

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

U. S. Steel Common Sells at Highest Point Since Dividend Was Passed—Call Money 2 1/2 Per Cent.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—On some supporting orders the market became strong in the afternoon session, after early languidity, and some profit taking. United States Steel common, by selling at 43 1/2, reached the highest point since the dividend was passed on last Tuesday. Although sales of the stock were not large, offerings, which were also light, found a market as soon as they were released for sale by holders. It now appears that the stock has found its level and that there will be no further necessity of reducing the minimum price below 42, where it now stands. Predictions are current in the street that the report of unfilled orders of the corporation, to be published a week from today, will show a further substantial increase. Another favorable factor to steel was the announcement of an advance in steel products for March delivery.

The market closed dull with prices off fractionally from the high of the day, except in the afternoon session, when the stock of the list was above the final yesterday. The early reaction was based on two things: The dynamiting of a main bridge of the Chesapeake and Potomac rivers, and the St. Croix River, leading from Vanceboro, Me., to McAdam Junction, N. B., and to the further rise in the price of May wheat at Chicago, which touched 21.85, the highest price since May, 1918, when the price rose to 11.85. Following the announcement of the destroying of the Chesapeake and Potomac bridge, the stