 75 seats in the House of Representatives. The Party, a combination of Nationalists and rebel Laborites led by Lyons, held 18 seats in the last Parliament.

The Laborites lost 30 of the 46 seats they held in the last House. Six members of Scullin's Government were defeated. Edward Theodore, Federal Treasurer accused of political bias in distributing money for unemployment relief, polled only 6,878 votes, more than 10,000 less than his opponent.

An authoritative forecast of the new cabinet included: Lyons, Premier and Treasurer; J. G. Latham, Foreign Minister; Attorney-General and leader in the House of Representatives, H. S. Gullett; Minister of Customs, Dr. Earl Page; Postmaster General or Home Minister, Thomas Patterson; Markets Minister, Sir William Glasgow; Minister of Defense, Sir George Pearce; Vice-President of the Executive Council and leader in the Senate, J. A. Fenton; Minister of Health and Repatriation, Ex-Premier Stanley M. Bruce.

The above Cabinet would give the Nationalists almost complete control of the Lyons-Latham administration.

The Stock Exchange reacted favorably to the election results. There was a strong demand for Federal bonds. Lyons was expected to summon the loan council early in 1932 to review the financial situation.

Nine Communist candidates in the election polled only 8,000 votes and forfeited their deposits.

### Algerian Bond Issues Offered to Finance Public Works' Program.

An Algerian bond issue of 810,000,000 francs (\$31,764,700) has been authorized by the Government General of Algeria to finance the Government's irrigation and water conservation projects, according to a report from Consul Oscar S. Heizer, Algiers, made public on Dec. 17 by the Commerce Department, which further says:

The issue has been underwritten by French investment bankers. The bonds have a 4% coupon rate, mature in 1962 and are offered at 96, the report states. According to reports from informed circles, the Algerian Government is expected to show a small deficit for this year, but a surplus of 72,000,000 francs was established in 1930.

### Suit by Foreigners Against National Bank of Egypt for Payment in Gold—Contend Decree Does Not Apply to Them.

Cairo advices Dec. 21 to the New York "Times" stated: Proceedings were instituted to-day by several foreigners here against the National Bank of Egypt for payment of Egyptian bank-notes in gold. They base their claim on the contention that a decree issued in 1914, known as the "forced-rate" law, under which the paper pound was to be accepted as the equivalent of the gold pound, is applicable to foreigners, because prior to its promulgation it was not submitted for approval to the General Assembly of mixed tribunals. Before any law can be binding on foreigners resident here it must be approved by the foreign powers represented in this Assembly.

### 31% Cut in Salaries by State Railways of Chile.

Associated Press accounts from Santiago, Chile, on Dec. 19 stated:

Salary reductions running from 6 to 31%, beginning on Jan. 1 were ordered to-day by the management of the State Railways because of declining revenues and the probability of a deficit next year.

### Conclusion of Conference at Lima of Representatives of Latin American Central Banks—Urged to Avoid Inflation—Recommendation That Budgets Be Balanced.

An Associated Press cablegram from Lima, Peru, Dec. 12 to the New York "Herald Tribune" said:

Bankers of five South American countries closed a West Coast financial conference to-day with a recommendation that their governments balance their budgets. The delegates, representing the central banks of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia, also decided to ask their governments to refrain from borrowing from the banks and thus avoid inflation of currency. They agreed to do their utmost to continue payments on foreign debts.

Provision was made for further sessions of the conference, which will meet next in 1933, when its scope is expected to be enlarged to include other central banks as well as conversion and rediscount organizations.

A motion of appreciation for the "cordial and efficient help" of Professor E. W. Kemmerer, Princeton University financial expert, and a delegation from the New York Federal Reserve Bank, was adopted.

From the New York "Journal of Commerce" of Dec. 14 we take the following:



According to reports in local financial quarters one of the aims of the conference was to study the possibility of creating bills which could be used as collateral on dollar advances by the New York banks. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, it is understood, would be ready to assist such a plan should it become possible for the Latin American countries to supply eligible bills.

#### No Credits Now.

At the present time it is considered unlikely that advances would be made by the New York banks or that credits would be opened by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. It was pointed out, however, that the terms under which such credits might be issued, given some improvement in trade, could be formulated at once.

It was also considered likely that the bankers of the Latin American countries discussed the problems of foreign exchange control. Each of the countries represented in one form or another supervises foreign payments to be made and it was considered likely that the possibility of working out a unified attitude as to priorities of different classes of debts was considered.

The conference was referred to in these columns Dec. 12, page 3899.

### Uruguay Asked to Aid Suspended Bank of Manabi.

The following Guayaquil (Ecuador) cablegram Dec. 20 is from the New York "Times":

Difficulties resulting from the closing of the Bank of Manabi Thursday brought the Superintendent of Banking from Quito last night. Before his departure for Manabi to-day he said the bank would have the support of the Central Bank of the Republic and would not fail. The "Telegrafo" quotes him as saying the difficulty was due to the indiscretion of an unnamed public officer.

The Minister of War has announced that the Government will be obliged to suspend the operation of universal military service. No new enlistments will be accepted, it is reported, until additional funds are available.

### Uruguay Reduces Peso—Rate of 44.60 Not Expected to Bring Out Dollars, However.

A cablegram from Montevideo Dec. 18 to the New York "Times" said:

The Bank of the Republic reduced the exchange rate of the peso to-day to 44.60c. from 44.70, where it has been holding it all week.

There had been practically no exchange transactions for a fortnight, the holders of dollars refusing to sell at the bank's fixed rate. It is not considered likely that to-day's decline in the official rate will bring out sellers, as they refused to sell at 44.50.

The sterling rate fell to 31 11-16 pence to the peso, compared with yesterday's 31 1-16.

### Uruguay Names Eduardo Alvarez as Finance Minister, Succeeding J. Mendivil Who Has Become Chairman of Bank of Republic.

The National Administrative Council elected Eduardo Acevedo Alvarez Finance Minister on Dec. 17, succeeding Senor Mendivil, who resigned to become Chairman of the Bank of the Republic. A Montevideo cablegram to the New York "Times" Dec. 17 reporting this added:

Senor Alvarez formerly was Minister of Industries.

One of the first problems to be placed on Senor Alvarez's desk will be the question of extending the commercial moratorium expiring on Dec. 31. Business men are petitioning its extension for at least another year. American, British and other foreign representatives are opposing this on the ground that goods can be sold and the money spent and they can take no action until termination of the moratorium, when they would have no recourse if clients should file bankruptcy petitions.

The resignation of Signor Alvarez as Finance Minister occurred on Dec. 16, it was indicated in Montevideo advices that day to the "Times," which also said:

He was Finance Minister three years. The Finance Committee of the Senate has been asked to postpone consideration of prolongation for a year of the commercial moratorium which expires at the end of December.

### Wool Market Crisis Acute in Uruguay—Exporters Blame Regulation of Exchange—Plague Due to Heavy Rains a Factor.

According to Montevideo advices Dec. 20 to the New York "Times" the Uruguayan wool business is undergoing the worst crisis in recent years. The cablegram added:

Exports to date this season have been only about one-half what they should be, and this is the height of the season.

Although the exporters blame the Bank of the Republic's control of exchange and the consequent difficulty of obtaining export permits, there are various other depressing factors, including the slowness of the clip in reaching the market and the inclination of owners to speculate for rising prices.

A large portion of the 65,232,000 pounds of wool received in the market to date is not of the type preferred for export. Unusually frequent winter and spring rains have lightened the wool by removing its grease content. This has led to a plague of parasites seldom equalled. Many sheep growers have sold as high as 40% of their flocks to packers and butchers, resulting in an estimated decrease of 20% in Uruguay's total number of sheep.

### Plans for Purchase by Uruguay of Soviet Gasoline.

Associated Press advices from Montevideo (Uruguay), Dec. 18 stated:

Authoritative reports to-day said the Iuyamtorg, Soviet South American trade organization, has "virtually concluded" an arrangement to sell to the Uruguayan Government 20,000 tons of gasoline at \$16.50 a ton and 10,000 tons of kerosene at \$14.00.

Both shipments would be slated to arrive here in June next. The gasoline represents approximately 25% of the country's annual consumption and the kerosene about 30%. The gasoline will be sold by the Government at about the same price now charged by private companies, but the kerosene, it was said, will net a good profit.

The Iuyamtorg agreed to receive Uruguayan products in payment up to one-fourth the sale price, the report said.

### Exchange Control Board of Colombia Declines to Permit Transfer of Interest Payment on Bonds of Farm Mortgage Bank—Payment Expected to Be Included in New Scrip Plan.

Under date of Dec. 12 a cablegram from Bogota, Colombia, Dec. 12 said:

The Exchange Control Board, operating under a decree of President Olaya, will not permit the transfer next week of the next instalment of the service on the Farm Mortgage Bank's outstanding \$14,000,000 in bonds which are guaranteed unconditionally by the National Government.

Presumably the government has decided to include the service on these bonds in its scrip plan for payment of service on other obligations. While this, in effect, is a moratorium, former Finance Minister Marulanda's resignation followed an unsuccessful effort to block payment of the October instalment on the service. According to the definite terms of the forthcoming contract, it is understood, the Bank of the Republic will lead the National Government \$13,500,000 and will take over the administration of the salt monopoly, paying the government the entire net revenues for the first three years and applying half to the service on the loan.

Of the proceeds of the loan, payable in instalments, nearly half will be destined for public works.

Private banks just appointed its agents by the Bank of the Republic to buy and sell foreign exchange may decline the offer on the grounds that the agency terms do not fully compensate for the work and risk.

### Colombia Currency Issue.

From the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 16 we take the following:

Current reports in Colombia are that the amount of bills which the Bank of the Republic may issue under the proposed contract with the government may not exceed \$14,000,000, instead of \$20,000,000 originally proposed, according to the Colombian Cable and Air Mail Weekly Service. It is reported the issue will be used as follows: \$5,000,000 for amortization of National Treasury debts; \$3,000,000 to pay accounts due departments; \$2,000,000 for the new agricultural loan bank; \$1,000,000 for the Colombian Savings Bank and \$3,000,000 for public works.

In Bogota the proposed increase in the circulating medium has produced optimism. It also is stated the Minister of Finance has called a meeting of delegates of all departments and municipalities to consider means of taking care of service on external loans.

### Colombia Will Seek Loan of \$15,000,000—Bank of Republic to Be Asked to Supply Funds as Efforts Abroad Are Unsuccessful.

The following Bogota cablegram Dec. 9 is from the New York "Times":

President Olaya Herrera to-day confirmed the Government's plans to negotiate a loan of \$15,000,000 from the Bank of the Republic, but he did not mention the salt monopoly guarantee in a statement to the press regarding plans to meet the financial difficulties of his administration. It was announced that George Rublee, New York lawyer acting as counsel for the government, was continuing his endeavors abroad, but so far had been unsuccessful in obtaining temporary relief on Colombia's foreign debt service.

While exports continue to supply sufficient foreign exchange for the regular cash payment of at least the interest on the national foreign debt, he explained, the government will recommend to the pending conference at Bogota of representatives of the debtor States and municipalities, that the interest on their foreign bonds be paid for the next two years with national government 6% ten-year scrip.

Meanwhile, foreign bonds will be amortized at convenient dates and cash interest payments on bonds will be resumed at the end of the first year, if possible. Interest payments on foreign bonds of the Farm Mortgage Bank may be included in the scrip plan, but foreign debts of private banks will continue to be subject to the exchange control board.

The government is studying a possible revision of stamp and sales taxes to offset losses in customs revenues as a result of prohibitions and prohibitive rates on luxuries. A revision of the tariff is probable to admit some articles now prohibited by the high duties.

The government is hopeful that the forthcoming increase in circulation will enable Colombian debtors to meet their obligations at local banks. The government will disregard the proposed new revenues in budgeting for 1932 to insure a surplus at the end of the year.

Further Bogota advices Dec. 17 are taken as follows from the same paper:

Although the text of the contract between the Minister of Finance and the manager of the Bank of the Republic on a loan to the government is still unpublished, the newspaper El Tiempo reports that a total of \$22,000,000 of the loan, including the net revenues of the salt mines, will be under the bank's management for the next 40 months. "El Tiempo" reports the distribution of proceeds as \$5,500,000 for the National Treasury deficit, \$12,000,000 for the claims of States against the National Government and \$3,000,000 for highway subsidies owned to the States, provided the States agree to settle on a basis of 25% of the total.

The National Savings Bank and agrarian credit institutions will get \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 respectively. \$500,000 will go to pay indemnities on account of canceled public works contracts, \$1,500,000 will go to the emergency reserve fund and \$8,500,000 to the three-year public works construction program.

### Colombia Announces Plan for Servicing Foreign Debt.

An announcement as follows was issued Dec. 11 by the Department of Commerce at Washington:

The Government of the Republic of Colombia has announced its plan for servicing the foreign debt that it will pay in cash the interest on its foreign consolidated debt and upon the banking loans contracted by it so long as no extraordinary development occurs to prevent the Government from obtaining sufficient foreign exchange for this purpose from the country's exports, according to a cable received in the Commerce Department's Finance and Investment Division from Commercial Attache at Bogota.

In the case of municipalities and departments, the debt service during the next two years will be paid in scrip bearing 6% interest and amortizable in ten years, it is stated. No decision has been reached concerning the

manner in which the service of the loans contracted by the Agricultural Mortgage Bank are to be paid. The Exchange Control Board must pass upon applications to transfer the debt service of the other mortgage banks; it is expected that the Board will decide to deposit the service with the Banco de la Republica.

### **\$8,500,000 Is Set Aside for Work in Colombia—Part of Fund Will Be Used for Highway Between Ecuador and Venezuela—Credit Balked by Salt Monopoly.**

Stating that some relief of unemployment is expected from the use for public works of \$8,500,000 of the Government's recent loan from the Bank of the Republic, a Bogota cablegram Dec. 20 to the New York "Times" added:

Backed by this credit is the salt monopoly, which the bank will operate for 13 years, more or less, dependent upon the amortization of the loan.

A three-year plan is being devised for the expenditure of the funds, assigning 42% for 1932, 31% for 1933 and 27% for 1934. The program includes construction of 340 miles of automobile highways from the Ecuadorian to the Venezuelan border.

The road will start at Narino and will pass through the cities of Pasto, Popayan, Cali, Ibagu, Bogota, Tunja, Bucaramanga and Cucuta to the Venezuelan boundary north of Santander. The route includes the National capital and four State capitals, which, with the other principal towns to be touched, have more than 500,000 population.

While a considerable portion of this highway is already constructed, American engineering experts familiar with the country believe the portion of the loan allotted to highways will be insufficient to build more than a third of the projected new mileage.

Control of immigration will be another step in unemployment relief. The quota system has been decreed by the President. Only 110 immigrants from 11 different nationalities will be permitted to enter Colombia in 1932. Ten each of Bulgarians, Greeks, Hindus, Lithuanians, Poles, Palestinians, Rumanians, Russians, Syrians, Turks and Yugoslavs can come in.

### **Concession to Operate Colombia Salt Mines Granted to Bank of Republic.**

A concession to operate three Government salt mines for 13 years was granted to the Bank of the Republic of Colombia on Dec. 17, conditioned upon return if the Government's indebtedness to the Bank should be liquidated sooner, according to a decree of President Olaya and a contract with the Minister of Finance. This is learned from a Bogota cablegram Dec. 17 to the New York "Times," which likewise said:

The contract extends for ten years the bank's present right to issue legal tender bank notes. Other clauses in the contract give the bank some control over the expenditure of funds for public works.

### **Increase in Export Tax on Bananas in Colombia.**

From the New York "Times" we take the following from Bogota (Colombia) Dec. 20:

The export tax of 2 cents a stem on bananas, which was approved by Congress, has been increased to 3 cents by a Presidential decree under the special authorizations law.

### **Caution Is Imposed on Philippines Bank—Governor-General Davis Tells It Not to Yield Again to Speculation—Rejects Pleas for a Moratorium on Loans and Lays Down Ideas for Future Conduct—Governor-General in Washington.**

The following special correspondence from Manila, Nov. 25, is from the New York "Times" of Dec. 20:

Principles on which the Government-owned Philippines National Bank should be conducted, and praise for the fashion in which it has met the depression were laid down by Governor-General Dwight F. Davis before his departure from the Philippines on an indefinite leave of absence.

Mr. Davis's advice to the Bank in meeting the present emergency is counted here as one of the most important activities of his administration. He gathered his various statements to the management into a letter which he gave to it before he left. This letter is regarded here as an important State paper, of unusual interest to students of banking and economics everywhere.

Mr. Davis sets forth that the board of the Bank has put into practice the policies he outlines and he again records his satisfaction with the conservative manner in which the institution is being run.

#### *Pleas for Moratorium Rejected.*

"In times like these," he said, "it is inevitable that collections from local loans, particularly long-term loans granted to farmers, will become increasingly difficult. The loans become frozen. The borrowers plead for extensions and the National Bank has received many protestations of inability to pay. The Bank has even received petitions that it grant a moratorium on the collection of its loans.

"This is a most serious matter. It is clear that if the Bank should establish a general policy of granting extensions or a moratorium, it would run the risk of incurring heavy losses. We all admit that it would be impossible for the Government to grant indefinite or continuous extensions in the collection of the taxes due from the people; it is just as impossible for the Bank to permit continuous delinquencies in the collection of the debts due from its borrowers, because it is dealing with money which belongs to other people and over which it has practically no control.

"I see a source of considerable difficulty for the Bank in the future arising from the liquidation of the large loans to the sugar centrals and sugar planters in Negros. If the exceptional good fortune which the Bank has enjoyed up to this time with respect to its venture into the capitalization of a large part of the sugar industry continuous for a sufficient length of time in the future, the Bank will find itself with a large amount of cash on hand available for loans and investments.

"The same temptations and the same influences will then confront the Bank as confronted it some years ago when it first received the enormous deposits of public funds and embarked upon a policy that was tragic in its outcome.

#### *Would Resist Temptation.*

"The possible success of the sugar venture should not be permitted to blind the administration of the Bank or the public in the Philippine Islands to the great risks assumed in that venture—risk to which no commercial banking institution is justified in subjecting the deposits to it by the Government and by the public at large. If the Bank does not resist the temptations that will be thrown in its way and the efforts which will be made to induce it to use its funds to capitalize new industries and otherwise speculate with its money, there will be a repetition of the unfortunate past with grave consequences to the people of these islands.

"If the Bank is to be operated as a bank and not as an institution set up by the Government for semi-charitable purposes, its management should consider every transaction which it is called upon to undertake purely and exclusively upon the business and banking merits of the particular transaction. The mere fact that the Philippine National Bank is owned by the Philippine Government can have no possible bearing upon the merits of any particular transaction or policy under consideration.

"Loans for capital or fixed investment purposes should be avoided except in the case of long-term agricultural loans to finance which long-term bonds may be issued under the provisions of the Bank's charter.

"Loans should be properly diversified as to industries. The policy of reducing the concentration of loans to the sugar industry is sound and should be continued.

#### *Must Preserve Liquidity.*

"The Philippine National Bank is, or should be, the cornerstone of the country's banking and financial structure. It should at all times be ready and willing to render legitimate assistance in any crisis or emergency. To occupy this position, it must maintain a high degree of liquidity in its assets.

"The leading banks in the United States are at this time keeping from 50% to 80% of their assets in very liquid form. The Philippine National Bank can point not only to American and English banks to justify that policy, but it can point also to the Government-controlled banks in Siam, Java and elsewhere.

"A strong liquid bank is in a much better position to render permanent service to a community, in stormy as well as fair weather, than a bank which has burdened itself with losses and with many frozen-capital loans under the misconception that the best way to serve the community is to be liberal in the extension of credit.

"In view of the political uncertainty with respect to the future of this country, the Philippine National Bank may in the near future have to face an economic readjustment of such magnitude as will tax its strength and resources to the limit. For this reason, perhaps above all others, it is incumbent upon the management of the Bank and upon the Governor-General, as representative of the principal stockholders interest to see that the Bank follows strictly the most conservative policies."

According to a Washington dispatch Dec. 19 to the New York "Herald Tribune" Gov.-General Davis, on leave from his post in Manila, gave President Hoover, on Dec. 19 a favorable report on conditions in the Islands, but did not hand in his expected resignation. He indicated rather plainly, however, that personal affairs may force him to relinquish the Governorship and he probably will not return to the Philippines after visiting Mrs. Davis, who is ill in Paris. "I called on the President to pay my respects and give a brief account of the situation in the Philippines and I did not resign," said Mr. Davis, according to the paper quoted.

### **New Plan in Mexico for Paying Debts—Finance Minister Considers Sale of Vast Properties, Some Now Unworked—More Budget Cuts Sought—Linking of External and Internal Obligations Contemplated.**

Plans to sell a large part of the Mexican Government's vast properties to pay its debts, and to lump all obligations, internal and external, in one comprehensive plan, with payments to be made on the total sum involved, are now under consideration by Finance Minister Luis Montes de Oca, according to reliable informants. A Mexico City message Dec. 18 to the New York "Times" from which we quote, also had the following to say:

Senor Montes de Oca, now said to be planning to approach foreign financiers with his new proposal, laying his cards on the table in order to eliminate all the complications of subsidiary agreements, which are described as likely to produce conditions worse than priorities would. He is quoted as desiring to "sell the vast Government-owned properties, many of which are not being worked, due to lack of capital, and pay off the internal debt; to continue foreign payments within the capacity of the Republic's treasury; reduce expenditure to the minimum consonant with proper internal management; and, finally, to reach a condition of true balance in this much-afflicted land's monetary affairs."

As for Mexico's foreign debt, considerable appreciation is expressed here for the lenience of the International Committee of Bankers on Mexico, and the committee's willingness to co-operate with Finance Minister Montes de Oca in the belief that he will deal squarely with it.

At the same time proposals for drastic economies in the War and Marine and Finance Departments, which have suffered the least in previous budget prunings, are now being prepared for submission to Congress, according to Mexico's leading financial newspaper, *El Economista*. The budget for the fiscal year 1932 had already been cut from 299,000,000 pesos (nearly \$150,000,000 at par) to 220,000,000, and a further reduction of 7,000,000 pesos is sought, which would bring the total decrease to 28% of the original estimate.

Although the government's revenue has continued to decline, general business conditions are now declared to be definitely improving and it begins to appear certain that Mexico will be able to pull through the crisis without resorting to an appeal for an addition to the foreign debt, a recourse which might prove dangerous to the regime.

The proposed new budget cut is smaller than others already made, but *El Economista*, after reviewing budget figures for many years back, comments that it is the most difficult problem in finance ever to come up for legislative and executive study in Mexico. However, government employees have heretofore shown remarkable patriotism in sacrifices of pay, while Mexico's foreign trade balance is showing improvement and internal stability appears to be secure.

Observers of the situation here remark that Mexico now seems to have reached a stage of economic convalescence, and they look for a period of rehabilitation which will compare favorably with what may be expected in many countries of major importance.

The recently decreed monetary law, which was bitterly criticized at the time of its promulgation, is now credited with having contributed to the improvement, with banking circles expressing themselves as agreeably surprised. It is declared to have worked wonders in re-establishing national confidence, which, after all, was the necessary remedy for what ailed the country's business.

#### Cuba Reported Meeting Maturities.

A cablegram from Havana is taken as follows from the "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 14:

Treasury Department has paid to the Chase National Bank \$2,500,000 the balance of principal and interest on Cuban Public Works serial 5½s, due Dec. 31 1931.

#### More Silver for Cuba—Island Seeks to Replace American Coins with Its Own.

In its issue of Dec. 20 the New York "Times" published the following special correspondence from Havana Dec. 16:

In an effort to increase the circulation of Cuban silver coins the Department of the Treasury has issued a circular advising the public that all tax offices will supply such silver as may be needed for change in commercial transactions.

Cuba has no National currency system and coins of her own mintage are confined to gold pieces and to silver in denominations of \$1, 40, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1-cent pieces. Practically all business is transacted in American currency.

The Government is anxious to eliminate the large number of American silver coins here in order to replace them with Cuban coins and recently the Royal Bank of Canada offered to segregate all American coins it received. However, no concerted effort has yet been made by the foreign banks to increase the circulation of Cuban coinage.

The Cuban Treasury is said to have a large supply of silver and some time ago the Government announced that employees would be paid in silver. A great deal of protest arose from the employees who claimed that the banks would not accept silver to be exchanged into paper money, so the idea was abandoned.

#### Philippine Freedom Asked in Two Bills—Measures Introduced in House by Mr. Sabath and Mr. Crail.

The following is from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 12: Two bills for Philippine independence, one by Representative Sabath (Dem.), of Chicago, Ill. (H. R. 5509), to be effective July 4 1933, and the other by Representative Crail (Rep.), of Los Angeles, Calif. (H. R. 5462), for complete independence immediately, were introduced in the House Dec. 11. The Crail bill provided that 30 days after its enactment the United States laws excluding from immigration other Asiatic peoples ineligible for citizenship would become operative as to the Philippine people.

Representative Sabath stated orally that there are 13,000,000 Filipinos who would gain their absolute and complete independence upon withdrawal of American sovereignty over the islands. "The United States," he said, "has promised to make the Filipinos free, and we should keep our word without further delay." I believe there is a very substantial majority in both Houses of the present Congress for Philippine independence.

Senator Bingham (Rep.), of Connecticut, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, recently stated orally that Congress is likely to pass an independent bill and Representative Knutson (Rep.), of Red Cloud, Minn., has stated his advocacy of independence legislation. Whether President Hoover would sign or veto an independence bill has been discussed by some of the Members of the two Houses.

#### General Smuts Says South Africa Must Quit Gold Standard.

An Associated Press cablegram from Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec. 18 is taken as follows from the New York "Sun" of last night:

Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, former South African Prime Minister, warned the South African party to prepare for an early general election.

"If there is one lesson more than any other is to be learned from the present crisis, it is that we are not economically independent and that our lot economically is with the British market," he said.

Departure from the gold standard would mean an immense move forward in the Rand mining area, Gen Smuts said. The cost of operating the mines would be reduced, resulting in increased workings, a prolongation of the life of the mines and increased expenditures.

By the abandonment of the gold standard "we shall enter a new era of expansion instead of staring into a blank future of gradual and painful extinction of this great center of population," he concluded.

#### New Zealand Treasury Bills Allotted.

The "Wall Street Journal" of Dec. 16 reported the following from London:

The £4,000,000 six months New Zealand government treasury bills were allotted on Tuesday at an average discount of £6 3s. 3.61d%.

#### House Passes Bill Amending Federal Farm Loan Act to Provide \$100,000,000 Additional Capital for Federal Land Banks—Report by Representative Steagall.

In accordance with the recommendation in the annual message of President Hoover, and likewise in the annual report of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, a bill amending the Federal Farm Loan Act so as to provide \$100,000,000 additional capital for the Federal Land Banks was passed by the House of Representatives on Dec. 19 by a viva voce vote. All amendments were voted down, and a motion to recommit was rejected by a vote of 192 to 165. According

to a Washington dispatch, Dec. 19, to the New York "Times," the bill was carried after the conservative Republicans, joined by several Democrats, including the Tammany delegation, defeated by a vote of 195 to 160 a farm bloc amendment provided for a one-year moratorium on all unpaid loans held by the Federal Land Banks. The same account said:

The offering of the amendment was generally regarded as a gesture by Representatives from farm districts to satisfy constituents who might criticize yesterday's adoption of the foreign debt moratorium.

One clause in the bill, however, permits the Land Banks, at their discretion, to spread out over the next five years payments on farm loans due, which cannot be met.

From the "United States Daily" of Dec. 21 we take the following:

The bill now goes to the Senate.

The motion to recommit, made by Representative McKeown (Dem.), of Ada, Okla., would have carried with it instructions that the bill be amended so as to provide a mandatory moratorium on mortgage payments.

In accordance with assurances of House leaders given President Hoover at the White House on Dec. 18, it was the special program for the day and the majority leader, Representative Rainey (Dem.), of Carrollton, Ill., had promised to hold the House in session so the bill could be speeded over to the Senate before the holiday recess.

Mr. Steagall explained the provisions of the bill, what it is expected to accomplish, and outlined the history of the measure.

Representative Luce (Rep.), of Waltham, Mass., said the proposal is the first move Congress has made toward the freeing of frozen assets in the country. However, he suggested, the extension clause of the bill may endanger the security of the bonds of the Federal Land Banks.

#### Aid for Man in Distress.

Representative Stevenson (Dem.), of Cheraw, S. C., in advocating the measure, said its passage would aid in keeping up the price of the bonds of the Federal Land Banks. He said the bill would give reasonable extension of aid to the man in distress, and that it does not attempt to control the directors of the Federal Farm Loan Board.

Representative Ramseyer (Rep.), of Bloomfield, Iowa, advocated support of proposals which have been introduced with a view to stabilizing commodity prices. He said that unless a way is found to elevate commodity prices this country will be in for a long period of distress and possible social change.

The bill before the House, Representative Strong (Rep.), of Blue Rapids, Kans., told the House, is part of the general program of national defense against financial disaster. The mortgages on some of the best farm land in the country are behind in payments, he said, even though in normal times they would be good security. Now farmers in such a condition are in distress and the bill would relieve that distress and restore confidence.

The measure, he said, would keep Federal Land Bank bonds up to their high standard and will put something sound in back of them.

#### Emergency Relief Provision.

Section 4 of the measure, which provides for extensions of loans, Mr. Strong said, is solely to make possible, in emergency, relief for distressed farmers. If an out-and-out moratorium were permitted to borrowers, the Federal Land Bank System would be wrecked, Mr. Strong asserted.

Representative Hooper (Rep.), of Battle Creek, Mich., said although he is not optimistic enough to believe the bill would bring about financial relief, it might be a contributing factor to restoration of confidence throughout the country. He said he believed this is an "experiment," but one which is in the right direction.

Representative Busby (Dem.), of Houston, Miss., for the measure, said that when agriculture fails the nation is in peril. He said banks do not fail unless the communities surrounding the banks become distressed.

The provision for extension of mortgage payments was criticized by Representative Beedy (Rep.), of Portland, Me., who said it would result in all the affected borrowers attempting to have the time of payments on their loans extended. Although approving the rest of the bill, Mr. Beedy asserted he believes the extension provision may prove harmful to the soundness of the Federal Farm Loan System. He said the banks are now doing everything possible to prevent foreclosures while at the same time keeping the price of their bonds as high as possible.

Representative Hancock (Dem.), of Oxford, N. C., said he believes the measure would "avert a calamity" in this country just as the adoption of the moratorium proposal will "avert a calamity" in Europe. Wholesale foreclosures on farm mortgages would precipitate a serious disaster, Mr. Hancock stated. He pointed out that the reason the extension clause does not take the discriminatory powers from the Federal Farm Loan Board is because to do so would be departing on a policy which may endanger the soundness of the banks. "Section 4 gives the borrowers from the Federal Land Banks the same rights the Administration is trying to give to the borrowers of other banks," Mr. Hancock said.

#### Questions Benefit to Farmers.

Representative LaGuardia (Rep.), of New York City, declared that the farmer will receive "absolutely no benefit" from this bill, but that only the bondholders would be aided. He said the bill proposes that the Federal Government lend \$100,000,000 to the banks without interest. If the idea is to help the farmer, why not lend this \$100,000,000 directly to the farmers without interest so that they can meet their payments on loans made from the land banks at a high rate of interest.

Representative Summers (Dem.), of Dallas, Tex., told the House that debts cannot be paid by borrowing more money. He said he does not believe that the purposes which the sponsors say will be accomplished will be achieved.

Representative Swing (Rep.), of El Centro, Calif., said the measure before the House would be a guiding stick for the bankers of the country so that they would act in a similar manner. He said the proposal would not receive his support except for the fact that the present situation is abnormal.

The bill came to the House with the support of a favorable recommendation from the Committee on Banking and Currency, of which Mr. Steagall (Dem.), of Ozark, Ala., is Chairman. "The Federal Land Banks are confronted with difficulties which have affected the market for their bonds and hampered the officials of the banks in conducting transactions with borrowers," the report, prepared by Mr. Steagall and made public Dec. 19, stated. "The Banks obtain funds with which to supply loans to farmers

by the sale of bonds for which the entire 12 Banks are jointly liable. The law provides that bonds sold by the Banks shall be secured by mortgages of the borrowers. Some of the Banks have found themselves in a situation where they are not in position to maintain the requisite mortgage security to support their bonds. The bill seeks to supply the Banks with funds to enable them to meet payments on bonds and to make additional loans without being forced to foreclose mortgages in cases where it is not desirable to do so.

"Section 1 of the bill authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$100,000,000 out of the Treasury of the United States to be advanced by the Secretary of the Treasury upon request of the Board of Directors of any Federal Land Bank made with the approval of the Federal Farm Loan Board to be called for upon 30 days' notice, any sums thus supplied to any Bank to be covered by stock of such Bank to be issued to the Treasury.

"The stock subscribed by the Treasury in any bank is to be reimbursed to the Treasury from time to time as its capital stock passes into the hands of borrowers.

"The original Federal Farm Loan Act provided for subscriptions by the Government in the amount of \$750,000 to each of the Federal Land Banks, and the Government subscribed to the capital stock of each Bank accordingly. Under the original Act each borrower is required to take 5% of his loans in capital stock, and the amount of the initial capital stock acquired by the Treasury was repaid as fast as the capital stock subscribed by the borrowers was sufficient to absorb it.

"The bill also authorizes the directors of any Bank, with the approval of the Federal Farm Loan Board, to pay off and retire at par, in whole or in part, out of any available resources of such Banks the capital stock subscribed by the Treasury. All money paid into the Treasury for retiring such capital stock held in any Federal Land Bank is to remain in the Treasury and to be available again for the purchase of capital stock in any Federal Land Bank as provided in the bill (Sec. 1).

"It is thought the sum of \$100,000,000 will be sufficient to replenish the capital of the Banks to make practicable the operation of the Banks as contemplated by the Federal Farm Loan Act.

"The Federal Land Banks have, in round figures, outstanding capital stock of \$65,000,000. The total bonded indebtedness is \$1,172,478,700. The mortgage indebtedness to the banks amounts to \$1,171,699,700, representing 408,000 first mortgages. The interest on bonds of the banks is payable semi-annually, and the interest rate charged borrowers cannot exceed by more than 1% per annum the rate borne by the bonds of the bank making the loan.

"The 12 Federal Land Banks, on Nov. 20 1931, showed 76.5% of the loans were not delinquent; 12½% of the installment payments on mortgages were delinquent less than 90 days, and 11% were delinquent over 90 days.

"If the Banks can obtain funds that will make possible refunding of outstanding high-rate bonds, it will enable them to obtain funds at a lower rate, which, in turn, will be reflected in the rates charged borrowers.

"There has been only one sale of bonds since 1928, and that was for the amount of \$20,000,000 on short-term bonds.

"Section 2 of the bill merely requires that each Federal Land Bank shall carry to its reserves account semi-annually 50% of its net earnings until such reserves shall equal its outstanding capital stock before paying any dividends. After the reserves of any Bank shall equal its capital stock, only 10% of the net earnings is required to be added to the reserves account.

"Section 3 provides for building up the reserves of national farm loan associations by requiring that 20% of the net earnings of any association shall be added to its reserves until the same shows a balance equal to its outstanding capital stock before any dividend shall be paid.

"Section 4 of the bill provides that installments on mortgages that are unpaid may be accepted in equal amounts over a period of five years to be paid at the time of paying regular installments to become due. The section seeks to authorize the officials of the Banks to handle foreclosures in a common-sense way to promote the interest of the Bank and avoid arbitrary foreclosures, working unnecessary hardship upon borrowers.

### Senator La Follette Introduces Measure to Create National Economic Council—Bill Provides for Group of Nine Members With a Salary of \$15,000.

A bill (S. 2390) to establish a National Economic Council was introduced in the Senate Dec. 22 by Senator La Follette (Rep.), of Wisconsin. Introduction of the bill follows a series of hearings by a subcommittee of the Committee on Manufactures to determine the advisability of creating such a Council. The United States "Daily" of Dec. 23 from which we quote, went on to say:

Under the terms of the proposed measure the Council would be composed of nine members to be appointed by the President, the group to include "at least one expert on each of the following matters: Industry, finance, transportation, labor relations, agriculture and scientific management." Selection of the individual members, whose appointment must be approved by the Senate, is to be based on their acquaintance with National economic problems.

Terms of members are to be for four years with an annual salary of \$15,000 a year. An annual appropriation of \$500,000 for the council would be authorized.

#### Provisions of Bill.

The bill provides specifically that the council:

- "1. Shall keep advised with respect to general economic and business conditions in the United States;
- "2. Shall consider problems affecting the economic situation of the United States and its citizens;
- "3. Shall endeavor to formulate proposals looking to the solution of such problems;
- "4. Shall make an annual report on or before the first Monday of December to the President and to the Congress, together with its recommendations, if any, for necessary legislation or for other action;

#### Separate Reports.

- "5. Shall, from time to time, as it deems advisable, submit reports dealing with particular economic questions, together with its recommendations, to the President, to the Congress, and to the appropriate economic association, councils and organizations interested in such questions, and;
- "6. Shall initiate the organization of councils or associations within the various major branches of production, distribution and finance to consider economic questions affecting their operations."

The Council would be authorized to make such investigations as it deems necessary. The bill provides, however, that "it shall be unlawful for any

member of the Council, or for any officer, employe, or agent thereof, or any other officer or employe of the United States, to divulge, or to make known in any person, firm, co-partnership, corporation, or association embraced in any examination or investigation conducted by the Council."

### Wisconsin Senate Rejects Bill Embodying Senator La Follette's Proposal to Stabilize Employment and Industry.

A bill embodying the La Follette-Progressive party's proposals for stabilizing employment and industry was defeated in the Wisconsin Senate on Dec. 22 by a vote of 15 to 14. Associated Press accounts also said:

The measure provided that a State industrial commission be empowered to regulate hours of work when unemployment threatened.

Industrial leaders opposed the bill on the ground that it would permit "unsound interference at this time with the prerogatives of industry to meet its own problems."

### Depreciation in New York City Bank Stocks.

Extent of the depreciation in the prominent individual New York City bank stocks from 1929, 1930 and 1931 highs, respectively, to the record low prices in the week ended Dec. 19 is shown in a tabulation issued at the close of the market on Dec. 19 by the bank stock firm of Monahan, Schapiro & Co. They state:

The average depreciation of these stocks from the 1929 record high prices has been approximately 85%, a decline which has raised the yield in a little more than two years from 1½% to 10%. Market values have ranged recently from 10 to 30% below actual book values, whereas in 1929 market values were as high as 350% above book values. Much of the decline in the last three weeks is accounted for in part by the firm as due to "indiscriminate and hasty selling."

The tabulation, which is the first to show the individual record of depreciation for the period of the depression, follows:

	1929 High.	1930 High.	1931 High.	At Lows of the Week.	Per Cent Depre- ciation 1929 High.	Per Cent Depre- ciation 1931.
Bankers.....	261	184	126	49½	80%	60%
Brooklyn Trust.....	1,500	950	570	165	89%	71%
Chase.....	285	182	110	25	91%	77%
City.....	585	259	110	34½	94%	69%
Chemical.....	155	95	53	23½	85%	56%
Central Hanover.....	530	415	280	108	80%	61%
Corn Exchange.....	450	260	137	56	88%	59%
Empire.....	135	110	62	19	85%	69%
First National.....	8,600	6,550	4,150	1,625	81%	61%
Irving.....	104	75	45	15	86%	67%
Manhattan.....	275	157	97	23½	91%	76%
Manufacturers.....	360	157	56	28	92%	50%
New York Trust.....	490	330	194	69	86%	64%
Public.....	335	165	71	19½	94%	73%
U. S. Trust.....	4,800	4,500	3,200	1,475	70%	54%
Guaranty.....	1,205	870	572	246	80%	57%

### President Whitney of New York Stock Exchange Declares That Liquidation, Not Short Selling, Is Responsible for Decline in Security Prices—Again Defends Short Selling.

Before the Syracuse (N. Y.) Chamber of Commerce on Dec. 15, Richard Whitney, President of the New York Stock Exchange, again discussed short selling, and in its defense declared "it is not short selling but liquidation which has been responsible for the decline in security prices." An earlier address by Mr. Whitney on short selling, delivered in Hartford, was referred to in our issue of Oct. 17, page 2550. In our issue of Dec. 19, pages 4044-4048, will be found statistics on short selling made available by the Stock Exchange. Mr. Whitney's address at Syracuse on Dec. 15 was delivered under the head "Short Selling and Liquidation." The address in part follows:

I cannot help feeling that the criticism which has been leveled at short selling has been due, in large measure, to the desire of the public to find some simple explanation for the tremendous declines which have taken place in the prices of stocks. I am firmly convinced that the real explanation lies in the worldwide disturbance of our business and credit conditions. It is not any single factor, like short selling, but the combination of many more important and basic factors which has brought about the result.

The Exchange for many years has taken the position that short selling is a necessary part of an open market for securities. We have always said that in a crisis buying by short sellers would serve to maintain an orderly market. These statements were not based merely on theory. They were the result of the practical experience of the Exchange during the last hundred years and they were supported by the experience of the older market places of Europe. During the last year, when short selling was attacked so violently, the Exchange, in order to have the fullest possible information on the merits of the question, required its members to report their actual short positions at different periods. From May 25 of this year to Sept. 21 these reports were made on approximately a weekly basis. Since then the reports have been made daily. In my address at Hartford I gave some of the statistics which were derived from these reports. The Exchange since that date has prepared detailed figures in regard to the short positions, including not only the totals for each day, but also separate totals for each stock. A study of these statistics is so illuminating that the Exchange has decided to make them public, and they will shortly be furnished to the press. I warn you that the figures are voluminous and will prove of more interest to statisticians than to the average person. Nevertheless, we shall publish these facts as the best proof of the necessity of short selling and the best refutation of the charges against it.

I cannot in a speech give you many of these detailed figures. You may be interested, however, in knowing that on Nov. 24 the total short

position was 3,584,161 shares or slightly more than 2,000,000 shares below the peak figure which was reached in the spring of this year. On the same date the number of separate accounts having short commitments was 12,254, so that on the average each of these accounts was short less than 300 shares.

If it is true, as so many critics have asserted, that short selling smashes prices then certainly one would expect the stocks with the largest short interest to show the widest fluctuations and the greatest declines. The figures prove that this assumption is entirely false. Altogether there were only 15 stocks which at any time since May 25 have had an individual short interest of over 100,000 shares. Of these 15 issues, only two had a short interest which was consistently in excess of 100,000 shares each and only six have always had a short interest of more than 50,000 shares each. These 15 stocks, curiously enough, are the very ones which everybody will admit have had the steadiest market and the narrowest price fluctuations. The greatest short interest in any single stock at any time was 406,000 shares in General Motors. This figure may seem very large but you must remember that General Motors has 43,500,000 shares of common stock and, therefore, the short interest was actually less than 1% of the total capital of the company. If you examine the price fluctuations of General Motors you will find that in the whole course of the year 1931 its high price was 48 and its low price slightly above 22. This is a depreciation of a little more than 50%. There are many other stocks, as we all know only too well, that show a greater percentage of depreciation. Furthermore, the market action of General Motors has been consistently steady. Great quantities of the stock have been bought and sold and yet it has normally moved by small degrees either upward or downward. It is hard to believe, in view of these facts and figures, that the critics of short selling are justified in saying that this practice smashes prices.

Let us look now on the other side of the picture and observe the issues which have had a very small short interest or no short interest at all. Out of the 15 stocks which have experienced the greatest decline in percentage of value since May 25, none had any sizable short interest at any time, while four never had an individual maximum short interest of more than 100 shares and all of them at times had no short interest whatever. Incidentally, out of the 15, three were preferred stocks. Of the 15 stocks that, in the same period, showed the greatest decline in point of dollars per share, only three had any considerable short interest at any time; five never had a short interest of over 100 shares and 11 at different times had no short interest whatever. Of these 15 stocks eight were preferred issues.

The statistics I have referred to show the total short position existing at the end of each business day. Some critics have pointed out that the size of the overnight short position does not reflect the short sales made and covered the same day. This is of course quite true, and it is a perfectly legitimate criticism of our figures. But it is no proof at all that enormous daily "in-and-out" short transactions have been responsible for smashing stock prices. Since Sept. 26 the Stock Exchange has compiled the total number of shares which have been sold short and covered the same day. At their maximum, these "in-and-out" short sales have never exceeded 10.41% of the total daily sales on the Exchange. For the period from Sept. 26 to Nov. 30 they averaged 4.75%. I know these figures will seem surprisingly small to those who have read repeated statements about the destructive activities of professional traders. The truth, however, is often stranger than fiction.

There is still another factor which should be considered in interpreting our figures. It is entirely possible for one short seller to sell short on Monday and to cover on Tuesday by purchasing from a new short seller. In this case, the short commitment of the first man would be replaced by the new short sale of the second man and in consequence the figures for the short interest would not change. On the other hand such a sale would not be reflected in the compilation of the "in-and-out" daily short selling. Just how extensive short sales of this sort have been no one can state with accuracy, and unfortunately it would take an enormous amount of work to analyze the millions of separate stock market transactions which occur even in a dull market. However, in testing the influence of this factor on prices, let us remember that the covering purchase by the first short seller neutralizes the new short sale, and prices therefore are not influenced by these transactions.

Finally, I will cite an instance of how people have been misled by the circulation of unjustified guesses in regard to short selling. A financial writer on a metropolitan journal, alluding to the market of Oct. 28, declared:

Yet, in responsible quarters, it was stated that several stocks had been under heavy short pressure. A canvass of specialists, so I was told, revealed that approximately 80% of the selling in North American was for short account; 60% of Consolidated Gas; 75% of the United Corp.; 80% of United States Steel, and 70% of General Electric.

This article was promptly brought to my attention and to test the accuracy of this very definite statement I had a special investigation made of the short sales in these stocks. Treating all the "in-and-out" transactions as short sales and adding to them the actual increase in the short position on the day in question, I found that the short sales of United States Steel had amounted to 24% as against the imaginary 80%; of General Electric to 17% as against the supposed 70%; of Consolidated Gas to 10% as against 60%; of North American to 7½% as against 80%, and of United Corp. to only 2½% as against the highly imaginative 75%. This is a good illustration of the false statements and exaggerated rumors so frequently circulated concerning short selling. Misinformation of this sort has been used, consciously or unconsciously, to build up a prejudice against short selling and has also been the basis of hasty and unsound conclusions about this subject.

I do not wish to appear cynical, but it seems to me very doubtful if even the most complete statistics will ever convince those who do not wish to be convinced. There is an old saying that you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink. It is always easy for people to invent imaginary statistics as in the case cited above, and to assert that the actual figures are meaningless when they do not support the writer's preconceived ideas. The statistics I have cited, both to-night and on previous occasions, should prove to all fair minded people who wish to know the truth that short selling is not a destructive force but a vitally necessary part of a security market.

The facts and statistics I have cited show that short selling has not smashed prices on the Stock Exchange. What then has brought about the drastic decline of security prices which has taken place in the last two years? We all know we are in the midst of a business depression more severe than any within the memory of man and yet we do not seem to understand why security prices have fallen so low. I think this is due to the fact that the average man forgets very quickly the tremendous economic events which have occurred in the last two years.

Starting with the recession of business activity in 1929 and consequent unemployment, we have successively seen a more and more rapid falling off of business. At the same time, conditions in many nations of the world have been chaotic. We all know what has been taking place in

Russia. The breakdown of reparations payments by Germany, and the resulting moratorium, has affected not only this country but many of our former allies. England and several other European countries have gone off the gold standard. South American nations, with few exceptions, have defaulted in the payment of interest upon their external obligations which are held throughout this country and Europe. The machinery of government in Australia has been on the verge of collapse. There have been revolutions in Spain, serious disturbances in India, and the possibility of a great war in China. Each one of these factors would have been sufficient to disturb confidence in the value of securities. Taken collectively, their force was irresistible.

The security market has only reflected world conditions and yet there is confusion and misunderstanding, one reason perhaps being that it has reacted more quickly to the depression than other lines of business or industry. By its very nature, a security market must reflect existing conditions more rapidly than business which is often carried along for considerable periods of time by inertia. Existing contracts also tend to keep business in operation, even after it is clear that additional orders will not be forthcoming. With securities, however, the effect of a business disturbance is immediate and liquidation takes place much more rapidly than in other lines. Let me remind you that brokers' loans at the highest point in 1929 were almost exactly \$8,500,000,000. On the first of December of this year they were only about \$730,000,000. This indicates a shrinkage of more than 91% and gives some idea of how drastically the stock market has been liquidated. When you consider that this decline in the amount of brokers' loans has necessitated the selling of long stocks it is little wonder that prices have fallen to their present low levels. It is not short selling, but liquidation which has been responsible for the decline in security prices.

In this connection, let me point out what a small part short selling has actually played in the stock market. Since May 25, when the Exchange first commenced to collect regular statistics in regard to the short interest, down to Nov. 30 of this year, the total short position actually declined by about 1,850,000 shares. Yet in this same period the total number of transactions on the Exchange amounted to 264,300,000 shares. Assuming that the daily "in-and-out" transactions of short sellers should be computed at 5%, which is more than it has averaged during the last two months, this type of trading could not account for more than 13,200,000 shares. There would then remain 251,000,000 shares, or 95% of the total sales accounted for, with no allowance for the shrinkage which actually took place in the short interest. In other words, during a period of steadily declining prices, short selling amounted to less than 5% of the securities sold. To say that this 5% was the cause of the decline is to ignore entirely the effect of the 95%, which represented the sale of securities owned outright or held on margin.

The unwillingness on the part of the public to buy securities has been the real trouble with our market and the cause of declining prices. That there were no willing buyers is easily explained by prevailing business conditions. I do not doubt that many of you have said to yourselves in recent times that such and such a stock looked cheap or that it was selling at an absurd price and yet you hesitated to buy. This was because you were not sure that the worst was over and you still expected that the next day might bring forth bad news. Confidence is bound to return, and when it does, prices will rise. I feel that the basic causes of the depression have been intelligently studied and that in all quarters of the world responsible people are working towards constructive ends. I have no doubt of their ultimate success, and I have supreme confidence in the future of our country and its great business and industrial organizations.

In conclusion, let me repeat that the Exchange is a market place. It does not make prices nor should it be a party to any arrangement or scheme to affect prices. If a market place for securities is to fulfill its function in the economic order of things, it must fairly and honestly permit the forces of supply and demand to determine prices. The Exchange, as an institution, must be impartial. It cannot for expediency or convenience assist prices to rise when they are low or depress prices when they are high. We are all anxious to see prices rise; to see business become normal and prosperity return, but if the officials of the Exchange allow their personal wishes to influence their judgment they will be false to their trust. It is because the Exchange knows that short selling is an essential part of a market for securities that it defends the practice and stands firmly against the restriction or impairment of it, directly or indirectly. This is not a hasty nor an arbitrary conclusion, but is based upon the Exchange's long experience and upon the definite facts and statistics which our recent investigations have produced. In the light of this knowledge our duty is plain and we must oppose attempts to cure present conditions by unsound means. Insofar as the Exchange is concerned, the defense of short selling is not a matter of opinion, it is a matter of principle.

#### Richard Whitney of New York Stock Exchange Outlines Workings of Short Selling to Senator Fess—Proposed Inquiry by Senator Capper—Bill of Senator Brookhart.

In the face of the prospect of an investigation by Congress on short selling on the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Whitney, President of the Exchange, explained in Washington on Dec. 12 to Senator Simeon D. Fess what he termed the advantages of such sales and justified the practice. He stated that 85% of the operations of the Exchange represented liquidation. The Washington account to the New York "Times" also said:

The conference, which was regarded as of importance because of reports here and in New York that an inquiry probably would demand the names of the short-sale operators, Senator Fess said, was informal.

He had asked Mr. Whitney to discuss the situation so that he would be informed of the ramifications of short selling and their bearing upon the depressing of security values. The interview was not sought by Mr. Whitney and he did not confer with any other political leaders.

Mr. Whitney stated that he did not come here in reference to the rumors of an investigation and declined to discuss the reports.

"I asked Mr. Whitney to drop in when he came here," Senator Fess stated, "so that I might go over the situation with him and learn what the Exchange had done to check short selling and what it could do to effect reforms. I have read two or three speeches delivered by Mr. Whitney on the subject of short selling and I was greatly impressed with what he said.

"In New York they think short selling is all right and down here we think it is an evil. I wish to determine in my own mind whether an investigation by Congress into short selling is necessary or whether the Stock Exchange will make such regulations as to bring an end to its evils.

I am not opposed to an investigation. Certainly some sort of inquiry will come on the Capper bills and other measures before Senate standing committees.

"Unless the Stock Exchange does something to correct the practice of short selling, Congress will take drastic steps in that direction, in my opinion."

According to Senator Fess, Mr. Whitney thinks the Stock Exchange has gone as far as it can toward correcting the faults of short selling.

"I see no evil in short selling," Mr. Whitney said after his talk with Senator Fess. "That has been my position, as explained fully, and I still find no reason to change it."

**Capper Predicts Inquiry.**

Predicting an inquiry, Senator Capper said to-day:

"It is time for the Government to step in and stop the vicious and menacing gambling in stocks and commodities which goes on in our great markets and unsettles business and legitimate trade. I believe that legislation will be enacted by this Congress which will effectively regulate short selling and perhaps abolish it altogether.

"The short-selling game is now the biggest racket in the gambling market. Regardless of resulting distortion of values and the wrecking of normal and wholesome conditions of commerce and industry, this practice has its highest expression on the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade.

"Those who defend short selling are those who profit by it, the Exchanges perhaps most of all. The Government can stop it by law. The promises of these Exchanges to better these conditions have never been kept. Undoubtedly the reason is that the markets are controlled by the gambling element.

"In this time of depression, the stock market gamblers have frequently attacked the nationally-owned securities of sound and successful businesses, and at the same time have exerted a destructive influence beyond estimate on the prosperity of the country.

"The last three years have shown the evils of short selling and Congress, in my opinion, is prepared to enact legislation that will regulate short selling or prohibit it altogether.

**Watson Expects Legislation.**

Senator Watson is confident that the Senate will consider regulatory legislation and that the Stock Exchanges face an investigation.

"It is the belief of many," he said, "that we shall not recover from our present depression until transactions of this kind are either prohibited or are greatly curtailed or properly safeguarded in the public interest."

Inquiry into the operations of the Stock Exchanges and the Chicago Board of Trade is favored not only by the Progressive bloc, but some conservative Senators. Senator Glass, ranking minority member on the Committee on Banking and Currency, while not insistent upon an investigation will push with vigor his bill to tax short sales in the hope that excessive taxation will bring an end to the practice.

Any inquiry into short selling probably will be made by the Senate Finance and Banking and Currency Committees on bills now pending, and probably will include not only short selling, but future selling on the commodity exchanges. Some conservative Senators said to-day that they were opposed to such an inquiry as it probably would cause a greater depression of the market and lead to no good results.

There are four bills now before Senate committees. Two are before the Committee on Banking and Currency. Senator Glass has revived his proposal to tax stock sales made within 60 days, 5%, while Senator Capper has a bill to authorize the Trade Commission to regulate short selling and in certain conditions prohibit it. Another Capper measure now before the Finance Committee imposes a tax of 25% on the profits of short selling.

The most drastic move to stop short selling is proposed by Senator Brookhart of Iowa, who has reintroduced his bill prohibiting the use of the mails, telephone and telegraph for short sale transactions.

**Resolution Introduced in United States Senate for Canadian As Member of Federal Reserve Board—Would Also Stabilize Canadian Currency at Parity with That of United States.**

The following is from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 22:

A resolution (S. Res. 118) for negotiations with Canada to name a representative of the Canadian Government as a member of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States and to provide for stabilization of the currency of Canada at a parity with that of this country, was introduced in the Senate Dec. 21 by Senator Kean (Rep.), of New Jersey.

The resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, follows in full text:

**Resolved,** That the President of the United States is requested to enter into negotiations with the Government of the Dominion of Canada with a view to the conclusion of a treaty with that Government, under the terms of which (1) a representative of the Government of Canada, appointed by the Governor General, with the consent of the Canadian Parliament, shall be a member of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States, and (2) provision shall be made for the stabilization of the currency of Canada at a parity of value with the similar standard currency of the United States, and for the maintenance of such parity.

**Increase in Gold Reserve in Back of Canadian Gold Notes—Exceeds Statutory Requirements.**

Press advices Dec. 19 from Ottawa said:

Department of Finance statement shows its gold reserve behind Dominion notes on Nov. 30, at \$87,262,035, was \$1,361,815 in excess of statutory requirements. Gold held against savings bank deposits was \$2,427,181, making total gold held \$71,051,033, comparing with \$75,245,534 total on Oct. 31.

Amount of Dominion notes in circulation on Nov. 30 was \$197,262,035, including \$148,201,000 legal tender notes for banks, these notes being \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$50,000 denominations.

**Montreal Stock Exchange Removes Minimum Prices from Number of Stocks.**

Canadian Press dispatches from Montreal, Dec. 22 stated:

By the elimination of a group of stocks that have been inactive a long time, the Montreal Stock Exchange to-day made its first move to free the listings of the minimum-price restrictions which have ruled since Sept. 21. These issues are to be placed on the free list. The pegged prices for others more active have been revised downward.

Added to the free list are the following issues:

Abitibi 7% preferred.	Frontenac Breweries.
Agnew-Surpass common and pref.	Goulds Pumps.
Alberta Pacific preferred.	Intercolonial Coal.
Amalgamated Elec. com. & pref.	Maple Leaf Milling.
Bathurst A. N. B. Grain preferred.	Mexican Light.
British Empire Steel 7% 2d pref.	Montreal Loan & Mortgage.
Canada Foundries & Forgings A.	National Telegraph.
Canadian Fairbanks-Morse pref.	National Brick.
Canadian General Elec. com. & pref.	Nova Scotia Steel.
Carriage preferred.	Port Alfred.
Dominion Iron & Steel preferred.	St. Lawrence Flour.
Dominion Steel preferred.	St. Maurice.
East Kootenay Power.	Simpson class A and B preferred.
Famous Players Canadian.	Eastern Grocers.
Foundation.	

To place the local list on a common ground with the minimum prices that still remain on a few stocks on the Toronto Stock Exchange, the local committee has revised minimum prices here as follows:

	From.	To.		From.	To.
Bell Telephone	121	119	Windsor Hotel	12	10
Gypsum	5 3/4	5	B. C. Power, B.	8 3/4	8
Lake Woods, pref.	85	35	Cement, pref.	66	65 1/4
Steel Can	22	21 3/4	Smelters	65	60

**New Orleans Stock Exchange to Discontinue Trading in Bank Stocks.**

The New Orleans Stock Exchange voted on Dec. 2 to discontinue trading in bank stocks, it was stated, in an Associated Press cablegram on that date from New Orleans, which also said:

An official statement said that while "all stocks of every character have naturally declined in value" without effect upon the operations of the corporations which they represent, "in the case of banks corresponding material declines in stock quotations might have a harmful effect which would be undeserved."

**Senate Resolution Asks Investigation of Operations of Cotton Exchanges.**

In its Dec. 23 issue the "United States Daily" said:

A resolution (S. J. Res. 63) to investigate certain operations on the cotton exchanges was introduced in the Senate Dec. 21 by Senator Sheppard (Dem.) of Texas. The resolution, which is a duplicate of one introduced by the Texas Senator last session, would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to make an investigation through the Grain Futures Administration of the decline in cotton since 1926, the amount of short selling and other factors related to the situation. It would appropriate \$75,000 for the purpose of the investigation.

**Studebaker Sales Company Offers Free to Buyers of Used Cars, Shares of Stock Listed on New York Stock Exchange.**

A Chicago dispatch Dec. 19 to the New York "Times" stated that the Studebaker Sales Co. of Chicago offered that day as an inducement to prospective buyers of 26 used cars from 10 to 100 shares of stock listed on the New York Exchange free with each purchase. The dispatch added:

The stocks include Alleghany Corp., Grigsby-Grunow, Wabash Ry., Remington-Rand, Curtiss-Wright, Armour A, R-K-O and Chicago, St. Paul & Milwaukee Ry., which formerly ranged from \$18 to \$82 per share.

To the purchasers of a Chevrolet coach, reduced to \$65, are to be given 10 shares of Grigsby-Grunow, formerly \$70 a share, while with a 1931 Studebaker free-wheeling President Eight sport roadster, reduced to \$1,695, are to go 100 shares of Armour A, formerly 18 3/4 a share.

The promoters point out that if the stocks rise to anywhere near their former value the purchaser will not only get his car free, but a substantial premium in addition.

The offer expires at mid-night, Dec. 24, and is good only at the main office of the Studebaker Sales Co.

The company's advertisement asserts that every car in the offer has been reduced in price 25 to 50% and that liberal time payments are provided.

**Stock Exchange Inquiry Requested in House.**

According to the "United States Daily" of Dec. 23 an investigation of the causes of the prevailing industrial depression particularly with references to the collapse of prices of securities dealt in on the New York Stock Exchange with a view to preventing a recurrence of such a situation would be ordered by a resolution (H. Con. Res. 6) introduced by Representative Keller (Dem.), of Alva., Ill., Dec. 21. A similar measure (S. Con. Res. 5) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Walsh (Dem.), of Montana.

**Market Value of Bonds Listed on New York Stock Exchange—Figures for Dec. 1 1931.**

On Dec. 9 the New York Stock Exchange issued the Dec. 1 pre-release of the total market value and the average market price of all listed bonds as follows:

As of Dec. 1 1931 there were 1,602 bond issues aggregating \$52,547,476.192 par value listed on the New York Stock Exchange, with a total market value of \$39,512,398.607.

In the following table listed bonds are classified by governmental and industrial groups, with the aggregate market value and average price for each.

	Market Value.	Avg. Price.
United States Government	\$15,066,545,304	\$99.31
Foreign Government	10,025,889,759	60.88
Railroad Industry (United States)	7,300,951,987	67.49
Utilities (United States)	3,261,376,055	36.76
Industrial (United States)	2,512,096,588	67.84
Foreign companies	1,345,538,916	51.19
All bonds	\$39,512,398,607	\$75.19

From the December "Bulletin" of the Exchange the following is taken:

DATA ON LISTED BONDS—ALL LISTED BONDS.

Date.	No. of Issuers.	No. of Issues.	Average Price.	Par Value of Listed Bonds.	Total Market Value.
Jan. 1 1925	---	1,332	\$94.79	\$35,457,811,674	\$33,611,817,346
Jan. 1 1926	---	1,367	95.98	36,995,089,533	35,509,211,458
Jan. 1 1927	---	1,420	98.06	37,900,053,650	37,167,607,468
Jan. 1 1928	---	1,491	99.95	36,881,320,122	36,874,717,458
Jan. 1 1929	824	1,534	97.51	48,588,549,854	47,379,028,502
Jan. 1 1930	824	1,543	95.59	49,058,099,434	46,892,458,780
Dec. 1 1930	837	1,609	95.74	50,094,547,694	47,959,730,628
Jan. 1 1931	838	1,607	94.63	50,072,879,897	47,384,805,889
Feb. 1 1931	836	1,602	95.32	49,881,922,059	47,546,190,092
Mar. 1 1931	837	1,605	95.53	50,108,876,488	47,869,817,155
Apr. 1 1931	835	1,610	95.42	50,788,506,210	48,463,021,490
May 1 1931	835	1,605	94.84	50,911,768,944	48,282,336,086
June 1 1931	836	1,608	93.67	50,848,575,244	47,629,698,234
July 1 1931	839	1,608	94.77	51,846,247,978	49,132,895,753
Aug. 1 1931	842	1,608	93.14	51,938,698,878	48,375,745,823
Sept. 1 1931	842	1,607	91.09	51,949,752,078	47,318,973,356
Oct. 1 1931	840	1,605	81.70	52,671,359,575	43,031,447,232
Nov. 1 1931	841	1,603	79.28	52,599,179,992	41,702,539,146
Dec. 1 1931	840	1,602	75.19	52,547,476,192	39,512,398,607

Transfer in United States of English Stock Taxable on Basis of Par Value in Dollars—Ruling of Internal Revenue Commissioner Announced by New York Stock Exchange.

Secretary Green of the New York Stock Exchange issued the following notice on Dec. 22:

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.  
Committee on Securities.

Dec. 22 1931.

To the Members of the Exchange:

I am directed by the Committee on Securities to call attention to the following ruling issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and published in 1921 (O. D. 84. S. T. 3-21-199):

"Rate of exchange on transfer of foreign stock. The transfer in this country of English stock is taxable upon the basis of its par or face value in dollars as determined by the rate of exchange at the time and place of the transfer."

ASHBEL GREEN, Secretary.

Year Book of New York Stock Exchange—642 Firm Members Oct. 1 1931 Compared with 654 Firms a Year Ago.

The 1930-31 edition of the New York Stock Exchange Year Book containing statistical data and other important information concerning the activities of the Exchange has just been published. The new publication contains practically all of the data which was in previous editions, with statistics and other material brought up to date.

Among other things, the new Year Book reveals that in the fall of 1931 there were 3,855 partners in 642 firms in New York and elsewhere throughout the country, and that at the same time there were 1,398 branch offices, of which 220 were located in New York City, and 1,178 were out-of-town. These offices were in widely separated parts of the country and abroad; namely in 337 cities, 44 States and territories, six foreign countries, and aboard one transatlantic liner. A year ago there were 654 firms and 1,533 branch offices. Further information disclosed in the Year Book is indicated as follows:

The statistics show that the inactive stock department has grown during the past year so that on Oct. 1 1931, 321 different issues were designated as "inactives" and traded in on a 10 share basis, as compared with 266 on Oct. 1 1928, and 285 on Oct. 1 1929, and 310 on Oct. 1 1930.

The personnel records of the Exchange contained in the Year Book reveal that on Sept. 1 1931, the Stock Exchange and its affiliated companies had a total of 2,429 employees.

The record established during 1930 by the Quotation Department which supplies current quotations on securities by direct wire to member offices remained unchanged. On May 5 1930, this department answered a total of 54,201 requests for such quotations.

Among the new features of the latest edition of the Year Book are the sections relating to the Medical Department, and to the New York Stock Exchange Institute. In the case of the former the record shows that more than 40,000 visits were received by Stock Exchange doctors during the first 10 months of the year.

Further details regarding Stock Exchange membership are taken as follows from the Year Book:

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIP.  
(As of Oct. 1 1931)

Number of members in New York	1,255
Number of members out-of-town	99
Total number of members of Exchange	1,354
Number of firms in New York	546
Number of firms out-of-town	96
Total number of Stock Exchange firms	642
Number of member partners New York firms in New York	829
Number of non-member partners New York firms in New York	1,875
Total partners in New York	2,704
Number of member partners out-of-town firms	96
Number of non-member partners out-of-town firms	382
Number of non-member partners New York firms with out-of-town addresses	673
Total partners out-of-town	1,151
Total partners Stock Exchange firms	3,855

The following compilation, comparing the number of members and the number of firms in New York City and out-of-town, over the period since 1880, shows the constant growth in the number of out-of-town members and firms. The figures are as of Jan. 1 of each year.

Year.	New York City.		Out-of-Town.		Total.	
	Members.	Firms.	Members.	Firms.	Members.	Firms.
1880	1,084	358	16	16	1,100	374
1890	1,030	377	70	60	1,100	437
1900	975	421	125	100	1,100	521
1910	1,004	489	96	92	1,100	581
1920	979	447	121	116	1,100	563
1925	968	423	132	128	1,100	551
1926	968	456	132	131	1,100	587
1927	970	466	130	127	1,100	593
1928	967	475	133	131	1,100	606
1929	973	487	127	124	1,100	611
1930	1,200	541	130	124	1,330	665
1931	1,235	545	113	109	1,348	654
1931*	1,237	540	112	109	1,349	649
1931*	1,255	546	99	96	1,354	642

\* As of Oct. 1.

The following statistics also appear in the Year Book.

Ticker Tape Consumption.

The average consumption of ticker tape on a five-million-share day is approximately 2,500 feet per ticker.

On Oct. 29 1929, when total sales amounted to more than 16,000,000 shares, approximately 80,000,000 feet or 15,000 miles of ticker tape were used on the stock tickers alone.

During 1929 when total sales amounted to more than 1,124,000,000 shares, establishing a new high record, approximately 5,340,000,000 feet of ticker tape, or more than 1,000,000 miles, were consumed on the stock tickers alone.

High Records.

The greatest number of stocks to sell ex-dividend on a single day up to Oct. 1 1931, was 139 on Dec. 15 1926.

The highest price at which a membership on the New York Stock Exchange was posted for transfer up to Oct. 1 1930, was \$625,000.

The largest volume of trading in stocks in any full year to date was in 1929 when the total turnover amounted to 1,124,608,910 shares. The largest month was October 1929, with a total of 141,668,410 shares and the largest week that ending Nov. 2 1929, with a total of 43,499,540 shares. The largest day was Oct. 29 1929, with a total of 16,410,030 shares.

The largest volume of trading on a Saturday (two-hour session) was on Saturday, May 3 1930, when the volume of trading amounted to 4,867,530 shares.

The largest volume of trading in bonds in any year was in 1922 when the total turnover, as compiled by the New York "Times" amounted to \$4,098,696,000 par value. The largest month was December 1919, with a total of \$689,745,400, and the largest week that ending Dec. 27 1929 with a total of \$151,620,200. The largest day was Dec. 30 1918 with a total of \$44,486,000 par value.

There were only 11 days prior to 1928 when the volume of trading in stocks exceeded 3,000,000 shares. These were April 30 1901, Dec. 21 1916, Nov. 10 1925, Nov. 13 1925, March 2 1926, March 3 1926, March 30 1926, Oct. 4 1927, Dec. 2 1927, and Dec. 16 1927.

The volume of trading in a single day never exceeded 4,000,000 shares prior to 1928. Since Jan. 1 1928, and up to and including Oct. 1 1931, the volume of trading has exceeded 5,000,000 shares on 77 days, 6,000,000 shares on 23 days, 7,000,000 shares on nine days, 8,000,000 shares on six days, 9,000,000 shares on four days, and 10,000,000 shares on three days.

Short Sales on New York Curb Exchange Sept. 23 1931—Dec. 15 1931.

William S. Muller, President of the New York Curb Exchange, issued a statement on Dec. 21 which disclosed for the first time the scope of all operations on the short side in that market, covering the period Sept. 23 1931, to, and including, Dec. 15 1931.

Total volume of short sales follows:

Date.	Shares.	Total Transactions During Periods.
Sept. 23 1931	129,542	September-October..... 10,205,854
Oct. 23 1931	91,344	October-November..... 5,781,939
Nov. 23 1931	54,596	Nov.-Dec. 15..... 5,997,845
Dec. 15 1931	53,258	

The statement also said:

Of the approximately 2,400 domestic and foreign stocks on the trading list of the Exchange, and which have a total par value of more than \$14,000,000,000, only four securities had a short interest of more than 1,000 shares as of Dec. 15 1931. These issues included, Cities Service with 9,974 shares, Electric Bond & Share with 8,163 shares, Niagara Hudson Power with 6,055 shares and American Superpower with 1,250 shares.

Inasmuch as 21,966,368 shares were dealt in during the period covered in the compilation, the figures plainly show the comparatively unimportant part short selling plays in the operations in Curb securities.

Widening of Powers of Comptroller of Currency Provided in Bill Introduced by Senator Capper—Would Amend Laws Affecting Foreign Banking Corporations.

From Washington Dec. 20 the New York "Journal of Commerce" reported the following:

Extension of the powers of Comptroller of the Currency Pole over foreign banking corporations doing business in the District of Columbia is sought in a bill revising and amplifying local laws relating to banks, trust companies and building loan associations drawn by the Comptroller's office and introduced into Congress yesterday by Senator Capper (Rep., Kan.).

In a memorandum accompanying the measure it was said that "some foreign corporations doing a banking business in the District of Columbia have very broad powers under their charters and, while as a general thing they keep within reasonable bounds in their business, it is felt that for the best interests of the public the Comptroller of the Currency should have power further to regulate all such banking business if he deems it necessary."

The bill provides for double liability hereafter for stockholders of all banks doing business here. At present, it is explained, there is no provision for

imposing such liability upon shareholders of a foreign corporation doing business in the capital.

Control also is sought of foreign building and loan associations engaged in business here.

### Arthur Guy Reappointed Commissioner of Banks in Massachusetts.

The reappointment of Arthur Guy as Commissioner of Banks in Massachusetts for a term of three years was announced recently by Governor Joseph B. Ely. Commissioner Guy was sworn in on Dec. 16 by Governor Ely, after his reappointment had been confirmed by the Executive Council under suspension of the rule by which appointments are usually deferred for confirming action a week. The Boston "Transcript" of Dec. 16 reporting this added:

Commissioner Guy has been connected with the State Banking Department since 1913. He had been Deputy Bank Commissioner for a number of years and succeeded to the office of Commissioner on Dec. 31 1930, following the resignation of former Commissioner Roy A. Hovey. Mr Hovey's unexpired term which Guy assumed when he became Commissioner terminated on April 8 last and from that time Mr. Guy has retained the office as a holdover.

### Reports Received By New York Federal Reserve Bank Regarding Commercial Paper Outstanding.

The following announcement was issued Dec. 24 by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York:

Reports received by this Bank from commercial paper dealers show a total of \$173,684,384 of open-market commercial paper outstanding on Nov. 30 1931.

The amount outstanding Oct. 31 totaled \$210,000,000, as was indicated in our issue of Nov. 14, page 3189.

### Claim of Priority of State in Closed Banks Is Settled—United States Comptroller of Currency Agrees to Plan of Treasurer of West Virginia to Have Checks Returned.

In its Dec. 16 issue the "United States Daily" said:

An agreement relative to the handling of checks on State funds in closed National banks has been reached by State Treasurer William S. Johnson and Comptroller of the Currency, J. W. Pole. Mr. Johnson has announced in a letter to the West Virginia depository banks.

Mr. Johnson's letter to Comptroller Pole asking for an agreement appeared in the issue of Dec. 5.

His letter follows in full text:

After considerable delay and a lot of hard work, I have finally secured from the Comptroller of the Currency, Hon. J. W. Pole, and from Mr. M. G. Wallace, Counsel for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, an agreement regarding the handling of State checks drawn upon National banks and received by them prior to their closing and for which remittances were not made by them in time to clear through the Federal Reserve banks.

#### Return of Checks Sought.

I have been trying to secure an agreement with the receivers of closed National banks to credit the State's account back with the amount of such checks and to return them through the regular channels as dishonored and unpaid. By this method I can when the checks are returned to you reimburse you for same by giving you new checks drawn on solvent banks.

In a letter dated Dec. 10 from Mr. M. G. Wallace, Counsel for the Federal Reserve Bank at Richmond, he says:

The West Virginia statute to which you allude appears to give to the forwarding bank—that is to say, the bank which sent checks to the failed bank for remittance—election to treat such checks as dishonored or to prove a claim on behalf of the owner or owners. The statute would therefore apparently authorize this bank, in the case of a failure, to immediately make the election.

We of course could not accept instructions from any person except the bank which had sent us the checks, because we would have no way of knowing whether or not such person had a legitimate interest in the matter, as our records do not show any description of the checks which we handle except the name of the bank from which they were received and the name of the bank to which they were sent.

Therefore, in all such cases you should advise the payee of the checks to have their banks instruct us to ask for the return of the checks, and in giving these instructions the names of the drawers of the checks should be given.

#### Approved by Comptroller.

Hon. J. W. Pole, Comptroller of the Currency, in his letter under date of Dec. 9 says: "We have very recently decided that although we can not recognize statutes such as Section 13 of said Act of March 11 1931 (which provide for preferred claims) as having application to closed National banks we can properly recognize statutes such as Section 11 of said Act as having application, because they are not necessarily directed toward closed banks but have equal application to going banks, and for this, and other reasons, do not encroach upon the foregoing principles relating to preferred claims against National banks. Consequently if the Federal Reserve banks or other forwarding banks make election in accordance with the requirements of said Section 11, this office is prepared to instruct the receivers to recognize such election and to return the items to the holders thereof so as to permit the holders to proceed against the drawers of the checks, which in this case would be, of course, the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia.

"Such election, if seasonably made, may prove to be a solution, as a practical matter, of most if not all of the cases in which you are now concerned, inasmuch as the account of the State Treasurer will be restored to the balance existing prior to the drawing of such checks if and when the checks are received by the State Treasurer and are returned by him to the receiver. Assuming in such cases that the accounts are properly and adequately secured, the balances then found to be due the State Treasurer can be paid in due course upon the filing of proofs of claims in the usual way, with the receiver.

"We would be entirely willing, if you care to submit to us a list of the banks in which the State Treasurer has deposits, to make a special investigation in each case to determine the status of the same and we will, of course, co-operate with you in every way possible toward expediting a disposition of the various matters therein involved."

#### Requests Banks to Act.

I want to suggest to each of the banks that have handled any checks drawn on closed National banks for which it has not received remittance

that it comply with the above suggestion, that is, make demand upon Mr. Wallace and the closed National bank upon which the check or checks were drawn to return same through the regular channels as dishonored and unpaid, giving them all of the necessary data and information regarding each check so that it can be identified and traced. If you do not have such data, I should be glad to furnish same upon request.

To the end that the embarrassing and intolerable situation brought about by the withholding of the payment of State checks drawn upon closed National banks may be speedily adjusted, I am going to urge you to give this matter your immediate attention.

### Governor Harrison of New York Federal Reserve Bank Before Senate Committee Urged Prompt Action on Reconstruction Finance Corporation—National Credit Corporation Not Accomplishing As Much As Desired in Relieving Frozen Bank Credits—Views of Under-Secretary of Treasury Ogden L. Mills and Senator Glass—National Credit Corporation's Loans \$15,000,000.

On Dec. 19, George L. Harrison, Governor of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, appearing before the Senate Sub-committee on Banking and Currency, urged prompt action on bill providing for the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. A Washington dispatch on that date to the New York "Times" went on to say:

He explained that the National Credit Corporation, representing a pool of banking interests, could not be employed in the general situation and had not done so much as desired in relieving frozen credit in the banks.

He said that the banks associated in the pool had not been called upon to pay their debentures in full because thus far aid had been furnished to weak banks through loans.

Both he and Ogden L. Mills, Under-Secretary of the Treasury, said that the formation of the National Credit Corporation had had a splendid psychological effect in re-establishing confidence of depositors. Neither witness, however, told the Committee how much money had been borrowed to aid distressed banks.

Mr. Mills insisted that immediate need existed for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, saying that "if it is not created it will be a matter of regret to every member of the subcommittee."

He agreed with Senator Glass that there would be no objection to excluding foreign securities as collateral for loans with the proposed corporation.

Senator Glass objected to the provisions in the bill which make paper of non-member banks eligible for rediscount. On this point Eugene Meyer, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, said it was necessary to assist Federal Reserve members as well as non-member banks.

Senator Glass replied that this was a dangerous practice, opening the door of the Reserve System in respect to the rediscounting of paper and even to unlimited rediscounting of government bonds. He declared that the "Federal Reserve System was organized to respond to demands of commerce and industry," and not to make investment securities eligible. The rediscount privilege, he said, had already been "frightfully abused."

#### Mills Against Federal Bond Issue.

Senator Bulkeley of Ohio expressed the opinion that the Government might as well issue its own bonds to raise the money for the Corporation.

This was disapproved by Mr. Mills who said it would complicate the Treasury's bookkeeping system and that it was most desirable that the "Corporation should be under distinct and outside management with its securities guarded by the Government."

Senator Bulkeley reiterated that the National Credit Corporation had not functioned and asked Mr. Mills the cause. The latter explained that the formation of the Corporation had served a useful purpose, but that he did not know the amount of the loans.

Senator Watson interrupted to say that the Corporation had loaned \$15,000,000.

### Republicans Move Against Representative McFadden—Senator Reed Asks Postmaster General to Bar Patronage Following Charge That President Hoover Was "Tool" of International Bankers—Representative Asks Federal Reserve Board Inquiry—Declares German Assets Were Concealed.

Supporters of President Hoover in Congress have set out to make Representative McFadden, Republican of Pennsylvania, former Chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, pay dearly for his accusations that the President, acting as an "agent" of international financiers and the German Republic, had "sold out" the country in negotiating international debt moratorium. The foregoing, is from a Washington dispatch to the New York "Times" under date of Dec. 17, the account also stating:

Following closely on the demand of House Republican regulars that Mr. McFadden file his charges in the form of articles of impeachment, Senator Reed of Pennsylvania notified Postmaster General Brown to-day that from now on he and Senator Davis would handle postoffice patronage in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania District, which Mr. McFadden represents.

Mr. Brown was told by Senator Reed that in the future, so far as Mr. McFadden's recommendations for Post Office appointments are concerned the Postmaster General could simply consider that the recalcitrant Representative "had died."

Senator Reed disclosed his action at the White House immediately after a conference with President Hoover. He announced also that he would do everything within his power in the next primary election to defeat Mr. McFadden for renomination.

#### Other Steps Contemplated.

Mr. McFadden's accusations against the President were made Tuesday [Dec. 15] in a 10,000-word speech in the House. They climaxed a series of charges made by the Representative over a period of several years against international bankers, who, he alleged, have been trying to involve this country and its financial institutions in the affairs of Europe.



Failing repeatedly to get action on resolutions he has submitted relative to investigations of the State and Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve System as to their alleged international entanglements, Mr. McFadden turned his barrage on Mr. Hoover.

Administration followers in the House who have told Mr. McFadden that he must either produce evidence or be branded a "foul traducer of the character of an honest man," indicated to-day that they have additional steps in mind. They are waiting they said, for Mr. McFadden to answer their demand for positive evidence.

Outwardly unmoved by the storm raised by his remarks, Mr. McFadden to-day continued his fight on the international bankers and the heads of the government finance. He presented a resolution calling for an investigation by the House Banking and Currency Committee into the activities of the Federal Reserve Board and Federal Reserve Banks "with respect to foreign banks and foreign central banks."

In a statement issued when he presented his resolution, Mr. McFadden called attention to the report of the Young Committee at Basle that financial conditions in Germany had been found better than thought. The Committee's report was made in secret, Mr. McFadden said, but "it is now known that Germany has the capacity to pay under the terms of the Young Plan."

"This information is of the greatest importance," Mr. McFadden declared, "as supporting the charges I have made as regards the part the German-American and their associated banks and bankers have taken in bringing about the Hoover moratorium."

"It is now apparent because of this disclosure of Germany's capacity to pay that there was a deliberate attempt to conceal the correct amount of their reserve and short-time acceptance debts."

"I point to the fact that the first Wiggin report underestimates, almost 50%, the acceptance credits that Germany owed."

"This report of Germany's capacity to pay, which was just disclosed, is confirmation of the reason why Germany did not proceed under the Young Plan and use this machinery which was created under the law to secure her moratorium."

"Apparently they were afraid of the disclosure which has now been made by this Committee operating under the Young Plan."

#### *Presumes Bankers' Part.*

"It is quite fair to presume that the New York international bankers, headed by Mr. Wiggin of the Chase National Bank and F. A. Goodhue of the International Acceptance Bank, owned and controlled by Paul M. Warburg, were instrumental not only in the negotiations with the present German Government and the bankers and their commissars relative to securing the priority for private debts over reparations but were also a factor in securing the assistance of the President in securing the moratorium."

"It is a well-known fact that the international bankers were very active in conferring with important government officials, particularly officials of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, at or about the time of the declaration of the moratorium."

"It ought to be clear to any one that the New York international bankers, fearing a loss of the private debts, were extremely anxious to secure priority and just as willing and insistent to see that reparation payments were reduced or canceled."

"The unfortunate situation arising from this strife and struggle to protect private debts, in lieu of government debts, is apparent in the reservations made by Great Britain, known as the Balfour reservations, and the stipulations the French made in the Young Plan, to the effect that any reduction in reparation payments would automatically be deducted from any amount which would have to be paid in reduction of war debts."

Regarding the allegations by Representative McFadden on December 15, we quote the following from the Washington dispatch on that date to the New York "Journal of Commerce":

The war debt moratorium situation in Congress to-day assumed a very serious aspect when Representative McFadden of Pennsylvania, former Banking and Currency Committee Chairman, denominated President Hoover the tool of the international bankers, and Under-Secretary of the Treasury Mills appeared before the Way and Means Committee to tell of the events that led to the proposal of the Chief Executive that there be a one-year holiday in the payment of intergovernmental debts.

So serious and spectacular were the McFadden charges that Representative Chipfield of Illinois was led to demand of the Pennsylvanian proof of his statements or their retraction. Chipfield was Judge Advocate General of the Third Army Corps, A. E. F., and was an officer in charge of civil affairs in the occupied area in Germany. In that position, he told the House, he "had opportunity to see and observe the conditions of those conquered people."

#### *Launches Defense for Hoover.*

"I hold no brief for Germany," he said, "I have not abated the feeling I had during the war. I hold no brief for the President of the United States, but I want to defend the horrible charge that has been made in this House this day."

#### *Asked for Technical Data.*

Secretary Mills was asked to supply a vast amount of technical data, including the extent of foreign public and private indebtedness to the United States. It is considered that in his general testimony he set up at least a partial defense to the charges framed by Representative McFadden. McFadden spoke for an hour by courtesy of the Democrats. At the outset they were highly enthusiastic over his attack upon President Hoover, but toward the close this was supplanted by aloofness and finally not only did Representative O'Connor (Dem., N. Y.) demand that some Republican member answer McFadden but that if they did not he would be moved to defend "your President and mine, who has been so attacked."

General permission was given to all speakers to "revise and extend their remarks in the record," except as to McFadden, objection to such an extension of privilege being entered by Representative O'Connor.

There are likely to be further repercussions in the House to-morrow, since it is quite probable that there will be a move to expunge the McFadden remarks from the permanent record of Congress, according to friends of the President.

"I stated what the consequences should be to the gentleman," Mr. Chipfield told the House. "If the gentleman means what he says and if the gentlemen is sincere, let him and his associates prepare articles of impeachment against the President of the United States, and let those articles of impeachment be tried, and then the proof may be known, and let the guilt and infamy and horror fall where it does. I merely say in conclusion that the President of the United States would ask for such action, knowing that the truth of a fair inquiry would fully vindicate him."

#### *McFadden Charges Plot.*

Representative McFadden charged a deep laid plot, inspired by certain international bankers, that included the election of President Hoover to his present office—a tool of the bankers. He declared that the moratorium announcement, while apparently unexpected, was "in the making" for a long period.

"Behind the Hoover announcement there were many months of hurried and furtive preparation both in Germany and in the Wall Street offices of Germany's bankers," said Mr. McFadden. "The groundwork had to be prepared. The German budget had to be saturated with American money. Mr. Hoover himself had to be elected, because this scheme began before he became President. If the German international bankers of Wall Street, that is, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., J. & W. Seligman, Paul Warburg and their satellites had not had this job waiting to be done, Herbert Hoover would never have been elected President of the United States. They helped to elect him."

He added that the moratorium plan was brought to Washington in the summer of 1930, nearly a year before the President's proposal, a fact, he said, that ought to convince Congress that it was not the result of any sudden emergency in Germany or elsewhere. He charged that the President was secretly offering to help Germany and the international bankers at a time when he was refusing substantial aid to American drought sufferers.

"It will be interesting when this matter goes to trial before the Permanent Court of International Justice to find out whether Herbert Hoover was acting as a legal agent of Germany or as the President of the United States when he made this proposal," declared Mr. McFadden, referring to a possible session on scaling down the war debts.

"If he was the agent of Germany, then Germany violated the solemn covenant of the Young plan by procuring his assistance. If he acted on his own initiative as the President of the United States, then I think he is personally liable to the people of this country in a legal way and that those who acted with him are liable also. We cannot have an agent of Germany acting as President of the United States."

From Washington December 16 the advices to the "Journal of Commerce" said in part:

Secretary of State Stimson and Representatives Rankin and McFadden were to-day's witnesses before the Ways and Means Committee. An effort had been made earlier in the day by Representative Treadway (Rep., Mass.) to have Mr. McFadden debarred from making an appearance because of his attack on President Hoover yesterday, but failed because of the fact that Mr. McFadden is a member of Congress. . . .

#### *Committee Hears McFadden.*

Mr. McFadden appearing before the Ways and Means Committee this afternoon, refrained from following up his attack of yesterday, but charged that unnamed officials of the Government were two-faced in that they announced themselves as opposed to cancellation or scaling down the debts, yet subsequent events indicated that there is such a movement as this in sight. President Hoover and members of the Cabinet and of Congress have declared themselves opposed to tampering with the present debt settlements beyond the scope of the proposed one-year moratorium.

The Pennsylvanian assailed the general moratorium plan and urged the Committee to study the memorandum filed with Secretary of State Stimson recently by Ambassador Claudel of France, giving the position of his country in the matter of debts and reparations. This, he said, reiterated the warning of France that any reduction in German reparation payments would also mean a reduction in war debts due the United States from France.

### **President Hoover's Proposal for Broadening Rediscount Provisions of Federal Reserve Act Viewed Unfavorably by Federal Reserve Banks—Replies to Questionnaire Made Public by Banking Committee Headed by Senator Glass—Agree Requirements on Acceptability Suffice—Suggestion of Curbing Member Bank Borrowings on 15-Day Note Meets Opposition—Security Loans Defended.**

With a few exceptions, the Federal Reserve banks are not in favor of President Hoover's proposal for broadening the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act relative to paper eligible for discount. This fact, said the Washington correspondent of the New York "Journal of Commerce," was revealed on Nov. 30 with the release by the Senate Banking Probe Committee of an analysis of replies to its questionnaires designed to ascertain whether the provisions of the Reserve Act, the rulings and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, the acceptability standards of each Federal Reserve bank, suffice at present to control credit expansion in the speculative and the investment markets.

The account in the "Journal of Commerce" continued:

#### *Executive Session Held.*

The Committee met in executive session to-day to receive from its technical adviser, H. Parker Willis, New York economist, a report on the work done during the summer vacation, which included a resume of answers of the banks to 11 specific questions.

The outstanding features of the current document deal with the rediscount problem, the acceptance policy of the system and the open market policy, the controversies between the board and the banks over the discount rate policy, and there is a wealth of material giving the history of the system in general during the past 10 years.

A great deal of opposition has been voiced in Congress against the Hoover proposal, which was presented on the occasion of the October conferences of Senate and House leaders at the White House, called to consider a program to aid the banking industry during the stress period.

"I shall propose to the Congress that the eligibility provisions of the Federal Reserve Act should be broadened in order to give greater liquidity to the assets of the banks and thus a greater assurance to the bankers in the granting of credits by enabling them to obtain legitimate accommodation on sound security in times of stress," President Hoover explained at the Oct. 6 meeting. "Such measures are already under consideration by the Senate Committee on Currency and Banking."

#### *To-day's Meeting Preliminary.*

The Banking Probe Committee has taken no action in the matter as yet. To-day's meeting was simply a preliminary one, adjournment being taken

until Tuesday, when it is possible a program will be worked out. But it will have before it the viewpoint of the Reserve banks whenever it undertakes to consider this particular phase of the banking situation.

It was suggested by the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank as temporary measures to be used only at times of extreme emergencies, that the maturity date on otherwise eligible paper be extended from 90 days to six months at a higher rate for the longer, than for the shorter term paper, and allowed only under conditions and circumstances to be established by the Reserve Board; and that the banks be permitted to make 90-day loans to member banks on notes secured by bonds which now are acceptable by the Treasury Department as surety for war loan deposits, but only at penalty rates.

The Dallas Bank favors making landlords' obligations eligible for rediscount and that the maturity limit on advances to member banks secured by notes, drafts, bills of exchange or bankers' acceptances eligible for discount and purchases be increased from 15 to 90 days.

#### *Urges Loan on Assets.*

The Philadelphia Bank suggested that in some instances it might be advisable to grant permission to advance funds to individual member banks in distress against any of their assets, while the Richmond Bank felt that such advances might be made if secured by high grade bonds in the absence of other eligible paper. In neither case would these banks have such paper serve as security for Federal Reserve notes.

There is apparently considerable variation in the degree to which credit tests are applied to paper offered for rediscount, judging from the replies received from Reserve banks. The financial and income statements of the maker, judged on the basis of the type of business in which he is engaged and the quality of management of the indorsing member bank receive primary emphasis.

The Federal Reserve banks, with the exception of Atlanta and Boston, reported that acceptability requirements were not raised during restrictive credit periods.

The consensus of opinion among the Federal Reserve banks appeared to be that the present acceptability requirements set sufficiently high standards. The thought was expressed that member banks are familiar with the eligibility and acceptability requirements and that to change these would introduce a needless uncertainty.

#### *Excess Collateral Discussed.*

All Federal Reserve banks have at one time or another required excess collateral from member banks in a limited number of individual cases, it was indicated. In recent years the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank apparently is the only one which does not require or accept excess collateral.

All Federal Reserve banks expressed themselves as opposed to repeal of the provision in the Federal Reserve Act permitting member banks to borrow on their 15-day promissory notes secured by Government obligations as a means of preventing the use of Federal Reserve credit for speculative and investment purposes. However, five indicated that it might tend toward the reduction of the amount of Federal Reserve credit used for speculative and investment purposes.

All of the Federal Reserve banks expressed themselves as opposed to a suggestion that member banks be prohibited from increasing their own security loans when borrowing from the Federal Reserve banks on the basis of their 15-day promissory notes secured by Government obligations. The reasons given were that the enactment of such a provision would prevent member banks from engaging in normal and legitimate transactions and from relieving an emergency situation exemplified by the stock market crash of 1929, and would tend to drive banks from membership in the Federal Reserve System. The thought was expressed that any abuses in the use of the borrowing or rediscounting privilege could be handled administratively.

#### *Investigate Use of Funds.*

The Reserve Banks of Chicago, Cleveland and Minneapolis advised the Committee that they habitually inquire into the use of the proceeds of funds extended member banks.

Relative to relation of lending policy to the composition of the portfolio of borrowing institutions, the Reserve Banks of Chicago and Cleveland explained that their lending policies did vary with the composition of the portfolio of the borrowing banks.

The other Reserve banks stated that variations in lending policy were not the usual rule, though in speculative periods close consideration would be given the portfolio of borrowing banks and always such considerations would be given in event the banks were thought to be in a unsound condition.

Practically all the Federal Reserve banks asserted that their examination departments and the reports received from the National and State bank examiners were of assistance in determining the value of a member bank's indorsement and the quality of paper offered for rediscount.

#### *Kansas City Bank.*

The Kansas City Reserve Bank does not examine National banks and examined State banks only when special circumstances made it desirable. The St. Louis Reserve Bank replied that the examination department had been of assistance not as to policies but rather as to individual credits.

A general opinion was that rate control is effective in the financial centers, whereas "moral suasion" is required to control the loan policies of banks outside metropolitan centers. The St. Louis Reserve Bank announced that use of the discount rate is not practicable in that district, since legal contract rates vary from 6 to 10%.

President Hoover's statement of Oct. 6, dealing with the mobilization of the banking resources of the country (which has resulted in the creation of the National Credit Corp.), was referred to in our issue of Oct. 10, pages 2364-2366. In this statement the President said:

I shall propose to Congress that the eligibility provisions of the Federal Reserve Act should be broadened in order to give greater liquidity to the assets of the banks, and thus a greater assurance to the bankers in the granting of credits by enabling them to obtain legitimate accommodation of sound security in times of stress. Such measures are already under consideration by the Senate Committee of Banking and Currency.

From the New York "Times" Washington dispatch, Nov. 30, we take the following digest by the Senate Banking Committee of the replies received from the Reserve banks:

#### *Answers of Federal Reserve Banks.*

Question No. 1.—Relative to changing the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act regarding the type of paper eligible for rediscount.

"With a few exceptions, the Federal Reserve banks did not favor changing the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act relative to paper eligible for

discount or the rulings or the regulations of the Federal Reserve Board interpretative of these provisions.

"The Chicago Federal Reserve Bank offered two suggestions, to be employed temporarily and only at times temporarily and only: (a) that the maturity date on otherwise eligible paper be extended from 90 days to six months. Rediscounts of such paper should be allowed only under conditions and circumstances to be established by the regulations of the Federal Reserve Board; (b) that the Federal Reserve banks be permitted to make loans to member banks not exceeding 90 days on notes secured by bonds which are now acceptable by the Treasury Department as security for war-loan deposits. Such advances would be granted at penalty rates and would not serve as a basis for the issuance of Federal Reserve notes.

"The Dallas Federal Reserve Bank suggested: (a) That landlords' obligations be made eligible for rediscount, and (b) that the statutory maturity limit on advances to member banks secured by notes, drafts, bills of exchange or bankers' acceptances eligible for discount and purchase be increased from 15 to 90 days.

"The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank suggested that in some instances it might be advisable to grant permission to advance funds to individual member banks in distress against any of their assets. The obligations taken should not be used as security for Federal Reserve notes.

The Richmond Federal Reserve Bank suggested that in a national emergency, the existence of which should be determined by the Federal Reserve Board, the Reserve banks might be permitted to make advances, secured by high-grade bonds, to banks lacking eligible paper. The paper discounted should not serve as security for Federal Reserve notes."

Question No. 2.—Relative to credit tests applied by the Federal Reserve banks to paper offered for discount.

"Judging from the replies received from the Federal Reserve banks, there is apparently considerable variation in the degree to which credit tests are applied to paper offered for rediscount. The financial and income statements of the maker, judged on the basis of the type of business in which he is engaged, and the quality of management of the indorsing member bank receive primary emphasis."

Question No. 3.—Relative to raising acceptability requirements during periods of restrictive credit policies.

"The Federal Reserve banks, with the exception of Atlanta and Boston, replied that acceptability requirements were not raised during such periods."

#### *For Present Eligibility Rules.*

Question No. 4.—Relative to the adequacy of eligible paper standards set by the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act by the rulings and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, and by the acceptability requirements of the Federal Reserve banks.

"The consensus opinion among the Federal Reserve banks is that the present requirements set sufficiently high standards. The thought was expressed that member banks are familiar with the eligibility and acceptability requirements, and that to change these would introduce a needless uncertainty."

Question No. 5.—Relative to the requiring of excess collateral.

"All Federal Reserve Banks have at one time or another required excess collateral from member banks in a limited number of individual cases. In recent years the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank apparently is the only one which does not require or accept excess collateral."

#### *Excess Collateral Requirements.*

Question No. 6.—Relative to reasons for requiring excess collateral.

"The Federal Reserve Banks cited the following reasons for requiring excess collateral:

"1. Non-liquid or weak condition of member-bank portfolio leading to the impaired value of a member bank's endorsement.

"2. As a means of forcing the correction of an undesirable situation in the affairs of a member bank. This might be resorted to particularly in the case of too heavy or continuous borrowings on the part of the member institution.

"3. A desire to save a distressed member bank when paper offered does not measure up fully to standards of acceptability.

"4. The economic conditions in and the character of the business of a particular community."

#### *Borrowing Curb Opposed.*

Question No. 7.—Relative to the repeal of the provision in the Federal Reserve Act permitting member banks to borrow on their fifteen-day promissory notes secured by government obligations as a means of preventing the use of Federal Reserve credit for speculative and investment purposes.

"All Federal Reserve Banks expressed themselves as opposed to the repeal of this provision, though five indicated that it might tend toward the reduction of the amount of Federal Reserve credit used for speculative and investment purposes.

"The reasons given in opposition to the repeal were:

"1. Member banks' borrowings arise from a loss in deposits or from an increase in loans and are not related to specific transactions. They are resorted to as a means of restoring or maintaining reserves which might be depleted by reason of a variety of different transactions.

"2. The convenience on the part of the member banks in borrowing against Government obligations.

"3. The assistance rendered in strengthening the market for Government obligations.

"4. The fact that the repeal of this provision would not in the past have affected the total volume of Federal Reserve credit, since in the aggregate all banks possessed eligible paper considerably in excess of total borrowings.

"5. The fact that in certain communities there is a dearth of eligible paper, so that banks there would find themselves discriminated against or embarrassed."

#### *As to Loans on Securities.*

Question No. 8.—Relative to prohibiting member banks from increasing their own security loans when borrowing from the Federal Reserve banks on the basis of their 15-day promissory notes secured by Government obligations.

"All of the Federal Reserve banks expressed themselves as being opposed to this suggestion. The reasons given were that the enactment of such a provision would prevent member banks from engaging in normal and legitimate transactions and from relieving an emergency situation exemplified by the stock market crash of 1929, and would tend to drive banks from membership in the Federal Reserve System. The thought was expressed that any abuses in the use of the borrowing or rediscounting privilege could be handled administratively.

"The St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank replied that the examination department had been of assistance not as to policies but rather as to individual credits."

Question No. 9.—(a) Relative to the practice of inquiring habitually into the use of the proceeds of funds extended member banks.  
 “The Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago, Cleveland and Minneapolis replied that they did habitually inquire into the use of the proceeds of funds extended member banks.”

*Lending Policies and Portfolios.*

(b) Relative to relation of lending policy to the composition of the portfolio of borrowing institutions.

“The Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago and Cleveland replied that their lending policies did vary with the composition of the portfolio of the borrowing banks.

“The other Reserve banks replied that variations in lending policy were not the usual rule, though in speculative periods close consideration would be given the portfolio of borrowing banks, and always such consideration would be given in event the banks were thought to be in an unsound condition.”

(c) Relative to the assistance rendered by the bank examination departments in the formulation of lending policies.

“Practically all the Federal Reserve banks replied that their examination departments and the reports received from the National and State Bank Examiners were of assistance in determining the value of member banks' endorsement and the quality of paper offered for rediscount.

“The Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank replied that it did not examine National banks and examined State banks only when special circumstances made this desirable.

*Experience in “Moral Suasion.”*

Question 10.—Relative to the experience of the Reserve banks with the use of “moral suasion.”

“‘Moral suasion’ or direct action has been applied to a varying degree by all Federal Reserve banks.

“The Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis replied that they had applied ‘moral suasion’ to very good effect.

“In the opinion of the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York and Richmond, rate control is preferable to the use of ‘moral suasion.’ One reason given was that it is impossible to obtain uniformity in results. Some banks co-operate better than others. Business may be driven from the more to the less co-operative institution.

“A general opinion was that rate control is effective in the financial centers, whereas ‘moral suasion’ is required to control the loan policies of banks outside the metropolitan centers.

“The St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank replied that use of the discount rate is not practicable in that District, since legal contract rates vary from 6 to 10%.”

*Dealing in Federal Funds.*

Question 11.—Relative to dealing in Federal funds.

“The Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Dallas, Minneapolis, Richmond and St. Louis reported that dealings in Federal funds in those districts were negligible. In the other Federal Reserve Districts transactions in Federal funds have taken place to a greater or less extent in the larger centers among banks of high credit standing. Interdistrict dealings in Federal funds of considerable importance were reported.

“The Federal Reserve banks reported that Federal funds transactions are resorted to not by reason of a deficiency in eligible paper or securities, but by reason of differentials prevailing in the Federal funds rate as compared with the rediscount rate.

“The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago stated that such transactions have been beneficial in decreasing the amount of Federal Reserve credit that might otherwise go into the market.

“With the exception of San Francisco, the Federal Reserve banks reported that transactions in Federal funds were of a temporary nature. The San Francisco Reserve Bank stated that member banks there frequently transfer the same amount of Federal funds back and forth between banks in Eastern cities for a considerable period of time.”

Question No. 12.—Data relative to rejection of eligible paper.

“Only five of the Federal Reserve banks were able to supply the information called for in the form requested.”

*“Paper on Failed Banks.”*

Question No. 13.—Relative to volume of paper on failed banks' accounts.

“Federal Reserve banks gave these statistics on the maximum and minimum amount of paper held in failed banks' accounts in any one month during the last four years:

	Maximum.	Minimum.
Atlanta.....	\$10,455,533.46	\$3,405,505.04
Boston.....	83,800.60	*
Chicago.....	2,900,125.84	276,553.65
Cleveland.....	100,931.50	a.....
Dallas.....	398,591.18	b.....
Kansas City.....	612,010.62	64,746.76
Minneapolis.....	1,812,164.98	432,178.44
New York.....	4,826.58	c.....
Philadelphia.....	43,425.08	d.....
Richmond.....	925,897.93	236,788.57
St. Louis.....	12,712,952.28	65,807.92
San Francisco.....	1,034,000.00	165,000.00

\* None in 38 months. a None in 1927, 1929 and 1930. b None from June to December 1929. c None in 1927, 1928 and 1929. d None in 44 months.

Question No. 14.—Relative to the volume of branch and unit bank borrowings.

“In the Federal Reserve Districts of Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis branch banking is non-existent or relatively unimportant.

“Data in the form called for were not supplied by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

“The data reported by the other Federal Reserve banks reflected much wider swings in the borrowings of branch member banks than in the case of unit member banks, both in absolute amount and in per cent. of total resources.”

*New York Bank's Position.*

In the judgment of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, the provisions of the Reserve Act and rulings and regulations of the Reserve Board relative to the type of paper eligible for rediscount “are satisfactory as they now stand, and we have no suggestions in regard to changes designed to control credit expansions in the speculative and investment markets.”

In other answers, the bank points out why the type of paper on which member banks borrow does not affect and cannot be used “as a means of controlling either the specific purposes for which bank credit is used” or the total volume of bank credit.

“By the same reasoning,” it added, “it is impossible to control credit expansion in the speculative and investment markets by changes in the rules affecting the eligibility of paper.”

Dealing with Question 7, the New York Bank said there were “two lines of reasoning” which might be advanced in support of the proposed repeal of the provision permitting member banks to borrow on 15-day notes.

“The first argument would relate to the specific use by banks of the funds so obtained, and the second would relate to the effects on the total volume of Federal Reserve credit in use.

“The first question is whether Federal Reserve funds which are obtained by banks by the presentation of their collateral notes secured by governments are used in any different way from the Federal Reserve funds obtained from other channels.

“The second question is whether the form of privilege which banks have of borrowing on their 15-day notes secured by governments tends to encourage an excessive expansion of credits; that is, whether the availability of this method results in a larger use of Federal Reserve funds than would occur if this facility were withdrawn.”

*Stand on Security Loan Plan.*

Question 8, relating to increases in security loans, was answered by the New York Bank with the comment that:

“We do not believe a distinction may properly be drawn between the different forms of borrowing from the Reserve banks. The form of borrowing from the Reserve banks does not affect the nature of the use of the proceeds of the loan made by the member bank to its customer, and there is, therefore, nothing to be gained by placing an additional penalty upon any one form of borrowing.

“The question then becomes whether all member-banks borrowing should be subject to the restriction that borrowing banks may not increase their own collateral-security loans. This restriction has presumably been suggested as a means of controlling the growth of speculative loans. The following considerations may be suggested:

“1. Not all collateral loans are speculative in character or to be discouraged. A considerable amount of collateral borrowing is for business purposes and for legitimate and necessary financing. Much of the credit required for the development of the country's industry has for years been financed upon the basis of stocks and bonds.

“2. The question arises whether banks have, in fact, abused the borrowing privilege by excessive advances of collateral loans which necessitated their use of Federal Reserve credit. Broadly speaking, the records indicate that the banks in this District have not increased their collateral loans unnecessarily at times when they were indebted to the Reserve banks. There have, of course, been some exceptions to this rule, but hardly sufficient to affect the general credit situation. During the speculative enthusiasm of 1928 and 1929, with call rates at attractive levels, the New York City banks made a very slight increase in their loans to brokers.

*Says a Hardship Is Likely.*

“3. There are many occasions when the proposed restriction would work not only a hardship, but might bring about serious consequences.

“(a) The events of the stock market crash of October and November 1929 are illustrative. To prevent a money panic, the New York City banks were required, in a period of two weeks, to take over temporarily a considerable part of the \$2,000,000,000 of brokers' loans withdrawn by other lenders. To do this they found it necessary to borrow the necessary reserve at the Federal Reserve Bank. This action prevented a serious panic.”

The New York Bank said it seemed to it undesirable that the proposed restriction should be placed upon member-bank borrowings.

“It appears impracticable,” the bank observed, “for a Reserve bank to attempt to differentiate between the different kinds of collateral loans in a member bank's portfolio. So often the character of the loan is merely a question of motive of the original borrower, which is it impossible for the Reserve bank to determine.”

Regarding Question 9, the New York Bank said that although it does not habitually inquire into the use of the proceeds of each loan to member banks, it does follow closely the borrowing record of member banks.

“In cases where the amount or duration of a bank's borrowing gets out of line with that of other banks in the same community, or suggests anything unusual, we study their operations, and in frequent cases confer with the officers, and in some instances require from them either daily or weekly reports showing changes in loans and other assets and in deposits,” the reply said.

**Walter Lippmann Defends Paul M. Warburg Against Attack by Representative McFadden.**

The following by Walter Lippmann, is from the New York “Herald Tribune” of December 17:

With such an attack as that delivered by Congressman McFadden of Pennsylvania, the President has no need to concern himself. Mr. McFadden has long since earned the contempt of honest men, and his speech on Tuesday, charging Mr. Hoover with having plotted with Germany's bankers to betray the country, is such obvious indecency that it requires no answer. All that needs to be done with the speech is to expunge it from the Record which it would otherwise defile. It is not possible, I believe, under the Constitution to expunge Mr. McFadden. . . .

There was, however, a passage in the speech which does call for brief comment, for it is an attack on a private individual who, unlike the President, cannot count upon the instant revulsion of the country against Mr. McFadden's libels. I refer to Mr. Paul M. Warburg, who is described in the speech as “the man who engineered the great depression, the man who is the chief beneficiary of the losses sustained by the farmers and the wage-earners of this country.”

This is a demonstrable falsehood. Far from being the man who “engineered” the great depression, Mr. Warburg has the conspicuous distinction of having warned the country publicly, specifically and accurately about the impending disaster. He did so on March 7 1929, seven months before the panic, at the time when the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was vainly endeavoring to persuade Washington to let it put the brakes upon the speculative mania. There is no space here to quote the whole of Mr. Warburg's remarks, but in justice to a man who was a true, a timely and courageous prophet, these few sentences are worth remembering:

If a Stock Exchange debauch is quickly arrested by prompt and determined action, it is not too much to hope that a shrinkage of inflated stock prices may be brought about without seriously affecting the wider circle of general business. If orgies of unrestrained speculation are permitted to spread too far, however, the ultimate collapse is certain not only to affect the speculators themselves, but also to bring about a general depression involving the entire country. . . . hesitation in taking effective means to reassert the Federal Reserve System's leadership, place a grave responsibility on those in charge of its administration.

Mr. Warburg can stand on his record. It does him honor.

### Senate Approves Measure Making Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 Legal Holidays in Capital.

Dec. 26 1931 and Jan. 2 1932, would be declared legal holidays in the District of Columbia under the provisions of a bill (S. 655) passed by the Senate Dec. 18. In indicating this the "United States Daily" of Dec. 19 continued:

The days affected by the measure are Saturdays and Government employees are accorded a half holiday on Saturdays under previous legislation. The purpose of the present bill would be to allow the closing of all Government departments and banks on the other half of the holiday already fixed by law for Saturdays, thus making a continuous holiday over Christmas Day to Monday.

Provisions of the bill were not extended to Federal employees outside of the District of Columbia, because of constitutional questions. Senator Ashurst (Dem.), of Arizona, said thought had been given to it but that the constitutional questions were so involved "that the holidays will have come and gone before the constitutional lawyers of the Senate could decide what to do."

### Offering of \$100,000,000 or Thereabouts of 91-Day Treasury Bills.

Announcement of a new issue of 91-day Treasury bills, to the amount of \$100,000,000, or thereabouts, was made on Dec. 22 by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. Tenders for the bills will be received at the Federal Reserve banks and their branches up to 2 p. m. Eastern standard time on Monday next, Dec. 28. The bills will be dated Dec. 30 1931 and will mature on March 30 1932. They will be issued in bearer form only, and in denominations of \$1,000, \$10,000, \$100,000, \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 (maturity value). On the maturity date the face amount will be payable without interest. The bills are sold on a discount basis to the highest bidders. According to the New York "Times," during January \$102,979,000 in bills will mature. The volume now outstanding is \$575,816,000. Secretary Mellon's announcement of Dec. 22 follows:

The Secretary of the Treasury gives notice that tenders are invited for Treasury bills to the amount of \$100,000,000, or thereabouts. They will be 91-day bills, and will be sold on a discount basis to the highest bidders. Tenders will be received at the Federal Reserve Banks, or the branches thereof, up to 2 o'clock p. m. Eastern standard time, on Monday, Dec. 28 1931. Tenders will not be received at the Treasury Department, Washington.

The Treasury bills will be dated Dec. 30 1931 and will mature on March 30 1932, and on the maturity date the face amount will be payable without interest. They will be issued in bearer form only, and in amounts or denominations of \$1,000, \$10,000, \$100,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000 (maturity value).

It is urged that tenders be made on the printed forms and forwarded in the special envelopes which will be supplied by the Federal Reserve banks or branches upon application therefor.

No tender for an amount less than \$1,000 will be considered. Each tender must be in multiples of \$1,000. The price offered must be expressed on the basis of 100, with not more than three decimal places, e.g., 99.125. Fractions must not be used.

Tenders will be accepted without cash deposit from incorporated banks and trust companies and from responsible and recognized dealers in investment securities. Tenders from others must be accompanied by a deposit of 10% of the face amount of Treasury bills applied for, unless the tenders are accompanied by an express guaranty of payment by an incorporated bank or trust company.

Immediately after the closing hour for receipts of tenders on Dec. 28 1931, all tenders received at the Federal Reserve banks or branches thereof up to the closing hour will be opened and public announcement of the acceptable prices will follow as soon as possible thereafter, probably on the following morning. The Secretary of the Treasury expressly reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or parts of tenders, and to allot less than the amount applied for, and his action in any such respect shall be final. Those submitting tenders will be advised of the acceptance or rejection thereof. Payment at the price offered for Treasury bills allotted must be made at the Federal Reserve banks in cash or other immediately available funds on Dec. 30 1931.

The Treasury bills will be exempt, as to principal and interest, and any gain from the sale or other disposition thereof will also be exempt, from all taxation, except estate and inheritance taxes. No loss from the sale or other disposition of the Treasury bills shall be allowed as a deduction, or otherwise recognized, for the purposes of any tax now or hereafter imposed by the United States or any of its possessions.

Treasury Department Circular No. 418, as amended, and this notice prescribe the terms of the Treasury bills and govern the conditions of their issue. Copies of the circular may be obtained from any Federal Reserve bank or branch thereof.

### Civil War Currency Outstanding Placed at Nearly Two Millions.

More than \$1,989,000 of the old National currency issued by the Treasury Department during the Civil War when specie payments were suspended and persons were using postage stamps for currency are still outstanding, according to the annual report of the Treasurer of the United States recently made public by the Treasury Department. We quote further as follows from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 21:

Issues of the 60-year-old currency, which was issued in 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50-cent denominations, aggregated \$368,724,079.45, the report says, and only \$353,484,796.99 worth has ever been redeemed. The rest, according to the report, has been irrevocably lost or destroyed; \$32,000

worth are believed to have been destroyed in the Chicago fire of Oct. 1871.

When the Government suspended specie payment about Jan. 1 1862, people immediately hoarded all monetary currency. In order that trade might be carried on, the report relates, persons devised exchange mediums of their own, including postage stamps pasted on strips of paper. This invention suggested to Congress the minting of the small fractional currency which was not displaced until the Treasury again began making minor coins.

The section of the report dealing with the fractional currency follows in full text:

When specie payments were suspended about Jan. 1 1862, all of the gold, silver, and minor coins in circulation disappeared as if by magic, due largely to the hoarding of the coins which, it was thought, would be at a premium in the near future.

A relief from this condition was needed promptly and the first came from individual enterprise. Merchants issued promissory notes on small sizes of paper in amounts varying from 1 cent up and redeemable in goods at their places of business. Also, street-car tickets, milk tickets, metal tokens, and anything having an apparent value were pressed into service for making change. Postage stamps, very naturally, quickly claimed recognition as a circulating medium, but the adhesive back was a serious impediment. This trouble was soon overcome, however, by pasting definite amounts on small slips of paper which the Post Office Department readily agreed to redeem, when worn or mutilated, with new stamps.

The convenience and definite value of the pasted stamps were so readily apparent that the matter was at once taken up by Congress; the regular issue of postage currency was authorized and the issuing of tokens, memorandums, and other obligations by individuals for a less sum than \$1 intended to circulate as money was prohibited. The postage currency was, less than a year later, succeeded by the fractional currency which remained in use until the issue of small coins again became a possibility. Fractional currency is not a legal tender. It was, however, receivable for postage and revenue stamps, and also in payment of any duties to the United States less than \$5 except duties on imports.

There were five issues of fractional currency aggregating \$368,724,079.45, including reissues, in denominations of 3 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 15 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents. It is estimated that \$32,000 in unknown denominations were destroyed in the Chicago fire in October 1871. Also, the public-debt statement for June 1880 shows a reduction of \$8,375,934 in such currency estimated by a committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury as lost or destroyed. Again in December 1920 the amount outstanding was reduced by \$4,842,066.45, the amount estimated by the Government actuary as irrevocably lost or destroyed. These amounts, together with the redemptions to date of \$383,484,796.99, leave \$1,989,282.01 outstanding, as shown by the public-debt statement for June 30 1931.

### Country at Crisis in Taxation, Says Senator Metcalf — "Dangerous Point" Reached Also in Concentration of Power in Federal Government, He Declares.

"This Nation has reached a critical and dangerous point in the matter of taxation and concentration of power," Senator Metcalf (Rep.) of Rhode Island, asserted Dec. 20 in a radio address from Washington under the auspices of the Sentinels of the Republic. The following account of what he had to say is from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 21:

He emphasized the "unquestioned" need for decentralization of power and a new acknowledgment of the rights of States. Total expenditures of all governmental agencies in the United States from 1913 to 1930 grew 442%, or increased twice as fast as the combined earnings and income of the American people, he declared.

#### Criticizes Federal Aid Trend.

The trend toward Federal taxation in place of local taxation was said by him to be rapidly whittling away the right of local self-government.

"The belief has spread through many States that the Federal Government should extend its Federal aid system to new and unheard of limits," he continued. "If this belief should be put into practice we would bankrupt the Government and force the people of this country into a condition of financial desperation. There have been bills introduced in Congress proposing that the Federal Government should finance a system of rural education. Such suggestions are not only contrary to the principles of this Government, but would make this a country of tax-ridden people who can never successfully bear the tremendous burden which would be placed upon them."

"In the budget just proposed to Congress approximately \$275,000,000 will be doled out to the States in the form of Federal aid. Much of this money is paid to the States in proportion to population or area without any consideration at all of the amount of taxes paid by them," Senator Metcalf declared.

#### Urges Abolition of Roads Aid.

"The Federal highway appropriations should be abolished, or materially reduced, and the money used for relieving some of the burden of taxes which are paid by the people. The United States Bureau of Public Roads spends more than \$2,500,000 every year, of Federal funds, for salaries alone."

"There is grave doubt as to the wisdom of the appropriations for vocational education, agricultural extension and Federal highway construction. These activities cost the Federal Government \$140,000,000 annually," Mr. Metcalf added.

"As a result of the enormous increase in public employees and pensioners, all branches of government in this country are supporting either wholly or in part more than 10,000,000 people. Think of it! One-seventh of the adult population of the country supported wholly or partially by taxation. And the number is increasing daily."

"While we preach economy," Senator Metcalf concluded, "we might well practice it by a curtailment of the Federal aid system and the removal of many of the bureaus and commissions which are eating up the resources of the people and endangering the very framework of our Government."

### Text of Bill Creating Reconstruction Finance Corp.—Capital of Half Billion to Be Subscribed by United States Treasury—Authority to Issue Debentures.

According to reports during the past week action is expected in the House early in January on the bill providing for the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corp., the

introduction of which in Congress was noted in our issue of Dec. 12, page 3910. The creation of the corporation, similar in nature to the War Finance Corp., was recommended in President Hoover's annual message. The Senate bill was introduced by Senator Walcott (Republican) of Connecticut, a member of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, while the House bill was sponsored by Representative Strong (Republican) of Kansas. In giving the text of the Senate bill the "United States Daily" of Dec. 10 said:

A capital subscription of \$500,000,000 would be made by the United States Government under the proposal, and the corporation would be authorized to issue its debentures to a maximum amount of \$1,500,000,000.

The Senate bill (S. 1) follows in full text:

A bill to provide emergency financing facilities for banks and other financial institutions, and other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be, and is hereby, created a body corporate with the name "Reconstruction Finance Corporation" (herein called the Corporation). This Act may be cited as the "Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act."

Sec. 2. The Corporation shall have capital stock of \$500,000,000, all subscribed by the United States of America, payment for which shall be subject to call in whole or in part by the board of directors of the Corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, at such time or times as may be deemed advisable.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000,000 for the purpose of making payments upon such subscription when and as called. Receipts for payments by the United States of America for or on account of such stock shall be issued by the Corporation to the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be evidence of the stock ownership of the United States of America.

Sec. 3. The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a board of directors consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, and the Farm Loan Commissioner, who shall be members ex officio, and two other persons appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Each director shall devote his time not otherwise required by the business of the United States principally to the business of the Corporation. Before entering upon his duties each of the two directors so appointed and each officer of the Corporation shall take an oath faithfully to discharge the duties of his office.

Nothing contained in this or in any other act shall be construed to prevent the appointment and compensation as a director, officer, or employee of the corporation of any officer or employee of the United States in any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department thereof.

The terms of the two directors so appointed by the President of the United States shall be five years from the date of the enactment hereof, and thereafter the term of each director so appointed shall be five years from the date of the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed.

Whenever a vacancy shall occur among the directors so appointed the person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the director whose place he is selected to fill. The two directors of the Corporation appointed as hereinbefore provided shall receive salaries at the rate of \$12,000 per annum each:

*Provided,* That any director receiving from the United States any salary or compensation for other services shall not receive as salary from the corporation any amount, which, together with any salary or compensation received from the United States, would make the total amount paid to him by the United States and by the Corporation exceed \$12,000 per annum.

Sec. 4. The Corporation shall have succession for a period of 10 years from the date of the enactment hereof, unless it is sooner dissolved by an Act of Congress. It shall have power to adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal; to make contracts, to purchase or lease and hold or dispose of such real estate as may be necessary or convenient for the transaction of its business; to sue and be sued, to complain and to defend, in any court of competent jurisdiction, State or Federal; to select, employ, and fix the compensation of such officers, employees, attorneys and agents as shall be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Corporation, without regard to the provisions of other laws applicable to the employment and compensation of officers or employees of the United States; to define their authority and duties, require bonds of them and fix the penalties thereof, and to dismiss at pleasure such officers, employees, attorneys and agents; and to prescribe, amend and repeal, by its board of directors, by-laws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its general business may be conducted and the powers granted to it by law may be exercised and enjoyed, including the selection of its chairman and vice-chairman, together with provision for such committees and the functions thereof as the board of directors may deem necessary for facilitating its business under this Act.

The board of directors of the Corporation shall determine and prescribe the manner in which its obligations shall be incurred and its expenses allowed and paid. The Corporation shall be entitled to the free use of the United States mails in the same manner as the executive departments of the Government.

The Corporation, with the consent of any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department of the Government, including any field service thereof, may avail itself of the use of information, services, facilities, officers and employees thereof in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

The Corporation shall have such incidental powers as its board of directors shall deem necessary or expedient in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. The Corporation is authorized and empowered to make loans, upon such terms and conditions not inconsistent with this Act, as it may determine, to any bank, banker, savings bank, trust company, clearing house or other association of banking institutions, building and loan association, insurance company or other financial institution in the United States (herein referred to as financial institutions).

All such loans shall be fully and adequately secured in such manner as the Corporation shall require. The Corporation, under such conditions as it shall prescribe, may take over or provide for the administration and liquidation of any collateral accepted by it as security for such loans.

Such loans may be made directly upon promissory notes of such financial institutions, or by way of discount or rediscount of obligations tendered by them for the purpose, or otherwise, in such form and in such amount and at such interest or discount rates as the Corporation may approve.

Each such loan may be made for a period not exceeding three years, and the Corporation may from time to time extend the time of payment of any such loan, through renewal, substitution of new obligations, or otherwise, but the time for such payment shall not be extended beyond five years from the date upon which such loan was made originally.

The Corporation may make loans under this section at any time prior to the expiration of one year from the date of the enactment hereof; and the President may from time to time postpone such date of expiration for such additional period or periods as he may deem necessary, not to exceed two years from the date of the enactment hereof.

Within the foregoing limitations of this section, the Corporation may also make loans to or aid in the temporary financing of steam railroads engaged in inter-State commerce, when in the opinion of the board of directors of the Corporation such railroads are unable to obtain funds upon reasonable terms through banking channels or from the general public and the Corporation will be adequately secured.

Sec. 6. Section 5202 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (U. S. C., Title 12, Ch. A, Sec. 82) is hereby amended by striking out the words "War Finance Corporation Act" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act."

Sec. 7. All moneys of the Corporation not otherwise employed may be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States subject to check by authority of the Corporation or in any Federal Reserve bank, or may, by authorization of the board of directors of the Corporation, be used in the purchase or redemption of any notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations issued by the Corporation. The Federal Reserve banks are authorized and directed to act as depositaries, custodians and (or) fiscal agents for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in the general performance of its powers conferred by this Act.

Sec. 8. In order to enable the Corporation to carry out the provisions of this Act, the Treasury Department, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve banks and the Inter-State Commerce Commission are hereby authorized, under such conditions as they may prescribe, to make available to the Corporation in confidence such reports, records or other information as they may have available relating to the condition of financial institutions and (or) railroads with respect to which the Corporation has had or contemplates having transactions under this Act, or relating to individuals, associations, partnerships or corporations whose obligations are offered to or held by the Corporation as security for loans to financial institutions or railroads under this Act, and to make through their examiners or other employees for the confidential use of the Corporation examinations of such financial institutions or railroads.

Every applicant for a loan under this Act shall, as a condition precedent thereto, consent to such examinations as the Corporation may require for the purposes of this Act and (or) that reports of examinations by constituted authorities may be furnished by such authorities to the Corporation upon request therefor.

Sec. 9. The Corporation is authorized and empowered, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to issue, and to have outstanding at any one time in an amount aggregating not more than three times its subscribed capital, its notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations; such obligations to mature not more than five years from their respective dates of issue, to be redeemable at the option of the Corporation before maturity in such manner as may be stipulated in such obligations, and to bear such rate or rates of interest as may be determined by the Corporation:

*Provided,* That the Corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may sell on a discount basis short-term obligations payable at maturity without interest.

The notes, debentures, bonds, and other obligations of the Corporation may be secured by assets of the Corporation in such manner as shall be prescribed by its board of directors. Such obligations may be issued in payment of any loan authorized by this Act or may be offered for sale at such price or prices as the Corporation may determine with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

In the event that the Corporation shall be unable to pay upon demand, when due, the principal of or interest on notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations issued by it, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay the amount thereof, which is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and thereupon to the extent of the amounts so paid the Secretary of the Treasury shall succeed to all the rights of the holders of such notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations.

The Federal Reserve Banks shall have the same powers (1) to discount notes, drafts, and bills of exchange secured by obligations issued by the Corporation under this Act, (2) to make advances to member banks on their notes secured by such obligations, (3) to use all paper so acquired, and (4) to purchase and sell such obligations, as they have with respect to bonds and (or) notes of the United States:

*Provided,* That the rate at which any such discount or advance shall be made by any Federal Reserve bank shall be 1% per annum above its discount rate on 90-day commercial paper then in effect.

Sec. 10. Any and all notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations issued by the Corporation shall be exempt both as to principal and interest from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States, by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

The Corporation, including its franchise, its capital, reserves and surplus, and its income shall be exempt from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States, by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority; except that any real property of the Corporation shall be subject to State, county, municipal, or local taxation to the same extent according to its value as other real property is taxed.

Sec. 11. In order that the Corporation may be supplied with such forms of notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations as it may need for issuance under this Act the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prepare such forms as shall be suitable and approved by the Corporation, to be held in the Treasury subject to delivery, upon order of the Corporation.

The engraved plates, dies, bed pieces, &c., executed in connection therewith shall remain in the custody of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Corporation shall reimburse the Secretary of the Treasury for any expenses incurred in the preparation, custody and delivery of such notes, debentures, bonds, or other obligations.

Sec. 12. When designated for that purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Corporation shall be a depositary of public money, except receipts from customs, under such regulations as may be prescribed by said Secretary; and it may also be employed as a financial agent of the Government; and it shall perform all such reasonable duties, as depositary of public money and financial agent of the Government, as may be required of it.

Notes, debentures, bonds, or other such obligations of the Corporation shall be lawful investments, and may be accepted as security, for all fiduciary, trust and public funds the investment or deposit of which shall be

under the authority or control of the United States or any officer or officers thereof.

Sec. 13. Upon the expiration of the period of one year within which the Corporation may make loans, or of any extension thereof by the President under the authority of this Act, the board of directors of the Corporation shall, except as otherwise herein specifically authorized, proceed to liquidate its assets and wind up its affairs.

It may with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury deposit with the Treasurer of the United States as a special fund any money belonging to the Corporation or from time to time received by it in the course of liquidation or otherwise, for the payment of principal and interest of its outstanding obligations or for the purpose of redemption of such obligations in accordance with the terms thereof, which fund may be drawn upon or paid out for no other purpose.

The Corporation may also at any time pay to the Treasurer of the United States as miscellaneous receipts any money belonging to the Corporation or from time to time received by it in the course of liquidation or otherwise in excess of reasonable amounts reserved to meet its requirements during liquidation.

Upon such deposit being made such amount of the capital stock of the Corporation as may be specified by the Corporation with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury but not exceeding in par value the amount so paid in shall be canceled and retired.

Any balance remaining after the liquidation of all the Corporation's assets and provision being made for payment of all legal obligations of any kind and character shall be paid to the Treasurer of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. Thereupon the Corporation shall be dissolved and the residue if any of its capital stock shall be canceled and retired.

Sec. 14. If at the expiration of the 10 years for which the Corporation has succession hereunder its board of directors shall not have completed the liquidation of its assets and the winding up of its affairs, the duty of completing such liquidation and winding up of its affairs shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury, who for such purpose shall succeed to all the powers and duties of the board of directors of the Corporation under this act.

In such event he may assign to any officer or officers of the United States in the Treasury Department the exercise and performance, under his general supervision and direction, of any such powers and duties; and nothing herein shall be construed to affect any right or privilege accrued, any penalty or liability incurred, any criminal or civil proceeding commenced, or any authority conferred hereunder, except as herein provided in connection with the liquidation of the remaining assets and the winding up of the affairs of the Corporation, until the Secretary of the Treasury shall find that such liquidation will no longer be advantageous to the United States and that all of its legal obligations have been provided for, whereupon he shall retire any capital stock then outstanding, pay into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts the unused balance of the moneys belonging to the Corporation, and make the final report of the Corporation to the Congress. Thereupon the Corporation shall be deemed to be dissolved.

Sec. 15. The Corporation shall annually make a report of its operations to the Congress as soon as practicable after the first day of January in each year.

Sec. 16. (a) Whoever makes any statement knowing it to be false, or whoever wilfully overvalues any security, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any applicant any loan, or extension thereof by renewal, deferment of action, or otherwise, or the acceptance, release, or substitution of security therefor, or for the purpose of influencing in any way the action of the Corporation, under this act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

(b) Whoever (1) falsely makes, forges, or counterfeits any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, in imitation of or purporting to be a note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued by the Corporation, or (2) passes, utters or publishes, or attempts to pass, utter or publish, any false, forged, or counterfeited note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, purporting to have been issued by the Corporation, knowing the same to be false, forged or counterfeited, or (3) falsely alters any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued or purporting to have been issued by the Corporation, or (4) passes, utters or publishes, or attempts to pass, utter or publish, as true any falsely altered or spurious note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or coupon, issued or purporting to have been issued by the Corporation, knowing the same to be falsely altered or spurious, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

(c) Whoever, being connected in any capacity with the corporation, (1) embezzles, abstracts, purloins, or wilfully misapplies any moneys, funds, securities, or other things of value, whether belonging to it or pledged or otherwise entrusted to it, or (2) with intent to defraud the Corporation or any other body politic or corporate, or any individual, or to deceive any officer, auditor or examiner of the Corporation, makes any false entry in any book, report or statement of or to the Corporation, or, without being duly authorized, draws any order or issues, puts forth or assigns any note, debenture, bond, or other obligation, or draft, bill of exchange, mortgage, judgment or decree thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

(d) No individual, association, partnership or corporation shall use the words "Reconstruction Finance Corporation," or a combination of these three words, as the name or a part thereof under which he or it shall do business. Every individual, partnership, association or corporation violating this prohibition shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

(e) The provisions of sections 112, 113, 114, 115, 116 and 117 of the Criminal Code of the United States (U. S. C., Title 18, ch. 5, secs. 202 to 207, inclusive) in so far as applicable, are extended to apply to contracts or agreements with the Corporation under this Act, which for the purposes hereof shall be held to include loans, advances, discounts and rediscounts; extensions and renewals thereof; and acceptances, releases and substitutions of security therefor.

The Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department is authorized to detect, arrest and deliver into the custody of the United States Marshal having jurisdiction any person committing any of the offenses punishable under this section.

Sec. 17. The right to alter, amend or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act shall for any reason be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Act, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

## Governor Meyer, of Federal Reserve Board, Says Establishment of Reconstruction Finance Corporation Is One Thing Which Can Do Most to Reassure the Public—Higher Price Levels Viewed As Possible—Tells of Reserve System's Position at Senate Investigation—War Finance Corporation's Loans.

Establishment of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, proposed by President Hoover in his message to the Congress, was urged at a hearing before the Banking and Currency Committee of the House and a subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Dec. 18 by Eugene Meyer, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, as the one thing which will, in his opinion, do more than any other to reassure the people who are dominated by fear at the present time. "The very knowledge of its existence," Mr. Meyer told the Committee, "would do more to reassure people in fear than any other one thing." The foregoing is from the "United States Daily" of Dec. 19, from which we also quote as follows:

Governor Meyer told the House Committee that he prefers not to make predictions as to the result of the creation of the Corporation, because of the many factors influential in shaping economic events, but stated that he was "hopeful" that a higher price level for commodities and securities might result from its activities. "It would contribute strongly in that direction," he stated in reply to a question by Representative Goldsborough (Dem.), of Denton, Md.

### Real Estate Situation.

He referred to the fact that there was a rise in the price level during the period of activity of the War Finance Corp., after which the proposed Corporation is modeled.

The most important unfavorable economic factor at the present time, in Mr. Meyer's opinion, is the real estate situation, with the condition of the railroads also of prime importance. Building and loan associations, he said, are suffering from depression and demoralization of values, which have been carried in many cases to an extreme.

Foreign conditions are also a factor in the situation he stated, entirely apart from the matters of investments, loans reparations, and other inter-governmental relationships, in that reduced buying power abroad, intensified by disturbed exchanges, interrupts normal foreign trade activities.

### Availability of Funds.

The main value of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. according to Governor Meyer, will lie in the availability of funds, if needed. While loans will be made, and perhaps in some volume, the corporation will be of fundamental importance in removing the fear that grows out of uncertainty as to whether funds can be obtained or not.

Mr. Meyer referred to his recommendation of ten years ago that the War Finance Corp. be formed. "I said then and feel now that it is a sound principle of government in exceptional circumstances involving the national interest to depart from the ordinary governmental activities and ordinary governmental participation in the financial operations of the country and to provide temporary and exceptional institutions and measures to deal with them."

He reviewed briefly the history of the War Finance Corp., particularly its operations under the non-war or reconstruction powers. Not much money was loaned under the war powers, he told the Committee, but the support to financial institutions was of great importance. "It was a confidence-inspiring institution," he said, "and figures do not show its full value effectively. On occasions there were industries which needed financing, and when the support of the War Finance Corp. enabled the bankers to finance the requirements of the concerns in question through the regular investment market. Such transactions were of better effect than the actual lending of money by the corporation."

### Fear Is Dominant.

"We have a situation now where fear is dominant, just as it was in 1921," he continued. The fear, now as then, is not fear of the borrower of good character, and standing, or of his securities, but fear of the general situation. In many cases it is the fear of the weak in the minds of the strong, not the weak fearing the strong."

Referring to a report of the War Finance Corp., Mr. Meyer said that the peak of loans by that institution to some 4,300 country banks was \$134,000,000 reached in May, 1922. A year later the total outstanding was \$60,000,000, in spite of new loans made in the meantime, and in another year the total outstanding had declined to \$37,000,000. Loans on live-stock reached a peak of \$60,000,000 in 1922, had been reduced to \$40,000,000 in 1923 and to \$26,000,000 in 1924, he said.

With the strength and resources of this proposed national corporation, there is a possibility of improvement through remedial work, which will be of the greatest benefit to agriculture and industry, in Mr. Meyer's opinion. Some of the so-called frozen assets, he declared, are the best assets in this country, based on the most fundamental industries. "They thaw out with surprising speed," he added, when properly handled.

There is one fundamental difference between the present situation and that existing in 1921, he said. The year 1921 followed a period of eight years of subnormal construction in the United States. The real estate boom of recent years had its origin in the stimulation of building and of speculating in and financing of real estate which accompanied the attempt to catch up on construction. Some unsound tendencies developed, he stated, both in the way of overbuilding and in unsound financing. The situation has been characterized, however, more by weakness in financing than in over-expansion of space, he added, although in some areas there has been overbuilding. "The prompt liquidation of unsound finance in the real estate field," he said, "is of highest importance because as long as mortgages are being foreclosed on property unsoundly financed, and as long as bankruptcies continue, competition will be furnished demoralizing to properties which are in sound condition."

The Corporation would be given broad powers and large resources to enable it to attack the problem, Mr. Meyer stated. Competent administration of course is necessary, he added, to assure success both from the point of view of assisting the people of the country and in saving the Government from loss.

Since the obligations of the Corporation will be ultimately obligations of the Government, he saw no objection to making notes and drafts secured by them eligible for rediscount by reserve banks, but agreed that there would be some opposition to that feature. He called attention to the higher rate that would be applied to rediscounts of that character, and declared

that the rate would strongly tend to prevent them being offered to the reserve banks.

"While we should carefully examine the mistakes of banking and industry in the last five years, and possibly mistakes in making some of our foreign investments," he said, "the essential thing to do in connection with this measure is to confront conditions and do whatever is for the best interest of the people as a whole."

In referring to the rise in price levels following 1921, Mr. Meyer said that in 1921 the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a price level of 83 as compared with 100 for 1926 and that in January, 1924, it was 112.

The substitution of the Under-Secretary of the Treasury for the Secretary as a member of the board of directors was suggested by Governor Meyer, because the Secretary serves in many ex-officio capacities, while the Under-Secretary holds few such positions, and would perhaps have more time to devote to Corporation affairs.

The Committee will resume hearings on the bill next week, when Governor Meyer will appear for questioning, Representative Steagall (Dem.), of Ozark, Ala., Chairman, announced.

#### Release of Resources Seen.

Mr. Meyer told the Senate subcommittee in his opinion the proposed Corporation would release resources held largely through fear. In many localities, he said, loans by the Corporation would help not only the institutions to which they were made, but others which had held up their own resources as a protection for their weaker neighbors. He cited what the War Finance Corp. had done to save banks and loan agencies throughout the country. Mr. Meyer asserted that he believed some of the conditions at present were attributable to the plight of the bankers. Here, as well as abroad, he said, conditions have tended to force the burden back on the producers; hence the price decline.

The bill itself was described by Mr. Meyer as "apparently sound." Provisions for financing the Corporation have the effect of creating a security for sale by it "almost on a par with Government bonds." He thought they ought to be attractive to investors.

Mr. Meyer said that "wise administration" was a requisite to success. He said that he had no doubt that there would be "sympathetic" treatment of applications as far as was consonant with the law and sound banking.

As the bill stands, there is no limit of the amount which National banks may borrow. Asked by Senator Watson (Rep.), of Indiana, whether that was "wise," Mr. Meyer said he thought the Corporation directors would set a limit in accordance with the necessities of each case.

A great many problems exist now that did not exist earlier, he said by way of explaining why the powers proposed for the Reconstruction Corporation were broader than those given the War Finance Corp. The War Finance Corp. dealt chiefly with agricultural loans and banks in farm areas. The problem now, Mr. Meyer said, is national in character.

Asked by Senator Brookhart (Rep.), of Iowa, why the Federal Reserve System had not taken care of the situation, Mr. Meyer explained it was incapable of reaching the difficulties under its statutory powers. The Reserve system was not set up for the purposes designed to be met by the Walcott bill, Mr. Meyer said.

The Committee adjourned to Saturday without having heard Ogden L. Mills, Under-Secretary of the Treasury. With several other witnesses he will be called to testify Dec. 19.

### Melvin A. Traylor of First National Bank of Chicago Before Senate Committee Urges Immediate Formation of Reconstruction Finance Corporation to Replace National Credit Corporation—New Corporation Approved by F. H. Ecker of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Particularly in Behalf of Railroads—Proposal That Government Guarantee \$2,000,000,000 Bond Issue.

Before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, in Washington on Dec. 22, Melvin A. Traylor, President of the First National Bank of Chicago, expressed the view (according to the New York "Times") that the proposed Reconstruction Finance Corporation should be formed "at the earliest possible moment" to replace the National Credit Corporation, a volunteer organization with assets of \$500,000,000. In the Washington account to the New York "Herald-Tribune" Dec. 22 it was stated:

An impressive succession of American bankers today urged Congress to have the government take over completely the task of liquidating frozen assets through President Hoover's proposed \$2,000,000,000 Reconstruction Finance Corporation and permit the privately financed National Credit Corporation to dissolve immediately.

The bankers were unanimously of the opinion that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation would prove a tremendous stimulus to business and renewed public confidence, but they were equally united in declaring that the Government should guarantee the full \$2,000,000,000 bond issue to make the experiment fully effective.

The bill now under consideration calls for a Federal appropriation of only \$500,000,000 but authorizes the Corporation to issue debentures for three times that amount, giving the organization an initial capital of \$2,000,000,000. With one exception, the bankers insisted that it was vital to have the bill give the debentures the guaranteed support of the United States Treasury.

Frederick H. Ecker, President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., also appeared before the subcommittee on Dec. 22, and in advocating the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation did so in behalf of the railroads, bonds of which to the amount of 16% of its investments are held by the Metropolitan. As to the hearing on Dec. 22, and the views presented on that day, we quote as follows from the Washington dispatch to the New York "Times":

Mr. Traylor gave as his opinion testimony that the taking over by banks which are in the most liquid condition of slow-moving assets from less-fortunate banks meant only a transfer of undesirable loans from bank to bank and eventually would mean that banks would find themselves with \$500,000,000 invested in such paper.

This relief work, Mr. Traylor held, is the function of an organization outside of the banks themselves, under present conditions, and he pronounced the proposed Reconstruction Corporation the proper agency.

#### Traylor Urges Loans to Closed Banks.

Mr. Traylor recommended what were termed two vital amendments to the present plan for setting up the Corporation. His first proposed amendment startled the Committee. It was that the Corporation make loans to banks which have been closed, a point on which he argued apparently to the point of convincing Committee members.

His second proposed amendment was that the Corporation be financed through a Government loan, instead of by proposed debentures guaranteed by the Treasury, as the Government's responsibility for repayment of the debentures actually would be the same and Government bonds or Treasury certificates could be floated at a lower rate of interest than the debentures.

Mr. Traylor's testimony, dealing solely with banks, was approved in later testimony by Wilson W. Mills, Chairman of the Board of the People's Wayne County Bank of Detroit, with the exception that Mr. Mills favored the issuance of debentures on the ground that the public "may get fed up on too many straight government loans."

#### Insurance Heads Urge Rail Aid.

Immediate action in aid of railroads was urged upon the Senators not only by Ezra Brainerd Jr., Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, but by the presidents of two leading life insurance companies, which are heavy investors in railroad bonds.

Mr. Brainerd testified that railroads will need between \$85,000,000 and \$156,000,000 above cash in hand and contemplated receipts to meet obligations maturing before May 1 1932.

Frederick H. Ecker, President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., testified that life insurance companies need no assistance from the proposed Reconstruction Corporation, but that 16% of his company's investments are in railroad bonds, compared with 38% in 1906.

Morgan B. Brainard, President of the Aetna Life Insurance Co., testified to the same opinion as Mr. Ecker, regarding the railroads' condition, and gave his company's holdings of railroad bonds as \$80,000,000.

Mr. Ecker, backed by Morgan B. Brainard, testified that he had faith in the railroads' working out of their difficulties, but said that the immediate emergency is "more serious than in 1920, as far as railroad credit is concerned, because the railroads now have bank loans of \$70,000,000."

He added that in 1932 there will fall due payment on some \$243,000,000 in bonds which, under present conditions, could not be refinanced.

Following to-day's hearing the subcommittee met informally and agreed that every effort should be made to have the bill perfected during the recess in order that it may be reported to the Senate in January. Certain proposed changes in the bill were discussed tentatively by the subcommittee and M. Parker Willis, expert for the Committee, was requested to draft the language of certain perfecting changes for consideration by members of the subcommittee.

Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, Chairman of the whole committee, said no decision has yet been reached by the subcommittee regarding modifications.

#### Traylor Tells Corporation's Purpose.

Mr. Traylor's testimony regarding the need for replacement of the National Credit Corporation, of which he is Committee Chairman in his own Federal Reserve District, came after testimony at the morning session and consideration of the problem during the luncheon recess, which Senator Walcott, Chairman of the full committee, said impelled him to return to give this testimony.

"The National Credit Corporation," said Mr. Traylor, "was formed voluntarily by the banks of the country to meet an emergency that they felt clearly existed at the time. That emergency arose because of the believed inability for solvent banks to borrow against their collateral."

"As a matter of fact banks had two avenues open, either their Federal Reserve membership or their correspondent relations, but there was a general public feeling that a number of banks had assets that were good, but too slow to meet requirements."

"This Corporation, was formed therefore, for the purpose of making loans against slow assets."

#### Holds \$500,000,000 Would Be Tied Up.

"What it meant was that the pooled assets of the banks would be loaned to borrowing banks against assets that were slow. The result is that to the extent that this pool loans against frozen assets they are taking into their own portfolios assets that, at the moment they come in, are subject to criticism as slow. To pursue this policy to the end would mean tying up \$500,000,000 in slow assets. Therefore, I believe this bill should be enacted at the earliest possible moment to relieve the banks from further tying up their assets."

The resumption of public confidence in banks would be sufficient reason for the adoption of the bill embracing the new organization, Mr. Traylor said, asserting that "if the confidence in our central banking institutions fails, then everything else fails." He emphasized that banks generally are in good condition but that "lack of public confidence" is the vital weakness in to-day's banking system.

#### Would Bring Hoarded Money Out.

Mr. Traylor testified that money might well be loaned to closed banks on their good but slow securities, thereby releasing an estimated \$1,750,000,000 tied up in those institutions and re-creating confidence which would bring out into circulation another \$750,000,000 which he estimated people were hoarding because of their lack of confidence in banks.

"With the making available of that money and the restoring of confidence it is altogether possible," he testified, "to add \$1,000,000,000 to the circulation in a very short time and more soon after."

Mr. Traylor also asked that the directors of the proposed corporation receive wide discretion, saying that he hesitated "to talk before the newspapers, but the National Credit Corporation had found it advisable to loan money on perfectly sound assets but of a type which would not get by this corporation," with the restrictions written in the bill.

Reverting to the closed banks, Mr. Traylor maintained that most of them had been run on sound lines, citing that these generally have paid to depositors between 50 and 75%.

"To say that banks are responsible alone," Mr. Traylor said suddenly, "in the face of the collapse of values is to say that you gentlemen in Congress are responsible for a deficit of a billion dollars."

"Well, if the bankers' judgment was so good," Senator Glass challenged him, "how do you account for their acceptance of \$8,000,000,000 or \$9,000,000,000 of practically worthless foreign securities?"

"Very few are in the banks," responded Mr. Traylor.

"Then they were unloaded on a credulous public," said Senator Glass, "and sound banks had no business endorsing that gambling folly."

"Senator," answered Mr. Traylor, "investors have lost two dollars in real estate and railroad loans for every dollar they have lost in foreign loans. It is all a part of the collapse of everything we thought was good."

Mr. Traylor added that the beginning of the depression was in 1914 when "we, the world, inflated ourselves to an extent of about \$200,000,000,000, much of which will never be repaid."

*Loans Preserve Insurance Policies.*

When Mr. Ecker testified regarding life insurance companies, he said that no large company yet had been unable to meet its obligations, but that evidence of heavy strain on the public to preserve life insurance was seen in the fact that 32% of all investments by his company in 1931 have been in the form of loans on policies. Nevertheless, he said that 1931 had been a record policy-selling year for his company.

Metropolitan company investments described by Mr. Ecker included the railroad bonds previously mentioned, and 28.4% of the company's assets in city mortgages, 10.2% in farm mortgages, 10.2% in public utilities, 15.9% in policy loans, 8% in foreign and domestic bonds and 2.8% in real estate.

In discussing the railroad situation, he emphasized that railroads are an essential part of the scheme of public service and must be preserved, adding:

"I think the maturities facing the railroads in the next few months cannot be taken care of even if the depression does not continue. It would require six months for them to get the benefit of an upward turn. I think that in the first three months of 1932 they will not do as well as in the first three months of 1931. I cannot think the change will come soon enough to enable the railroads to meet obligations or to sell secondary securities to enable them to take care of these bonds."

*Urges Liberalizing Bill.*

Mr. Ecker recommended that the Inter-State Commerce Commission be asked to approve any loans to the railroads from the proposed corporation and asked that the provisions of the enabling bill be liberalized, particularly as regards security requirements.

When Senator Brookhart of Iowa asked Mr. Ecker the present rate of interest charged railroads for loans, the witness replied:

"At the present moment railroads cannot borrow at any rate."

Mr. Ecker injected a heated passage into his otherwise cool analysis of conditions when Senator Brookhart asked:

"Business is pretty well destroyed, isn't it?"

"No, sir," exclaimed Mr. Ecker, turning on his interrogator. "Business is going on. We are pretty near what we will have to consider normal for some time. There is no sense in delaying business projects and hoarding money and letting fear hold up everything we normally would do. During the best times we had 1,500,000 men employed. Ordinarily about 48,000,000 workers were employed. Now there are between 40,000,000 and 41,000,000 employed. The shrinkage is regrettable, but we are going on."

*Opposes Inter-State Commerce Commission Passing on Loans.*

Morgan B. Brainard testified only briefly, saying Mr. Ecker had covered many of his own conclusions, but he emphasized the conclusion that "this fund would be as practical a step to reassure business as anything I could think of."

He also testified that its most valuable feature would be the aid granted to railroads, but disagreed with Mr. Ecker on the principle of having the Inter-State Commerce Commission pass on loans on the ground that this would "encumber operation of the plan."

"At the moment I see no need of life insurance companies borrowing under that provision in the bill," Mr. Brainard testified, "although a situation might arise, due to a demand for policy loans, where it might be very helpful. The greatest help I can see is that it will do much to dispel the fog of doubt and fear that is enveloping the people."

*Chairman Brainard of Inter-State Commerce Commission Cites Rail Obligations.*

Chairman Brainard of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, asked to supply definite figures to the Committee when he appeared at yesterday's hearings, did not give figures comparable with those cited by Mr. Ecker, but concerned himself with the first quarter of 1932.

After citing obligations against railroads on Oct. 31 totaling \$224,145,827, Mr. Brainard testified to-day that in the first quarter of 1932 railroads would have to pay \$2,677,550 on bonds, \$35,984,395 on loans and bills payable and \$35,560,820 on equipment trust obligations. He said this information was not available from the files of the Commission, but was compiled by the Bureau of Railway Economics.

"For Class I operating railways (excluding lessor companies)" Chairman Brainard reported, "the total amount of bond maturities for the year 1932, including the amount for the first quarter, is \$70,299,827. The total of equipment trust obligations for 1932, including the amount given for the first quarter, is \$110,782,506."

Chairman Brainard also testified that gross operating revenues of railroads had dropped from \$6,189,917,189 in 1928 to an estimated \$4,225,000,000, and net operating income, after deduction of taxes but before fixed charges, had shrunk in the same periods from \$1,194,487,806 to \$535,800,000.

*Estimates Requirements to May 1.*

Following the presentation of his prepared figures, Chairman Brainard made his \$85,000,000 to \$156,000,000 estimate of the railroad's requirements up to May 1 1932, thus marking the end of a six-months' period to which the Commission has been giving special study.

He said that, roughly, these estimates had been arrived at through the weighing of many factors and final allowance of \$79,000,000 for short-term loan requirements, \$62,000,000 for equipment trust instalments and \$14,000,000 for bond maturities, which it would be desirable to pay by May 1 1932. These figures totaled \$150,000,000, which was quite near the maximum figure originally given by the Chairman.

Alfred P. Thom, counsel for the Association of Railway Executives, in brief testimony told the Committee that even if railroads immediately received authorization for increases of freight rates on commodities and these rates, which are considered virtually approved by the Commission, were effective by Jan. 1, "the railroads could not get the benefit until late in March."

Mr. Thom said that the railroads would not object to having the Inter-State Commerce Commission pass on loans by the proposed corporation, a proceeding which Chairman Brainard had testified could, in an emergency, be done within "less than a week."

*J. C. Traphagen's Views.*

J. C. Traphagen, of New York, who appeared as a representative of the Bank of New York & Trust Co., said he "heartily approved" of the bill, particularly as the New York banks, "out of respect for their obligations to correspondents, some times remain too liquid."

"I think it is a good thing for the public to know these things are being done," he added. "However, the financing of the corporation should not be mixed up with Government finances, for the issuance of Treasury bonds instead of debentures might have a detrimental effect on Government credit."

Mr. Traphagen opposed loans to closed banks, as advocated by Mr. Traylor, saying:

"I think that might be a mistake and it probably would not be necessary. If the banks get back on a normal basis they will loan the money to closed banks, which would be supplied by this corporation. In New

York the banks have loaned about 50% on deposits in the Bank of United States. I am afraid that if you start loaning money to closed banks you will exhaust a large part of this corporation's resources."

*Asks Electric Rail Inclusion.*

C. B. Cass, counsel for the American Electric Railway System, protested to the Committee that electric railways, including those with property valued at almost \$1,000,000,000 which are engaged in inter-State commerce, would obtain no relief whatever under the proposed measure as it now stands for it specifies "steam railways." Mr. Cass' contention will be considered by the Committee.

The measure was endorsed by Hilton W. Harrison, President of the Security Owners Association of New York. Another witness was George St. Jean, President of the Federal International Corp., a research organization, who asked for inclusion in the measure of means for relieving the foreign credit situation through the provision of one or two-year export credits, instead of the customary 90-day acceptances, which, he said, are not applicable to present export conditions.

### Railroad Freight Rate Rise Jan. 4 Is Granted; \$100,000,000 Added—Inter-State Commerce Commission Waives 30-Day Notice Rule to Put in Effect Substitute Schedule It Suggested—Other Relief Is Ordered—Long, Short Hauls Provisions Are Broadcast—Time Limit Set at March 31 1933.

Railroads of the country received permission on Dec. 24 from the Inter-State Commerce Commission to put into effect the freight rate increases which were suggested in its recent decision on the carriers' proposal to increase all rates by 15%. The Commission expects the increases to net \$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000 annually. The New York "Times" in its issue of Dec. 25 refers to the matter as follows:

The authorization came in the form of approval of applications filed by the various roads to make the new rates effective in less than the statutory period of notice, 30 days.

The Commission, in agreeing, waived certain tariff rules to enable the authorized increases to be published in master tariffs and supplements, with the increases becoming effective in less than five days after publication.

Every effort had been made to make the new schedules applicable by Jan. 1, but rate experts to-day expressed the opinion that they cannot be placed in effect before Jan. 4.

A group of railroad agents, headed by W. S. Culllett, called at the Commission's offices with a sample of the master tariffs, covering the rates to be raised, and conferred with some of the Commissioners during most of the day.

To avoid complications, the Commission revoked all outstanding unexpired orders conflicting with its authorization of the new rates.

The Commission also granted relief from the long-and-short hauls provision of the Inter-State Commerce Act, as far as they would apply to establishment of the increased charges.

Under these provisions the carriers are prohibited from collecting a rate for a long haul which would exceed the aggregate of rates to intermediate points. They also prohibit the collection of rates for a short haul which would exceed that for a long or through haul.

*Time Limit Is March 31 1933.*

The Commission ordered that the new rates shall not remain in effect beyond March 31 1933.

All but one of the Class I railroads eligible to participate in the plan for the marshalling and distribution of the fund that will result from the increases, have given notice of their willingness to do so.

Twenty Class I roads are ineligible to share in the railroad credit corporation; no roads may participate which derive less than 50% of their revenues from freight traffic, nor may those in receivership or which have obligations in default. Also ineligible are those which would be unable to meet their fixed obligations even with the aid of a loan from the corporation.

Thus 134 of the 155 Class I roads will participate in the marshalling and distributing plan; with one refusing such participation and 20 ineligible.

The Commission has expressed the opinion that the sum expected to result from the rate increases will suffice to prevent further defaults on fixed charges.

Although a number of roads are not eligible to participate in the plan for rail credit rehabilitation, they will be allowed, nevertheless, to benefit from application of the new rates.

### Rail Wage Move—Many Roads Serve Notice of Wage Cuts—Labor to Fix Date of Conference with Rail Owners in Chicago.

In accordance with the decision of the presidents of the Nation's railroads in New York Dec. 18 appointing a committee empowered to "negotiate to a conclusion" with the Railway Labor Executive's Association on wages and employment, railroads all over the country, with few exceptions began Dec. 22, notifying their employees of their intention to change existing contracts so as to bring about a 15% wage reduction. Under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act posting of notices calls for conferences on the subject within 30 days.

Among the few exceptions are the Bangor & Aroostook, the Delaware & Hudson, and the Western Maryland, which have not authorized the special committee of railroad presidents to act for them in the conference now being arranged with union leaders. Independent negotiations are being conducted by the Delaware & Hudson, which normally is not a participant in group action on labor matters.

On Dec. 23, it was announced, that chiefs of the 21 railroad labor organizations will meet at Cleveland, Dec. 29, to



fix the date and to formulate their policy for the wage negotiation conference to be held with railroad executives in Chicago.

*The Railroads' Committee.*

The joint committee named by the railroad presidents to represent the several regions is as follows:

Western Region.—L. A. Downs of the Illinois Central, James Gorman of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, L. W. Baldwin of the Missouri Pacific.

Southern Region.—C. A. Wickersham of the Atlanta, Birmingham & West Point RR. (an affiliate of the Atlantic Coast Line), H. D. Pollard of the Central Georgia, A. C. Needles of the Norfolk & Western.

Eastern Region.—Daniel Willard of the Baltimore & Ohio, J. J. Pelley of the New York, New Haven & Hartford and Charles E. Denney of the Erie.

The action of the presidents is a re-appointment of the committee that conferred in New York a month ago with the Railway Labor Executives' Association. The committee previously had been empowered only to discuss questions of policy. Mr. Willard is again its Chairman.

Discussing the serving of notices under the Railway Labor Act, a member of the committee of nine said:

The only purpose in the service of this notice is to comply with the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. It is an action which the managements must take to guard against the possibility that the coming negotiations with labor might fall through, but of this I have no expectation. All the managements believe that an amicable adjustment will be made. No steps toward a reduction under the law will be made pending the outcome of the conference with labor.

The fact that the managements have given their committee full power to act on wages and employment and that this committee was appointed by unanimous vote shows that the managements expect this body to be successful in its undertakings.

**Railways Approve Loan Pool Plan—Practically Unanimous Assent Given, According to Announcement.**

Practically unanimous assent to the loan plan of the Association of Railway Executives which contemplates the making of loans to financially weak carriers by a railroad-controlled organization called "The Railroad Credit Corporation," from funds derived from freight rate advances permitted by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, has been received by the Association, according to a statement of the Association transmitted to the Commission Dec. 22. The statement follows:

Practically unanimous assent to the marshalling and distributing plan has been given by eligible Class I railroads covering 229,053 miles of road. One dissent was made by a railroad comprising 150 miles. Every effort will be made by the railroads to make the plan effective by Jan. 1 1932.

**Railroads Authorized to Increase Freight Rates—To Go Into Effect Jan. 4.**

The Inter-State Commerce Commission Dec. 24, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, authorized the railroads of the country to increase freight rates on five days' notice to the general public. Immediately after the Commission made known its decision, it was announced by representatives of the railroads that the rates would be posted on Dec. 30 to become effective Jan. 4.

The increases, in the form of surcharges, are those authorized as an emergency measure by the Commission in an effort to assist many lines over a financial crisis. The surcharges will be placed in the hands of the Railroad Credit Corporation and by it loaned to carriers unable to meet the interest on their bonds from net earnings.

The surcharges are of \$3 and \$6 per carload. Agricultural commodities are exempt from the increase.

**Senator Couzens Would Bar Railroads from Participation in Reconstruction Finance Corporation—Daniel Willard of Baltimore & Ohio RR. Asks United States Loans for Rail Lines.**

Senator Couzens (Rep., Mich.), Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Committee of the Senate, will do everything in his power to excise from the Reconstruction Finance Corp. bill now being considered by a subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency group specific provisions for Federal aid of the railroads. A Washington dispatch, Dec. 21, to the New York "Journal of Commerce," reporting this, continued:

Couzens made this announcement after participating in the afternoon hearings before the subcommittee at which Daniel Willard, President of the Baltimore & Ohio system, detailed the financial plight of the carriers.

The Michigan progressive already has before the Senate a resolution proving broad investigation of all phases of railroad operation, including the unemployment situation. This measure was adopted to-day, but the action was rescinded, and it will be brought up again after the Christmas recess.

Couzens' objection to including the railroad clause in the bill of Senator Walcott (Rep., Conn.) creating the Reconstruction Finance Corp. is based upon his assertion that the Inter-State Commerce Commission is the proper body to which the railways should go for authorization for loans to meet their various obligations.

*Favors Provisions of 1920 Law.*

Couzens' plan is to re-enact provisions of the 1920 railway act setting up a revolving fund of \$300,000,000 for loans certified by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, at an interest rate of 6%.

"By such an arrangement," he said, "we should assure that applications for advances would be passed upon by a competent body. There is nothing in this bill to provide for such supervision, nor is a rate of interest fixed. "I am going to get the railway sections out of the Reconstruction Corp. bill in Committee if I can, and if not I will take other means.

Couzens' statement was the sensation of to-day's hearings on the Walcott bill, particularly since he is a member of neither the subcommittee considering it nor the Banking and Currency Committee. His action also is diametrically opposed to the wishes of President Hoover, who is most anxious for the passage of the Reconstruction Corp. measure in the shortest possible time, and with the railroad provisions intact.

*Hoover Assured of Prompt Action.*

Only a few hours before Couzens made his announcement Senate leaders calling at the White House had assured the President prompt action would be secured on the ambitious Reconstruction Corp. plan. It was their hope, they said, to have the measure before the Senate soon after the reconvening in January.

The results of this interview were reported on the Senate floor by Republican leader Watson, who was accompanied to the Executive Mansion by the Chairmen and ranking members of the Finance and Banking and Currency Committees, Republican and Democrat.

Willard had previously told the Committee that American railways have more than \$1,000,000,000 bond obligations maturing in the next three years. If loans are not made available from the projected Reconstruction Corp., to be capitalized at \$500,000,000 and authorized to issue debentures to a total of \$1,500,000,000, it was represented, the lines might be forced to go into the market to borrow enormous sums for refunding operations at "distress" rates of interest.

"If we felt we could secure loans from the Government at reasonable rates next summer it would certainly be a matter of great satisfaction to us," said Willard, speaking for the B. & O. "I believe it would be a good investment for the Government, too."

The hazard as to repayment, he continued, would be a negligible one for the Treasury.

*Improvements Periled.*

"Some of the roads, unless able to get large sums at rather reasonable rates, will have to stop necessary work now under way," Willard declared. "This year, 82 roads will fail to earn their fixed interest charges by \$120,000,000."

The B. & O., said Willard, is in need of \$43,000,000 in 1932 to meet maturing obligations, and it was his belief the line could save from 1 to 2% by borrowing from the Reconstruction Finance Corp. if established.

Other witnesses heard by the Committee to-day were Harry E. Ward, President Irving Trust Co.; Henry Bruere, Vice-President Bowery Savings Bank; Ezra Brainerd, Jr., Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, and Philip A. Benson, Treasurer Dime Savings Bank, Brooklyn.

**New Working Agreement Offered to Engineers by Delaware & Hudson RR. Rejected by Brotherhood—Wage Rule Reported Involved.**

Associated Press advices from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Dec. 17, stated:

A new working agreement offered locomotive engineers by the Delaware & Hudson RR. has been rejected by Division 263, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Marvin W. McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of the lodge, said to-day.

The proposal, he said, offered every engineer 240 hours' work each month and pay ranging from \$250 to \$300 monthly. McCarty said the local group, as brotherhood members, could not accept the offer because it operates under the grand lodge. The latter, he said, would not sanction giving up the eight-hour-day rights and time and half time for overtime.

**Treasury Notes as Legal Tender Suggested—Non-Interest Bearing Issue to Expand Currency in Circulation Advocated by Senator Shipstead.**

The issuance of necessary money in the form of non-interest bearing Treasury notes, making them legal tender for the payment of public and private debts, was advocated by Senator Henrik Shipstead (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota, in a radio address Dec. 21 over the National Broadcasting Company's network. The "United States Dial" of Dec. 22, in giving the text of the address said:

Senator Shipstead asserted that the proposed Government corporation with a capital of \$500,000,000 "is in fact a Government banking corporation, throwing the credit of the Government back of these institutions and guaranteeing their assets."

*Suggest Finance Plan.*

"In my opinion," he said, "a better way for expanding the currency than that proposed by this Government banking corporation would be for the Federal Government to issue necessary money in the form of non-interest bearing Treasury notes, making them legal tender for the payment of debts public and private to be retired after a period of years through taxation as bonds are retired."

Senator Shipstead's address follows in full text: In this country the solution of all governmental problems rests in the final analysis with you people. The Government of the United States was created to be your servant. There are many problems confronting your Government to-day. Time does not permit me to call your attention to more than one of them. I believe the most outstanding problem that confronts the world to-day is the question of how international public and private debts can be paid, business restored, and unemployment eliminated.

A solution is being sought for this problem through the extension of credit in one form or another. It is plain that this is not a solution. It has been tried for 10 years and it has proven a failure. Juggling of credits back and forth is not paying debts. It only postpones payment and leaves the problem unsolved, and increases the debts.

As a result our credit system is breaking down and we have what is called a "paralysis of credit." As this condition progresses we have a growing paralysis of business, agriculture, finance, industry and labor. This must necessarily be so because business, finance and industry are based upon

credit and the basis of credit is confidence. As confidence and credit disappear values disappear. As values disappear business further becomes paralyzed, revenues decrease, unemployment increases and prices decline.

#### *Discusses Gold Demand.*

The falling price level is in my opinion the greatest menace to the world to-day. The descending price level of commodities is destroying all values. The descending prices of commodities are in turn due to the increasing demand for gold. The increasing demand for gold is due to the creation of large obligations of debts payable in gold within the last 15 years. Nations on the gold standard will accept payment for debts in only one commodity and that is gold.

As a result, the value of gold is gradually increasing and consequently the value of other commodities gradually decreasing. The production of gold has not kept pace with the creation of debts. Therefore we are suffering from a lack of a means of payment. It is difficult to estimate the amount of obligations outstanding payable in gold, but the gold supply with which to pay them is infinitesimal in comparison.

The purpose of trade is to exchange goods, both internationally and within our own country. People who are neighbors can exchange their goods back and forth in the neighborhood, but if they live long distances apart there must be a medium of exchange sufficient in quantity to make settlement possible. Such a medium of exchange is called money.

#### *Creation of Money.*

Money is created by law and by law made lawful for payment of all debts, public and private. There is, however, less than five billions of real money in the United States. Bank deposits to the amount of \$60,000,000,000 or \$70,000,000,000 are not lawful money. Deposits are mainly credit, evidence of debt. The medium of exchange through which payment for goods is made has been furnished to the extent of about 9% by bank checks. Bank checks are not lawful money and they are not legal tender for payment of debts. They will be accepted in payment of debts if the creditor is confident that the check is good. Our banking system is based upon credit and credit is again based on confidence.

As confidence disappears, confidence in banks and bank checks disappears and to that extent the use of checks as a medium of exchange disappears.

As the medium of exchange is restricted in volume, prices again fall and the depression increases in intensity. As the depression increases in force, revenues of citizens disappear and consequently revenues of the Government disappear, making heavier taxes necessary. To restore business, employment and revenues, public and private, we must restore a medium of exchange in sufficient quantity to make interchange of goods possible and so break the present trade blockade.

#### *Advocates More Money.*

Most of the nations of the world have found it necessary to do this. It is gradually dawning upon us that we must do it ourselves. Farmers cannot pay their mortgages on the present price level. Farm mortgages, like all other values, are declining because of inability to make payment. An expansion of the currency is necessary to restore prices. We must put more money in circulation.

A year ago the Federal Reserve Board cut the rediscount rates, evidently hoping to be able to expand credits and so restore prices, as was done in 1924, but so far the expected results have not been accomplished. The credit system based on confidence cannot be expanded on falling prices and loss of confidence.

We must, therefore, look around for other methods. One method has been suggested by men of affairs in industry, commerce and business. That is, the restoring of silver as money by the nations of the world.

#### *Money System Illustrated.*

Former Finance Minister Joseph Caillaux of France, who saved the post-war financial situation in that country by his courageous action and intelligent understanding of finance, says of these conditions:

"All the money systems of the world may be represented as an upside down pyramid of paper notes resting on a point of gold. All that is necessary is to shake that gold point just the least bit to make the whole edifice tremble. What facilities that offers for speculators! There is only one remedy. It is not that there should be any redistribution of gold, as is being childishly suggested. Gold has its own law which it obeys. What must be done is that another monetary metal should be joined to it. Platinum has been suggested. I would prefer that silver, which was stupidly demonetized, should be rehabilitated."

However, it is agreed that restoring silver as money is practical only if agreed to by the leading nations.

#### *Discusses Proposed Plan.*

To relieve the banks, railroads, life insurance companies of assets they cannot now dispose of, the Administration is now proposing in a bill to create a Government corporation with a capital of \$500,000,000, to loan funds to and discount their obligations with the Federal Reserve Bank in the amount of \$1,500,000,000. This will inflate the currency in circulation in that amount. The obligations and the liabilities of the corporation will be assumed by the Government. It is in fact a Government banking corporation, throwing the credit of the Government back to these institutions and guaranteeing their assets.

While this may, if properly managed, be helpful, I want to say that, in my opinion, the temporary aid to these institutions is like repairing the roof of a house and neglecting the foundation. The foundation of all of these institutions is agricultural prices. This was proven early this fall, when farm prices temporarily rose and all prices rose with them. When farm prices declined, all other prices declined in sympathy. To restore values we must restore farm prices. They are the foundation of all values. Farm mortgages should be made eligible as collateral for discount with the Federal Reserve Bank, thereby giving them their proper status in relation to other securities.

In my opinion a better way for expanding the currency than that proposed by this Government banking corporation would be for the Federal Government to issue necessary money in the form of non-interest-bearing Treasury notes, making them legal tender for the payment of debts, public and private, to be retired after a period of years through taxation, as bonds are retired. This would prevent possible loss to the Government that might be sustained by having to acquire assets that cannot be collected under the proposed plan now before Congress.

If the necessary amount were issued it would have an immediate effect upon commodity price levels. Business would be restored. Values and confidence would also be restored, and the institutions now in trouble would be able to resume use of their credit without the guarantee of the Government. This we have done before. Making these notes legal tender for the payment of all debts, public and private, will keep them at par as your silver certificates have remained at par for years, while their intrinsic value is now only about 25 cents on the dollar. It is the credit of the Government back of them that keeps them at par. Ten dollars of these will buy as much for you in the department stores as \$10 in gold.

#### *Utes Price Changes.*

But some will say "This is increasing the supply of money, that is, cheapening money and making it possible to pay debts in cheap money."

I reply by saying "Your money is dishonest now, because it is 50% dearer than when the debts were incurred under the high price level. By deflating the circulating medium you have deflated prices. The farmer must produce two or three times more commodities now to pay his taxes and interest than when his debt was incurred. We should restore the value of money to the value it had when farmers and commerce incurred their indebtedness. When a debtor can pay a debt in money of the same value in which the debt was incurred, then he is paying his debt in honest coin."

I believe this would go far in restoring commodity price levels, values, business, revenues of private citizens and the Government, and abolish unemployment. I do not mean to say that this would solve all our problems. I hope to have the pleasure of discussing some of the others with you at some future time.

#### **Coast of War to United States Put at \$52,000,000,000.** **by Professor Clark of Columbia University.**

The tangible cost of the World War to the United States, if the war debts are collected, is fixed at \$52,000,000,000 by Professor John M. Clark of Columbia University in a book to be published by Yale University, according to Associated Press accounts from New Haven Dec. 18, from which we also quote the following:

The National outlay of goods and service at the time of the conflict is set at \$32,000,000,000. The economic burden of death and disability, including loss of income to the affected persons, is given as \$10,000,000,000, with the same amount for compensation of veterans and dependents.

Should the United States be unable to collect its war debts, Professor Clark estimates another \$38,000,000,000, mostly principal and interest on the domestic war debt, would be added to the total cost.

#### **Restoration of Silver Value Through Sales Agreement** **Proposed by Committee of Experts of International Chamber of Commerce.**

Restoration of silver value through a sales agreement among the major producing nations tops a four-point program which the International Chamber of Commerce has initiated throughout the world, said Associated Press accounts from Washington, Nov. 9, which also had the following to say:

Silas H. Strawn, Chairman of the Chamber's American committee, made public the report of a Committee of Experts. He said negotiations already were under way with private groups and governments primarily concerned to make the recommendations effective.

The other proposals are that any government finding itself unable to secure a sufficient supply of gold "might consider the purchase of an amount of silver against which notes of low denomination, covered by silver to almost the full value of the gold coin which it substitutes, would be issued."

That the International Chamber seek to have governments "restore their subsidiary coinages to pre-war fineness, within the limits of their national law" to help restore confidence in the value of the metal.

That those "interested in the sale of silver might with advantage emulate the example set in other industries by the establishment of research institutes for the purpose of devising new uses and expanding present uses of the product."

At the same time the Experts expressed an opinion that no international conference for stabilizing the silver industry is likely under governmental sponsorship, except as a side issue of a general economic conference.

Referring to the proposed sales agreement, it said the best results probably could be achieved "by friendly co-operation and careful observation of prices, with a view to establishing a somewhat higher, although not too high, level compatible with the interests of sellers as well as holders."

Stating that the Expert Committee, in addition to Mr. Strawn, included Ernest Franklin of Samuel Montagu & Co., of London; E. D. Van Walree of Bernn, Holland, and Marshall W. Tuthill of Tuthill & Co., of New York, the Washington correspondent of the New York "Times" on Nov. 8 said:

In general, the conclusions of the Expert Committee are based on the likelihood that neither an international conference on silver nor monetization will happen in the immediate future.

#### *Only a "Reasonable Time" Needed.*

In the opinion of the Expert Committee, its recommendation for an international selling agreement "can be carried into effect within a reasonable time." The matter of the monetization of silver, it holds, can be "studied at leisure with a view to future action."

As for the use of silver in industry the committee suggests the establishment of research institutes to devise new uses and expand the present use of the metal, and puts out the thought that "a considerable improvement in the industrial demand would immediately follow the discovery of a satisfactory process which would eliminate the tendency of that metal to tarnish."

In addition to holding that it was not to be expected that a conference of governments would take place in the near future, the Expert Committee unanimously agreed that proposals for the establishment of a bimetallic system of currency, or, alternately, for the remonetization of silver, "stand no chance of early application in practice."

"That England, France and other countries should increase the standard of their subsidiary currency, is, we are informed, most unlikely to happen," the committee says.

Disagreeing with the view of a Senate subcommittee, the Committee takes the position that the fall in the price of silver has not been more than a contributory cause of the financial and economic troubles of China.

"Indeed," it says, "China is the one country where prices in daily life have varied least."

#### *Agrees on Benefit to China.*

The Committee assents, however, to the view of the Senate subcommittee that a relative stability in the price of silver would contribute materially toward a gradual opening of the interior of China to trade. It

holds that the difficulty in bringing about stability in prices lies with China and not with India, but that it should not be insurmountable.

Granting that a rise in the price of the metal would mean a rise in China exchange and that this, if material, would tend to diminish the exports and increase the imports of that country, the Committee acknowledges that such a course would be of undoubted benefit to exporters to China, but adds that "it remains to be seen to what extent the increased imports would consist of silver." A too sudden or too large a rise in the price should be avoided "and it would also be a grave error to decide beforehand what price should be aimed at."

After reviewing these and other factors, the Committee of Experts proposes its plan for an international silver consortium.

"Your Committee," says the report, "accordingly recommends that, if the International Chamber of Commerce wishes to retain the subject of silver on its agenda, it should investigate the possibilities of bringing the North American producers and refiners of silver into a sales agreement with the government of India.

"For this purpose, of course, the producers of the United States, in order to conform to their national laws, could only be organized from the point of view of export sales. Other producers of any substantial quantity should naturally be welcomed into the agreement, while the importance of bringing the Bank of Spain and kindred institutions into these deliberations should not be lost sight of.

#### *Agreement Hinges on India.*

"A selling agreement which does not include the Indian Government would not be practicable, and to expect that government to agree not to sell except at a price materially higher than that fixed for the producers would be unjust and futile. The several parties must work together, and it would naturally be provided that any participant can withdraw from the agreement at agreed notice, either temporarily or permanently, but they must bind themselves not to sell independently until the expiration of the agreement.

"Possible difficulties may occur. For instance, if, in order to avoid too severe a break in price, the selling consortium should find itself forced to retain, even temporarily, an unwieldy proportion of the amounts which it has to sell, there might be a risk of some of its component members becoming restive and threatening to act independently; but risks such as this must be run, and silver is easier to control than almost any other product, certainly far more so than coffee or rubber.

"The Committee further recommends that, if it is true that a scarcity of gold is to be expected, it would not be impossible to alleviate this scarcity to a certain extent by the use of silver.

"It is not proposed to fix a ratio between the respective prices of gold and silver, but it is suggested that any government which finds it impossible to secure a sufficient supply of gold might consider the purchase of an amount of silver against which notes of low denomination, covered by silver to almost the full value of the gold coin which it substitutes, would be issued; these notes would circulate concurrently with the paper currency which is partly covered by gold.

#### *Suggests Proportion of One to Three.*

"This can be attained by making the silver certificates receivable for all payments to the government. If they are issued to no higher proportion in relation to gold than, say, one to three, there would not be much risk of seeing these silver certificates drop in value below that of the notes partly covered by gold.

"The basis of credit would thus be widened by the simple means of using the authority of the government, and silver would benefit as long as the purchase could be effected at a low price. If at any time the silver against which the certificates were issued should rise in price as expressed in gold, there would be no harm in selling the silver and replacing it by gold."

In reviewing conditions affecting silver as a preface to its recommendations, the Committee expresses the opinion that the best results "may be achieved by friendly co-operation and careful observation of prices, with a view to establishing a somewhat higher, although not too high, level compatible with the interests of sellers and buyers as well as holders.

"As regards excess production," the Committee continues, "it should be remembered that about 65% of the world output of silver is a by-product of ores chiefly valuable for copper, lead and zinc; this silver will be produced and will be inevitably put on the market. Apparently the new fields which are open to the exploitation of these ores do not promise any considerable by-production of silver.

"The reduction in consumption, on the other hand, has been created by the increasing disuse of silver for monetary purposes, but the use for the industrial arts continues much as before. And, finally, it should be remembered that while the production and offering of silver on the market are fairly constant, the demand is erratic and unreliable at all times and violent fluctuations are caused thereby.

#### *Fluctuations Upset Trade.*

"It can hardly be disputed that the wide and constant fluctuations in the price of silver are a serious obstacle to international trade as a whole, and that a rise is much to be desired. The country which is most concerned with the course of silver prices is, naturally, China. China has suffered much of recent years, but we do not believe that the fall in silver has been more than a contributory cause. Indeed, China is the one country where prices in daily life have varied least."

After expressing its conviction that a gradual opening of the Chinese interior to trade would be materially helped by a relative stability of the price of silver, the Committee remarks:

"Notwithstanding the desire of the Chinese Government to put the currency of the country upon a gold basis, it can hardly be questioned that, for many years to come, silver will remain the principal basis of monetary circulation in China. We believe that, at the moment, China could bear a moderate and gradual rise in the gold value of its currency, but not a heavy or rapid one.

"So far as India is concerned, apart from the interest of the government with its vast stock of silver rupees, a sudden and violent rise in the price of silver could only check its absorption by the population of that country."

#### *American Producers' Part.*

Noting that the estimate of silver production this year is less than 200,000,000 ounces, the Committee says that the larger production is controlled by a few corporations in America which, it contends, "if they had a working agreement with the Indian Treasury, giving all participants a reasonable quota of world sales, should be capable of keeping silver at a price fair to both buyers and sellers so long as they support the market with judgment."

It is not generally realized, the Committee points out, that at the present price the value of a year's production of silver is only about \$56,000,000. Of the annual demand of about 50,000,000 ounces for industry, the Committee says, we may take it that this would be bought almost irrespective of price.

"There remains, therefore," it adds, "the Indian and Chinese demands. The former has remained steady for the last three years and does not depend entirely on the price."

With that introduction the Committee notes that "the difficulty is with China" and then gives its reasons for believing that it should not be insurmountable.

In concluding its report, the Committee calls attention without other comment to "the unreasonably wide margin which exists between the wholesale price of silver and the retail price of the articles manufactured from silver, after making due allowance for labor costs."

### **Michigan Plan to Release Frozen Credits Approved by State Securities Commission.**

The "United States Daily" reports the following from Lansing, Mich., Nov. 27:

The State Securities Commission has announced approval of a plan which they describe as a miniature of the Hoover plan for releasing frozen credits in banks. They have approved the application of the First State Savings Bank of Muskegon Heights for permission to deposit \$149,000 in mortgages with the Bankers' Trust Co. of Muskegon, which in turn is to issue certificates of participation for the same amount. This plan, it is stated at the Commission Office, will relieve frozen credits of the Muskegon Heights institution.

### **Attorney General Morris of North Dakota Rules Banks May Lend on Gold Notes of National Credit Corp.**

It was stated in a Bismarck, N. Dak., dispatch, Nov. 27, to the "United States Daily" "that State Attorney-General James Morris has ruled that banking corporations and associations organized under the laws of North Dakota legally may lend money to the National Credit Corp. upon its gold notes, up to either 2% of the net demand and time deposits or 10% of the capital and surplus of the subscribing bank, whichever is less.

### **Harry J. Haas, President of A. B. A., Foresees Time When United States Must Defend Position as World's Financial Centre—Says Country Became Great Creditor Nation Before Trained to Responsibilities—Danger in Our Becoming too Self-Satisfied.**

The time will undoubtedly come when the United States will have to be prepared to defend its position as the world's financial centre, Harry J. Haas, President of the American Bankers Association, and Vice-President of the First National Bank of Philadelphia, declared on Dec. 17 in an address before the Bankers Forum, American Institute of Banking, at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Mr. Haas and J. Stewart Baker, President of the New York State Bankers Association, were guests of honor at a dinner at which Frederick W. Gehle of the Chase National Bank presided as toastmaster. Mr. Haas said:

It is possible, though not probable, that we of our generation may again see the world's financial centre moved to other parts of the world. Who knows but what a great people may be in the making somewhere in the world who in the course of time may develop a race heartier than ours; who can produce at less cost than ourselves; who shall be self-sustaining by highly intensive diversification; who shall export to other parts of the world far in excess of their imports; whose tourists shall spend their travel money within their own borders so that gold shall flow to their shores in abundance and remain there so that they shall become richer and richer year by year, until they shall have the world's store of gold. Who knows but what we may become the luxury-loving nation of history and the hardy hordes of another nation may meet us and excel us in our enterprises. Is there not some spark of danger in our becoming too self-satisfied and not realize our position until it is too late?

I do not wish to be an alarmist and none of us shall probably live to see this day, but does it not put upon us a responsibility to see that we pass on to posterity not a race of self-indulgent people resting upon the efforts of past generations, but rather to pass on a generation of able-bodied, serious-minded people who realize their responsibility and shall measure up to it.

Explaining that this country within the past 30 years has risen to domination of the world banking picture, the speaker pointed out that in 1910 not a single American bank was included in the group of the ten largest banks in the world. Now New York stands as the greatest banking centre, with the largest bank in the world measured both by capital funds and deposits—a bank with total resources more than five times as large as the world's leading bank in 1920. Mr. Haas went on to say:

We of our generation are fortunate to have lived during such an important era in finance. No other people during the past three centuries of the world's history have had such an experience. A combination of circumstances brought it about during our life time. It is probable that with our steady growth of merchandise credit with the rest of the world year by year increasing our national wealth accordingly that statisticians might have figured the approximate time when we should become the great creditor nation of the world through our own efforts and without misfortune to any other nationalities.

The World War, however, accentuated our financial rise and, may I say, perhaps before we were fully trained to its responsibilities. With increased success comes increased responsibility. We have had the success and we are on our way to the full realization of its responsibilities.

While not apologizing for our shortcomings, we must understand that since our rise to the world's financial eminence we have had a troubled world the like of which no past generations have ever experienced. These conditions have naturally not been conducive to confidence. Perhaps when the world shall have assumed a more stable position our confidence shall have increased proportionately and one successful world venture after

another shall be accomplished until experience has shown that by and large our efforts have proven safe and sound; then we shall take our proper place in the sun.

It is interesting and important to note that England has for centuries made not only temporary loans and advances in all parts of the world, but they have made permanent investments in these countries. Temporary loans give only, as the term implies, a temporary financial interest and when repaid there is no lasting or permanent advantage, while permanent investments may give control or representation in the business and thereby influence the channels of future trade.

**Subscriptions in Excess of \$85,000 Received by "Bankers' and Brokers' Committee" of United Hospital Fund.**

James Speyer, Chairman, and Charles H. Sabin, Associate Chairman, of the "Bankers' and Brokers' Committee" of the United Hospital Fund of New York, are much gratified by Wall Street's response to this year's collection, contributions having been received in excess of \$85,000.

In addition to \$60,000 previously acknowledged, the following contributions have been received to Dec. 25:

Hartman K. Evans.....	\$1,000	George Blagden.....	\$100
Joseph P. Grace.....	1,000	Buell & Co.....	100
Hallgarten & Co.....	1,000	Mortimer N. Buckner.....	100
Mrs. Sidney A. Kirkman.....	1,000	Carlisle, Mellick & Co.....	100
Lazard Freres.....	1,000	C. F. Childs & Co.....	100
Gates W. McGarran.....	1,000	Coleman & Co.....	100
Dunlevy Milbank.....	1,000	H. Content & Co.....	100
Mrs. Percy R. Pyne.....	1,000	DeCoppet & Doremus.....	100
Mrs. Moses Taylor.....	1,000	Charles Mason Dutcher.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Ward.....	750	Ernst & Co.....	100
Robert S. Brewster.....	500	Evans, Stillman & Co.....	100
Com'l Invest. Trust Corp.....	500	E. Hayward Ferry.....	100
Dr. Ernest Fahnestock.....	500	H. G. Freeman.....	100
Mrs. Louise Leeds Kennedy.....	500	Fred. H. Greenebaum & Co.....	100
"Anonymous".....	500	Halsey, Stuart & Co.....	100
Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.....	500	Norman Henderson.....	100
Logan & Bryan.....	500	Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Hirschman.....	100
Agency, Bank of Montreal.....	250	C. M. Keys & Co.....	100
Stephen Baker.....	250	S. Clifton Mabon.....	100
Hamilton F. Benjamin.....	250	Ferdinand Mayer.....	100
Albert E. Goodhart.....	250	Edwin G. Merrill.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ittleson.....	250	Mrs. Dunlevy Milbank.....	100
Manufacturers Trust Co.....	250	C. E. Mitchell.....	100
Nat'l City Bank of N. Y.....	250	Jansen Noyes.....	100
Newborg & Co.....	250	Frederick Osborn.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. George B. Post.....	250	Lewis E. Pierson.....	100
Charles A. Sackett.....	250	Seward Prosser.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic W. Allen.....	200	J. K. Rice Jr. & Co.....	100
Edwin M. Bulkle.....	200	George B. Robinson.....	100
George W. Davison.....	200	William M. Savin.....	100
William Halls Jr.....	200	Kenneth B. Schley.....	100
Adrian Iselin.....	200	W. R. K. Taylor.....	100
Harry Sachs.....	200	Elisha Walker.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Sachs.....	200	Harold T. White.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Baerwald.....	150	Samuel Woolverton.....	100
James C. Colgate.....	150		
Joseph Koshland.....	150		
F. B. Keech & Co.....	150	Other smaller contributions.....	4,172
Arthur Lipper & Co.....	150	Previously acknowledged.....	60,000
Oscar L. Richard.....	150		
Aldred & Co.....	100		
			\$85,822

**ITEMS ABOUT BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, & C.**

Arrangements were reported made this week for the sale of a New York Stock Exchange membership for \$132,000.

A New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange membership sold at \$5,500, a decline of \$500.

The New York Cocoa Exchange membership of John E. May was reported sold this week to E. L. Cleverly, for another, for \$1,800, an unchanged price from the last preceding sale.

A National Metal Exchange membership was reported sold this week for \$900, unchanged from last preceding sale.

At a regular meeting of the Governing Committee of the New York Stock Exchange, held Dec. 23, the petition of the members to close the Exchange on Saturday, Dec. 26, was granted. The New York Curb Exchange and the New York Produce Exchange will also be closed to-day (Dec. 26). The New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange, the New York Cocoa Exchange and the New York Rubber Exchange voted to close on Dec. 26 and on Saturday, Jan. 2.

The following exchanges will also be closed to-day (Dec. 26): The Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, the Chicago Curb Exchange, the Chicago Livestock Exchange, the Montreal Stock Exchange and the Montreal Curb Exchange.

The directors of the City Bank Farmers Trust Co. of New York City, the trust company affiliate of the National City Bank, at a meeting on Dec. 21 elected Edward C. Delafield and William B. Cardozo to the board of the company. On Dec. 12 Mr. Cardozo, who is a Vice-President of the trust company, has completed fifty years of service with that institution. Mr. Delafield who was previously President of the Bank of America, National Association, which was recently merged with the National City Bank, was also elected a Vice-President and a member of the Executive Committee of the trust company. Other elections made at the meeting follow: William J. Montgomery, Frederick G. Curry and Adrian M. Massie, Asst. Vice-Presidents; Dudley

F. Fowler, Charles W. Devoy and W. R. Mollineaux Jr., Trust Officers, and Paul E. Landon, Asst. Trust Officer.

The directors of the Manufacturers Trust Co. and the Chatham & Phenix National Bank & Trust Co. of this city, formally approved on Dec. 24 the agreement to merge the two institutions, which was voted upon on Dec. 3. A meeting of the stockholders of the respective banks will be held in January to ratify the merger. The New York "Evening Post" of Dec. 24 said:

Following to-day's meeting of the two boards Harvey D. Gibson, President of the Manufacturers Trust announced the appointment of the two following additional directors of the new bank. Ellis P. Earle, President of Nippissing Mines Co. who is a director of Chatham & Phenix and L. Boyd Hatch, President and director of the Atlas Utilities Corp.

The addition of the new directors fills the complement of 40 members of the new institution which will be known as the Manufacturers Trust Co.

An item regarding the proposed merger appeared in our issue of Dec. 19, page 4102.

The Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co. of New York City announces the appointment of Russell Welles, John T. Sinkey and Carl C. Lang as Assistant Secretaries, and William A. Bayreuther, Arthur F. Bruckner, Paul L. Moore and Lester Heaton as Assistant Treasurers. Messrs. Sinkey, Welles, Bayreuther and Heaton are at the main office; Messrs. Bruckner and Lang at the 35th Street office, and Mr. Moore at the 42nd Street office.

Shareholders of the Chemical Bank & Trust Company of New York are asked authority in proxies sent to them on Dec. 19 to merge the Chemical Securities Corporation into the bank, such vote to be taken at the Annual Meeting of the stockholders to be held Jan. 20, 1932. When interviewed, President Percy H. Johnston said:

"Chemical Securities Corporation was organized as Chemical National Co., Inc., in the spring of 1928, when the Chemical Bank was a National bank, for the purpose of doing for the benefit of the stockholders business which the Chemical could not do under its national charter. Since then, the Chemical has become a State trust company. The directors consider that it now has all the powers which it needs for its business as now conducted and for any business which is in contemplation.

The directors therefore feel that the Securities Corporation is no longer needed as a separate entity. Substantial economies can be effected by absorbing it.

No increase of the Capital stock of the Chemical Bank is contemplated in this connection. It is merely intended to take the funds and assets of the Securities Corporation into the surplus, undivided profits and reserves of the Bank.

The Securities Corporation is in liquid condition and has a net worth of approximately \$17,500,000 at the present market value of its securities. It has no contingent commitments and no liabilities except for current operating expenses.

The principal executives and employees of the Securities Corporation will become officers and employees of the Bank."

From the New York "Herald-Tribune" of Dec. 20 we take the following:

Chemical Securities has engaged largely in the Government, State and municipal bond business. These activities can be carried on by a department of the bank. The company also has owned most of the \$2,000,000 capital stock of the 270 Broadway Corporation which purchased from the bank the banking house at that address and improved it with a new building.

The stock of Chemical Securities is held by three trustees for the benefit of all shareholders. These trustees are Mr. Johnson, Robert Walton Goelet and George E. Roosevelt. Mr. Johnston is Chairman of the Board of the securities affiliate, while LeRoy W. Campbell is Vice-Chairman, Joseph A. Bower is President and N. Baxter Jackson is Executive Vice-President.

Chemical Bank, whose main office is at 165 Broadway, has fourteen branches. As of Sept. 30 it reported total resources of \$443,199,954, with capital of \$21,000,000, surplus of \$40,000,000, undivided profits of \$4,799,518 and deposits of \$329,167,998.

On Sept. 12 1930, Chemical National Associates, Inc., was merged with Chemical Bank and the present securities affiliate. At the time of this deal Chemical Securities increased its capital and surplus from \$9,500,000 to approximately \$19,000,000.

With regard to the proposed merger of the Chemical Securities Corporation into the bank, the New York "Times" of Dec. 20 commented as follows:

A similar step was taken by the Bankers Trust Company in October, when the activities of the Bankers Company of New York were transferred to the bank. Previously the Chatham Phenix National Bank and Trust Company, which is to be merged with the Manufacturers Trust Company, discontinued the securities business of its affiliate, the Chatham Phenix Corporation, and last week the Manhattan Company, which controls the Bank of Manhattan Trust Company and affiliated organizations, announced the discontinuance of the securities-distributing business of the International Manhattan Company, Inc.

The American Express branch of The Chase National Bank opened on Dec. 21 at 65 Broadway in the banking quarters heretofore occupied by the American Express Bank and Trust Company, a former Chase affiliate. The commercial and banking business of the American Express Bank and Trust Company was consolidated with The Chase National Bank at the close of business Dec. 19. The trust business of the American Express Bank and Trust Company was consolidated with that of the Equitable Trust Company, like-

wise a Chase affiliate. Items with regard thereto appeared in these columns Nov. 28, page 3576 and Dec. 19, page 4103. Members of the former Board of Directors of the American Express Bank and Trust Company have become members of an advisory committee of the American Express branch of the Chase. The official staff of the branch is as follows: Cornelius J. Murray, Vice-President; Kenly Saville, Second Vice-President and Manager; Edward J. Donahue, Second Vice-President; C. Leland Getz, Assistant Cashier; Leo V. Van Sant, Assistant Cashier; August H. Tiemeyer, Assistant Manager. All these were formerly officers of the American Express Bank and Trust Company. Two other former American Express Bank officers have been appointed to the official staff of the Chase at the head office; John F. Schmid as Vice-President in the foreign department, and Paul C. Beardslee as Assistant Trust Officer.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana Agency in New York and the Banca Commerciale Italiana Trust Company have paid to all employees the usual Christmas bonus amounting to 8% of the yearly salaries.

Two small New York State banks, the First National Bank of Gasport and the First National Bank of Middleport, a few miles East of Lockport, N. Y., failed to open their doors on Dec. 18, according to a dispatch from Lockport by the Associated Press. The account went on to say:

C. Charles Mack, President of the Gasport Bank, said the action was being taken in the interests of depositors but made no further comment. Directors of the Middleport Bank issued a statement through President George R. Sheldon, saying they felt it their duty to close the bank "in justice to the balance of our depositors."

The New York State Banking Department on Dec. 4 approved an increase in the capital of the Bank of Orchard Park, at Orchard Park, N. Y., from \$60,000 to \$80,000.

On Dec. 16 Joseph A. Broderick, State Superintendent of Banks for New York, announced that he had that day, at the request of its directors, taken possession of the business and property of the State Bank of Hilton at Hilton, N. Y., because of the non-liquid condition and depreciation in the value of its assets. The institution's deposit liabilities at the close of business Dec. 15 last, were approximately \$776,000.

The New York State Banking Department on Dec. 15 approved a proposed increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000 in the capital of the Bank of Millbrook at Millbrook, N. Y.

The Fort Covington Banking Co., operated by James Macartney and Thomas A. Chisholm, private bankers of Franklin County, N. Y., was taken over by the New York State Superintendent of Banks for liquidation on Dec. 21, according to Albany advices on the date named to the New York "Journal of Commerce." Deposit liabilities at the close of business Dec. 19 were approximately \$180,000, the dispatch stated.

On Dec. 17 announcement was made by the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Bridgeport, Conn., that it had absorbed the Newfield Bank & Trust Co. of Bridgeport, according to Bridgeport advice on that date to the New York "Herald Tribune," which continuing said:

The consolidation with the Newfield Bank & Trust Co. brings 7,000 new accounts to the First National Bank & Trust Co. and adds deposit balances of more than \$1,500,000 to the current assets exceeding \$22,000,000 held by that institution.

Edmund S. Wolfe is Chairman of the Board and President of the First National Bank & Trust Co.

Effective Dec. 17 the Bridgeport-City Trust Co. of Bridgeport, Conn., took over the business of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. of that city, adding about \$1,500,000 to the assets of the former, according to Associated Press advices from Bridgeport on Dec. 17. Horace B. Merwin, President of the Bridgeport-City Trust Co., in a statement was reported as saying:

At a meeting of the directors of the Bridgeport-City Trust Co. held this morning, it was unanimously voted to merge its business with that of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co., which action was confirmed by a similar move by the directors of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co.

This merger will add over 4,000 new customers and will add deposit balances of nearly \$1,500,000 to the assets of the Bridgeport-City Trust Co.

By order of George J. Bassett, State Bank Commissioner for Connecticut, the Merchants' Trust Co. of Waterbury, Conn., was closed on Dec. 23. Associated Press advices from Waterbury, reporting the closing, said in part:

The State manual lists savings deposits at \$3,190,000, and commercial deposits at \$2,700,000. The Bank was incorporated in 1910 with a capital of \$500,000. Officials said arrangements were being made with New York banks to strengthen the financial position of the institution.

A dispatch by the Associated Press from New Haven, Conn., on Dec. 23 also reported that the private bank of Sanditz & Traurig at Waterbury, a heavy depositor in the Merchants' Trust, closed during the morning (Dec. 23) because it could not obtain funds from the other bank to meet depositors' demands. Officers said, however, the bank is "100% solvent."

Charles R. Butts, President of Norwich Savings Society, Norwich, Conn., has been appointed President of Thames Bank & Trust Co. of Norwich, succeeding Francis E. Storer, resigned, according to advices from Hartford, Conn., on Dec. 23 to the "Wall Street Journal."

Associated Press advices from New Haven, Conn., on Dec. 23 reported the closing on that day of the Broadway Bank & Trust Co. of that city. Its President, Charles G. Morris, stated that the action was taken upon order of the State Bank Commissioner. The institution was incorporated in 1913 with a capital of \$400,000. The dispatch continuing said:

A recent statement showed savings deposits of \$1,607,365, general deposits of \$846,170, and certificates of deposit of \$202,268. Christmas savings of \$23,658 were believed to have been liquidated.

A New Haven dispatch Dec. 23 to the New York "Herald Tribune" contained additional information regarding the failure, as follows:

Several hundred Yale students and professors face prospects of a dismal holiday through the closing here to-day of the Broadway Bank & Trust Co. which held a substantial amount of their funds.

The institution had \$2,500,000 in deposits and was ordered to cease business by George J. Bassett, State Banking Commissioner, only after efforts by the university authorities and other banking interests of the city had failed to stem the rush of withdrawals.

Professor William Lyon Phelps, of Yale, and Charles L. Kirshner, principal-emeritus of the New Haven High School, had both been directors of the institution, but had resigned several weeks ago.

The run on the Bank was attributed to the closing last week of the Hamden Bank & Trust Co., of Hamden, Conn., a suburb of New Haven, and alleged "unfavorable rumors" which persisted even after the Clearing House Association of New Haven had issued a reassuring statement on the Bank's condition. This Association had announced that it had put up around \$500,000 to help the Bank meet the demands of depositors and that each of the directors of the institution had signed personal notes for the sum. Neither Professor Phelps nor Mr. Kirshner had signed these notes, however, although officers of the Clearing House Association, it was said, had requested them to do so.

The Yale University authorities also offered aid through furnishing \$100,000 on a mortgage on the Bank building.

Hartford, Conn., advices to the New York "Journal of Commerce" on Dec. 18 stated that the Windsor Locks Trust & Safe Deposit Co. at Windsor Locks, Conn., had closed on the afternoon of that day. The institution, the dispatch said, was capitalized at \$50,000 with surplus and undivided profits of \$182,000, and had total deposits of more than \$1,100,000.

Closing of the Danielson Trust Co. of Danielson, Conn., was indicated in the following Associated Press advices from that place yesterday, Dec. 18:

The Danielson Trust Co., its assets impaired by the depreciation of securities, remained closed to-day by order of the Board of Directors.

A dispatch by the Associated Press from Hartford, Conn., on the same day stated that the assets of the institution as reported on June 30 last were \$3,103,000, and that its savings accounts and trust funds were segregated and would not be affected by the closing. Commercial deposits were reported at \$750,000.

Closing of the Connecticut River National Bank of Charlestown, N. H., was indicated in the following dispatch by the Associated Press from Charlestown on Dec. 20:

Officers of the Connecticut River National Bank announced to-night that the institution will not open to-morrow and that a National bank examiner is on his way to take charge. Heavy withdrawals made the suspension necessary. Organized in 1853, the bank has deposits of \$400,000, bonded investments of \$100,000, capital of \$25,000 and surplus of \$10,000.

The Charlestown Trust Co. of Boston, Mass., failed to open for business on Monday of this week, Dec. 21, according to a dispatch by the Associated Press from Boston on that date, which added:

Officials said the Bank had been taken under the supervision of the State Bank Commissioner at the request of the directors.

The Bank was incorporated Dec. 8 1910, and opened for business two months later. Its President is Richard S. Teeling, a former State Senator.

In its last statement, Sept. 29 1931, the Charlestown Trust Co. showed capital of \$200,000 with surplus of \$47 and undivided profits of \$47,051, and total deposits of \$3,283,470.

According to the Boston "Transcript" of Dec. 15, payment of a 25% dividend to the 12,000 depositors in the savings department of the closed Industrial Bank & Trust Co. of Roxbury (Boston), Mass., was authorized on that day by Judge Crosby of the Supreme Court at the request of John M. Swift, liquidating agent. The disbursement, representing an outlay of \$410,581.03, was authorized as of Dec. 21, it was stated. Our last reference to the affairs of this bank, which was closed Mar. 19 of the present year, appeared in the "Chronicle" of July 18 1931, page 391.

The Seacoast Trust Co. of Asbury Park, N. J., the third largest bank in Monmouth County, was closed on Tuesday, Dec. 22, by the New Jersey State Department of Banking & Insurance, at the request of its directors, who said they wished the action taken "to protect funds of depositors." The bank's last statement, dated Sept. 29, showed deposits of \$4,495,209. A dispatch from Asbury Park to the New York "Herald-Tribune" on Dec. 22, from which the foregoing is taken, went on to say:

It was explained the move had been made necessary by the slowness of liquidation of the bank's paper, a steady series of withdrawals of deposits since July and the failure of negotiations with a New York financial institution for purchase of the Seacoast bank.

Officers of other banks here had been represented in the voting trust which has controlled the Seacoast bank since its reorganization on Aug. 27. J. Lyle Kinmonth, publisher of "The Asbury Park Press," has been President since that time. An audit made at the bank on Nov. 9 showed \$374,000 in excess of liabilities.

Ogden H. Hammond assumed active charge of the First National Bank of Hoboken, N. J., as President on Monday of this week, Dec. 21. Mr. Hammond, who is a former United States Ambassador to Spain, was chosen to head the institution at a special meeting of the directors on Dec. 19. The "Jersey Observer," from which the above information is obtained, continuing, said:

Mr. Hammond resigned as President of the Hoboken Land & Improvement Co. last week, but remained in the organization as Chairman of the Board of directors, while Norman H. Titus was elected President. Mr. Hammond is a former banker and was elected a member of the First National's board of directors some time ago.

The stockholders of the bank voted an increase of \$375,000 in the capital stock of the bank on Oct. 19 and the increase has been subscribed and added to the capital and surplus of the bank.

The Citizens' Bank & Trust Co. of East Lansdowne, Pa. (near Philadelphia), was taken over by the Pennsylvania State Banking Department on Dec. 23, according to Associated Press advices from Philadelphia on the date named, which reported the officers of the institution as saying that the closing was due to unusual withdrawals.

Two banks in the Philadelphia district on Dec. 18 placed their affairs in the hands of the Pennsylvania Banking Department, according to an announcement by Dr. William D. Gordon, State Secretary of Banking. The closed banks' affiliated institutions, are the Lansdowne Bank & Trust Co. at Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenues, and the Drexel Hill Title & Trust Co. of Drexel Hill. The Philadelphia "Ledger" in reporting the closings, quoted C. Russell Arnold, President of both banks in a statement on behalf of the directors of the Lansdowne Bank & Trust Co., as saying:

"Owing to persistent and continued withdrawals of deposits, our institution has reached the point where we believe a further continuance of business would be unfair to our remaining depositors, who have so loyally stood by the institution. The Board of Directors has accordingly voted to place the institution in the hands of the Secretary of Banking of Penna."

The following statement was issued by Mr. Arnold, it was said, concerning the Drexel Hill Title & Trust Co.:

"By reason of the continued withdrawals of deposits and the closing of the Lansdowne Bank & Trust Co., the Board of Directors of the Drexel Hill Title & Trust Co., has, with great regret, resolved to place the business of the company in the hands of the Banking Department of Pennsylvania."

The paper mentioned went on to say:

According to the statement of the State Banking Department announcing it had taken possession of the two banks, the Lansdowne Bank & Trust Co. had total assets of \$3,954,000 and deposits of \$2,506,000. It had capital of \$375,000, surplus of \$375,000 and undivided profits of \$40,377. The statement of the company as of March 27 1931 showed total deposits of \$4,674,000.

The State Banking Department's figures on the Drexel Hill Title & Trust Co. give total assets of \$933,000 and deposits of \$570,000. Capital was \$125,000, surplus \$90,000 and undivided profits \$15,000. As of March 27 1931 the company had total deposits of \$1,023,000.

On Dec. 17 the Pennsylvania State Banking Department took possession of the State Bank of Klingerstown, Pa., according to Associated Press advices from Harrisburg on the date named. The closed bank had deposits of \$327,397 and total resources of \$394,205, the dispatch stated.

A dispatch from Washington, Pa., to the Pittsburgh "Post Gazette" on Dec. 14 stated that checks for a 25% dividend

would be available the next day for depositors of the closed Farmers' National Bank of Hickory, Pa., according to an announcement by Harry G. Wilson, receiver for the institution. The advices went on to say:

A total of 845 persons will receive \$108,220.91, it was stated. Presentation of certificates will be necessary. It is the first dividend paid by the institution, which closed its doors last May.

The First National Bank of Willoughby, Ohio, with capital of \$100,000, was placed in voluntary liquidation on Nov. 16 1931. The institution was absorbed by the Cleveland Trust Co. of Cleveland, Ohio.

Fifth Third Union Trust Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio, has declared a quarterly dividend of \$2.50 payable Jan. 2 to stock of record Dec. 24, placing stock on a \$10 annual basis, against \$14 previously, as reported in advices from Cincinnati yesterday, Dec. 18, to the "Wall Street Journal," which furthermore said:

E. W. Edwards, President, stated that earnings for the year exceed the usual dividend requirement by a considerable margin.

A bonus of 2% of annual salaries was declared for employees, payable Dec. 18.

The new Commerce Guardian Bank of Toledo, Ohio, organized to replace the Commerce Guardian Trust & Savings Bank of that city which closed in August last, began business on Dec. 15, a day ahead of its scheduled time for opening. Dean Higgins is President of the new bank. His appointment was noted in the "Chronicle" of Dec. 5, page 3728. The Toledo "Blade" of Dec. 14, in reporting the opening of the institution, said in part:

The new bank is entirely liquid with \$1.25 of cash for every \$1 of deposits. Payment of the 30% dividend to depositors of the old Commerce Guardian Trust & Savings Bank started Monday and will continue throughout the week involving payment to Toledoans of more than \$5,000,000.

Dean Higgins, President, announced completion of personnel of the new bank, Monday with Edward G. Kirby as Vice-President, Bartlett E. Emery, Vice-President & Trust Officer; Harry P. Caves, Secretary & Treasurer and W. Lockwood Lamb and Louis C. Ruth, Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers.

Mr. Higgins also announced that the Commerce Guardian will deposit with the State Treasurer Monday, \$100,000 in bonds to qualify the bank to handle trust business.

Sufficient cash has been set up in the new bank to cover preferred claims, proved and unproved, expenses and other similar items.

The directors of the Standard Trust Co. of Cleveland, with deposits of approximately \$14,000,000, announced Sunday night, Dec. 20, that they had asked the State to take over the institution to protect the depositors. Associated Press advices from Cleveland on the date named, from which the foregoing is taken, went on to say:

The Standard is not associated with any other Cleveland bank and is not a member of the Cleveland Clearing House Association or the Federal Reserve System. It is one of the smaller banks here, operating a business estimated at less than 1.5% of the total of all city banks on deposits. All county and city funds on deposit, about \$4,000,000, are covered by security.

The closing brings to an end an experiment of 1920 when railroad unions entered the Cleveland banking field by establishing the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Co-operative National Bank. The late Warren S. Stone, head of the brotherhood, became the bank's first President. Later the name was changed to the Engineers' National Bank, and in a reorganization in 1930 the present bank was formed with C. Sterling Smith as President.

It is learned from the Cincinnati "Enquirer" of Dec. 17 that announcement was made the previous day of the appointment of Morton J. Heldman as Executive Vice-President of the People's Bank & Savings Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio, to take effect immediately. Mr. Heldman resigned as Vice-President of the Heldman Clothing Co. in order to accept the position with the bank. The paper mentioned furthermore said:

In assuming his new duties, he will assist former State Senator Alfred M. Cohen, President, who has borne the responsibilities of the office since the bank was organized. The Peoples Bank yesterday (Dec. 16) declared the regular quarterly dividend of 3% on capital stock, payable Jan. 9 to stockholders of record Dec. 31.

Indianapolis advices to the New York "Times" on Dec. 22 stated that announcement was made on that day by Luther F. Symonds, State Banking Commissioner for Indiana, of the closing of four Indiana State banks, namely the Owensville State Bank, with \$50,000 capital stock, \$492,000 deposits and \$624,000 reserves; the People's State Bank, at Crown Point, with \$60,000 capital stock; \$850,000 deposits and \$1,016,000 reserves; the Old State Bank, at Oakland City, with \$350,000 capital stock, \$850,000 deposits and \$1,016,000 reserves, and the Somerville State Bank, with \$59,000 deposits and \$89,000 resources.

Landon C. Rose, President of the North Avenue State Bank of Chicago, Ill., died at his country home in La Porte, Ind., on Dec. 20. The deceased banker, who was 59 years of age, was born in La Porte. After graduating from Wabash

College in 1893 he entered Rose & Co., the private banking house conducted by his family. Later he became President of the old Colonial Trust & Savings Bank, and, after the merger of that bank with the Central Trust Co. was a Vice-President of the latter institution. He became President of the North Avenue State Bank in 1906.

As a further step in the program of simplification of corporate structure and economical operation adopted when the Guardian Detroit Union Group, Inc., Detroit, Mich., was founded in 1929, directors of the Guardian Detroit Bank and the National Bank of Commerce of Detroit, at meetings held Dec. 19, unanimously voted to recommend to their respective stockholders that the two banks be consolidated under the name Guardian National Bank of Commerce.

A dispatch by the Associated Press from Albion, Mich., on Dec. 22, stated that the Albion State Bank at Albion established in 1858, had failed to open on that day. The institution was capitalized at \$50,000 and had deposits aggregating \$523,876. "Frozen assets" and heavy withdrawals were given by the officials as reasons for the closing, the advices stated.

Closing of the American State Savings Bank of Lansing, Mich., and its three branches on Dec. 22 was reported in advices by the Associated Press from that city on the date named, which added:

Officials of the institution said it was closed as the result of withdrawals which had been under way for some time.

The bank, in its last statement, reported deposits of approximately \$8,000,000, capital of \$750,000 and surplus of \$400,000.

Effective Oct. 12, the Security National Bank of Grand Rapids, Mich., with capital of \$500,000, was placed in voluntary liquidation. The institution was absorbed by the Home State Bank for Savings of Grand Rapids, which subsequently changed its title to the American Home Security Bank.

The Ithaca National Bank of Ithaca, Mich., failed to open on Dec. 11, according to the Michigan "Investor" of Dec. 12, which stated that heavy bond depreciation and a slight decrease in deposits were given as the reasons for closing.

Two of the three banks in Benton Harbor, Mich., failed to open on Dec. 18, according to advices from that place by the Associated Press. The institutions are The American National Bank & Trust Co. and the Benton Harbor State Bank. It was announced the banks were closed for reorganization. The dispatch went on to say:

The American National Bank & Trust's last statement showed a capitalization of \$200,000 and total deposits of \$2,093,769. The Benton Harbor State Bank is capitalized at \$100,000 and has total deposits of \$1,008,944.

The First National Bank of Conrad, Iowa, capitalized at \$25,000, went into voluntary liquidation on Nov. 5 1931. It was taken over by the First State Bank of Conrad.

United Press advices from Davenport, Iowa, on Dec. 5 stated that under the inspiration of E. P. Adler, a newspaper publisher and other public-spirited citizens, the American Savings Bank & Trust Co. of Davenport plans to re-open on Jan. 16 as the Davenport Trust & Savings Bank. The dispatch continuing said:

The concern closed more than two months ago, with repercussions in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Weakened confidence, however, was wiped out when E. P. Adler, publisher and stockholder in the institution started a campaign to re-open the bank.

That plans to consolidate the People's State Bank of Prairie du Sac, Wis., and the Prairie du Sac Bank of that place, were approved by the respective stockholders of the institutions on Dec. 8, according to the "Commercial West" of Dec. 19. The consolidated bank will continue the name of the Prairie du Sac Bank and will open for business Jan. 1, it was stated.

The closing of two small North Carolina banks was reported in the following Associated Press advices from Raleigh, N. C., on Dec. 18:

Gurney P. Hood, State Bank Commissioner, to-day announced that the Bank of Wake at Wake Forest, and the Bank of Grover, at Grover, did not open for business to-day. Deposits in both banks aggregated about \$180,000.

From the Raleigh "News & Observer" of Dec. 17, it is learned that the Commercial National Bank of Raleigh, N. C., the only National bank in that city, was ordered

closed by its directors at a meeting held the evening of Dec. 16. The decision to close the institution was made public in the following statement signed by B. S. Jerman and E. B. Crow, President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Bank:

By the authority and direction of the board of directors the doors of the Commercial National Bank are closed pending a meeting of the stockholders. The directors and officers will call all the stockholders in session for the purpose of considering plans for the re-opening and re-organization of the bank. Depositors will also be invited to take part in perfecting plans for the continuation of the bank so that the service it has rendered to Raleigh and the surrounding country may be carried on.

During the 50 years of its useful career it has been the policy of the Commercial National Bank to borrow money in the spring and summer to enable its farmer clients to make their crops and to aid business men in the summer season. Until the frustration of the price of cotton and tobacco this fall the bank has always repaid these loans when they matured. This year, owing to the depression, many of our customers have found it impossible to meet their obligations. Because of these frozen credits, it is deemed wise, to notify the Comptroller of the Currency at Washington to take charge of the bank until such time as measures may be taken for re-opening. This decision is made in order to protect the depositors as fully as possible.

According to its last statement of condition, Sept. 29, the Commercial National Bank had a capital of \$600,000, surplus and undivided profits of \$136,164, and deposits of \$4,286,942.

That the directors of the First National Bank of Warsaw, N. C., had posted a notice on the doors of the institution stating that it would not open for business the next day (Dec. 15) pending action by the Comptroller of the Currency, was reported in a dispatch from Warsaw on Dec. 14, appearing in the Raleigh "News & Observer" of Dec. 15. The advices continuing said:

The action was prompted when the Federal Reserve Bank refused to re-new paper which it now carries for the Warsaw institution and demanded that the daily letters be paid in cash over the counter.

The Warsaw bank owes \$12,519.02, against which they hold bills receivable amounting to \$59,000. The capital stock is \$50,000 and the bank has other assets which will assure depositors of 100 cents on the dollar.

Dr. J. M. Williams is President.

The inability of farmers in this section to meet their obligations due to the present economic depression was mainly responsible for the inability of the First National of Warsaw to meet demands made upon it.

Advices from Richwood, West Va., Dec. 18 to the Pittsburgh "Post Gazette" stated that the Richwood Banking & Trust Co., closed Oct. 2 last, would reopen for business in its old quarters the next day (Dec. 19) under an agreement by depositors to defer checking withdrawals for certain periods. Deposits will receive 3% interest during the time they are left in the bank. The agreement has been officially approved by L. R. Charter Jr., State Commissioner of Banking for West Virginia, it was stated.

The closing of this bank with deposits as of June 30 1931 was noted in our Oct. 10 issue, page 2381.

The Bank of Acadia at Crowley, La., was reported closed in a press dispatch from that place on Dec. 16, printed in the New Orleans "Times Picayune," which said:

The Bank of Acadia failed to open its doors for business to-day and bank officials blamed the situation on "unwarranted withdrawals."

Preliminary plans for reorganizing the bank and reopening it were under way and definite announcement was expected to be made soon by J. S. Brock, State Bank Commissioner, who was checking the books.

Jack Frankel, President, said the bank owned more than enough rice alone to meet all bills payable.

The Bank of Indianola, Indianola, Miss., capitalized at \$100,000, was closed by its directors on Dec. 16, according to a dispatch from that place printed in the New Orleans "Times-Picayune."

Closing of the Bank of Yazoo City, Miss., was indicated in the following dispatch by the Associated Press from that place on Dec. 10:

The Bank of Yazoo City to-day failed to open its doors for business and the institution was turned over to the State Banking Department in the hope of having the Delta National Bank here take over its affairs for the benefit of depositors, said J. S. Love, State Superintendent of Banks.

A notice posted on the doors after a directors' meeting held last night stated that "directors of this bank deemed it advisable to close to protect depositors of the bank. We believe the bank to be solvent."

The bank was to have mailed out Christmas savings checks to-day.

Payment of a first dividend amounting to \$150,000 to depositors of the Commercial National Bank of Hattiesburg, Miss., which closed its doors the early part of last June, was begun on Dec. 21, according to a press dispatch from that city, printed in the "Memphis Appeal." The advices went on to say in part:

Some 2,600 depositors are eligible to receive dividend checks which range from three cents to more than \$4,000. Another dividend payment will be made soon, Selig (Mr. Selig, the receiver) stated, although the amount could not be estimated at this time. The receiver also stated that the initial payment was being made out of the bank still remaining intact.

Sidney Maestre was appointed President of the Mississippi Valley Trust Co. of St. Louis, Mo., on Dec. 14, to succeed the late J. Sheppard Smith. On the same day, Mr. Maestre resigned the Presidency of the Mercantile-Commerce Co., which is affiliated with the Mercantile-Commerce Bank & Trust Co. of St. Louis, to accept his new office. The following concerning the career of Mr. Maestre, who assumed his new duties Dec. 15, was printed in the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of that date:

Mr. Maestre, who is 40 years old, is one of the youngest men to be elected to the Presidency of a major banking institution in St. Louis. In addition to being active in banking affairs of the city he has been prominently identified with many civic and charitable organizations.

Mr. Maestre's advance to a leading position in banking affairs in St. Louis has been rapid. He was graduated from the University of Missouri in 1913 and immediately entered the investment banking business as a bond salesman and shortly afterwards joined the Mercantile Trust Co. as Assistant Manager.

Later he went to Kansas City to become a partner in Stern Brothers & Co. He returned to St. Louis in 1919 and became Manager of the bond department of the Mercantile Trust Co. Five years later he became Vice-President of the company, and when the Mercantile Trust Co. was merged with the National Bank of Commerce to form the present Mercantile-Commerce Bank & Trust Co., Mr. Maestre was named as President of the investment unit, the Mercantile-Commerce Co.

The First National Bank in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo., has purchased the assets and assumed the deposit liabilities of the Franklin-American Trust Co. of that city. In announcing the consolidation of the institutions, which became effective Dec. 22, Walter W. Smith, President of the First National Bank in St. Louis, issued the following statement, as printed in the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" of that date:

"The First National Bank, in acquiring the business of the Franklin-American Trust Co., has secured more than 50,000 customers representing many of St. Louis's largest corporations and individuals in every walk of life. The capital, surplus and undivided profits of the Franklin-American Trust Co. amount to more than \$4,000,000. The deposits are in excess of \$20,000,000, which added to the First National Bank resources, gives the city a bank of over \$200,000,000 resources.

"The Franklin-American has been highly regarded in banking circles. The agreement under which the First National Bank assumes the deposits of the Franklin-American Trust Co. is designed to preserve for the shareholders of the Franklin-American the maximum equity represented by the trust company's capital, surplus and undivided profits.

"The customers of the Franklin-American Trust Co. will be served by the former officers and employees of the Franklin-American at the banking rooms of the First National Bank, effective to-day (Dec. 22). For the present the safe deposit customers and the clientele of the Franklin-American Co. and their trust department will continue to be served at the Franklin-American Banking location at Seventh and Locust Streets."

James L. Ford Jr., former President of the Franklin-American Trust Co., was also reported in the paper mentioned as saying:

"Owing to the public unrest which followed the suicide of one of our leading officers, which was due to personal reasons having no connection with our trust company, the officers and directors of our company decided to fully protect the deposits of our institution by merging with the First National Bank.

"We have regarded our obligations toward depositors as our most sacred obligations, not only to them but to our city. We have placed them with the largest bank in our city, where the fullest protection is secured.

"We urge each and every one of our customers to continue with them the same pleasant relationship which has existed with us. They are equipped to serve their every need. Our bank was thoroughly sound and solvent and always has been. We have made it more so by our consolidation with the First National Bank."

In addition to Mr. Smith, the principal officers of the First National Bank in St. Louis, are as follows: F. O. Watts, Chairman of the Board; F. E. Gunter, Vice-Chairman; Richard S. Hawes, W. T. Ravenscroft, F. V. Dubrouillet, Joseph S. Calfee, E. C. Stuart, M. E. Holderness, W. F. Gephart, Bert H. Lang, W. C. Connott, M. R. Sturtevant, E. Barklage, G. Hobart Chase, E. G. Coffman, G. Riesmeyer Jr., Edward Horman, F. C. Hunt, R. Palmer McElroy, Lawson M. Watts, J. N. Sommer, W. A. Gordon and Jacob Berger, Vice-Presidents; Charles L. Allen, Cashier; William G. Tompkins, Auditor.

The St. Louis Union Trust Co. and the First National Co. are affiliates of the First National Bank in St. Louis.

Two Carthage, Mo., banks were merged on Dec. 21, the Bank of Carthage taking over the assets of the Union Trust Co., according to an Associated Press dispatch from Carthage on Dec. 21. The consolidation gives the Bank of Carthage, the oldest institution in that section of the State, total resources of \$1,360,000 and deposits of \$1,102,033. The institution is capitalized at \$150,000, with surplus and undivided profits of \$81,853. W. F. Carter heads the enlarged bank while John Marsh is Cashier. J. D. Harris was President of the Union Trust Co. and William Seed, Secretary and Treasurer, the dispatch said.

That the Commonwealth Bank & Trust Co. of San Antonio, Tex., would reopen for business on Dec. 23, was indicated in Associated Press advices from San Antonio on Dec. 19, which

stated that the reopening was definitely announced on that day by A. J. Lewis, liquidating agent. The dispatch added:

He said the State Banking Department had approved the reopening and a plan of operation which officers and directors had worked on since the institution closed Oct. 6.

The same officers, it was learned, will head the institution. The capital stock will remain at \$300,000.

The closing of the institution on Oct. 6 last was reported in our issue of Oct. 10, page 2381.

The First National Bank of Ord, Neb., capitalized all \$100,000, was placed in voluntary liquidation on Dec. 8. The institution was succeeded by the First National Bank in Ord.

Two Seattle, Wash., banks, viz., the First National Bank, capitalized at \$8,000,000, and the Metropolitan National Bank, with capital of \$500,000, were consolidated on Dec. 9 under the title of the First National Bank of Seattle, with capital of \$8,000,000 and surplus of \$1,600,000. The enlarged institution has two branches in the city of Seattle, both of which were former branches of the First National Bank.

The American National Bank of Aberdeen, Wash., with capital of \$400,000, was placed in voluntary liquidation Dec. 3 last. This institution was taken over by the First National Bank in Aberdeen.

The First National Bank of Port Townsend, Wash., capitalized at \$75,000, was placed in voluntary liquidation on Dec. 2. The institution was absorbed by the American National Bank of Port Townsend, which subsequently, Dec. 7, changed its title to the First American National Bank of Port Townsend.

According to Associated Press advices from Santa Monica, Calif., on Dec. 18, the Marine State Bank of that place, with deposits of \$750,000, was closed by order of the California State Banking Department.

Closing of the San Bernardino Valley Bank in San Bernardino, Calif., is indicated in the following advices from San Francisco on Dec. 23 to the "Wall Street Journal":

San Bernardino Valley Bank, in San Bernardino, has been closed by resolution of the bank's directors, and has been taken over by the California Banking Department. Announcement was made by Edward Rainey, Superintendent of Banks.

From the Los Angeles "Times" of Dec. 18 it is learned that a substantial interest in the First National Bank of Beverly Hills, Cal., has been purchased by E. J. Nolan, who has been actively identified with banking in Los Angeles for the last twenty years. Mr. Nolan was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Institution on Dec. 17. The paper mentioned went on to say:

The First National Bank of Beverly Hills is an independent bank founded in 1910, and has capital, surplus and reserves of more than \$1,000,000. Deposits total more than \$6,000,000.

Mr. Nolan plans to take an active part in the affairs of the bank, which will continue under the presidency of Richard L. Hargreaves. The Board of Directors will remain unchanged, with the exception of the addition of Mr. Nolan, and the personnel of the bank will continue as before.

At one time engaged in the practice of law, Mr. Nolan first entered banking as Vice-President and General Counsel of the Hellman Commercial Trust & Savings Bank, later became President of this bank, then President of the Merchants' National Trust & Savings, and finally Chairman of the Bank of America N. T. & S. A., a post he recently resigned.

The annual report of the Canadian Bank of Commerce (head office Toronto) for the fiscal year ended Nov. 30 1931 has just recently been issued and makes a favorable showing despite the widespread business depression in Canada and the world at large which has prevailed during the period under review. Though the bank reports lower earnings for its fiscal year ended Nov. 30 1931, says the Montreal "Gazette" of Dec. 19, "this readily understandable fact is counterbalanced by the increased liquidity achieved by the institution at the close of a year of extremely difficult conditions." The statement shows net profits, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, of \$4,774,923, which when added to \$516,351, the balance to credit of profit and loss brought forward from the preceding fiscal year, made \$5,291,275 available for distribution. This amount was allocated as follows: \$3,600,000 to pay four quarterly dividends at the rate of 12% per annum; \$600,000 to pay Dominion and Provincial taxes and tax on bank-note circulation; \$50,000 for donations and subscriptions; \$255,592 transferred to pension fund, and \$250,000 written off bank prem-



ises, leaving a balance of \$535,683 to be carried forward to the ensuing year's profit and loss account. Total assets are shown at \$640,785,420, of which \$329,151,947 are liquid assets, or 57% of the bank's liabilities to the public. Total deposits are given at \$499,087,945, of which \$376,910,287 are interest bearing deposits. The bank's paid up capital is \$30,000,000 and its reserve fund a like amount. John Aird is President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and S. H. Logan, General Manager.

Charles Ernest Neill, Vice-President and Managing Director of the Royal Bank of Canada, and one of the Dominion's foremost bankers, died at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal after a prolonged illness. Mr. Neill, who was 58 years old, passed his entire business career with the Royal Bank of Canada. He was born in Fredericton, N. B., and after being graduated from the Collegiate School of that city, entered the service of the Royal Bank in Fredericton. He was appointed Manager of the Vancouver, B. C., branch in 1900 and later in the same year was named supervisor of British Columbia branches. In 1903 Mr. Neill was transferred to Montreal as the bank's Chief Inspector, becoming Assistant General Manager in 1907, General Manager in 1916, Vice-President in 1927, and Managing Director in 1929. Among other activities, Mr. Neill was a director of a number of Canadian enterprises, including the following:

Montreal Trust Co., Sun Life Assurance Co., Northern Assurance Co., Dominion Bridge Co., Shawinigan Water & Power Co., Crown Life Assurance Co., and Beauharnois Power Co. He was also a Governor of McGill University, Montreal, and in 1926 and 1927 was President of the Canadian Bankers' Association.

According to cable advices received from London, the Board of Directors of Barclays Bank (Dominion Colonial and Overseas) with head office in London, have recommended a final dividend for the year ended Sept. 30 last at the rate of 8% per annum on the preference shares and 5% per annum on the "A" and "B" shares. With the interim dividends declared in June last this makes a full distribution for the year at 8% per annum on the preference stocks and 4¾% per annum on the ordinary shares. These rates are identical with those paid for the year ended Sept. 30 1930.

We are in receipt of the annual report of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd. (head office Edinburgh,) covering the fiscal year ended Oct. 31 1931. The report, which was presented to the shareholders at their annual general meeting on Dec. 17, shows net profits, after deducting expenses of management at head office, London office, and 180 branches and sub-offices, allowing for rebate, interest, &c., and after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts not otherwise provided for, of £270,434. To this amount was added £74,294, representing balance brought forward from the preceding fiscal year, making together £344,728 available for distribution. From this sum the following appropriations were made: £132,000 to pay a dividend at the rate of 16% per annum (this being exclusive of income tax of £44,000) payable in 1932 in equal parts on Jan. 12 and July 12 1932; £100,000 credited to contingent fund; £20,000 applied in reduction of cost of heritable property and of alterations and £20,000 to officers' pension fund, leaving a balance of £72,728 to be carried forward to the ensuing year's profit and loss account. The bank's total resources are shown in the statement as £35,763,705, and deposit receipts, deposit accounts, current accounts, and other creditor balances, at £29,077,192. The paid-up capital of the institution is £1,100,000 and its reserve fund £1,550,000, exclusive of the £132,000 set aside to meet the dividend requirement, and £72,727 carried forward. Recently the bank opened a branch in the West End of London, the new office being situated at 18-20 Regent Street, Picadilly, S. W. 1. The Most Hon. the Marquis of Zetland is Governor; Sir Hector Munro of Foulis, Bart., Deputy-Governor, and John Taylor Leggat General Manager of the institution.

The annual statement of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd. (head office Edinburgh), for the fiscal year ended Oct. 31 1931, as presented to the shareholders at their annual general meeting on Dec. 17, has just been received. After providing for rebate of discount and interest and for all bad and doubtful debts, net profits for the 12 months were £385,737, which, when added to £71,659, the balance

to credit of profit and loss brought forward from the preceding fiscal year, made the sum of £457,396 available for distribution. Out of this sum, the report shows, there was applied in July in payment of the semi-annual dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 16% and 10% per annum, respectively, £127,875 (under deduction of income tax £37,125), leaving a balance of £329,521, which the directors recommended be appropriated as follows: £123,750 to pay the second half-yearly dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 16% and 10% per annum, respectively (under deduction of income tax £41,250); £50,000 to be added to contingency fund; £30,000 to be credited to officers' pension fund, and £50,000 to be applied in reduction of the cost of the bank's properties, leaving a balance of £75,770 to be carried forward to the next year's profit and loss account. Total resources of the institution on Oct. 31 1931 were £41,361,839, while total deposits and credit balances were £32,112,042. The subscribed capital of the institution is £7,500,000, of which £2,250,000 is paid up, and its reserve fund is £2,850,000. Besides the head office in Edinburgh, the institution maintains two London offices, 260 branches and sub-offices in Scotland, and numerous correspondents elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The Earl of Mar and Kellie, K.T., is Governor, and Alexander Robb, General Manager.

#### THE WEEK ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

The advent of the holiday week, together with a reactionary price tendency caused a slowing up of speculative activity in the New York stock market the present week. Trading has been in smaller volume and while there have been a number of special stocks that have reached new tops, most of the gains were not maintained and the trend has generally been toward lower levels. Railroad shares have shown occasional bursts of strength and so have industrial shares and public utilities, but the gains have not been especially noteworthy. The weekly statement of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York issued after the close of business on Thursday showed a further decrease of \$51,000,000 in brokers' loans in this district. Call money renewed at 3% on Monday and continued unchanged at that rate during the rest of the week. Irregularity was the outstanding characteristic of the stock market during the abbreviated session on Saturday, and while the opening hour gave promise of a continuation of the preceding day's recovery, liquidation in such stocks as J. I. Case, Am. Tel. & Tel. and Auburn Auto quickly checked the upward movement. Railroad shares were stronger, particularly the high grade stocks, and substantial advances were recorded by such issues as Atchison, Delaware & Hudson and New York Central. Norfolk & Western was especially strong and forged ahead 4 points to 118. The turnover was again heavy with more than 500,000 shares changing hands during the first hour. Aside from the rails the principal changes on the side of the advance included United Fruit, 3¼ points to 25; Pacific Tel. & Tel., 2 points to 98; Peoples Gas, 2 points to 118; International Silver, 5½ points to 55, International Business Machine, 2¼ points to 113¼; Detroit Edison, 8 points to 119; Eastman Kodak, 2¾ points to 83 and Endicott-Johnson, 2¾ points to 25½. At the close the tone was heavy and most of the leaders were off on profit taking.

Stocks failed to extend their gains on Monday as the stock market resumed its gradual downward movement. Price fluctuations were within a narrow range, though the decline included practically every group in the general list. Considerable selling was apparent shortly after mid-session and while there were few striking declines, the recessions were most pronounced in the industrial group. The outstanding changes were on the side of the decline and included among others, Allied Chemical & Dye 2½ points to 68½, Anaconda Copper 1½ points to 11½, Coca Cola 2 points to 109, Delaware & Hudson 2½ points to 75, Detroit Edison 4 points to 113, Eastman Kodak 1 point to 82, Woolworth & Co. 1 point to 39, United States Steel 2½ points to 39½ and Union Pacific 2½ points to 56½. The market continued easy until the close, trading was quiet and most of the market leaders were off on the day.

The market was a trifle stronger on Tuesday, due in a measure to a steady bond market, and while prices were slightly higher in some of the more active speculative stocks, there was little in the way of noteworthy change in any of the groups. Rails relapsed into dullness and oils were lower, but there was a very modest improvement in the

copper shares. The top prices were established around the noon hour and from that time on most of the active issues were inclined to ease off. Railroad shares showed moderate gains, but there was nothing especially noteworthy in the gains recorded at the close. Among the changes on the side of the advance were Allied Chemical & Dye, 1½ points to 70½; Amer. Can, 1¼ points to 64; Atchison, 2 points to 88½; Auburn Auto, 9½ points to 141; Homestake Mining Co., 6 points to 130; International Business Machine, 3½ points to 110; National Lead, 4 points to 85; Peoples Gas, 2½ points to 119½; United States Steel, 1¼ points to 40½; Amer. Tel. & Tel., 2¾ points to 118¼, and Eastman Kodak, 1¼ points to 83¼. The market was steady at the close, the trading quiet and the leaders close to the best for the day.

The market turned reactionary on Wednesday and a number of substantial losses were recorded before the close. Steel stocks and railroad issues were particularly hard hit in the downward swoop, Bethlehem Steel dropping 2 points to a new low, while United States Steel fell off 2½ points to 37¾. The turnover was slightly higher than the preceding day, the total sales reaching 1,560,487 shares. Prominent among the day's recessions were American Can, 2¼ points to 61¾; Air Reduction, 2¼ points to 51; Allied Chemical & Dye, 2½ points to 67½; Amer. Tel. & Tel., 3¼ points to 115; Atchison, 4¼ points to 84¼; Auburn Auto, 9¼ points to 131½; Baltimore & Ohio, 2½ points to 16½; J. I. Case Co., 3¾ points to 40¾; Worthington Pump, 2½ points to 17½; Westinghouse, 2½ points to 26½; Union Pacific, 6 points to 64; Southern Pacific, 4½ points to 28½; Norfolk & Western, 5 points to 115; Eastman Kodak, 3½ points to 80¼, and New York Central, 2½ points to 28½. The market was easy at the close with leaders down from 2 to 5 points.

Stocks moved within an extremely narrow range on Thursday and little progress was made either way. There were occasional exceptions, however, notably American Express, which moved up 2½ points to 100, General Refractories, which climbed 2 points to 14½ and Homestake Mining which gained 5 points to 128. Railroad shares were active during most of the day and some of the more popular issues closed with fractional gains. As the day advanced, the Christmas spirit became more pronounced and the market developed into a typical pre-holiday affair and speculative activities gradually simmered down. The entire turnover for the day aggregating slightly over 1,106,000 shares. The New York Stock Exchange, the Curb Market and all other exchanges will be closed on Friday and Saturday of this week, making a three-day Christmas holiday.

TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE DAILY, WEEKLY AND YEARLY.

Week Ended Dec. 24 1931	Stocks, Number of Shares.	Railroad and Miscell. Bonds.	State, Municipal & For'n Bonds.	United States Bonds.	Total Bond Sales.
Monday	1,924,996	8,727,000	3,407,000	1,202,500	13,336,500
Tuesday	1,397,038	7,004,500	3,494,000	1,475,500	11,974,000
Wednesday	1,560,487	7,776,000	3,518,000	1,827,500	13,121,500
Thursday	1,106,103	5,698,000	2,620,000	1,317,000	9,635,000
Friday			HOLIDAY		
Total	7,614,910	\$35,118,500	\$15,366,000	\$7,452,500	\$57,937,000

Sales at New York Stock Exchange.	Week Ended Dec. 24.		Jan. 1 to Dec. 24.	
	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.
	Stocks—No. of shares. Bonds.	7,614,910	9,058,288	722,802,469
Government bonds...	\$7,452,500	\$2,197,000	\$282,757,450	\$112,662,400
State & foreign bonds...	15,366,000	11,181,000	891,924,100	708,089,900
Railroad & misc. bonds	35,118,500	29,453,500	1,812,383,400	1,893,896,700
Total bonds	\$57,937,000	\$42,831,500	\$2,987,064,950	\$2,714,649,000

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE EXCHANGES.

Week Ended Dec. 24 1931.	Boston.		Philadelphia.		Baltimore.	
	Shares.	Bond Sales.	Shares.	Bond Sales.	Shares.	Bond Sales.
Saturday	32,830	\$5,000	37,445	\$12,000	955	\$4,600
Monday	35,889	37,000	44,520	21,000	1,561	2,000
Tuesday	37,608	22,000	34,765	29,100	623	1,600
Wednesday	19,629	6,000	23,624	15,000	2,991	4,000
Thursday	7,219	2,000	81,624		2,066	2,000
Friday			HOLIDAY		HOLIDAY	
Total	133,175	\$72,000	155,654	\$77,100	8,196	\$14,200
Prev. week revised	289,157	\$145,500	393,753	\$165,100	10,127	\$15,200

a In addition, sales of warrants were: Wednesday, 10.

THE CURB EXCHANGE.

Pre-holiday dullness characterized trading on the Curb Exchange this week and while prices drifted to lower levels, changes on the whole were small. In the utility group Amer. Gas & Elec., com. declined from 40¾ to 36¾ and closed

to-day at 37¼. Amer. Light & Traction, com. was off from 23¾ to 20½. Commonwealth-Edison Co. after early improvement from 114¼ to 122 eased off to 117. Duke Power from 69¾ fell to 65 and recovered finally to 67¾. Elec. Bond & Share, com. receded from 12½ to 10 and closed to-day at 10½. The \$6 preferred moved up at first from 56 to 59½, then reacted to 52. The \$5 preferred lost almost 6 points to 52. Northern States Power, com. sold down from 75¼ to 70½. Quite a number of changes appear in the oil list. Humble Oil & Refg. weakened from 46½ to 45½. Northern Pipe Line from 31¾, ex-div. sold down to 27¾. Standard Oil (Indiana) moved down from 16½ to 13½ and recovered finally to 14¾. Standard Oil (Ky.) from 14¾, dropped to 12½ and sold finally at 13. Standard Oil (Nebraska) from 21 fell to 16 and recovered to 17. Standard Oil (Ohio), com. declined from 28¾ to 23 and closed to-day at 24¼. Gulf Oil moved down from 29½ to 26½. Industrial and miscellaneous issues show few changes of note. Aluminum Co., com. dropped from 64 to 53 and closed to-day at 54. Lackawanna Securities weakened from 26 to 24¾. Mead, Johnson & Co., com. lost 3 points to 47 and National Bond & Share 2 points to 19. Singer Mfg. fell from 135 to 125.

A complete record of Curb Exchange transactions for the week will be found on page 4311.

DAILY TRANSACTIONS AT THE NEW YORK CURB EXCHANGE.

Week Ended Dec. 24 1931	Stocks (Number of Shares).	Bonds (Par Value).			Total.
		Domestic.	Foreign Government.	Foreign Corporate.	
Saturday	322,843	\$2,473,000	\$72,000	\$84,000	\$2,629,000
Monday	349,867	4,213,000	86,000	135,000	4,434,000
Tuesday	284,483	2,670,000	101,000	95,000	2,866,000
Wednesday	314,212	3,103,000	127,000	93,000	3,323,000
Thursday	309,828	2,054,000	147,000	83,000	2,284,000
Friday			HOLIDAY		
Total	1,581,233	\$14,513,000	\$533,000	\$490,000	\$15,536,000

Sales at New York Curb Exchange.	Week Ended Dec. 24.		Jan. 1 to Dec. 24.	
	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.
Stocks—No. of shares. Bonds.	1,581,233	2,342,600	108,046,051	248,953,293
Domestic	\$14,513,000	\$13,978,000	\$892,847,000	\$836,813,000
Foreign Government	533,000	922,000	31,851,000	38,332,000
Foreign corporate	490,000	736,000	39,661,000	38,912,000
Total	\$15,536,000	\$15,636,000	\$964,359,000	\$914,107,000

COURSE OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Bank clearings this week will again show a decrease as compared with a year ago. Preliminary figures compiled by us, based upon telegraphic advices from the chief cities of the country, indicate that for the week ended to-day (Saturday, Dec. 26), bank exchanges for all the cities of the United States from which it is possible to obtain weekly returns will be 27.1% below those for the corresponding week last year. Our preliminary total stands at \$5,421,816,173, against \$7,433,855,441 for the same week in 1930. At this center there is a loss for the five days ended Friday of 25.4%. Our comparative summary for the week follows:

Clearings—Returns by Telegraph. Week Ended Dec. 26.	1931.		1930.	Per Cent.
	1931.	1930.	1930.	
New York	\$2,823,733,941	\$3,784,000,000	—25.4	
Chicago	191,481,342	305,518,421	—37.3	
Philadelphia	199,000,000	333,000,000	—40.2	
Boston	193,000,000	374,000,000	—48.4	
Kansas City	53,786,129	78,589,269	—31.5	
St. Louis	50,800,000	82,600,000	—38.5	
San Francisco	75,000,000	106,786,000	—29.8	
Los Angeles	Will no longer report clearings.			
Pittsburgh	70,605,441	132,060,203	—46.5	
Detroit	66,854,058	100,204,695	—33.3	
Cleveland	54,459,289	79,288,577	—31.3	
Baltimore	39,659,400	54,959,396	—27.2	
New Orleans	24,017,639	36,166,799	—33.6	
Twelve cities, four days	\$3,842,397,239	\$5,467,173,360	—29.7	
Other cities, four days	675,782,905	661,075,495	+2.2	
Total all cities, four days	\$4,518,180,144	\$6,128,248,855	—26.3	
All cities, one day	903,636,029	1,305,606,586	—30.7	
Total all cities for week	\$5,421,816,173	\$7,433,855,441	—27.1	

Complete and exact details for the week covered by the foregoing will appear in our issue of next week. We cannot furnish them to-day, inasmuch as the week ends to-day (Saturday) and the Saturday figures will not be available until noon to-day. Accordingly, in the above the last day of the week has to be in all cases estimated.

In the elaborate detailed statement, however, which we present further below, we are able to give final and complete results for the week previous—the week ended Dec. 19. For that week there is a decrease of 28.5%, the aggregate of clearings for the whole country being \$7,651,050,827, against \$10,694,680,178 in the same week of 1930. Outside of this city there is a decrease of 30.5%, the bank clearings at this

center recording a loss of 27.4%. We group the cities now according to the Federal Reserve Districts in which they are located, and from this it appears that in the New York Reserve District, including this city, there is a loss of 27.3%, in the Boston Reserve District of 29.3% and in the Philadelphia Reserve District of 32.0%. The Cleveland Reserve District suffers a contraction of 39.1%, the Richmond Reserve District of 21.6% and the Atlanta Reserve District of 24.7%. In the Chicago Reserve District the totals are smaller by 35.5%, in the St. Louis Reserve District by 26.7% and in the Minneapolis Reserve District of 20.3%. In the Kansas City Reserve District the decrease is 31.2%, in the Dallas Reserve District 14.4% and in the San Francisco Reserve District 27.4%.

In the following we furnish a summary of Federal Reserve districts:

SUMMARY OF BANK CLEARINGS. Table with columns: Week End. Dec. 19 1931., 1931., 1930., Inc. or Dec., 1929., 1928. Rows include Federal Reserve Dist. 1st Boston, 2nd New York, 3rd Philadelphia, etc.

We now add our detailed statement, showing last week's figures for each city separately, for the four years:

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1931., 1930., Inc. or Dec., 1929., 1928. Rows include First Federal Reserve District—Boston, Second Federal Reserve District—New York, Third Federal Reserve District—Philadelphia, etc.

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1931., 1930., Inc. or Dec., 1929., 1928. Rows include Seventh Federal Reserve District—Chicago, Eighth Federal Reserve District—St. Louis, Ninth Federal Reserve District—Minneapolis, etc.

Table with columns: Clearings at—, 1931., 1930., Inc. or Dec., 1929., 1928. Rows include Canada, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, etc.

\* Estimated. a No longer reports weekly clearings. b Remaining banks exchanging checks direct, no clearings figures available. c Three large banks closed, clearing house not functioning. d Figures smaller due to merger of two largest banks. e Clearing house discontinued.

THE ENGLISH GOLD AND SILVER MARKETS.

We reprint the following from the weekly circular of Samuel Montagu & Co. of London, written under date of Dec. 9 1931:

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £120,711,125 on the 2nd inst., as compared with £120,709,600 on the previous Wednesday.

About £750,000 in bar gold arrived from India by the SS. "Ranpura" on Friday last, but the bulk of this amount has been sold forward and only a small balance was available for disposal in the open market.

The small quantities of gold offered in the open market during the week have been disposed of to the Continent.

Quotations during the week:

Table showing gold market prices from Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, 1931, including Per Fine Ounce and Equivalent Value of £ Sterling.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold registered from mid-day on the 30th ultimo to mid-day on the 7th inst.:

Table of gold imports and exports from British South Africa, British West Africa, British India, Straits Settlements, etc.

SILVER.

After a fall of 5-16d. on the 3rd inst., recovered in full on the following day, prices have followed a pronounced upward trend, and with small buying orders on a poorly supplied market this was continued until 20 11-16d and 20 7/8d. were quoted for cash and forward delivery respectively on the 8th inst.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 30th ultimo to mid-day on the 7th inst.:

Table of silver imports and exports from Mexico, United States, Canada, and other countries.

Quotations during the week:

IN LONDON.

Bar Silver per Oz., Standard.

Table showing silver prices in London from Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, 1931.

IN NEW YORK.

(Cents per Ounce, .999)

Table showing silver prices in New York from Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, 1931.

The highest rate of exchange recorded on New York during the period from the 3rd to the 9th inst. was \$3.40 and the lowest \$3.23 1/4.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees)

Table showing Indian currency returns for Nov. 30, Nov. 22, and Nov. 15.

The stocks in Shanghai on the 5th inst. consisted of about 58,800,000 ounces in sycee and 165,000,000 dollars, as compared with 59,800,000 ounces in sycee and 169,000,000 dollars on the 28th ultimo.

Statistics for the month of November last are appended:

Table comparing silver and gold prices (Bar Silver per Oz., Standard Delivery vs Bar Gold per Fine Ounce) from Dec. 19 to Dec. 25, 1931.

ENGLISH FINANCIAL MARKET—PER CABLE.

The daily closing quotations for securities, &c., at London, as reported by cable, have been as follows the past week:

Table showing closing quotations for securities in London from Dec. 19 to Dec. 25, 1931, including Silver, Gold, Consols, and French Renten.

The price of silver in New York on the same days has been: Silver in N. Y., per oz. (cts.) 31 30 1/4 30 1/4 30 1/4 30 1/4

PRICES ON PARIS BOURSE.

Quotations of representative stocks on the Paris Bourse as follows:

Table of stock prices on the Paris Bourse from Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931, listing various companies like Bank of France, Canal de Suez, etc.

PRICES ON BERLIN STOCK EXCHANGE.

The Berlin Stock Exchange is closed.

New York quotations for German and other foreign unlisted dollar bonds as of Dec. 24:

Table of bond prices from Bavaria, Brandenburg, East Prussian Power, etc.

Commercial and Miscellaneous News

Breadstuffs figures brought from page 4352.—All the statements below regarding the movement of grain—receipts, exports, visible supply, &c., are prepared by us from figures collected by the New York Produce Exchange.

Table showing grain receipts and supplies for Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley, and Rye from Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Peoria, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Joseph, Wichita, and Sioux City.



Table with columns for Shares, Stocks, Bonds, and Per Cent. listing various companies and their financial details. Includes entries for 45 Securities Management B Corp., 19,000 A. J. Oremis & Co., and numerous others.

By R. L. Day & Co., Boston:

Table listing shares and stocks under the heading 'By R. L. Day & Co., Boston'. Includes entries like 550 Nat. Shawmut Bk, 265 Nat. Shawmut Bk, 100 West. Shawmut Bk, etc.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '250 E. D. Thomson, Inc., cap. stk. \$1 lot' and '100 Gateway Restaurants, Inc. 8%'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '25 Sandalari Co., com.; 25 pref. \$50 lot' and '1 Richmond Waterfront Realty Corp., common. \$5 lot'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '35 40-100 U. S. Acceptance Corp., common. \$1 lot' and '26 U. S. Acceptance Corp., com., voting trust certificate. \$11 lot'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '40 units Strauss Investing Corp. \$1 lot' and '38 Nat. Brands, Inc., Del., com. A. \$4 lot'.

By Wise, Hobbs & Arnold,

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '48 Atl. Nat. Bank, Boston ex-div. 22' and '53 Nat. Shawmut Bk., Boston ex-div. 24'.

Boston:

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '250 Cushion Petroleum. \$1 lot' and '593 New River Co., com. \$25 lot'.

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 with columns: 'Name of Company', 'Per Cent.', 'When Payable', and 'Books Closed, Days Inclusive'. It lists dividends for various companies including Railroads (Steam), Public Utilities, and other corporations.

By Barnes & Lofland, Philadelphia:

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '10 Phila. National Bank, par \$20. 52' and '5 First Nat. Bank of Merchantville, N. J. 1'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like '125 Plaza Trust Co., par \$10. \$1 lot' and '25 Broadway Merchants Tr. Co., Camden, N. J. 1'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like 'Montana & Power Co. (quar.) 25c' and 'Montreal L. H. & P. Consol. (quar.) 38c'.

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Shares', 'Stocks', and '\$ per Sh.'. Includes entries like 'Missouri River Sioux City Bridge Preferred (quar.) \$1.75' and 'Montana & Power Co. (quar.) 25c'.





Main table listing dividends for 'Miscellaneous (Concluded)', 'Railroads (Steam) (Concluded)', and 'Public Utilities'. Columns include Name of Company, Per Cent, When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive, Name of Company, Per Cent, When Payable, and Books Closed, Days Inclusive.

Below we give the dividends announced in previous weeks and not yet paid. This list does not include dividends announced this week, these being given in the preceding table.

Table listing dividends for 'Railroad (Steam)' and 'Public Utilities'. Columns include Name of Company, Per Cent, When Payable, Books Closed, Days Inclusive, Name of Company, Per Cent, When Payable, and Books Closed, Days Inclusive.



Table with 7 columns: Name of Company, Per Cent., When Payable., Books Closed, Days Inclusive., Name of Company., Per Cent., When Payable., Books Closed, Days Inclusive. The table lists numerous companies and their financial details, including public utilities, banks, fire insurance, and miscellaneous firms.













Weekly Return of the Federal Reserve Board.

The following is the return issued by the Federal Reserve Board Thursday afternoon, Dec. 24, and showing the condition of the twelve Reserve banks at the close of business on Wednesday. In the first table we present the results for the System as a whole in comparison with the figures for the seven preceding weeks and with those of the corresponding week last year. The second table shows the resources and liabilities separately for each of the twelve banks. The Federal Reserve Agents' Accounts (third table following) gives details regarding transactions in Federal Reserve notes between the Comptroller and Reserve Agents and between the latter and Federal Reserve banks. The Reserve Board's comment upon the returns for the latest week appears on page 4232, being the first item in our department of "Current Events and Discussions."

COMBINED RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DEC. 23 1931.

Main table showing combined resources and liabilities of the Federal Reserve Banks at the close of business Dec. 23, 1931. Columns include dates from Dec. 23 1931 to Dec. 24 1930. Rows are categorized into Resources (Gold with Federal Reserve agents, Gold held exclusively agst. F. R. notes, Total gold reserves, Reserves other than gold, Total reserves, Non-reserve cash, Bills discounted, U. S. Government securities, Foreign loans on gold, Total bills and securities, Due from foreign banks, Federal Reserve notes of other banks, Uncollected items, Bank premises, All other resources, Total resources) and Liabilities (F. R. notes in actual circulation, Deposits: Member banks-reserve account, Government, Foreign banks, Other deposits, Total deposits, Deferred availability items, Capital paid in, Surplus, All other liabilities, Total liabilities, Ratio of gold reserves to deposits and F. R. note liabilities combined, Ratio of total reserves to deposits and F. R. note liabilities combined, Contingent liability on bills purchased for foreign correspondents, Maturity Distribution of Bills and Short-Term Securities, Total bills bought in open market, Total U. S. certificates and bills, Total municipal warrants, Federal Reserve Notes, Issued to F. R. Bank by F. R. Agent, Held by Federal Reserve Bank, In actual circulation, Collateral Held by Agent as Security for Notes Issued to Bank, By gold and gold certificates, Gold fund-Federal Reserve Board, By eligible paper, Total).

\*Revised figures.

WEEKLY STATEMENT OF RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES OF EACH OF THE 12 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS DEC. 23 1931

Table showing the weekly statement of resources and liabilities for each of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks at the close of business Dec. 23, 1931. Columns include Total, Boston, New York, Phila., Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minncap., Kas. City, Dallas, San Fran. Rows are categorized into Resources (Gold with Federal Reserve Agents, Gold held excl. agst. F. R. notes, Total gold reserves, Reserves other than gold, Total reserves, Non-reserve cash, Bills discounted, Total bills discounted, Bills bought in open market) and Liabilities (Federal Reserve Notes, Issued to F. R. Bank by F. R. Agent, Held by Federal Reserve Bank, In actual circulation, Collateral Held by Agent as Security for Notes Issued to Bank, By gold and gold certificates, Gold fund-Federal Reserve Board, By eligible paper, Total).



Bankers' Gazette.

Wall Street, Thursday Night, Dec. 24 1931.

Railroad and Miscellaneous Stocks.—The review of the Stock Market is given this week on page 4275.

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. Week Ended Dec. 25., Sales for Week, Range for Week (Lowest, Highest), Range Since Jan. 1. (Lowest, Highest). Rows include various stocks like Railroad, Amal Leather, and others.

\*No par value.

The Curb Exchange.—The review of the Curb Exchange is given this week on page 4276.

A complete record of Curb Exchange transactions for the week will be found on page 4311.

Quotations for United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness, &c.

Table with columns: Maturity, Int. Rate, Bid, Asked, Maturity, Int. Rate, Bid, Asked. Rows show dates like Sept. 15 1932 and rates like 1 1/4%.

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 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 with columns: Daily Record of U. S. Bond Prices, Dec. 19, Dec. 21, Dec. 22, Dec. 23, Dec. 24, Dec. 25. Rows include Liberty Loan, Treasury, and other bond types with High/Low prices and sales figures.

HOLIDAY

Note.—The above table includes only sales of coupon bonds. Transactions in registered bonds were: 35 4th 4 1/8s..... 99 1/2 to 100 1/4

Foreign Exchange.—

To-day's (Thursday's) actual rates for sterling exchange were 3.42 3/4 @ 3.43 1/4 for checks and 3.43 @ 3.44 for cables. Commercial on banks, sight, 3.42, sixty days, 3.38 @ 3.38 1/2-32, ninety days, 3.35 29-32 @ 3.36, and documents for payment, 3.38 1/2 @ 3.39. Cotton for payment, 3.42 1/4, and grain, 3.42 1/4.

To-day's (Thursday's) actual rates for Paris bankers' francs were 3.92 3/4 @ 3.92 15-16. for short. Amsterdam bankers' guilders were 40.07 @ 40.14. Exchange for Paris on London, 87.50, week's range, 87.50 francs high and 86.37 francs low.

Table with columns: Sterling, Actual—, Checks, Cables, Paris Bankers' Francs, Germany Bankers' Marks, Amsterdam Bankers' Guilders. Rows show high/low for the week and specific rates.

CURRENT NOTICES.

—Samuel L. Fuller, who for the last 25 years has been a partner of Kissel, Kinnicut & Co., is forming a new firm under the name of Fuller, Rodney & Co., to transact an investment business as members of the New York Stock Exchange. Partners will be Samuel L. Fuller, Earle H. Rodney, Stuart Hedden, and James C. Fuller, who will be the floor member of the new firm. The new firm will continue in the offices occupied for many years by Kissel, Kinnicut & Co. at 14 Wall St. Mr. Fuller is widely known in investment banking circles here and abroad and has been active in the formation of a number of important enterprises, including the Commercial National Bank & Trust Co., Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corp., General Cable Corp., Revere Copper & Brass, Inc., and Manitoba Power Co. At one time Mr. Rodney was assistant professor of corporate finance in the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He retired in 1930 from partnership in the Stock Exchange firm of Burnham, Herman & Co; Mr. Hedden has been associated with Kissel, Kinnicut & Co. during the last three years as head of the new business department, prior to which time he practiced law with Cotton & Franklin.



HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and 'Sales for the Week'. Rows list various stock prices per share.

STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns for 'PER SHARE Range Since Jan. 1' (Lowest, Highest) and 'PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1930' (Lowest, Highest). Rows list various stock companies and their share prices.

SEE FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE SECOND PAGE PRECEDING.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. \* Ex-dividend. y Ex-rights.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and rows for various stock prices per share.

Main table listing stocks on the New York Stock Exchange with columns for Shares, Stock Name, and Per Share prices (Lowest and Highest) for the current week and previous years.

FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE THIRD PAGE PRECEDING.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. † Ex-dividend. ‡ Ex-dividend and ex-rights.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and rows of stock prices per share. Includes a vertical label 'FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE FOURTH PAGE PRECEDING.' on the left side.

Vertical text on the left side of the main table, likely a continuation of the 'FOR SALES...' label.

Main table of stock listings with columns for 'STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE', 'PER SHARE Range Since Jan 1. On basis of 100-share lots.', and 'PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1930.'. Includes sub-sections for 'Stock', 'Exchange', 'Closed', and 'Christmas Day'.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. † Ex-dividend. ‡ Ex-rights. § Ex-dividends.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and \$ per share. It lists bid and asked prices for various stocks.

Table with columns for Sales for the Week, Shares, and \$ per share. It provides weekly sales data for the listed stocks.

Main table of stock prices with columns for Stock Name, PER SHARE (Lowest, Highest), and PER SHARE Range Since Jan. 1. It lists various stocks and their price ranges.

FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE FIFTH PAGE PRECEDING.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day s Ex-dividend. y Ex-right



HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and price ranges per share. Includes a vertical label 'FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE SIXTH PAGE PRECEDING.' on the left side.

Table titled 'STOCKS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.' listing various companies and their share prices. Includes categories like 'Indus. & Miscell. (Con.)', 'Stock', 'Exchange', 'Closed', 'Christmas', and 'Day'.

Table titled 'PER SHARE Range Since Jan. 1. On basis of 100-share lots.' and 'PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1930.' showing price ranges for various stocks.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. b Ex-dividend and ex-rights. z Ex-dividend. y Ex-rights.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and rows for various stock prices. Includes a vertical label 'FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST, SEE SEVENTHPAGE PRECEDING.' on the left side.

Main table listing various stocks under 'NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE' with columns for 'PER SHARE' (Lowest, Highest) and 'PER SHARE RANGE SINCE JAN. 1. ON BASIS OF 100-SHARE LOTS'. Includes sub-sections for 'STOCK', 'Exchange', 'Closed', and 'Christmas Day'.

\* Big and asked prices; no sales on this day. † Ex-dividend. ‡ Ex-rights.

HIGH AND LOW SALE PRICES—PER SHARE, NOT PER CENT.

Table with columns for days of the week (Saturday Dec. 19 to Friday Dec. 25) and rows of stock prices. Includes a vertical note on the left: 'FOR SALES DURING THE WEEK OF STOCKS NOT RECORDED IN THIS LIST. SEE EIGHTH PAGE PRECEDING.'

Sales for the Week.

Column of sales figures for the week, corresponding to the rows of the main table.

Table of stock names and their current prices. Includes categories like 'Indus. & Miscell. (Concl.) Par', 'Tri-Continental Corp.', 'United Gas Improve.', etc.

Table with columns 'PER SHARE Range Since Jan. 1. On basis of 100-share lots.' and sub-columns 'Lowest' and 'Highest'.

Table with columns 'PER SHARE Range for Previous Year 1930.' and sub-columns 'Lowest' and 'Highest'.

\* Bid and asked prices; no sales on this day. # Ex-dividend. # Ex-rights.

On Jan. 1 1908 the Exchange method of quoting bonds was changed and prices are now "and interest"—except for income and defaulted bonds.

Main table with columns: BONDS, N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE, Week Ended Dec. 25, Interest Period, Price Thursday Dec. 24, Week's Range of Last Sale, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1, and detailed bond listings with prices and dates.

☉ Cash sale. ☉ On the basis of \$5 to £ sterling. ☉ Deferred delivery.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for N. Y. Stock Exchange, Bonds, Price, Week's Range, Range Since, and various bond details like issuer, maturity, and interest.

• Cash sale. • Deferred delivery.



Main table containing bond listings with columns for Bond Name, Price, Week's Range, Range Since, and Interest. Includes sections for 'N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE' and 'INDUSTRIALS'.

g Cash sale. d Due May. k Due August. s Deferred delivery.

Main table containing bond listings with columns for Interest Period, Price, Week's Range, Range Since, and various bond descriptions. Includes sections for 'N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE' and 'BONDS'.

\* Cash sale. \* Deferred delivery.



Table with columns: N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE, Week Ended Dec. 25, Interest, Price, Range, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1. Includes entries like Mllw El Ry & Lt 1st 5s B-1961, Nat Acme 1st 6s, etc.

Table with columns: N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE, Week Ended Dec. 25, Interest, Price, Range, Bonds Sold, Range Since Jan. 1. Includes entries like Rima Steel 1st 5 7/8, Rock & Elt Gen mg 6 1/2 ser C, etc.

o Cash sales. s Deferred delivery.

Outside Stock Exchanges

Boston Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Boston Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes sections for Railroad, Miscellaneous, Mining, and Bonds.

\* No par value. † Ex-dividend.

Chicago Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Chicago Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks—, Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes various industrial and utility stocks.

Table with columns: Stocks (Continued) Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes various industrial and utility stocks.

Table of stock transactions for Toronto Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value. z Ex-dividend. y Ex-rights.

Toronto Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Toronto Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock transactions for Toronto Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value.

Table of stock transactions for Toronto Curb, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value.

Toronto Curb.—Record of transactions at Toronto Curb, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Curb), compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock transactions for Toronto Curb, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value.

Philadelphia Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock transactions for Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value.

Baltimore Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Baltimore Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table of stock transactions for Baltimore Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, 1931. Columns include Stock Name, Par, Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), and Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High).

\* No par value.

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Appalachen Corp., Black & Decker com., Ches & Pot Tel of Balt pt100, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded), Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Cleve Ry cts of dep., Cleve Secur P L pref., Cleve Union Stkys com., etc.

Pittsburgh Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Pittsburgh Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Allegheny Steel, Arkansas Nat Gas Corp., Armstrong Cork Co., etc.

St. Louis Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at St. Louis Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Bank—Mero-Com Bk & Tr Co. 100, Miscellaneous—Brown Shoe com., Consol Lead & Zinc A., etc.

Cincinnati Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Cincinnati Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Aluminum Indus, Inc., Amer Laund Mach com. 20, Amer Products com., etc.

San Francisco Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at San Francisco Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Alaska Juneau Gold Min., Anglo & London P Nat Bk., Assoc Ins Fund Inc., etc.

Cleveland Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Cleveland Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks, Par, Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Byers Machine A., Central United Nat., City Ice & Fuel, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Leslie Calif Salt Co, L A Gas & Elec Corp, etc.

Table with columns: Stocks (Concluded) Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Pac Finance Corp, Series C, Pacific Gas & Elec, etc.

Los Angeles Stock Exchange.—Record of transactions at Los Angeles Stock Exchange, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from official sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks— Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Barnsdall Oil A, Bolsa Chica Oil A, etc.

New York Produce Exchange Securities Market.—Following is the record of transactions at the New York Produce Exchange Securities Market, Dec. 19 to Dec. 24, both inclusive (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange), compiled from sales lists:

Table with columns: Stocks— Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Admiralty Alaska Gold, Amer Continental w w, etc.

New York Curb Exchange—Weekly and Yearly Record

In the following extensive list we furnish a complete record of the transactions on the New York Curb Exchange for the week beginning on Saturday last (Dec. 19 1931) and ending the present Thursday (Dec. 24 1931) (Friday, the 25th, being Christmas Day and a holiday on the Exchange). It is compiled entirely from the daily reports of the Curb Exchange itself, and is intended to include every security, whether stock or bonds, in which any dealings occurred during the week covered.

Table with columns: Week End, Dec. 25 1931. Stocks— Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices (Low, High), Sales for Week (Shares), Range Since Jan. 1. (Low, High). Includes entries like Indus. & Miscellaneous, Aero Supply Mfg Co, etc.



Table with columns for Stocks (Concluded) Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., Public Utilities (Continued) Par., Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1. The table lists numerous companies such as Raytheon Mfg Co, Amer Gas & Elec, and various utility companies, along with their respective stock prices and market movements.





Table with columns for Bonds (Continued), Thurs. Last Sale Price, Week's Range of Prices, Sales for Week, Range Since Jan. 1., and various bond titles and prices.



Quotations for Unlisted Securities

Public Utility Bonds.

Table of Public Utility Bonds with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'am Com'th P 5 3/4% '53. M&N', 'Newp N & Ham 5 1/4% J&J', etc.

Investment Trusts (Concluded).

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for description, par value, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'Public Service Trust Shares', 'Representative Trust Shares', etc.

Public Utility Stocks.

Table of Public Utility Stocks with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'Alabama Power \$7 pref.', 'Arizona Power 7% pref.', etc.

Industrial Stocks.

Table of Industrial Stocks with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'Adams Mills \$7 pref.', 'Aeolian Co \$7 pref.', etc.

Investment Trusts.

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'A B C Trust Shares ser D', 'Series E', etc.

Telephone and Telegraph Stocks.

Table of Telephone and Telegraph Stocks with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'Am Dist Tel of N J \$4', 'Bell Tel (Can) 8% pref.', etc.

Chain Store Stocks.

Table of Chain Store Stocks with columns for description, bid, and ask prices. Includes entries like 'Bohach (H C) Inc', 'Butler (James) common', etc.

\* No par value. d Last reported market. f New stock. z Ex-dividend. Ex-rights.

Quotations for Unlisted Securities—Concluded—Page 2

Sugar Stocks.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Par, and another column. Includes Fajardo Sugar, Haytian Corp Amer, Savannah Sugar com, etc.

New York Bank Stocks.

Table with 6 columns: Security Name, Par, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Bank of Yorktown, Chase, Chatham-Ph Nat Bk & Tr, etc.

Trust Companies.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Banca Comm Italiana Tr, Bank of Sicily Trust, Bank of New York & Tr, etc.

Chicago Bank Stocks.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Central Republic, Chic Bk of Commerce, Continental Ill Bk & Tr, etc.

Industrial and Railroad Bonds.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Adams Express 4s, 1947 & D, American Motor 6s, 1945, Amer Tobacco 4s, 1951 F&A, etc.

Insurance Companies.

Table with 6 columns: Security Name, Par, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Aetna Casualty & Surety, Aetna Fire, Aetna Life, American Alliance, etc.

Realty, Surety and Mortgage Companies.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Bond & Mortgage Guar, Empire Title & Guar, Franklin Surety, etc.

Aeronautical Stocks.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Alexander Indus 8% pref, American Airports Corp, Aviation Sec of New Eng, etc.

Quotations for Other Over-the-Counter Securities

Short Term Securities.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Alum-Chal Mfg 6s, May 1937, Alum Co of Amer 5s May '32, Amer Metal 5 1/2s, 1934 A&O, etc.

Water Bonds.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Alton Water 5s, 1956, Ark Wat 1st 5s, 1956 A&O, Ashabula W 5s 1958 A&O, etc.

Railroad Equipments.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Atlantic Coast Line 6s, Equipment 6 1/2s, Baltimore & Ohio 6s, etc.

Investment Trust Stocks and Bonds.

Table with 5 columns: Security Name, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Amer Bank Stk Tr Shares, American & Continental, Amer Invest Trust Shares, etc.

\*No par value. & And dividend. d Last reported market. s Ex-dividend. y Rx-rights.



Table with 5 columns: Month, Na Earnings (1930, 1929), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) Amount, Per Cent. Rows include months from January to October for two consecutive years.

Net Earnings Monthly to Latest Dates.

Summary table of net earnings for various railroads including Akron Canton & Youngstown, Chesapeake & Ohio Lines, Chicago Great Western, Delaware Lackawanna & Western, Galveston Wharf, Kansas City Southern System, Lehigh Valley, Minn St. Paul & Sault Ste Marie, Missouri-Kansas-Texas, Monongahela Connecting, and New York Chicago & St Louis.

Summary table of net earnings for various railroads including New York Ontario & Western, Norfolk & Western, Northern Pacific, Pere Marquette, Southern Pacific System, Union Pacific System, Western Maryland, Wheeling & Lake Erie, Chicago Great Western RR, Kansas City Southern Ry. Co., Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines, and Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines.

Other Monthly Steam Railroad Reports.—In the following we show the monthly reports of STEAM railroad companies received this week as issued by the companies themselves, where they embrace more facts than are required in the reports to the Inter-State Commerce Commission, such as fixed charges, &c., or where they differ in some other respect from the reports to the Commission.

New York Ontario & Western Ry.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Operating revenues, Operating expenses, Net rev. from ry. oper., Total ry. oper. income, Net operating income, etc.

Norfolk & Western Ry.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Aver. mileage operated, Net ry. oper. income, Gross income, Net income, etc.

Pere Marquette Ry.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Net railway oper. inc., Gross income, Net income, Balance, etc.

Southern Pacific Lines.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Freight, Passenger, Mail, Express, All other transportation, Incidental, Joint facility, etc.

St. Louis-San Francisco Ry.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Operated mileage, Freight revenue, Passenger revenue, Other revenue, Total oper. revenue, etc.

Soo Line System.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Net after rents, Other income, Int. on funded debt, Net profit or deficit, etc.

Union Pacific System.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Freight, Passenger, Mail, Express, All other transportation, Incidental, Joint facility, etc.

Western Maryland Ry. Co.

Table with 5 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Net ry. oper. income, Other income, Gross income, Fixed charges, Net income, etc.

Pennsylvania RR. Regional System.

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Revenues (Freight, Passenger, Mail, Express, etc.) and Expenses (Railway oper. revs., Maint. of way & struc., etc.).

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Apr. 4 '31, p. 2568

New York City Street Railways.

(As filed with Transit Commission)

Table with 5 columns: Company, Date, Operating Revenue, Gross Income, Deductions from Income, Net Corp. Income. Rows include Brooklyn & Queens, Elghth & Nlnth Aves, Fifth Avenue Coach, Interboro Rapid Transit, etc.

Earnings of Large Telephone Companies.—The Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington has issued a monthly statement of the earnings of large telephone companies having an annual operating revenue in excess of \$250,000. Below is a summary of the return:

Table with 5 columns: Month, No. of Co. Stations in Service, Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, Operating Income. Rows for October 1930, October 1931, and 10 months ended October 1931 and 1930.

INDUSTRIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS COS.

Arundel Corp.

Table with 4 columns: Period, 1931-1 Month-1930, 1931-11 Mos.-1930. Rows include Net profit after deprec., Fed. taxes, etc., Earnings per sh. on 495,556 shs. cap. stk. (no par).

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Feb. 7 '31, p. 1034

Brazilian Traction, Light & Power Co., Ltd.

Table with 4 columns: Month, 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Gross earnings from oper., Operating expenses, Net earnings.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 27 '31, p. 4753

American & Foreign Power Co., Inc.

(And Subsidiaries)

(Intercompany Items Eliminated)

For the purpose of the following comparative consolidated statement of income, the income of operating subsidiaries in national currencies for the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1931, has been calculated each month on the basis of the average daily closing New York cable rates for the month for the conversion of these currencies into dollars although such currencies may not all have been actually converted into dollars. (See note below.) For the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1930, these calculations were at the average daily closing New York cable rates for the month or at fixed rates closely approximating them.

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Operating expenses, Net revenues from operation, Other income, Gross corporate income, Interest to public and other deductions, etc.

Balance applicable to common stock... def. \$5,152,172 \$3,641,900 The above statement includes earnings only for the periods during which the respective properties have been owned. Dividends actually paid on 2nd preferred stock, series A (\$7), during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1931, aggregated \$13,733,194. These dividends were applicable to the nine months ended Sept. 30 1930. Dividends actually paid on 2nd preferred stock, series A (\$7), during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1930, aggregated \$14,086,450. These dividends were applicable to the 12 months ended Dec. 31 1929. Note.—There were no restrictions during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1931, on the transfer of funds to the United States from any of the countries in which the subsidiaries are operating which would have interfered with the transfer of any sums which they might have desired to remit to the United States, except as to Brazil and Mexico. Since that date, available United States dollar exchange has also been limited in Argentina, Chile and Colombia, but restrictions in Mexico have been removed. Actual United States dollar remittances amounting to \$15,447,000 were made by the subsidiaries of American & Foreign Power Co., Inc. during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 1931. This amount included \$2,021,000 from the four countries mentioned now having exchange restrictions (in some cases severe but not embargoes). Net earnings in local currencies not remitted in United States dollars were retained locally or converted into moneys of countries other than the United States and expended currently for additions and improvements, payments on the purchase price of properties, and for other miscellaneous items.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 18 '31, p. 472

Arkansas Power & Light Co.

(Electric Power & Light Corp. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. expts., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate income, Int. on long term debt, etc.

Associated Electric Co.

(And Subsidiaries.)

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1931, 1930, 12 Months Ended September 30—1931, 1930. Rows include Electric department, Gas department, Steam heating department, Ice department, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1931, 1930. Rows include Total operating revenues, Operating expenses & maintenance, Provis. for retirement of fixed cap. (renewals, &c.), Taxes (except Federal income taxes).

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1931, 1930. Rows include Operating income, Other income, Gross income, Underlying companies, Interest on funded debt, Interest on unfunded debt to public, etc.

Balance avail. for Fed. income taxes, int. on adv. by stockholders, dividends & surplus... \$5,371,772 \$6,806,212 Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 6 '31, p. 4235

Brooklyn & Queens Transit System.

(Month of November—5 Mos. End. Nov. 30—1931, 1930)

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Total oper. revenues, Total oper. expenses, Net revenue from oper., Taxes on oper. prop., Operating income, Net non-oper. income, Gross income, Total income deductions, Net income.

\* Excludes figures of Brooklyn Bus Corp. (temporary operation).

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Sept. 5 '31, p. 1610



Birmingham Electric Co.

(National Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long-term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, and Balance.

Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit System.

(Incl. Brooklyn & Queens Transit System.)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 5 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Total oper. revenues, Total oper. expenses, Net rev. from oper., Taxes on oper. prop., Operating income, Net non-oper. income, Gross income, Total income deductions, Net income, and Balance.

\* Of which sums there accrues to minority int. of the B. & Q. T. Corp.

\* Excludes figures of Brooklyn Bus Corp. (temporary operation).

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Sept. 5 '31, p. 1611

(A. M.) Byers Co.

Table with 4 columns: 1931-3 Mos., 1930, 1931-12 Mos., 1930. Rows include Net profit after charges and taxes.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Jan. 10 '31, p. 317, and Jan. 17 1931, p. 439.

Carolina Power & Light Co.

(National Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Rent for leased property, Balance, Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long-term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, and Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 13 '31, p. 4407

Chicago Surface Lines.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 1931, 1930. Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses, Residue receipts, Joint account, expenses, Federal taxes, &c, City's 55%, Balance, and Dividends on preferred stock.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Mar. 21 '31, p. 2190

Collins & Aikman Corp.

(And Subsidiaries.)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Gross profit, Depreciation, Reserve for taxes, Profit, Pref. stock bal. over cost, Profit, Reserve for adjustment of inventories, Net profit, Preferred dividends, Surplus, Shares com. stock outstanding (no par), Earnings per share, and Balance.

For the quarter ended Nov. 30 1931, net profit was \$39,318, after depreciation, taxes, inventory adjustment, &c., equivalent to 57 cents a share on 68,500 shares of 7% preferred stock. This compares with net loss of \$352,731 in like quarter of 1930. x Includes \$44,753 interest earned. y Includes interest earned amounting to \$82,034.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle April 18 '31, p. 2971

Consumers Power Co.

(The Commonwealth & Southern Corp. System)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Gross earnings, Oper. expenses, including taxes and maintenance, Gross income, Fixed charges, Net income, Provision for retirement reserve, Dividends on preferred stock, and Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 11 '31, p. 284

(The) Commonwealth & Southern Corp.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Gross earnings, Operating expenses, incl. taxes & maintenance, Gross income, Fixed chgs., incl. int., amort. of debt disc. & exp., & earn. accr. on stk. of subs. not owned by the Commonwealth & Southern Corp., Net income, Provision for retirement reserve, Dividends on preferred stocks, and Balance.

\* Includes dividends on preferred stock of the Commonwealth & Southern Corp. from dates of issue, and prior thereto dividends on preferred stocks of subsidiary holding companies which were eliminated by merger pursuant to plan dated Jan. 7 1930. Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 6 '31, p. 4238

Dallas Power & Light Co.

(Electric Power & Light Corp. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long-term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, and Balance.

x Before transfers to accident, maintenance and depreciation and surplus reserves, in accordance with franchise provisions, and before dividends. y Before transfers aggregating \$887,449 made during the 12 months ended Oct. 31 1931 to accident, maintenance and depreciation, and surplus reserves, in accordance with franchise provisions.

Detroit & Canada Tunnel Co. (Mich.)

(Including the Detroit & Windsor Subway Co. (Canada))

Earnings for Nine Months Ended Sept. 30 1931.

Table with 2 columns: 1931, 1930. Rows include Tolls revenues, Bus passengers and special coach hire, Non-operating revenues, Total gross earnings, Operating expenses, Maintenance, Taxes, Interest on funded and general debt, Amortization of debt discount and expenses, Provision for depreciation of tunnel appurtenances, equip., &c, Provision for amort. of tube, land, rights, franchises, &c, Net loss before deduction of charges deferred at Dec. 31 1930, Excess of interest charges over operating income for the initiatory period in 1930 deferred by the companies as a charge to 1931 operations, together with the provisions for depreciation and amortization applicable thereto, Net loss, and Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle May 30 '31, p. 4064

Houston Lighting & Power Co.

(National Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long-term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, and Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 13 '31, p. 4409

Hudson & Manhattan RR. Co.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930. Rows include Gross revenues, Oper. expenses & taxes, Bal. applic. to charges, Charges, and Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Mar. 28 '31, p. 2380

Idaho Power Co.

(Electric Power & Light Corp. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long-term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, and Balance.

x Before divs. and retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation.

Interborough Rapid Transit Co.

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Gross oper. revenue, Operating expenses, Net oper. revenue, Taxes, Income from operation, Current rent reductions, Bal. to be divided between the city and co., Pay. to city under contract No. 3, Gr. inc. from operation, Fixed charges, Net inc. from oper., Non-oper. income, Bal. before deduct. 5% Manhattan div. rental, Amt. req. for full div. rental @ 5% on Manhattan ry. co. modified guar. stk. pay. if earned, Amt. by which the full 5% Manhattan Div. rental was not earned dr.

Note.—The system balances as shown herein are limited as to the subway, to the amounts the company is entitled to retain for such periods. On the basis of the present accounting there are no past due Subway preferentials which the company may collect from future subway earnings.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Oct. 10 '31, p. 2429

International Business Machines Corp.

(And Subsidiaries.)

Earnings for Nine Months Ended Sept. 30 1931.

Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include Net profits of subsidiaries, incl. foreign, after deducting expenses of International Business Machine Corporation, Depreciation of plant equipment and rental machines, Patent and development expenses, Interest on bonded indebtedness and borrowed money, Estimated Federal taxes, Net income, Dividends declared, Surplus for year, Declared capital and surplus, beginning of year, Total surplus, Earnings per share on 669,852 no par shares.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Mar 21 '31, p. 2185

Investors Equity Co., Inc.

(And Subsidiary)

Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include 6 Months Ended Nov. 30— Interest received and accrued, Dividends, Miscellaneous income, Total, Operating expenses, State and miscellaneous taxes, Interest on 5% gold debentures, Amortization of discount on debentures, Net income for the period, Statement of Earned Surplus, Nov. 30 1931, Balance, June 1 1931, Trading profits prior to May 31 1930 transferred to profit and loss reserve, Adjustments, prior years, net, Balance, Net income for period, as above, Excess of par value over cost of company's own debts. reacquired, Balance, Nov. 30 1931, Note.—The depreciation in value of investments has increased during the six months ended Nov. 30 1931 by \$1,250,634., Statement of Profit and Loss Reserve, Nov. 30 1931, Balance, June 1 1931, Trading profits prior to May 31 1930, Total, Excess of cost as adjusted, over proceeds of sale of securities, Balance, Nov. 30 1931, Change in Net Assets, (Adjusted for market or appraised value of securities), Net assets, May 31 1931, Cost of debentures reacquired, Cost of common stock reacquired, Total cost, Decrease for period, Net change for period, Net assets, Nov. 30 1931, May 31 '31, Nov. 30 '31, Decrease, Net assets per \$1,000 deb. outstand'g, Net assets per share of common stock outstanding, x Based on debentures and common stock outstanding Nov. 30 1931, after deducting amount reacquired.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 4 '31, p. 115

Kansas Electric Power Co.

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Gross operating revenue, Available for interest, Int. on long term debt, Other deductions, Net for retire. & divs.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 18 '31, p. 480

Market Street Ry. Co.

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Gross earnings, Net earn. incl. other inc. before prov. for retire., Income charges, Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Apr. 4, '31, p. 2581

Memphis Power & Light Co.

(National Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 25 '31, p. 641

(The) Montana Power Co.

(And Subsidiaries)

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt, Other int. and deducts, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

New Orleans Public Service Inc.

(Electric Power & Light Corp. Subsidiary)

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt, Other int. & deductions, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

New York Central Electric Corp.

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include 12 Months Ended Nov. 30— Electric revenues, Gas revenues, Steam heating revenues, Total operating revenues, Operating expenses and maintenance, Provision for retirement of fixed cap. (renew. & c.), Taxes (incl. provision for Fed. income taxes), Operating income, Other inc. (incl. applicable income of subsidiary), Gross income, Interest on funded debt, Interest on unfunded debt to public, Interest on advances by stockholders, Net income, Preferred stock dividends.

Note.—The 1931 period includes adjustments reflecting increases in operating expenses, taxes, &c., in the net amount of \$158,024 which were found necessary as a result of audit and examination of accounts and recorded in the latter part of 1930. These are included in the period in which they were recorded because of the impossibility of adjusting the several periods to which they applied.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 6 '31, p. 4241

New York Telephone Co.

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Telephone oper. revs., Telephone oper. expenses, Net telph. oper. revs., Uncoll. oper. revenues, Taxes assigned to oper'ns, Operating income.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Mar. 7 '31, p. 1791

Northwestern Electric Co.

(American Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Rent for leased property, Balance, Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt, Other int. and deducts, Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Ohio Edison Co.

(The Commonwealth & Southern Corp. System.)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Gross earnings, Oper. exps., incl. taxes and maintenance, Gross income, Fixed charges, Net income, Provision for retirement reserve, Dividends on preferred stock.

Note.—Ohio Edison Co. organized as of July 1 1930; operations prior thereto are of predecessor companies.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle July 25 '31, p. 642

Pacific Power & Light Co.

(American Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Rent for leased property, Balance, Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt., Other int. and deducts., Dividends on preferred stock, Balance, Dividends on pref. stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.

(Lehigh Power Securities Corp. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt., Other int. and deducts., Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Portland Gas & Coke Co.

(American Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net rev. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt., Other int. and deducts., Balance, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Roanoke Gas Light Co.

Table with 4 columns: 1931-3 Months-1930, 1931-12 Months-1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Non-operating revenues, Total revenues, Operating expenses, Maintenance, Uncollectible accounts, General taxes, Net earnings, Annual interest requirements on funded debt, Provision for depreciat'n.

Rochester Central Power Corp.

(And Subsidiaries)

Comparative Consolidated Income Account (Since Dates of Acquisition).

Table with 4 columns: 12 Months Ended Sept. 30-1931, 12 Months Ended Sept. 30-1930. Rows include Electric revenues, Gas and miscellaneous revenues, Total revenues, Operating expenses and maintenance, Prov. for retire. of fixed capital (renewals, &c.), Taxes (incl. provision for Federal taxes), Operating income, Other income (net), Gross income, Interest on funded debt of subsidiaries, Interest on unfunded debt of subsidiaries, Interest on funded debt of company, Interest on unfunded debt of company, Interest during construction (credit), Dividends on preferred stocks of subsidiaries, Amortization of debt discount and expense, Balance for dividends on preferred stock, &c., Dividends on preferred stock, Balance available for divs. on com. stock & surp.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle June 6 '31, p. 4243

Sierra Pacific Electric Co.

—Month of November— 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Gross earnings, Net operating revenue, Surplus after charges.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle Feb. 21 '31, p. 1413

Texas Electric Service Co.

(American Power & Light Co. Subsidiary)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Rent for leased property, Balance, Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt., Other int. and deduct., Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (deprec.) reserve appropriation, Balance.

Texas Power & Light Co.

(American Power & Light Co. Subsidiary.)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exp., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Other income, Gross corporate inc., Int. on long term debt., Other int. & deduc., Divs. on pref. stock, Retirement (depreciation) reserve appropriation, Balance.

(The) United Rys. & Electric Co. of Baltimore.

—Month of November— 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. Nov. 30-1931, 1930.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 11 Mos. End. 1931, 11 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Passenger revenue, Other revenue, Total, Operating Expenses: Way and structures, Equipment, Power, Conducting transporta'n, Traffic, General and miscell., Transpt. for investm't., Depreciation, Total, Net operating revenue, Taxes, Operating income, Non-operating income, Gross income, Fixed charges, Remainder, Int. on income bonds (see Note), Net income.

Note.—For Nov. 1931, interest on income bonds is omitted, as the Dec. 1 1931 coupon was not paid.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle May 2 '31, p. 3339

Utah Power & Light Co.

(Including the Western Colorado Power Co.)

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Rent for leased property, Balance, Other income, Gross corp. income, Int. on long term debt., Other int. & deduc'ns, Dividends on preferred stock, Retirement (depreciation) reserve appropriation, Balance, x Before divs. and retirement (depreciation) reserve appropriation.

Utah Light & Traction Co.

—Month of October— 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. Oct. 31-1931, 1930.

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 12 Mos. End. 1931, 12 Mos. End. 1930. Rows include Operating revenues, Oper. exps., incl. taxes, Net revs. from oper., Other income, Gross corp. income, Int. on long term debt., Other int. & deductions, Balance, deficit., x Before divs. and retirement (depreciation) reserve appropriation.

Timken Roller Bearing Co.

Table with financial data for Timken Roller Bearing Co. for periods ending Sept. 30 and Nov. 30, 1931, 1930, 1929, and 1928. Includes net profit, taxes, shares, and earnings.

United States Smelting, Refining & Mining Co.

Table with financial data for United States Smelting, Refining & Mining Co. for periods ending Nov. 30, 1931, 1930, 1929, and 1928. Includes gross earnings, reserves, net earnings, and balance.

Last complete annual report in Financial Chronicle April 11 1931, p. 2792, and March 28 1931, p. 2410.

United American Utilities, Inc.

Table showing Preliminary Earnings for 10 Months Ended Oct. 31 1931. Total income from transportation revenues, int. & divs. received \$2,090,898.

(The) Washington Water Power Co.

Table with financial data for Washington Water Power Co. (And Subsidiaries) for Month of October 1931, 1930, and 12 Months ending Oct. 31-1931, 1930, 1929, and 1928. Includes operating revenues, net income, and balance.

General Corporate and Investment News.

STEAM RAILROADS.

Surplus Freight Cars.—Class I railroads on Nov. 30 had 659,346 surplus freight cars in good repair and immediately available for service.

Matters Covered in the "Chronicle" of Dec. 19.—(a) Rail leaders unite to confer on wages—Western roads join in decision to meet unions in friendly discussion of pay cut—Formal demand for 15%, p. 4094.

Chicago Burlington & Quincy RR.—New Service.—

The company has instituted a new farm-to-market service for long-distance livestock transportation. The stock is picked up on the farm by truck, taken to a railroad loading point, and transported to the market from the point of destination.

Chicago & Eastern Illinois Ry.—Note Renewal.—

The company has asked the I.-S. C. Commission for authority to renew from time to time as they mature \$7,326,764 of outstanding short term notes and to pledge \$8,852,700 of its prior lien bonds as collateral security.

Chicago Great Western RR.—50c. Dividend.—

The directors have declared a dividend of 50c. per share on the 4% cum. red. pref. stock, par \$100, payable Jan. 20 to holders of record Jan. 1.

Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Ry.—Application to Issue \$11,357,000 Bonds.—

Application for authority to issue \$11,357,000 first mortgage bonds of the St. Paul & Kansas City Short Line, a unit of the Rock Island, has been filed with the I.-S. C. Commission by the Rock Island Road.

Delaware & Hudson RR. Corp.—Protests "Four-Party" Plan of Eastern Lines—In Petition to Commission Opposes Reallocation as "Feeder" to Proposed Trunk Systems.—

The corporation on Dec. 21 petitioned the I.-S. C. Commission to intervene in the plans of the Eastern trunk lines in opposition to the carriers' proposal to take it out of the Boston & Maine system to which the commission allocated it in its consolidation plan of 1929 and provide for its joint ownership and operation by the four trunk line applicants.

Hearings before the Commission on the so-called "Four-Party Plan" of the Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio, the New York Central and the Chesapeake & Ohio railroads, which contemplates the division of rail properties in Eastern trunk line territory into four competitive systems in lieu of the five provided in the Commission's plan, will open at Washington Jan. 6.

The Commission allocated the Delaware & Hudson to the Boston & Maine System No. 1 in its plan of Dec. 9 1929, but the joint application of the trunk lines to be heard in January would modify the Commission's plan to the extent of taking the D. & H. out of the New England group and providing for its operation by all four roads as a "feeder" into New England.

This proposal is opposed in a joint petition of five New England Governors, who protest the invasion of New England by Eastern trunk lines. The Governors are Wilbur L. Cross of Connecticut, William T. Gardner of Maine, Joseph B. Ely of Massachusetts, John G. Winant of New Hampshire and Stanley O. Wilson of Vermont.

The Governors held that acquisition of New England carriers by the trunk lines would tend to diminish competition and present the free movement of traffic to and from New England and other parts of the country. Their petition also assailed control of the New Haven by the Pennsylvania RR. and its affiliated companies, and urged the Commission not to approve the "Four-Party Plan" without making such approval conditioned upon all trunk lines divesting themselves of any stock held in New England roads.

The Delaware & Hudson, headed by Leonore P. Loree, its President, asserted that the management of the company desired to continue its operation as an independent line until more normal times.

Up to the present time, it was said, no sale or disposition of the Delaware & Hudson properties and interests has been planned, but in the event it is desired to dispose of them, the management believes it should be permitted to make its own choice in the matter of connections and not be required to sell to any specific "combination of corporations."

The Loree road asserted that the Commission is without authority to modify its original consolidation plan in the manner proposed by the Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Chesapeake & Ohio railroads in their so-called "Four-Party Plan."

Sale of the Delaware & Hudson to Eastern trunk line interests would disrupt that carrier's business and prevent it from making satisfactory connections with other rail properties at a future date, it was contended.

"An order having this effect," continues the petition, "which on its face would seem to require petitioner to abandon the business in which it has

been engaged during its whole corporate existence and to dispose of all its property and business to a prescribed single combination of corporations, would be in substantial restraint of trade and would, in practical effect, constitute a cloud upon the title of petitioner to its property and property of all such property and interest and would greatly and irreparably damage petitioner and all owners of petitioner's stock and bonds."

"Furthermore," says the petition, "the disposition of petitioner's railroad and railroad interests proposed in said four-system plan, and said four-system plan in its entirety, as it relates to petitioner's railroad and railroad interests, and other interests, is not wise nor practicable nor in the interest of the public and said plan ought not to be approved by this Commission."

No overtures relative to terms and conditions of purchase have been made to the Delaware & Hudson by the Eastern trunk lines, according to the petition, and the management of the company is in the dark as to the plans of the Eastern rail group for the disposition of the Delaware & Hudson's properties, beyond the mere statement that it will be owned and operated jointly by all four.

The petition also protests the proposed reallocation of four Delaware & Hudson subsidiary roads, namely, the Greenwich & Johnsonville Ry., the Schoharie Valley Ry., the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley RR. and the Naiperville Junction Ry.

Prior to publication of the Commission's consolidation plan on Dec. 29 1929, which provided for the grouping of the nation's rail properties into 21 independent systems, two of which would be in New England, the Delaware & Hudson Co. through its President, Mr. Loree, proposed the establishment of a fifth trunk line system in Eastern territory to be built around the Delaware & Hudson Co. and headed by Mr. Loree. Counter proposals for the creation of new systems in the East were filed by the Baltimore & Ohio, the Chesapeake & Ohio and the New York Central.

All of the applications conflicted with each other and overlapped, and upon publication of the Commission's plan all were found by the Commission to be out of harmony with that plan also, and the suggestion was made that the applications be withdrawn without prejudice to the resubmission when brought into line with the Commission's idea.

While withdrawing its proposal, the Delaware & Hudson served notice on the Commission that it considered the grouping proposed in its application to be superior to any heretofore suggested. Mr. Loree advocated a fifth system orally during proceedings before the Commission.

Later, in an application to open up a new short route between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic seaboard at New York City through the construction of almost 300 miles of new road across the State of Pennsylvania, Mr. Loree stated that it would be feasible for a hook-up of the new line with the Delaware & Hudson as a potential nucleus of a fifth system.

He declared it to be his intention, however, to permit all Eastern trunk lines to have access to the new route, which he described as "the best piece of railroad in the world." Decision on the new construction has been pending at the Commission for two years.—V. 133, p. 951.

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western RR.—Increase in Commutation Rates Authorized by I.-S. C. Commission Effective Jan. 1.—

The I.-S. C. Commission Dec. 24 authorized the road to increase commutation fares between New York City and stations in New Jersey. The increase, which amounts to from 15 to 25%, becomes effective Jan. 1. Originally filed on Nov. 1 1930, the increases were postponed from time to time pending an investigation by the Commission, which has just found them justified. The increase will apply to the 60-trip monthly commutation fares over the electrically-operated portions of the road between New York and Dover and intermediate stations, and on the Morristown line, the Gladstone branch and the Montclair branch.

An increase of 15% is authorized over the steam-operated lines between New York and stations on the Bounton line, stations west of Dover to Blairstown, N. J., on the Morristown line and stations on the Chester, Washington, Branchville and Franklin Furnace.—V. 133, p. 3627.

Denver Pacific RR.—860-Mile Road to Pacific Sought.—

Application was filed with the I.-S. C. Commission by the Denver Pacific RR. Dec. 24 for permission to build an 800-mile line from Denver to San Pedro, Calif. Signed by Colman Crenshaw, President, and Thomas L. Hall, Vice-President, both of Salt Lake City, the application says the line is planned to open new territory and to shorten the rail distance from the East to Los Angeles and the Orient.

The proposed road would follow generally the Colorado River Valley through Glenwood Springs, Rifle, Palisade and Grand Junction, Colo.; Moab, Utah, and Ludlow, Daget, Barstow, San Bernardino, and San Pedro Harbor. The application asks a hearing.

The company, known as the Denver Pacific RR., was organized at Wilmington, Del., on Sept. 11 last. Stockholders met at Salt Lake City Sept. 15 and voted to ask the Commission for permission to build the line.

Full details of capitalization, methods of financing and similar matters, the application says are being withheld for inclusion in the questionnaire which always follows such a proposal.

The application was accompanied by a map, which showed the distance from Denver to San Pedro to be approximately 860 miles. The proposed route is through a rough mountainous country and passes through a large section of the Far West where there is no railroad at present.

The company has no connection with any other corporation or railroad, it is stated.

Fonda Johnstown & Gloversville RR.—Notes Authorized

The I.-S. C. Commission, Dec. 10, authorized the company to issue not exceeding \$86,433 of promissory notes or lease warrants in connection with the procurement of five high-speed motor cars.

The report of the Commission says in part: The applicant represents that in order to perform its duties more efficiently to the public as a common carrier it needs five high-speed interurban passenger cars, and has arranged to procure them from the J. G. Brill Co. at a cost of \$100,000, under an agreement and lease to be dated Sept. 30 1931.

By the terms of the agreement and lease the applicant will lease the cars from the J. G. Brill Co. for a period of 60 months from the average date of shipment and as rental will pay a total of \$111,438. Of this amount \$25,000 is to be paid in cash at the time of shipment of the cars and the remainder, \$86,438, is to be evidenced by 60 promissory notes or lease warrants in face amounts ranging from \$1,625 for the first maturity downward to \$1,256 for the last.











tracks and elevated extensions, the company constructed additional tracks on several of the elevated lines of the original "existing" railroad, built extensions thereto, provided equipment and made additions thereunder. The amount of all of these contributions and expenditures was paid out of its own funds. These amounts have been audited currently by the engineers and accountants of the Commission and have been determined to June 30 1931, based upon an agreement proposed to be entered into.

The determined company costs as of June 30 1931, are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include City-owned Railroad, Contribution to cost of construction, Equipment for initial operation, Additional equipment, Total, city-owned railroad, Elevated add'l Tracks, etc.

Total, reconstructed of & add'ns to orig. "existing" railroad. \$28,364,262

Total co.'s invest. under contr. No. 4 & related chfs. as of June 30 1931. \$110,111,850

Contract No. 4 provides that 6% per annum of the company's cost for initial operation, amounting to \$85,053,922, is to be paid to the company for the entire remaining term of the lease out of pooled revenues before the city receives any return from its investment under the contract.

The contract also provides that the company shall receive out of pooled revenues before any payment to the city actual interest paid, plus 1% for amortization of the company's cost of additions, amounting to \$25,057,927. As to this amount, however, the payment ceases when the amount has been amortized.

Ownership Under Joint Operation.

The ownership of the City Railroad, toward the cost of which the company contributed \$66,875,611 is vested in the city.

The ownership of the elevated additional tracks, and elevated extensions, the entire cost of \$14,871,977 of which (including undistributed costs) was paid by the company, is vested in the company with reversion to the city on the expiration, or termination by recapture and payment under the certificates and contract, in which event the city would own the property; but in the event of recapture the city could not use the additional tracks at all, and could not advantageously use the extensions, without providing new connections thereto and new equipment therefor.

The ownership of the original existing railroad remains with the company. The title to the reconstruction of and additions to the original existing railroad costing, as before shown, \$28,364,262, vests and remains in the company.

(2) Company-owned Railroads.—This includes generally the Sea Beach, Brighton Beach, Fulton Street, Broadway, Canarsie, Fifth Avenue, Lexington Avenue and Myrtle Avenue lines, with certain power facilities, yards, shops and rolling stock. These lines carried approximately 270,000, 970,000 paying passengers in the fiscal year 1930-1931. This is counting only the passengers who paid fares at the stations on the company-owned lines, and does not include passengers who paid fares at the stations on the city-owned lines, but continued their ride and were discharged at some place on the company-owned lines. Under contract No. 4, the earnings of these railroads prior to the signing of the contract were fixed by the city at \$3,500,000 per annum, and if the contract continues, the company will receive this amount until Aug. 1 1969, in priority to any return to the city and at the end of that time retain the ownership of the improved railroads. Under the contract the company has the right to maintain these railroads and equipment in 100% operating condition and to set aside depreciation therefor which reverts to the company on the termination of the contract. The amounts expended for maintenance and depreciation are a charge against revenue prior to any payment to the city. The company also has the right to make improvements to these railroads and to receive out of revenue the full interest payable, plus 1% per year to amortize the cost of improvements. The improved railroads would revert to the company on the termination of the existing contract.

No value is assigned to, or has in the figures hereafter presented been allowed, for the perpetual franchises which this company is to release.

Other Rights to be Acquired.—The company has certain trackage rights over the Astoria and Corona branches under contract 4, and the supplemental agreement of March 19 1913. These are to be assigned to the Board of Control.

All rights of way, leases, trackage and other rights of every kind and description now owned or used in connection with the operation of the company-owned lines or appurtenant thereto together with such modifications thereof as are necessary to insure the continued operation of the company-owned lines, power plants and other facilities, are to be conveyed, transferred or assigned.

The pending suit against the city for \$30,000,000 is to be discontinued and all claims thereunder released. The company is also to execute a general release of all rights under contract 4 and related certificates.

(3) Williamsburgh Power Plant.—This property does not come under contract No. 4 but is owned and operated by the Williamsburgh Power Co., a separate, independent corporation. Power for the operation of the company-owned, and part of the city-owned railroads comes from this power plant. It is an integral part of the system as now operated and it therefore becomes advisable to acquire it in conjunction with the remainder of the system.

Before this property is taken over, long term agreements must be made to insure the continuance of approximately the income which it now enjoys from the surface lines and also the continuance of the use of certain conduits, sub-stations, etc., now owned by some of the street railway companies. The plan assumes that this will be done before the plan is declared effective. The plan contemplates taking over this property free from all indebtedness, bonded or otherwise. The gross operating income would therefore go to the Board of Control.

The operating income available for fixed charges for each of the last five years after allowance for depreciation, and the average thereof, were as follows for years ended June 30:

Table with 5 columns: Year (1927-1931) and Average for last five years. Values range from \$1,094,213 to \$1,749,288.

The average annual operating income capitalized at 6% would be \$23,179,416; and the operating income for the year ended June 30 1931, capitalized at 6% would be \$29,154,800. Materials and supplies an hand June 30 1931, which cost \$338,115 are to be turned over as part of the plan.

(4) Company's Deficit Under Contract No. 4.—The situation leading up to the so-called "accrued deficit" may be likened to a partnership between the company and the city, whereby both parties contributed certain property (in this case the company contributing its company-owned railroads and a large amount of cash, including a contribution towards the cost of construction of the city subway as heretofore shown, and the city its subway), with an agreement under which the properties were to be operated together, the company being entitled to receive out of the income derived from the pooled operation certain payments consisting generally of interest and amortization on the amount of its cash advances and an allowance for the use of its railroads, before any payment to the city. The agreement provides that if there is any deficit in the amount going to the company, the amount thereof shall be accumulated and the company entitled to all of the income until its current payments as they accrue and the deficit entirely paid. The operation of the properties in the earlier years created a deficit in the payments to the company which is not yet entirely paid up, although the properties are now earning enough to reduce it at the rate of about \$2,000,000 per year. The city, if the plan goes into effect, now intends to buy its partner out and one of the items

entering into the computation is this amount of unpaid preferential, called "accrued deficit," which the company is entitled to receive. Obviously, any application of net income in past years to purposes other than the payment of the accrued deficit leaves that deficit larger than it would otherwise be. Even if the plan does not go through, it is to the advantage of the city to have the accrued deficit paid off as quickly as possible, for when the accrued deficit is paid off, the city begins—if the income earned is sufficient—to receive all over the preferential payments to the company.

Questions have arisen between the Commission and the company as to the accounting methods as a result of which it claims a larger accrued deficit than the Commission will allow. For example, claims have been filed with the company for certain torts, such as injuries to persons, &c. These claims are, under the provisions of the agreement, payable out of income received from the operation of the properties before any payments to either the company or the city. Owing partly to the congestion of the calendars of the courts where such claims are tried, a considerable time must elapse—sometimes several years—before the actual amount payable on account of these claims can be determined. The same is true of certain tax claims of the Federal and State Governments which are being disputed by the company and upon which no final decision has yet been reached. From an accounting standpoint, the company had the option of waiting until the amount of these claims was finally determined and then paying them out of current income, or of at once deducting from income a reserve to meet the claims when due. It chose the latter course and deducted from income approximately \$4,200,000, most of which it set up as a reserve instead of paying this amount to itself to be deducted from the accrued deficit then owing to it. The result was, of course, that the accrued deficit then owing to it was \$4,200,000 greater than it would have been if the other course had been pursued. The Interborough, on the other hand, has for years, with a similar provision in its contract, waited until the amount of the claims has been determined and then deducted it from income. In other words, it has waited until the contingent liability became an actual one.

The city, through the Commission, has now directed the Brooklyn company to apply the amount of this reserve against its accrued deficit. The result of this has been to reduce the accrued deficit by \$4,200,000, and this, together with other objections filed by the Commission to the proper application of the income, resulted in a reduction of the accrued deficit from \$11,944,000, the amount claimed by the company, to a tentative agreement on approximately \$5,500,000, which is the amount inserted in the plan and which is to be paid in long term securities. In all probability the company would receive its accrued deficit before the right of recapture could be exercised, or if it did not, could collect the unpaid balance out of Contract No. 4 enterprise assets. The lessened deficit, therefore, should be included as part of the value of the rights under Contract No. 4, as the company will receive it in any event.

(5) Depreciation Funds for Company-owned Railroads.—Depreciation funds have been established under Article XLIX of Contract No. 4 for the existing railroads, and for the elevated additional tracks and elevated extensions. These funds, which amount to \$4,211,339 as of June 30 1931, would as before stated belong to the company on the expiration or earlier termination by recapture of the Contract, but under the plan are turned over to the Board of Control.

Present Worth of Company's Rights Under Contract No. 4, Plus Capitalization of Earnings of Williamsburgh Power Plant.

Under the provisions and during the term of Contract No. 4 the company is entitled to receive in the future certain specified amounts. Obviously the value of such amounts to-day is less than these specified amounts to be received at later times, and is dependent upon the rate of discount applied or assumed. In addition, at the expiration of the Contract in 1969, the company is entitled to get back its reconstructed original "existing" railroad and to use the additional tracks and extensions until the expiration of the certificates in the year 2000. The value of these rights are likewise less in 1931 than in 1969 and 2000 respectively. Estimates of the present worth of all these specified amounts and values show what principal amounts to-day, if invested at assumed rates of interest, will be sufficient to produce the same values that will accrue to the company at the time that the company is entitled to receive such values.

The several amounts which the company is entitled to receive under Contract No. 4 in priority to any return to the city thereunder, together with the reversionary rights of the company, in each case discounted from the respective dates of the receipt thereof by the company to June 30 1931, together with the capitalized amount of the earnings of the Williamsburgh Power Plant, are as follows:

Large table with 3 columns: Description, Estimated Present Worth With Discount Compounded Semi-annually at 4 1/2%, and Estimated Present Worth With Discount Compounded Semi-annually at 5%. Rows include Under Contract No. 4 and Related Certificates, Total, Less: Company's obligation to make payments of \$1,503,329 from its own resources into depreciation funds, Total under Contract No. 4 and related certificates, Reversionary Interests in Reconstructed Original "Existing" Railroad, Total Contract No. 4 and Reversionary Interest on this basis (earning basis), Total Contract No. 4 and Reversionary Interest on this basis (Fair Value Basis), Williamsburgh Power Plant, Summary for Rapid Transit and Power Plant Properties, Contract No. 4 and related certificates, Total, Valuation and Method of Payment.

Valuation and Method of Payment.—The Commission (Commissioner Lockwood dissenting), in accordance with the provisions of the Public



INDUSTRIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

World Copper Producers Limit 1932 Output.—An accord was reached in Brussels, Dec. 20 by the important copper producers of the world regulating production in 1932. The agreement calls for a reduction to 26% of the maximum capacity of the various copper mines. N. Y. "Times," Dec. 20, p. 1.

Matters Covered in the "Chronicle" of Dec. 19.—(a) Annual report of comptroller of currency pole, p. 4035. (b) Ogden L. Mills, under-Secretary of Treasury on financial position of Government—Necessity for new taxation, p. 4040. (c) Secretary of agriculture Hyde in annual report says surplus difficulties of agriculture are largely export difficulties, p. 4043 (d) Statistics compiled by New York Stock Exchange bearing on short selling, p. 4044. (e) Wages cut 10% by American Woolen Co., p. 4067. (f) Painters union in Atlantic City votes wage cut, p. 4068. (g) Cleveland painters' wage scale, p. 4068. (h) Wages reduced in Springfield and Chicopee Falls, Mass. plants of Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co.—Consider cut in pay in Pittsburgh Plants, p. 4068. (i) Price of lead reduced 10 points, p. 4070.

Alabama Fuel & Iron Co.—Smaller Dividend.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of \$1 per share on the common stock, payable Jan. 1 to holders of record Dec. 21. In each of the three preceding quarters a distribution of \$1.50 per share was made on this issue.—V. 132, p. 2557.

Aluminum Industries, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.—May Purchase Shares.—

A special meeting of the stockholders has been called for Dec. 29 to consider amending the articles of incorporation to allow the directors to buy, hold, sell or reissue its shares. The corporation code of Ohio has been liberalized and the directors propose the amendment to take advantage of the new features of the code.

At last accounts this company had authorized and outstanding 100,000 shares of no par value common stock.— 132, p. 2768

American Car & Foundry Motors Co.—New President.—

William H. Woodin has been elected President, succeeding C. S. Sale, resigned.—V. 133, p. 483.

American-Hawaiian SS. Co.—Merger Reports Denied.—

President Roger D. Lapham has denied reports that merger negotiations between this company and the Luckenbach Steamship Co. now are proceeding.

Some months ago executives of the two lines discussed plans for alignment of schedules, sailings, &c., but no conclusion was reached, he said.—V. 133, p. 1455.

American Lace Mfg. Co.—Dividend Omitted.—

The directors recently voted to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Dec. 30 on the common stock. The last quarterly distribution of 25c. per share was made on this issue on Sept. 30 1931.—V. 125, p. 2539.

American Maize-Products Co.—New President, &c.—

Donald K. David has been elected President to succeed C. D. Edinburg, who has been elected Chairman of the executive committee.—V. 133, p. 289.

American Pneumatic Service Co.—New President.—

Eric L. Berglund, formerly associated with the General Motors Corp. and the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., has been elected President of the American Pneumatic Service Co. and its subsidiary, the Lamson Co.—V. 133, p. 2107.

American Products Co. (& Subs.).—Earnings.—

Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include Net income, Total income, Loss sustained by Mills Bros. Products Co., Federal taxes, Reserve for possible losses in inventory, Accounts receivable written-off, Adjustment on Federal tax prior year, Net income, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, and Deficit.

Consolidated Balance Sheet, Sept. 30. Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include Assets (Cash, Mark. sec., Acct. int., Accounts receiv., Inventories, Life Insur. policies, Land, bldgs., fix., Wages, &c., Def. debit items) and Liabilities (1st 6 mos. pay., Oct 1 '31, Accounts payable, Credit vouchers, Accrued int. & tax, Fed. inc. tax, Wages and taxes, 1st mortgage 6s, (Realty Co.), Reserves, Capital & surplus).

American Screw Co.—Smaller Dividend.— The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share, payable Jan. 21 to holders of record Dec. 19. In each of the two preceding quarters a distribution of \$1 per share was made as compared with \$1.50 per share previously.—V. 132, p. 4768.

American Title & Guaranty Co.—Omits Dividend.— The directors have voted to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Jan. 1 on the capital stock. In each of the four preceding quarters a regular quarterly disbursement of 15 cents per share was made.—V. 132, p. 313.

Amoskeag Co.—Earnings.—

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Interest from Liberty bonds and other sources, Dividends, Total income, Interest and other expenses, Income taxes, Net profit, Preferred dividends, Common dividends, and Balance to surplus.

Balance Sheet June 30. Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include Assets (Liberty bonds, Amoskeag Mfg. Co., 6% bonds, Other securities, Cash) and Liabilities (Notes payable, Res. for shareh'd's, Profit and loss, Investment reserve).

Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd.—To Increase Capital.—

The company proposes to increase its capital to £26,500,000 from £24,000,000 by the creation of 2,500,000 of £1 shares in order to give effect to the recent offer made to the Scottish Oil group to exchange shares. Acceptance of the offer has been received from shareholders representing more than 90% of the stocks of the four Scottish companies involved, namely, Scottish Oils, Broxburn, Oakbank and Pumphreston.

On the assumption that all the outstanding preference shares of each company will be acquired, the transaction will involve an Anglo-Persian issue of 233,332 8/8 1st preference shares and 1,975,538 9/8 second preference shares, which will be provided out of the 2,500,000 shares which are to be created. See also V. 133, p. 4162.

Arnold Print Works.—Earnings.—

Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and 1929. Rows include Operating income—Converting, engraving, &c., less allowances, Operating costs and selling expenses, Operating profit, Other income (net), Total income, Int. on bonds and taxes paid at sources, Federal and State taxes accrued, Other charges.

Balance of profit available for divs. and sinking funds, Earnings per share on 100,000 shares common stock (no par).

Balance Sheet June 30. Table with columns for 1931 and 1930. Rows include Assets (Cash, Accts. receivable, Inventories, Investments, Accrued interest, Debit. investm't, Real est., mach'y, equip'm't copper rollers, Sundry adv. pay., Pat'd processes) and Liabilities (Notes payable, Accounts payable, Acct. int., taxes & payroll, Bonds, 1st M. 1941, Part. pref. stock, Preferred stock, 2d pref. stock, Common stock & surplus).

Total—\$8,948,421 1930 \$9,330,021. x Represented by 100,000 (no par) shares.—V. 132, p. 1417.

Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Electric Co.—Smaller Dividend.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 40c. a share on the common stock and the regular quarterly dividend of \$1.62 1/2 a share on the preferred stock, both payable Jan. 1 to holders of record Dec. 24. In each of the three preceding quarters a dividend of 50c. per share was paid on the common stock, prior to which this issue was on a \$3 annual dividend basis.—V. 132, p. 2391.

Arundel Corp.—Earnings.—

For income statement for month and 11 months ended Nov. 30 see "Earnings Department" on a preceding page. Current assets on Nov. 30 1931 were \$4,380,384 and current liabilities \$446,534.—V. 133, p. 3793.

Associated Electric Industries, Inc.—Australian Electrical Manufacturing Companies Unified.—

See General Electric Co. below.—V. 133, p. 4162.

Athol Mfg. Co.—Smaller Common Dividend.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 50c. per share on the no par value common stock and the regular semi-annual dividend of \$3.50 on the 7% pref. stock, both payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 26. Previously the company made quarterly payments of \$1 per share on the common stock.

Atlas Acceptance Corp.—Omits Preferred Dividend.—

The directors have voted to omit the quarterly dividend due at this time on the pref. stock. In each of the two preceding quarters a dividend of 75 cents per share was paid, as compared with \$1.75 per share previously.—V. 132, p. 4769.

Auburn Automobile Co.—Listing.—

The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of 4,073 additional shares of common stock (no par value) on official notice of issue, a stock dividend, making the total amount applied for 207,701 shares.

Comparative Consolidated Balance Sheet. Table with columns for Aug. 31 '31, Nov. 30 '30, Aug. 31 '31, Nov. 30 '30. Rows include Assets (Cash & cts. of dep., U.S. Govt. obligations, Call loans, Notes and time ac- ceptances, Sight drafts, Accts. receivable, Acct. int. rec., Inventories, Cash surrender val. of life insurance policies, Sunk. fd. cash for retirement of sub. funded debt and preferred stock, Sundry investm'ts, Insurance, Show expense, Plant rearrangem't, Unamort. disct. on sub. funded debt, Prem. on purchase of secur. sundry, Fixed assets—Net., Good-will) and Liabilities (Notes payable, Accounts payable, Dealers' dep., &c., Salaries, wages & commissions, Interest accrued, State & local taxes, Federal income tax, Sundry accruals, Lycoming Mfg. Co. 1st mtge. 7% bonds, Capital stock, Capital surplus, Earned surplus, Accrued divs. on preferred stock, Capital stock, Capital surplus, Earned surplus).

Total—23,068,939 20,241,453. —V. 133, p. 4162.

Subsidiary Receives Dividend.

A dividend of \$150,000, covering the fiscal year ended Nov. 30, has been paid by the Spencer Heater Co. to its parent organization, the Lycoming Manufacturing Co., which holds all of the Spencer stock, and which in turn controls the Auburn Automobile Co.

The Spencer Heater Co., despite the marked decrease in sales of the heating industry as a whole, has experienced its record year in 1931, showing substantial gains in unit sales and profits. The company earlier in the fall announced an entirely new type combustion gas-coal residence-heating boiler and introduced several other new heating units which have met with instant response from the public.

The Spencer Heater Co. now manufactures one of the most complete lines of heating equipment covering the requirements of every type of structure from the smallest residence to the largest business buildings.—V. 133, p. 4162.

Autocar Co., Ardmore, Pa.—Receives Large Truck Order.

The company has received an order from the Sanitary Commission of New York City for 162 heavy duty truck chassis at a cost of \$486,000. This is the second large order received by this company from the Sanitary Commission in the present year, the earlier order being for 205 trucks. With the new purchase New York City will have a fleet of 445 Autocars. The trucks just ordered are to be equipped with bodies for street flushing. The order provides that delivery begins within 60 days and be completed within a period of four months.—V. 133, p. 1457.



Canadian General Investments, Ltd.—Smaller Div.—

The directors have declared a dividend of 15c. per share, payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 15. An initial distribution of 20c. per share was made on Oct. 1 last.—V. 133, p. 2439.

Carreras, Ltd.—Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928. Rows include Trading profits for year, Other income, Total income, Depreciation, Prov. for income tax, &c, Res. for fluct. in exch., Staff superannuation fd., Other expenses, Net profit, Dividends paid, Profit & loss charges, Balance surplus, Previous surplus, Total surplus.

x Not including further dividend paid after close of fiscal year and deducted from the surplus following year: £354,313 for 1931, £1,057,160 for 1930, £492,187 for 1929 and £393,750 for 1928. y Includes further dividends of previous year.—V. 131, p. 4059.

Century Electric Co.—Omits Dividend.—

The directors have decided to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Jan. 1 on the common stock. The last previous payment was 50c. per share, paid on Oct. 1. A dividend of 1% in stock was paid in each of the two preceding quarters, while from January 1930 to and including January 1931 quarterly cash distributions of \$1 per share were made.—V. 133, p. 3794.

Chapman Ice Cream Co.—Smaller Dividend.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 13 3/4 cents per share, placing the stock on a 75 cent annual basis, against \$1.25 previously. The dividend is payable Jan. 15 to holders of record Dec. 24.—V. 133, p. 647.

Chicago Flexible Shaft Co.—Dividend Omitted.—

The directors have voted to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Jan. 1 on the common stock, par \$5. On Oct. 1 last, a quarterly distribution of 15 cents per share was made, as against 30 cents per share each quarter from Oct. 1 1929 to and incl. July 1 1931.—V. 133, p. 1933.

City Investing Co.—\$2.50 Common Dividend.—

The directors have declared a dividend of \$2.50 per share on the common stock, payable Jan. 4 to holders of record Dec. 28. A similar distribution was made on July 3 last, while on Feb. 2 a stock dividend of 33 1-3% was paid. A year ago a cash payment of \$5 per share was made, while 18 months ago \$2.50 was paid.—V. 133, p. 292.

City Mfg. Co. of New Bedford.—Liquidating Dividend.—

The directors recently declared a liquidating dividend of \$10 per share, payable Jan. 1.—V. 132, p. 3155.

Cleveland Builders Supply & Brick Co.—Resumes Div.—

The directors have declared a dividend of five cents per share on the common stock, payable Dec. 24 to holders of record Dec. 18. A quarterly distribution of 50 cents per share was made on Oct. 1 1930, none since.—V. 131, p. 4059.

Cleveland Tractor Co. (& Subs.).—Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns: 1931, 1930, 1930, 1930. Rows include Manufacturing profit, Selling, general and administrative expenses, Operating profit, Other income, Total income, Depreciation, Other charges, Inventory adjustments, Spec. allnce. prov. for uncollectible & doubtful rec, Provision for Federal taxes, Net profit, Surplus Sept. 30 1929, Adjustments of prior year's Federal taxes, Total surplus, Dividends paid and provided for, Surplus Sept. 30 1930, Earnings per sh. on 220,000 shs. com. stk. (no par), Balance Sheet Sept. 30, Assets, Liabilities.

a Less allowance for doubtful accounts, &c., of \$202,987. b After reserve of \$271,815. c After depreciation of \$1,819,865. d Represented by 220,000 no par shares.—V. 133, p. 959.

Cleveland Union Stock Yards Co.—Smaller Dividend.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 37 1/2 cents per share on the common stock, no par value, payable Dec. 31 to holders of record Dec. 21. Previously, the company made quarterly distributions of 50 cents per share on this issue.—V. 115, p. 2384.

Collins & Aikman Corp.—Earnings.—

For income statement for 9 months ended Nov. 30 see "Earnings Department" on a preceding page.—V. 133, p. 2440.

(The) Columbia Mills, Inc. (N. Y.).—Div. Decreased.—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 1 1/4% on the capital stock, payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 22. Previously quarterly payments of 1 1/2% were made.—V. 124, p. 796.

Columbia Vise & Mfg. Co.—Extra Dividend.—

An extra dividend of 25 cents per share has been declared in addition to the usual quarterly dividend of 37 1/2 cents per share on the common stock, both payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 20.

Commercial Finance Corp., Boston, Mass.—Dividend Reduced.—

The directors have declared a dividend of 50 cents per share on the no par value common stock, payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 31. Previously the company paid regular quarterly dividends of 75 cents per share on this issue.

Commonwealth Securities, Inc.—Sued.—

A suit to recover \$1,500,000 from the company and 18 other defendants has been filed in Common Pleas Court at Cleveland by the Paramount Coal & Coke Co., a stockholder in Commonwealth. The suit alleged that three years ago Thomas H. White, President, was given permission to buy 14,000 shares of Commonwealth for \$35 a share during a period when the stock varied between \$60 and \$80 a share. The loss to stockholders of \$500,000 is cited.

Other counts are based on a loan to C. S. Eaton of \$500,000 on a note and 7,477 shares of Republic Steel stock, described not as "inadequate." Eaton cannot pay back the loan and co-signers on the note refuse to force payment, the suit says.

Commonwealth's purchase in March 1930 of 10,000 shares of Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. stock for \$147 a share, "a figure in excess of the market value," was described in a count demanding judgment for \$200,000. "The stock was purchased for the sole purpose of aiding Eaton in his fight to block the proposed Youngstown Sheet & Tube-Bethlehem Steel Corp. merger," the petition said.

Cancellation of stock subscriptions amounting to \$300,000 is cited in another count as having caused a loss to Commonwealth shareholders. ("Wall Street Journal.")—V. 133, p. 805.

Consolidated Retail Stores, Inc.—Number of Stores.—

The company reports that 28 units were in operation on Nov. 30 1931, as against 30 units on Nov. 30 1930.—V. 133, p. 4163.

Constitution Indemnity Co., Philadelphia.—Rights.—

The stockholders of record Dec 16 are being offered the right to subscribe on or before Jan. 16 to one share of new stock for each old share held at \$12.50 per share. See also V. 133, p. 4164.

Corporate Trust Shares.—Rights.—

Holders of Corporate Trust Shares (original series) as of Dec. 30 1931 have been granted rights to buy one additional Corporate Trust Share, either accumulative series or the new distributive series, for each 10 shares of the original series held at a discount of 4% under the regular offering price. By the regular offering price is meant the price at the time the right is exercised. Rights expire at 11 a. m. on Jan. 30 1932.

As no additional Corporate Trust Shares (original series) are being issued, rights may not be used to purchase additional shares of that issue.—V. 133, p. 3794.

Creamery Package Mfg. Co.—New Director.—

W. D. James has been elected a director to fill a vacancy.—V. 130, p. 806.

Cuban Cane Products Co., Inc.—Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns: Period, Year Ended Sept. 30 '31, Feb. 16 to Sept. 30 '30, Sept. 30 '30. Rows include Operating loss, Other income, Loss, Interest on bank loans, &c, Miscellaneous expenses (net), Depreciation, Taxes, Interest on bonds, Net loss.

x Before depreciation. y Paid and accrued.

Paid-in Surplus Account.—Surplus Oct. 1 1930, \$8,581,391; deduct: Adjustment in respect of bonds and common stock issued under plan of reorganization in exchange for bonds of Cuba Cane Sugar Corp. \$104,690, Leaving paid-in surplus Sept. 30 1931, \$8,476,701.

Earned Surplus Account.—Deficit Oct. 1 1930, \$593,378; deduct: Discount on bonds purchased and retired \$303,731; balance \$289,647; add: Net loss for year ended Sept. 30 1931, after interest on funded debt but before depreciation \$2,005,084; deficit as of Sept. 30 1931, \$2,294,731. Deducting earned deficit from paid-in surplus, leaves a consolidated surplus of \$6,181,970.—V. 133, p. 3794.

Curtis Publishing Co.—Libel Suit Dismissed.—

Federal Judge Carroll Hincks at New York has dismissed the complaint in a libel suit for damages of \$500,000 filed by Jeremiah O'Leary, founder of American Truth Society, against Curtis Publishing Co., publishers of the "Saturday Evening Post." The Court ruled that a series of articles published by the magazine in 1929 entitled "War Propaganda" in no way reflected on the character of the plaintiff.—V. 133, p. 3098.

De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd.—To Cease Production—Reduce Stocks.—

The "Wall Street Journal," in a dispatch from Cape Town, says: Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, Chairman, at the annual meeting of the stockholders, declared that the policy of the company in the future would be to do other useful work rather than merely produce diamonds. The Government has decided to co-operate with the company, in meeting the present difficulties. It has been planned largely to cease production and to postpone deliveries in order that the trade may be enabled to dispose of stocks. The Government is assisting in working out a plan whereby the standard of prices for diamonds will be in gold. Parity of prices has been fixed between London, Kimberley and Cape Town.

Sir P. Meyer, Deputy Chairman, said he believed that if patience were exercised, sterling balances would be retained and the time would not be far distant when the British pound would not stand at a discount in relation to South African currency.—V. 133, p. 4153.

Debenhams Securities, Ltd., England.—Postpones Div.—

This company has postponed action on the 7 1/2% preference shares of £1 par, due Dec. 31, after consultation with Debenhams, Ltd. The latter is postponing declaration of its interim common dividend until trading results for the year are available.—V. 133, p. 3794.

De Haviland Aircraft Co., Canada, Ltd.—Earnings.—

Table with 4 columns: Years Ended Sept. 30—1931, 1930, 1929. Rows include Net profit after depreciation, Discount on shares, Organization expenses, Income tax reserve, Surplus for year, Preferred dividend, Common dividend, Surplus for year, Previous surplus, Adjustments.

Total surplus after depreciation and after setting aside adequate reserves for doubtful accounts and depression on company's demonstrations.

Balance Sheet Sept. 30. Assets: Cash, Call loan, Accounts receiv., Investments, Accrued income, Collect. of customs, Stock on hand, Land, Buildings, Plant & equip., Rws. & improvms., Deferred charges, Mfg. rights. Liabilities: Accounts payable, Collector of cust'., Accrued charges, Mortgage payable, Res. for Dominion income tax, Preferred stock, Common stock, Surplus.

Total \$401,018 \$458,665 Total \$401,048 \$458,665 a After reserve for doubtful accounts of \$1,500. b After reserve for depreciation of \$7,208. c After reserve for depreciation of \$6,921. d After reserve for depreciation of \$10,169. e Represented by 25,000 shares class A stock and 5,000 class B stock, both of no par value.—V. 132, p. 4771.





time to carry our securities on our books at their cost. A recovery in the market value of our securities to their cost prices seems likely to be so long delayed, however, that it seems more reasonable to write them down to approximately the current market value, rather than to continue indefinitely to carry them at what appear, on the basis of current markets, to be unwarranted valuations. This is particularly true in view of the fact that our "book values" may determine the taxes which will have to be paid under the new Ohio Personal Property Tax Act, if the corporation should be classified by the taxing authorities as a "dealer in intangibles."

If our securities should be written down to approximately the current market without reducing our capital account, however, our balance sheet would show an impaired capital, which would not be consistent with the continuance of the dividends which are justified by the income we receive in the form of dividends and interest on the securities held. It therefore seems advisable to reduce the amount of capital represented by each share from \$50 to \$10, which would result in the showing of a surplus of approximately \$10 per share even after the securities have been written down to current market prices.

By-law No. 43 appears to be a possible obstacle to the continuance of the dividend policy which the board of directors believes that the stockholders would desire to have continued. Its requirement that an amount equal to one-tenth of the net profits of the corporation be set aside semi-annually into a special surplus not available for dividends does not seem to be necessary or advisable under existing conditions. The directors therefore deem it advisable, that this by-law be eliminated and that the fund heretofore accumulated in the special account be freed of all restrictions as to its use and be transferred to the general earned surplus of the corporation.—V. 133, p. 4166.

**International Business Machines Corp.—Listing.**—The New York Stock Exchange has authorized the listing of 33,493 additional shares capital stock (no par value) on official notice of issuance as a stock dividend, making the total amount applied for 703,345 shares. For income statement for 9 months ended Sept. 30 1931 see "Earnings Department" on a preceding page.

Comparative Consolidated Balance Sheet. Table with columns for Sept. 30 '31, Dec. 31 '30, and Liabilities. Rows include Cash, U. S. Govt. etc., Notes receivable, Inventories, Sinking fund, etc.

a After reserve for doubtful accounts of \$333,715. b After reserve for depreciation of \$685,176. c After depreciation of \$11,306,820. d After amortization of \$1,253,727. e Represented by 669,852 no par shares.—V. 133, p. 3637.

**International Paints (Canada), Ltd.—New Director.**—J. Edward Labelle, K. C., has been appointed a director.—V. 133, p. 4166.

**Interstate Bakeries Corp.—Dividend Deferred.**—The directors have decided to defer the quarterly dividend of \$1.62 1/2 per share on the 3/4 cum. conv. pref. stock, no par value. The last regular quarterly payment on this issue was made on Oct. 1 1931.—V. 133, p. 1935.

**Investors Equity Co., Inc.—Earnings.**—For income statement for 6 months ended Nov. 30 see "Earnings Department" on a preceding page.

The report contains a list of securities held in portfolio Nov. 30 1931. Since May 31 1931 company has acquired additional amounts of its own debentures to the extent of \$1,406,000 series A and \$1,655,300 series B, making a total of \$4,349,100 of both issues reacquired to date.

Consolidated Balance Sheet Nov. 30. Table with columns for 1931, 1930, and Liabilities. Rows include Cash, Investments, Notes & accts. rec., Int. & divs. rec., Real estate, etc., Furniture & fix'ts., Unamortized disc't on debentures, Co.'s own stock reacquired, etc.

x Market value \$7,073,305. y Represented by 601,646 no par shares. z Includes call loans.—V. 133, p. 1134.

**Jewelers Building of Chicago (Riverside Plaza Corp).**

**Bonds in Default—Bondholders' Committee Appointed.**—Charles E. Driver of Blyth & Co. has been named chairman of the bondholders' protective committee for the 6% first mortgage bonds, interest on which was defaulted Dec. 1. Other members of the committee are J. B. Angle of the Milwaukee Co., W. D. Countright of the Bancamerica Co., R. M. Haydon of the State Bank of Wisconsin, and Louis H. Schroeder of the Central Republic Co.; S. S. Hawes is Secretary of the committee. A total of \$7,000,000 first mortgage bonds is outstanding. Junior to this is a second mortgage of \$1,500,000.

The trustee under the mortgage has obtained possession of the property and is now in control, although not having complete legal title. For six months ended Oct. 31 the building had a gross income of \$361,336 and an income available for first mortgage bond interest of \$189,032 after operating expenses and an allowance of \$77,599 for accrued taxes, equal to 90% of the first mortgage interest requirement. Tax bills for 1928 and 1929 apparently have not been paid, the new committee reports.

The property was originally known as the Jewelers Building, but the name was later changed to the Pure Oil Building when the Pure Oil Co. took a lease on several floors of the building, which is at the southwest corner of Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue.—V. 123, p. 333

**(R. F.) Johnston Paint Co., Cincinnati.—Sale.**—The offer of \$207,300 cash by the Foy Paint Co. of Cincinnati for the R. F. Johnston Paint Co. has been accepted by the U. S. District Court at Cincinnati where the Johnston Co. has been in receivership. The Foy company's offer was the only one received.

Holders of the preferred stock of the Johnston Paint Co. objected to the sale. There is \$280,500 of preferred outstanding. In addition there is a general indebtedness totaling \$450,000.

William A. Dail, receiver, stated that the Johnston concern has been operating at a loss and that immediate sale was desired.

**Julian & Kokenge Co.—To Purchase Stock.**—The stockholders have approved a plan which will allow the company to purchase any portion of 30,000 shares in the open market at not more

than \$6 a share. President H. N. Lape stated that 1,500 shares already have been bought at about \$5.75 a share, and will be retired.—V. 133, p. 2608.

**Kaltenbach & Stephens, Inc.—To Continue Operations.** Judge Claude T. Reno in the Lehigh County Court (Pa.) has ordered receivers for the corporation, with a plant in Allentown, Pa., to continue operation of the plant. Although the mill when in full operation employed several thousand people, only 250 are employed at present by the receivers.

**Kellogg Co. of Delaware.—Pays Larger Dividend.**—The directors recently declared a dividend of \$5 per share on the common stock, no par value, payable Dec. 15 to holders of record Dec. 10. This compares with \$3 per share paid on Oct. 1 last and \$2 per share on July 31 1931.—V. 133, p. 2111.

**Kelly Island Lime & Transport Co.—Reduces Dividend.** The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 25 cents per share, payable Jan. 1 to holders of record Dec. 24. In each of the two preceding quarters, a distribution of 50 cents per share was made prior to which the stock was on a \$2.50 annual dividend basis.—V. 133, p. 132.

**Keystone Watch Case Corp.—To Reduce Capital Stock and Change Par Value.**—

At the annual meeting to be held Feb. 26, the stockholders will be asked to vote on reducing capital to \$1,200,000 from \$1,500,000 and changing the par value of the authorized capital stock, consisting of 60,000 common shares, to \$20 from \$25.—V. 133, p. 132.

**Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.—Proposed Expansion.**—Alvin E. Dodd, Vice-President, stated that this company expects to open between 70 and 100 new stores next year in Pittsburgh, Pa.—V. 133, p. 4167.

**Lane Cotton Mills Co. of New Orleans, La.—Dividend Rate Reduced.**—

The directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 25 cents per share on the common stock, no par value, payable Jan. 1 to holders of record Dec. 22. Previously, the company paid regular quarterly dividends of 37 1/2 cents per share on this issue.—V. 128, p. 1568.

**Leland Electric Co.—Dividend Omitted.**—

The directors recently decided to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Dec. 31 on the capital stock, no par value. A dividend of 50 cents per share in stock was paid on Sept. 30 and on June 30 last, as against quarterly payments of 50 cents per share in cash previously.—V. 133, p. 2111.

**Loft, Inc.—November Sales Higher.**—1931—November—1930. Increase. \$1,372,105 \$1,102,155 \$269,950 \$12,453,678 \$7,983,673 \$4,470,673 The corporation showed a gain in customers during November of 819,236, or 35%. The gain in customers for 11 months over the same period of 1930 was 6,215,518, or 25%.—V. 133, p. 4167.

**Manville-Jencks Co.—Special Master to Hear Claims.**—

William B. Greenough, of Providence, has been appointed as a special master by Judge Alexander Churchill, of the Rhode Island Superior Court, to hear and pass upon the disputed claims against the company, now in receivership. Elliott Parkhurst, of counsel for the receivers, George R. Urquhart, of Hempstead, L. I., and Zenas W. Bliss, State Tax Commissioner, in appealing to the court for appointment of a special master, said it was the desire of the court for appointment of a special master, provided to give all claimants full opportunity to have their claims passed upon. Because of the importance and magnitude of the claims, the appointment of a master of mature judgment was requested. It was brought out at the hearing that among the claims to be considered is one for \$1,983,356 filed in behalf of George H. McFadden & Bro., of Philadelphia, based on a contract for the purchase of raw cotton.

The receivers, whose first report, containing the schedules of claims allowed and disallowed, was approved by the court recently, were authorized to make immediate payment on claims under \$100. The total of such claims is said to be about \$6,000.—V. 133, p. 3101.

**May Hosiery Mills, Inc.—Earnings.**—

Income Account for Year Ended Aug. 31 1931. Balance Sheet Aug. 31 1931. Table with multiple columns for Sales, Operating expenses, Selling expenses, etc., and Assets, Liabilities.

Total \$2,395,066. Less reserve for depreciation, \$320,428. Represented by 42,488 shares \$4 cum. preference stock (no par), 80,000 shares class A common stock (no par), and 43,000 shares class B common stock (no par).—V. 133, p. 3471.

**Michigan Steel Tube & Products Co.—Div. Omitted.**—

The directors have voted to omit the quarterly dividend ordinarily payable about Jan. 1 on the no par value common stock. During the year 1931 the following dividends were paid: 37 1/2 cents per share on Jan 2; 20 cents per share on April 1 and 10 cents per share on July 1 and on Oct. 1.—V. 132, p. 4602.

**Montgomery Ward & Co.—Announces Reductions in Tire Prices and Other Goods.**—

The company has announced a reduction in its passenger car tire prices of 5 to 10%, effective Dec. 26. The reduction also applies to tubes. In addition, the company is introducing a six-ply tire at the usual price of the four-ply tire. Reductions also has been made in the price of storage batteries and a free-wheeling device for attachment to cars in the low-price field has been introduced.

"As it has been the custom of many manufacturers to price their second line in competition with mail-order tires, it is expected that further price cuts applying to second-line tires will soon be announced by these manufacturers," said Mr. Prall.

"These cuts, effective Dec. 26 in all our stores, bring our tires down to the lowest price level in history of tire industry," said B. R. Prall, head of the company's tire department. "Despite the tremendous price reductions improved manufacturing methods enable us to give better quality than ever before in the 20 years of Riverside history."

In commenting on the probable effects of the cuts on the industry, Mr. Prall said: "These reductions follow adjustments made Dec. 1 by other leading tire manufacturers on their first quality tires.—V. 133, p. 4168.

**Montreal Finance Co., Ltd.—Dividend Decreased.**—

The directors have declared a semi-annual dividend of \$1 per share on the pref. stock, payable Jan. 2 to holders of record Dec. 15. A semi-annual distribution of \$2 per share was made on July 2 last.











## The Commercial Markets and the Crops

COTTON—SUGAR—COFFEE—GRAIN—PROVISIONS

PETROLEUM—RUBBER—HIDES—METALS—DRY GOODS—WOOL—ETC.

### COMMERCIAL EPITOME

The introductory remarks formerly appearing here will now be found in an earlier part of this paper immediately following the editorial matter, in a department headed INDICATIONS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

Thursday Night, Dec. 24 1931.

**COFFEE** on the spot was in moderate demand with Rio 7s, 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. and Santos 4s, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Later No. 7 Rio was 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; No. 4 Santos, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 9c., and 7-8s Victoria, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Fair to good Cucuta, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 12c.; prime to choice, 12 to 14c.; washed, 12 to 13c.; Colombian, Oceana, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 11c.; Bucaramanga, natural, 12 to 13c.; washed, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 14c.; Honda, Tolima and Giradot, 12 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Medellin, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; Manizales, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; Mexican, washed, 15 to 17c.; East India, Ankola, 24 to 34c.; Mandheling, 23 to 32c.; Genuine, Java, 23 to 24c.; Robusta, washed, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 8c.; Mocha, 14 to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Harrar, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 14c.; Abyssinian, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Guatemala Bourbon, 12 to 13c. According to the New York Exchange, stock of coffee in the United States other than Brazilian is 287,983 bags at New York, 36,166 bags at San Francisco and 17,719 New Orleans, making a total of 341,868 bags as compared with 339,176 last week and 212,666 bags last year. Last year's stock at New York at this date was 169,550 bags. The arrivals at all ports last week amounted to 65,562 bags, making a total of 182,806 bags since Dec. 1. The deliveries at all ports last week were 62,870 bags and on Dec. 1, 205,138 bags. On Dec. 21 Rio cabled the N. Y. Exchange: "National Coffee Council destroyed week ended Saturday, Dec. 19, 96,000 Santos coffee; 33,000 bags Rio and none Victoria coffee."

On the 21st cost and freight prices were unchanged to 10 points higher. For prompt shipment, Santos Bourbon 2-3s were here at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 9.70c.; 3s at 8.60 to 9.10c.; 3-4s at 8.95 to 9.35c.; 3-5s at 8.40 to 9.15c.; 4-5s at 8.45 to 8.60c.; 5s at 8.40c.; 5-6s at 8.20c.; 6s at 8.20 to 8.40c.; 6-7s at 8.10c.; 7s at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 7-8s at 7.65c.; Victoria 7-8s at 6.90c. Washington wired saying that radio telephonic communication between the United States and Brazil was opened with ceremonies in the office of Secretary Stimson and in the Brazilian Foreign Office in Rio de Janeiro. On the 22nd the Comtelburo cabled from Rio to the New York Exchange that the Federal Government up to Dec. 19 paid for 7,276,000 bags of coffee, valued at 438,000 contos. On the 22nd cost and freight offers from Brazil were again very scarce. For prompt shipment, Santos Bourbon 2-3s were quoted at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. to 9.15c. as to shipper; 3s at 8.30 to 8.60c.; 3-4s at 8.60 to 8.95c.; 3-5s at 8.40 to 8.70c. On the 23rd cost and freight offerings were small as many Brazilian shippers consider it useless to attempt to sell for prompt shipment in competition with the very much cheaper coffee on the spot here. For prompt shipment the offerings consisted of Santos Bourbon 2-3s at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 9.15c.; 3s at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8.80c.; 3-4s at 8.45 to 8.55c.; 3-5s at 8.40 to 8.70c.; 4-5s at 8.20c.; 5-6s at 8.20c.; 6s at 7.80 to 8.40c.; 7s at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; 7-8s at 7.60c.; and Victoria 7-8s at 6.35c.

The Coffee Council is not to valorize coffee. Futures on the 19th inst. were 7 to 18 points higher with sales of 12,750 bags of Rio and 15,500 of Santos in response to rumors that the Brazilian Government would stabilize milreis exchange at 17\$000. A private cable said that the Government would pay 17\$000 for 4s, 17\$500 for 3s and 18\$000 for 2s, which, on a gold basis, are equivalent respectively to 8.90c., 9.05c. and 9.20c., while Santos 4s here have been nominal at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Small wonder that futures advanced. On the 21st inst. Rio futures closed 5 to 7 points lower with sales of 1,250 bags, and Santos, opening 7 to 8 points lower, ended 1 to 3 net lower with sales of 9,500 bags. Pre-holiday liquidation accounted for the decline. On the 22nd inst. futures fell 8 to 13 points with sales of 8,000 bags of Santos and 1,000 Rio; 21 notices were issued.

On the 23rd inst. Rio futures here closed 7 to 18 points higher with sales of 3,250 bags and Santos one point lower to 5 higher on sales of 5,250 bags. The buying was mostly by Europe. The cables reported that Saturday will be a holiday in England, France and the Rio and Santos markets closed at noon on the 23rd. On Thursday 16 Santos notices

were issued and 2 Rio. On Thursday early prices were a little lower in some cases and firmer in others. The trading was mostly evening up before the holidays. There was some foreign buying and also local covering. Rio futures here closed 5 points lower to 4 points higher with sales of 1,000 bags and Santos futures one point lower with sales of 4,000 bags. Final prices show an advance for the week on both Rio and Santos futures of 4 points.

Rio coffee prices closed as follows:

Spot unofficial	7.00@	July	5.97@nom
March	5.74@nom	September	6.06@nom
May	5.87@nom		

Santos coffee prices closed as follows:

Spot unofficial	9.00@	July	8.36@8.37
March	8.10@8.11	September	8.46@nom
May	8.24@8.24		

**COCOA** on Thursday closed 3 points higher with sales of 16 lots. January ended at 3.96c.; March at 4.08c.; May at 4.19c.; July at 4.39c.

**SUGAR.**—Spot Cuban raws were quiet at 1.10 to 3.10c. with refined 4.20c. There were unconfirmed rumors of business in prompt Cubas at 1.08c. Futures on the 19th inst. ended 2 points off to 2 up with sales of 9,700 tons. Lower prices for the near months were due to rumors that prominent Cuban interests would tender between 100 and 200 notices on the 21st inst. Receipts at United States Atlantic ports for the week were 28,926 tons against 29,198 in the previous week and 22,829 in the same week last year; meltings, 30,020 tons against 37,634 in the previous week and 36,192 in the same week last year; importers' stocks, 75,221 against 67,300 in the previous week and 170,449 in the same week last year; refiners' stocks, 32,750 against 41,675 in the previous week and 109,020 in the same week last year; total stocks, 107,971, against 109,065 in the previous week and 279,469 in the same week last year. On the 19th London opened at 1 point higher for January. London closed barely steady at 1d. advance for Jan. but unchanged to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lower on other deliveries. Liverpool closed unchanged to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lower. Dr. Wikusch figures for 1929-30 were 26,952,000 metric tons.

On the 21st inst. futures ended 1 point lower to 3 higher with sales of 28,400 tons. There were 150 notices issued but they were soon stopped. This and active covering in Dec. attributed to Cuban interests and trade houses held the market. On Dec. 21, Havana cabled the following as to the Cuban movement during the week ending Dec. 19: Arrivals, 18,043 tons; exports, 43,376; stock, 722,901 tons. The exports were distributed as follows: To New York, 28,424 tons; to Boston, 3,410; Baltimore and Norfolk, 5,402; New Orleans, 75; Interior U. S., 62 and U. K., 6,003 tons. On Dec. 21, London cabled the New York "News Bureau," the entry of Russia will be discussed at the meeting in Paris on Jan. 5 of the International Sugar Council. Russia exports sugar in exchange for machinery and it is conceivable that she may cease exporting this staple if she could obtain money with which to buy machinery. London on Dec. 21 opened at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. decline. Liverpool opened at  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1d. off. In New York on the 21st, 150 Dec. notices were issued. Futures on the 22nd inst. ended 1 point lower to 1 higher with sales of 18,600 tons. Leading Cuban interests were supposed to have bought in the afternoon. Of spot raws 25,000 tons Philippines sold due Dec. 29 at 3.09c. and 4,500 due Jan. 6 at 3.10c. London was dull. No stimulating news came from any source.

On the 22nd inst. 16,000 bags of Porto Ricos due Jan. 5 sold at 3.09c., delivered. On the 22nd the Sugar Institute, Inc., said the total melt and total deliveries of 14 United States refiners up to and including the week ended Dec. 12 1931, and same period for 1930, were as follows: *Melt.*—Jan. 1 to Dec. 12 1931, 4,035,000 long tons; Jan. 1 to Dec. 13 1930, 4,510,000 long tons. *Deliveries.*—Jan. 1 to Dec. 12 1931, 3,810,000 long tons; Jan. 1 to Dec. 13 1930, 4,310,000 long tons. On the 22nd inst. London opened at  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1d. higher. Liverpool opened  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. off to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up. On the 23rd early London cables reported a sale of centrifugals afloat, probably Perus at 6s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. c.i.f., and 4,000 tons preferential sugars afloat on the basis of 6s. 9d. c.i.f. It is also reported that a cargo of Cubas and (or) San Domingos have been sold at 6s. 9d. c.i.f. The demand for British refined was reported to be showing improvement due to rumors that the duties on foreign sugars is to be increased early next year. London opened unchanged to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. advance. Liverpool opened quiet and unchanged to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. higher.

On the 24th early London cables indicated that the raw sugar market is practically closed for the rest of the week. Both buyers and sellers were said to be indifferent. London opened unchanged to  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. lower. Liverpool opened quiet and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. off to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up. On the 23rd inst. futures closed



London on Thursday closed, unchanged to 1-16d. up; Jan., 3½d.; Feb., 3 5-16d.; March, 3½d.; April-June, 3 7-16d. Singapore closed dull and unchanged, Jan., 2½d. The London and Singapore will remain closed until Monday.

On the 23rd inst. prices advanced 4 to 5 points but reacted and closed 2 points lower to 6 higher with sales of 800 tons of No. 1 standard which closed with Dec., 4.70c.; March, 4.96 to 4.97c.; July, 5.20c.; August, 5.25c.; New "A" Dec., 4.68c.; Jan., 4.76c.; no sales; Old "A" Dec., 4.60c. Outside prices: Spot, Dec. and Jan., 4 13-16 to 4 15-16c.; Jan.-March, 4 7/8 to 5c.; April-June, 5 to 5½c.; July-Sept., 5 3/8c.; spot, first latex thick, 5 3-16c.; thin pale latex, 5 1/8c.; clean, thin brown No. 2, 4 11-16c.; rolled brown crepe, 4 7-16c.; No. 2 amber, 4 3/4c.; No. 3, 4 11-16c.; No. 4, 4 5/8c. Automobile tire prices were reduced on Dec. 23rd, 5 to 15%, mail order houses meeting the recent reduction of the tire manufacturers. On Thursday futures closed 2 to 9 points higher on No. 1 standard with sales of 58 lots, and 4 to 9 higher on new "A." Jan. New "A" ended at 4.80c., March at 5.03c.; and May at 5.13c.; Old "A" Dec., 4.60c.; No. 1 standard Dec., 4.72c.; Jan., 4.82c.; March, 5.05c.; May, 5.15c. and July, 5.26c. Final prices are 3 to 21 points higher than last Friday.

HIDES.—On the 19th inst. prices advanced 1 to 10 points with sales of 1,240,000 lbs. Spot hides were quiet. March closed on the 19th inst. at 6.85 to 6.95c., June at 7.53 to 7.58c., and Sept. at 8.30c. On the 21st inst. prices closed 10 to 20 points lower with sales of 800,000 lbs. closing with March at 6.65 to 6.75c.; June at 7.42 to 7.43c., July at 7.65c. and Sept. at 8.10 to 8.20c. On the 22nd inst. futures declined 5 to 10 points closing at some recovery and generally unchanged; 2,400 Dec. frigorifico steers sold at 7¼c. and 8,000 at 7 5-16c. On the 23rd inst. prices declined 8 to 10 points partly owing to hedge selling. The total transactions were 720,000 lbs. January closed at 6.30c.; March at 6.55 to 6.65c.; June at 7.32 to 7.37c.; Sept. at 8 to 8.10c. Common dry, Orinoco, 8c.; Santa Marta, 8c.; Central America, 6c.; Maracaibo, LaGuayra, Ecuador and Savanillas, 7c.; New York City calfskins, 9-12s, 1.35c., 7-9s, 95c.; 5-7s, 65 to 70c. On Thursday futures closed 3 to 20 points higher with sales of 5 lots and Jan. at 6.40c.; March at 6.65 to 6.70c.; May at 7.15c., and July, 7.60c. Final prices are 10 points lower than on last Friday.

OCEAN FREIGHTS.—Trading was light for a time. Later there was a better grain business via Vancouver.

CHARTERS included grain booked 10 loads to Antwerp at 5c. and some to Liverpool at 1s. 6d., 12,000 bushels of heavy grain 2-3 to Liverpool at 1s. 6d. A few loads Havre-Dunkirk at 8c. and a few more to Antwerp at 5c. Tankers.—Venezuela, Aruba, Medway, 9s. 6d. for two discharges, Jan. 10, lay days; Jan. 20-30 Black Sea Continent, 7s. 6d., Jan. 20-30, Black Sea, clean Continent, 7s. 3d., clean, Jan., Black Sea to Shanghai originally, 18s. 3d. reported now changed to 19s. California-United Kingdom-Continent, 17s. 9d. clean, Dec.-Jan., Constanza-Eszjerg, 10s., Constanza-Nyborg and Copenhagen, 10s. 6d., gas oil, Jan. 1-20, Northern-South Africa, \$2.10, United States-Gulf-South Africa, \$2.40, clean, Dec. 15-31, Black Sea-8c., Louis duRhone 51 francs, two trips, lubricating oil, Dec., 5%, two ports Russian Black Sea-Heisingborg and Stockholm, 9s. 3d., clean, Dec., Constanza-Algiers, 5s. 6d., Russian Black Sea, 6s. fuel oil, 6-10 consecutive voyages, Jan., Russian Black Sea-Continent about 7s. dirty Dec., clean, Gulf, Jan.-Feb.-Havre, E.C.U.K., 9s. 6d., 29's 1 port, clean, Black Sea Dec. United Kingdom-Continent, 7s., Jan., Black Sea, Hamburg, 7s. 3d. Coal.—Havana, prompt 6s. 9d., prompt Halifax, 8s. f. d. Genoa, Savona, 5s. 9d. Time.—Prompt, two consecutive West Indies round trips, \$1.10 apiece.

COAL.—Trade has been at times nearer the normal amount for this season of the year, though hereabouts the temperatures have still been above the seasonal average and Chicago and Kansas City had 54 degrees and Cleveland 52. Later with temperatures higher after recent more reasonable weather the demand fell off. Yet it was stated that aside from slack, which advanced recently because of its extreme scarcity, prices are unchanged at Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Fairmont and Charleston. If looks as though there would prove to be a decrease of production, 12% in anthracite and 17% in bituminous in 1931 compared with 1930. The decrease in sales volume, it is believed, will closely follow the decrease in production. After a noticeable decrease, loadings at Hampton Roads on Dec. 18 ran up to 85,501 tons. Another 6,000 tons of Cardiff coal has been covered with freight 6s. 9d. for Havana. The Welsh export trade wants a better export trade to offset the effect of the French surtax. It is said to have prevented the sale of 100,000 tons duff to the French. They finally bought from the Continent. Late tidewater bituminous markets were again livelier. Three New York terminals report 1,114 standing cars and 187 dumped. Saturday and Sunday Hampton Roads steamers took 113,338 long tons of high and low volatiles. But line trade was slower and urban distribution of anthracite fell off in the warmer weather.

TOBACCO has been in the usual routine demand here for this time of year. At South Boston, Va., Richmond advices to the "U. S. Tobacco Journal" state: Sales heavy, rather light at Petersburg, Va. Offerings were primarily of medium to common grades of orange leaf and lugs with fair and low grades predominating. A small quantity of cutters and better leaf grades was offered. Lemon wrappers sold up to \$64, mahogany wrappers \$51 and cutters up to \$34, but insufficient quantities of these grades were offered to establish average prices. Kentucky's first full week of sales closed with burley prices firm, but dark leaf declining so badly that a movement was afoot to close dark markets until next month. Paducah, Mayfield and Murray already had decided to postpone dark leaf

auctions until the first week in January. Hopkinsville warehousemen plan to follow the lead of Springfield and Clarksville, Tenn., which decided to stop sales until the turn of the year. At Henderson the dark leaf average was the lowest in history Friday, \$1.99 on a sale of 158,130 pounds. The Owensboro level, however, rose slightly to \$2.88 on 427,095 pounds. At Lynchburg sales were 495,376 pounds; total of 1931 crop, 1,776,000 pounds, a decrease of 1,222,086 pounds, compared with the same time last year. Virginia fire-cured, good to better leaf, showed last week a slight improvement in prices, but lugs declined. Fine quality heavy brown leaf averaged \$26.80; medium quality, \$15.30. Thin brown leaf, fine quality averaged \$17; medium quality, \$10.70; fair quality, \$6.70. Choice brown lugs averaged \$4.20; fine, \$3.70; good, \$1.80; fair \$1.20. Blackstone, Farmville and Lynchburg, a fair business, chiefly in medium to low-grade dark leaf and lugs. Brown and dark leaf of choice to good quality was in demand and a few lots sold up to \$40. Compared with prices of the previous week, heavy brown leaf of fine quality averaged 7% higher, and medium quality, 21% higher. Heavy fine quality dark leaf averaged the same, but medium quality was 10% higher. Fair averaged 10% lower. Fine, thin brown, 11% higher, medium, 17% up. First quality brown lugs averaged 17% lower, second quality 2% lower, third quality 23% lower, fourth quality 15% lower.

Lexington, the State's largest market, sold 2,153,840 lbs. of burley at an average of \$11.80. Burley leaf is selling at four or five times the average of dark, as against only twice that in former years. Friday's sales reports from Kentucky market. Burley: Lexington, 2,153,840 lbs., average \$11.80. Maysville, 842,990 lbs., average \$9.36. Paris, 450,000 lbs., average \$9.50. Shelbyville, 354,000 lbs., average \$10.80. Richmond, 237,985 lbs., average \$10.47. Hopkinsville, 220,000 lbs., average \$8.50. Carrollton, 168,885 lbs., average \$10.41. Louisville, 125,000 lbs., average \$9.50. Owensboro, 109,275 lbs., average \$9.67. Glasgow, 105,583 lbs., average \$7.18. Bowling Green, 70,380 lbs., average \$8.49. At Greenville, N. C., sales for the season were 61,013,484. Season's average \$9.67. Most of the good quality has been sold. Havana reports shipments of unmanufactured tobacco on Nov. were 27,946 lbs. of wrapper leaf in bales; 1,200,152 lbs. of filler leaf in bales, 910,128 lbs. of stemmed fillers in barrels or packs and 204,220 lbs. of cuttings and scraps. The average price per kilo were \$4.57, \$2.87 and \$10.75, respectively. Filler leaf in bales was exported to 17 different countries to the amount of 552,070 kilos; of stemmed fillers to five countries 418,659 kilos; cigarettes to 13 countries 5,231,068. The two highest prices, were par by British Antilles, \$12.36 and \$12.25 by Peru. The United States paid \$8.53. The lowest price, \$2.10 per M, was paid by Great Britain. Cigar exports 6,561,724 and the highest average prices per thousand were paid by Holland, \$230.08; Guatemala, \$206.40; China, \$197.05, and British Africa, \$153.13. Other countries included Dutch India, \$127.77; Newfoundland, \$121; Argentine, \$117.45; British Antilles, \$116.78; United States, \$119.93; France, \$107.29; Germany, \$106.80; Australia, \$105.90, and Great Britain, \$109.06. In the group of from \$80 to \$99 are: Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, Belgium, Switzerland, Peru, Venezuela, Gibraltar and Bolivia. Between \$69 and \$71 are Chile, Canary Island and Spain.

On the 19th inst. futures closed 25 points lower to 9 higher with sales of 625,000 ounces. December closed at 31.25 to 31.32c.; March at 31.90 to 33.10c. and May at 32.50c. On the 21st inst. prices closed 35 points lower to 10 higher with sales of 675,000 ounces. December closed at 31.03c.; March at 31.60c.; May at 32.25c.; August at 32.65c., and September at 33c. On the 22nd inst. prices closed 30 to 90 points lower with sales of 650,000 ounces with closing prices for December 30.62 to 30.88c.; March, 31.23 to 31.59c.; May, 31.78 to 31.80c.; July, 32.02c.; Sept., 32.24c. The world's production of silver in the first nine months of this year was 22.77% less than in the same period last year, the American Bureau of Metal Statistics reported. The output was 125,005 ounces against 161,871,000 last year, a decrease of 36,866,000. Actual consumption of silver, as recorded by shipments from New York, San Francisco and London to the Far East, declined from 75,786,000 to 55,482,000 in the eleven months to Nov. 30, the bureau reported, adding that the reduction was almost entirely due to a smaller demand from China. On the 23rd inst. futures ended 7 to 20 points higher with sales of 175,000 ounces. December closed at 30.75 to 31.10c.; March at 31.45 to 31.55c.; May at 31.95 to 32c.; July, 31.15c., and September at 32.35c. On Thursday futures closed 5 points lower to 4 higher with sales of 225,000 ounces, December ending at 30.75c.; January at 30.82c.; March at 31.45c.; May at 31.90c. and August at 32.35c. Final prices are 50 to 65 points lower than on last Friday.

COPPER has quieted down a little owing partly to the large sales of last week and partly to the holiday season. Consumers are awaiting official announcement concerning the curtailment agreement. It was cabled from Brussels that the agreement has been effected and that world production is to be around 85,000 tons monthly. Copper people here, however, believe that the announcement was premature. They think New York is the logical place from which to make a statement. The response to the formal announcement of world production curtailment plans was







was quiet, as usual at this time. Liverpool and the Continent bought here. As a rule there was no large trading, but the tone was firm. Final prices were 3 points lower to 2 points higher as compared with last Friday. Spot cotton advanced 10 points, showing a net rise of 5 points for the week, with middling at 6.40c.

Table with 3 columns: Staple Premiums, Differences between grades established for delivery on contract Jan. 4 1932, and a list of grades with their corresponding prices.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COTTON to-night, as made up by cable and telegraph, is as follows: Foreign stock as well as afloat are this week's returns, and consequently all foreign figures are brought down to Thursday evening. But to make the total the complete figures for to-night (Friday) we add the item of exports from the United States, including in it the exports of Friday only.

Table showing visible supply of cotton with columns for Dec. 24, 1931, 1930, 1929, and 1928. Rows include Stock at Liverpool, Stock at London, Stock at Manchester, Total Great Britain, etc.

\* Not deliverable on future contracts.

The official quotations for middling upland cotton in the New York market each day for the past week has been: Dec. 19 to Dec. 24— Sat. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs Fri. Middling upland— 6.40 6.30 6.30 6.30 6.40 6.40.

NEW YORK QUOTATIONS FOR 32 YEARS:

The quotations for middling upland at New York on Dec. 24 for each of the past 32 years have been as follows:

Table showing New York quotations for middling upland from 1931 to 1924 with columns for each year and its price.

FUTURES.—The highest, lowest and closing prices at New York for the past week have been as follows:

Table showing futures prices for cotton from Dec. 19 to Dec. 25, including range, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday prices.

Range of future prices at New York for week ending Dec. 24 1931 and since trading began on each option:

Table showing range of future prices for various months (Dec. 1931 to Dec. 1932) with columns for Range for Week and Range Since Beginning of Option.

Table showing total visible supply, American and non-American stocks, and exports for various regions like Liverpool, Manchester, etc., for Dec. 24, 1931, 1930, 1929, and 1928.

Continental imports for past week have been 82,000 bales. The above figures for 1931 show an increase over last week of 2,122 bales, a gain of 271,224 over 1930, an increase of 2,153,882 bales over 1929, and a gain of 2,465,776 bales over 1928.

AT THE INTERIOR TOWNS the movement—that is, the receipts for the week and since Aug. 1, the shipments for the week and the stocks to-night, and the same items for the corresponding period of the previous year, is set out in detail below:

Table showing movement of cotton at interior towns from Dec. 24 1931 to Dec. 26 1930, with columns for Receipts, Shipments, and Stocks.

Total, 56 towns 144,829 3,763,665 142,420 221,726 90,046 3,786,753 100,338 1,800,744

\* Includes the combined totals of 15 towns in Oklahoma. The above total shows that the interior stocks have increased during the week 2,409 bales and are to-night 416,518 bales more than at the same period last year. The

receipts at all towns have been 54,783 bales more than the same week last year.

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 for Spot Market (Closed), Futures Market (Closed), and SALES (Spot, Contr't, Total) for days from Saturday to Friday, including a total for the week 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 comparing 1931 and 1930 overland movement. Columns include Dec. 24 Shipped, Total gross overland, Deduct Shipment, and Leaving total net overland.

The foregoing shows the week's net overland movement this year has been 10,259 bales, against 18,037 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 105,376 bales.

Table for 'In Sight and Spinners' Takings, comparing 1931 and 1930. Columns include Receipts at ports to Dec. 24, Net overland to Dec. 24, and Total marketed.

Movement into sight in previous years: Table showing weekly movement from 1929-Dec. 28 to 1927-Dec. 30.

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 of closing quotations for midding cotton at various markets (Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Norfolk, Baltimore, Augusta, Memphis, Houston, Little Rock, Dallas, Fort Worth) from Saturday to Friday.

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 of New Orleans contract market quotations for December 1931, showing prices for various contract months from Dec. 19 to Dec. 25.

COTTON GINNING REPORT.—The Bureau of the Census on Dec. 21 issued the following report showing the number of bale of cotton ginned in each of the cotton-growing States the present season up to Dec. 13, in comparison with corresponding figures for the preceding seasons.

It appears that up to Dec. 13 1931 15,358,405 bales of cotton were ginned, against 13,259,413 bales for the corresponding period a year ago, and 13,456,783 bales two years ago. Below is the report in full:

REPORT ON COTTON GINNING.

Number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1931 prior to Dec. 13 1931, and comparative statistics to the corresponding dates in 1930 and 1929.

Table of cotton ginning statistics by State, comparing 1931, 1930, and 1929. Includes a total for all other States.

\* Includes 7,307 bales of the crop of 1931 ginned prior to Aug. 1 which was counted in the supply for the season of 1930-31, compared with 78,188 and 56,974 bales of the crops of 1930 and 1929.

Consumption, Stocks, Imports and Exports—United States. Cotton consumed during the month of November 1931 amounted to 428,870 bales.

World Statistics. The world's production of commercial cotton, exclusive of linters, grown in 1930, as compiled from various sources, is 25,304,000 bales.

ACTIVITY IN THE COTTON-SPINNING INDUSTRY FOR NOVEMBER.—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 indicate that frequent rains and muddy fields in the northern portion of the Cotton Belt have been unfavorable for gathering the cotton remaining in the fields.

Memphis, Tenn.—Wet weather continues unfavorable for gathering the remainder of the crop. The river is now 29.2 feet above zero gauge and still rising.

Table of weather statistics including Rain, Rainfall, and Thermometer readings for various cities like Galveston, Abilene, Brownsville, etc.

The following statement we have also received by telegraph, showing the height of rivers at the points named at 8 a. m. of the dates given:

Table showing river heights at various points (New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, Shreveport, Vicksburg) for Dec. 24 1931 and Dec. 26 1930.

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 of receipts from plantations, showing weekly receipts at ports, stocks at interior towns, and receipts from plantations for September, October, and December 1931.

The above statement shows: (1) That the total receipts from the plantations since Aug. 1 1931 are 7,327,528 bales; in 1930 were 7,925,305 bales, and in 1929 were 7,764,035 bales. (2) That although the receipts at the outports the past week were 191,637 bales, the actual movement from plantations was 194,046 bales, stock at interior towns having increased 2,409 bales during the week. Last year receipts from the plantations for the week were 151,065 bales and for 1929 they were 204,101 bales.

WORLD'S SUPPLY AND TAKINGS OF COTTON.

Table with columns: Cotton Takings Week and Season, 1931 (Week, Season), 1930 (Week, Season). Rows include Visible supply Dec. 18, American in sight to Dec. 24, Bombay receipts to Dec. 24, etc.

\* Embraces receipts in Europe from Brazil, Smyrna, West Indies, &c. a This total embraces since Aug. 1 the total estimated consumption by Southern mills, 1,890,000 bales in 1931 and 1,600,000 bales in 1930—takings not being available—and the aggregate amounts taken by Northern and foreign spinners, 6,405,940 bales in 1931 and 6,028,267 bales in 1930, of which 4,163,940 bales and 3,757,367 bales American. b Estimated.

INDIA COTTON MOVEMENT FROM ALL PORTS.

Table with columns: Dec. 24 Receipts at, 1931 (Week, Since Aug. 1), 1930 (Week, Since Aug. 1), 1929 (Week, Since Aug. 1). Row: Bombay.

Table with columns: Exports from, For the Week (Great Britain, Cont-nent, Japan & China, Total), Since August 1 (Great Britain, Cont-nent, Japan & China, Total). Rows include Bombay 1931, 1930, 1929, Other India 1930, 1931, 1929, Total all—1931, 1930, 1929.

According to the foregoing, Bombay appears to show a decrease compared with last year in the week's receipts of 52,000 bales. Exports from all India ports record a decrease of 41,000 bales during the week, and since Aug. 1 show a decrease of 543,000 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, Dec. 23, 1931, 1930, 1929. Rows: Receipts (Cantars)—This week, Since Aug. 1.

Table with columns: Exports (bales)—This Week, Since Aug. 1, 1931, 1930, 1929. Rows: To Liverpool, To Manchester, &c., To Continent and India, To America, Total exports.

Note.—A cantar is 99 lbs. Egyptian bales weigh about 750 lbs. This statement shows that the receipts for the week ended Dec. 24 were 575,000 cantars and the foreign shipments 21,000 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.—Our report received by cable to-night from Manchester states that the market in both yarns and cloths is quiet. Demand for both yarn and cloth is poor. We give prices to-day below and leave those of previous weeks of this and last year for comparison:

Table with columns: 1931 (32s Cop, 8 1/4 Lb. Shrt-ings, Cotton Midd'l g Upl'ds), 1930 (32s Cop, 8 1/4 Lb. Shrt-ings, Cotton Midd'l g Upl'ds). Rows: Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 24.

SHIPPING NEWS.—As shown on a previous page, the exports of cotton from the United States the past week have reached 182,773 bales. The shipments in detail, as made up from mail and telegraphic reports, are as follows:

Table with columns: Shipments (Bales), Shipments (Bales). Rows include GALVESTON, NEW ORLEANS, CHARLESTON, CORPUS CHRISTI, HOUSTON, LOS ANGELES, SAVANNAH, TEXAS CITY, LIVERPOOL, MOBILE, LOS ANGELES, SAVANNAH, TEXAS CITY.

LIVERPOOL.—By cable from Liverpool we have the following statement of the week's sales, stocks, &c., at that port:

Table with columns: Sales of the week, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18, Dec. 24. Rows: Sales of the week, Of which American, Sales for export, Forwarded, Total stocks, Of which American, Total imports, Of which American, Amount afloat, Of which American.

The tone of the Liverpool market for spots and futures each day of the past week and the daily closing prices of spot cotton have been as follows:

Table with columns: Spot, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Rows: Market, 12.15 P. M., Mid. Upl'ds, Sales, Futures, Market, 4 P. M.

Prices of futures at Liverpool for each day are given below:

Table with columns: Dec. 19 to Dec. 24 (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri). Rows: New Contract, December, January (1932), February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.



DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF OATS IN NEW YORK.

Table showing oat prices in New York for various months and years, including No. 2 white and No. 3 white.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF OATS FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

Table showing oat futures prices in Chicago for December, May, and July, with sub-sections for Season's High and When Made and Season's Low and When Made.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF OATS FUTURES IN WINNIPEG.

Table showing oat futures prices in Winnipeg for December, May, and July.

RYE has been affected as usual by the movement of wheat prices. The government crop report shows a yield about equal to domestic consumption. The trouble with rye is that there is no export demand for the American product or so little that it gives the market no support. On the 19th inst. prices wound up 1 to 1 1/2c. lower owing partly to a reaction in wheat. Early in the day prices were 3/4 to 1 1/2c. higher but it was another story later. On the 21st inst. prices closed 3/8 to 1/2c. lower in response to the decline in wheat but showing some resistance to pressure. On the 22d inst. prices closed 1/2 to 3/8c. higher responsive to the rise in wheat and with reports that 120,000 bushels of Canadian rye had been sold for export to Europe. On the 23d inst. prices declined 1/2 to 3/8c. under the influence of wheat but the trading was without significance. On Thursday prices closed unchanged to 3/8c. higher with the usual pre-holiday evening up. There was no export demand. Final prices show a decline since last Friday of 1 1/2 to 2c.

DAILY CLOSING PRICES OF RYE FUTURES IN CHICAGO.

Table showing rye futures prices in Chicago for December, March, and July, with sub-sections for Season's High and When Made and Season's Low and When Made.

Closing quotations were as follows.

GRAIN.

Table listing grain prices including Wheat (New York), Corn (New York), and Flour (Spring patent, Rye flour patents, etc.).

For other tables usually given here, see page 4278.

Total receipts of flour and grain at the seaboard ports for the week ending Saturday, Dec. 19 follows:

Table showing total receipts of flour and grain at seaboard ports for the week ending Saturday, Dec. 19, 1931, including sub-sections for receipts and exports.

The exports from the several seaboard ports for the week ending Saturday, Dec. 19 1931, are shown in the annexed statement:

Table showing exports from various seaboard ports for the week ending Saturday, Dec. 19, 1931, including sub-sections for exports from and total exports.

The destination of these exports for the week and since July 1 1931 is as below:

Table showing the destination of exports for the week and since July 1, 1931, including sub-sections for exports for week and since.

The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports Saturday, Dec. 19, were as follows:

GRAIN STOCKS.

Table showing grain stocks in United States and Canadian for various locations like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, etc., with sub-sections for Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, and Barley.

Summary table showing total grain stocks for Dec. 19 1931, Dec. 12 1931, and Dec. 20 1930.

Note.—Bonded grain not included above: Oats—New York, 2,000 bushels; Buffalo, 30,000; total, 32,000 bushels, against 255,000 bushels in 1930. Barley—New York afloat, 63,000 bushels; New York, 1,000; Buffalo, 101,000; Buffalo afloat, 465,000; Duluth, 3,000; total, 633,000 bushels, against 1,351,000 bushels in 1930. Wheat—New York, 1,623,000 bushels; New York afloat, 6,472,000; Baltimore, 16,000; Buffalo, 3,984,000; Buffalo afloat, 13,424,000; Duluth, 1,000; total, 25,520,000 bushels, against 26,359,000 bushels in 1930.

Table showing Canadian grain stocks for Montreal, Ft. William & Pt. Arthur, and Other Canadian, with sub-sections for Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, and Barley.

Summary table showing total Canadian grain stocks for Dec. 19 1931, Dec. 12 1931, and Dec. 20 1930.

The world's shipment of wheat and corn, as furnished by Broomhall to the New York Produce Exchange, for the week ending Friday, Dec. 18, and since July 1 1931 and 1930.

Table showing world's shipment of wheat and corn for Dec. 18 1931, since July 1 1931, and since July 1 1930, including sub-sections for Exports, North Amer., Black Sea, Argentina, Australia, India, and Oth. countries.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON ACREAGE OF WINTER WHEAT AND RYE SOWN FOR 1932 CROP.—The full report of the Department of Agriculture showing the condition and the area sown to winter wheat and rye as of Dec. 1, issued on the 18th inst., will be found in an earlier part of this issue in the department entitled "Indications of Business Activity."

WEATHER REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDED DEC. 23.—The general summary of the weather bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture, indicating the influence of the weather for the week ended Dec. 23, follows:

Considerable colder weather overspread the Eastern States at the beginning of the week, but there was a rapid reaction to higher temperatures and thereafter unseasonable warmth again prevailed over the Eastern half of the country. The weather was extremely cold over the more Western States early in the week, but the latter part was much warmer. Rainfall was frequent in much of the South, with daily occurrence in most places and heavy to excessive falls over considerable areas during the first part of the week, but elsewhere there was less precipitation than recently. Most of the North and middle West had much sunshine for the season.

Chart I shows that the week, as a whole, was abnormally warm everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, except in the extreme northeast and the west Gulf area. In other sections and especially between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, culminating again in the Central-Northern States, abnormal warmth prevailed, with the temperature averaging from 12 deg. to 19 deg. above normal. Most of Texas was from 4 deg. to 7 deg. cooler than normal, while the western slope of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin had subnormal temperatures, ranging in places from 6 deg. to 8 deg.

In the East freezing weather did not extend farther south than the southern portions of the Appalachian Mountain section, while along the Mississippi River the farthest southern station reporting freezing temperature was Keokuk, Iowa. In the Southwest, however, the line of freezing extended to Palestine, Austin and Del Rio, Texas, while in the more Western States a considerable area had subzero temperatures. The lowest reported from first-order stations was 12 deg. below zero at Moodean, Utah and Lander, Wyo., on the 16th. In the Northeast temperatures as low as zero were reported only at local points in the interior of New England. Chart II shows that heavy to excessive rains occurred throughout the Southern States, except in the extreme west and extreme east. The weekly totals were in excess of 2 inches, locally exceeding 6 inches, in nearly all of the cotton States, with the heaviest falls in central and east Gulf sections. Parts of the Ohio Valley had rainfall in excess of an inch, and moderate amounts occurred in the Lake region, but elsewhere in Central and Northern States from the Rocky Mountains eastward there was very little precipitation. The amounts were heavy in the Pacific Northwest, with the weekly totals exceeding 1 inch as far south as northern California.

The heavy rains during recent weeks in the Southern States have effectively relieved the drought in that area, and especially in the Southeast, except in a few sections. The immediate south Atlantic coast is still largely missed by the rains and much of Florida remains mostly unrelieved.

lieved, with additional moisture badly needed. The dryness and warmth in Florida have been unfavorable for cool weather truck, such as cabbage, lettuce, and celery, but elsewhere in the winter-trucking sections of the Southern States the abundant moisture has been beneficial. Truck is somewhat backward in parts of Texas. The heavy southern rains, especially in parts of Arkansas and some Gulf sections, have caused considerable erosion and flooding of lowlands, with some ungathered crops damaged or entirely lost.

The soil is now well supplied with moisture in most sections east of the Rocky Mountains, except some dry localities of the Southeast and locally elsewhere. Considerable portions of the Atlantic area, however, have only a top-soil supply, with wells and springs still low, some new wells are being dug in the middle Atlantic area, and hauling of water for domestic use is still necessary.

The outstanding feature of the weather, particularly in the Central and Northern States, continues to centre in the abnormal warmth. There is as yet but little frost in the ground, and some plowing is being done as far north as the Lake region, blue-grass pastures in the interior States continue green. Fall-grain pastures in the southern Great Plains, however, are limited because of muddy fields, and considerable portions of the western range are still snow-covered. In the northern Great Plains the snow melted rapidly, permitting livestock to graze more freely, while the warmer weather and rains have melted most of the snow in the interior of the Pacific Northwest, with the moisture penetrating and improving the condition of the soil. Warmer weather during the last few days have been helpful in California, though heating of orange groves was again necessary in some localities, protected groves have come through the persistently cold weather in good condition.

Frequent rains and muddy fields in the northern Cotton Belt were unfavorable for gathering the remnants of the cotton crop and the small amount outstanding deteriorated further. It was also too wet and muddy for husking corn in the western and northwestern portions of the belt, this work was largely at a standstill during the week.

The Weather Bureau furnishes the following resume of the conditions in the different States:

**Virginia.**—Richmond: Unseasonably warm week; moderate rain later half and streams improved; top ground moisture now sufficient for winter grains and pastures. Truck doing well. Marketing tobacco continues and winter plowing revived. Butchering delayed by warm weather.

**North Carolina.**—Raleigh: Beneficial rains and abnormally warm part of week; highest December record at Charlotte on 20th. Truck and grain improved. Colder weather needed to kill hogs.

**South Carolina.**—Columbia: Fairly copious rains in coastal regions and ample elsewhere, with soil moisture materially improved generally. All winter crops and pastures much improved and late-sown grains and cover crops germinating well. Not much outdoor work, except chores.

**Georgia.**—Atlanta: Very rainy, mild weather continued; rainfall for month excessive, except along Atlantic coast. Wheat, rye and oats coming up to good stands, but very late. Truck crops and pastures making new growth. Too wet to plow. Warmth dangerously swelling peach buds.

**Florida.**—Jacksonville: Light, widely-scattered showers beneficial; heavy rains in extreme west, but rain badly needed in most of peninsula. Continued warm unfavorable for cabbage, lettuce, celery, citrus and strawberries; truck and citrus irrigated where possible. Oats fair. Potatoes coming up in Federal plot district.

**Alabama.**—Montgomery: Unseasonably warm, with frequent rains, excessively heavy in localities of southwest, causing washing of lands. Warm, wet weather generally favorable for growth of pastures, ranges, truck and winter crops. Farm work practically at standstill. Oats that are up are making excellent progress.

**Mississippi.**—Vicksburg: Relatively cool at beginning of week; otherwise unseasonably warm. Mostly cloudy, with frequent moderate to excessive rains causing floods in northeastern delta counties. Poor progress in farm activities.

**Louisiana.**—New Orleans: Frequent rains, excessive in northeast and north-central where lowlands locally flooded; remnants of crops in fields damaged or lost in north. Outdoor work generally prevented and grinding sugar cane retarded.

**Texas.**—Houston: Days cool in eastern two-thirds of State account excessive cloudiness, but nights moderate. Rainfall general; light in Rio Grande Valley, but moderate to excessive elsewhere. Unfavorable for outdoor work. Progress and condition of citrus, truck, wheat, oats and pastures generally good, except truck backward in portions of southwest and in lower coast areas. Livestock condition generally good, although some suffering in Panhandle where heavy snows middle of week.

**Oklahoma.**—Oklahoma City: Mostly cloudy with moderate to heavy rains practically general. Temperatures considerably above normal, with minima above freezing in central and east, except one or two days. Little field work accomplished. Remnants of cotton and corn further deteriorated. Winter grains made little growth and need sunshine.

**Arkansas.**—Little Rock: No farm work of consequence possible, due to four to seven rainy days, except in extreme northeast and northwest where rainfall very light. Rains of 4 to 7 inches in south-central caused rather serious overflows; soil saturated in all portions. Very favorable for growth of pastures, winter grains and winter truck, all of which are in good to excellent condition.

**Tennessee.**—Nashville: Most of week unusually warm, with light to moderate rainfall. Winter grains made good growth. Clover improved, but thin. Pastures good for time of year. Fruit trees and shrubs healthy.

**Kentucky.**—Louisville: Showery, foggy and unseasonably warm. Exceptional activity in handling tobacco, but often too soft. Grass and grains continue slow growth; wheat good to excellent, but some inclined to rankness and needs checking freezes. Pastures short, but still producing on south slopes and dry uplands.

## THE DRY GOODS TRADE

*New York, Thursday Night, Dec. 24 1931.*

Merchandise of a purely utilitarian character, normally not of very great interest to the public for gifts, is at the present time registering an emphatic expansion in volume, at the expense of luxuries and novelties which ordinarily are very popular around Christmas time. Apparel is cited as a prominent instance of this trend, and textiles have been the recipients of such a good demand at retail in recent days that brisk replenishment-buying by retailers in spite of their pervasive determination to go into the new year with the lightest possible stocks, has been rendered necessary. While the total volume of Christmas business at present continues substantially less than that of last year, when measured in money, that is by no means always the case when the standard is quantity, a number of lines being reported as considerably more active than last year. In primary markets there has been a material improvement in sentiment during the past week or so, partly, no doubt, traceable to improvement in Wall Street, more especially in the bond market. While producers are still perturbed, and with good reason in many cases, about tight credit conditions, the difficulty of securing prompt liquidation of accounts receivable, and the increased difficulty of getting credit from banks, prospects for an early resumption of buying on a broad scale, probably beginning in January, are nevertheless considered bright, and more hopeful views of the outlook are accordingly widely expressed. From more than one responsible quarter comes the prediction that the new buying movement will continue will into the spring months. The point is again being made that distributors are acutely under-stocked, and that this condition is going to appear even more marked

when the year-end figures are available. The good statistical position thus being uncovered is expected to help to overcome the current hampering character of the credit situation. Converters of cotton goods, rayons and silks are already said to be ordering goods in the belief that the recent period of extravagant price unsettlement and accumulation of stocks, notably print cloths, may very well have marked the low-point of the depression in so far as dry goods are concerned. With the prospect of a better total volume of business in 1932 endorsed in a majority of dry goods channels, according to such testimony as is available, the further hope is current that the consequent revival in confidence will make for concentration by sellers on securing legitimate prices before volume. Indications are that definite shortages of silks and woollens will materialize early in the new year.

**DOMESTIC COTTON GOODS.**—While business in primary and secondary cotton goods channels, as against the good volume at retail, is generally meagre, the tone of the market continues improved, and sentiment has undergone further definite change toward optimism. A factor of considerable encouragement to the trade at present is the abnormally low quantity of second-hand offerings reported. Dumping of second-hand goods has long been a demoralizing force against prices, and the current cessation of this tendency, should it prove to be foreshadowing similar conditions in the early months of the new year, is considered of considerable significance. An encouraging aspect of the present curtailment policy operating in the print cloths division is the co-operation afforded by buyers. Based on the realization that an economic emergency exists, many more of the latter than were previously disposed to back such a movement are now coming forward to offer help in executing the plan to keep production within bounds that will prevent further demoralization of the price structure. Special curtailment plans incident to this season of the year are seen to be of substantially greater scope than was recently indicated. One estimate is that some 16,500,000 yards of print cloths will be eliminated from prospective output over the end of the year, and be sufficient to offset the accumulations registered in the past several weeks. But the print cloths division is by no means the only one to shut down on its supplies, others being so generally committed to the policy that another estimate places the prospective reduction for all divisions at nearly 50%. A salient instance of the current determined efforts to reinforce goods against further price-weakness is seen in the shirting trade, where both buyers and sellers appear to be coming into practical agreement on the futility of allowing unwarranted concessions. With the gray goods market not overabundantly supplied, and cutters' stocks very meagre, producers of shirtings are expected to receive a decidedly better volume of business before long, and are trying to maintain prices on a very steady basis in the meantime. Print cloths 27-inch 64x60's constructions are quoted at 2½c., and 28-inch 64x60's at 29/16c. Gray goods 39-inch 68x72's constructions are quoted at 3½c., and 39-inch 80x80's at 5½c.

**WOOLEN GOODS.**—Woolens and worsteds markets, while now in the grip of the usual December lull, are mostly characterized by hopeful sentiment and a more favorable view of this year's business than the trade seemed to be taking during the past few weeks of persistently slow business and recurrent price unsettlement. In retrospect the past year is seen to have been relatively favorable for woolens, taking the prevailing business depression into consideration. While very few producers have come through the period with important profits, many have about broken even. Prices, compared to those in other divisions, and other dissimilar lines of merchandise, have been relatively steady for the year as a whole, and the excellent statistical position which helped the trade so much in the earlier months of the year is still an important constructive influence. Indications are that write-offs for inventory losses will be substantially less this year than last. It is hoped, with prices at the lowest figures seen in more than a dozen years, that 1932 volume will show a distinct gain, at least in point of volume, over the year now ending, and prospects for the coming season itself, though recently viewed dubiously, are looked upon more favorably at present. Even at present sales, while reflecting the traditional end-year lethargy in all lines, are at a higher level than last year at this time, notwithstanding a general intensification of economic inactivity. Woolen suitings in particular appear to be getting set in a better position, with a number of mills operating at full time and reported to have considerable business on their books on fabrics which wholesale at around \$1 per yard.

**FOREIGN DRY GOODS.**—Importers of linens express great satisfaction with the business they have done in the past few weeks on household linens, notably damask tablecloths, curtains and luncheon sets. The volume moved has compared very favorably with that of other recent years. Handkerchiefs have also been selling in substantial volume since the beginning of the month, and towels are reported to be meeting with increased demand. Orders for suitings and dress goods for the coming season are also coming to hand in satisfactory volume, and the linen trade as a whole is confident of a good future. Burlaps held fairly steady in a quiet market. Buying is negligible and inquiry also very light. Light weights are quoted at 3.30c., and heavies at 4.45c.















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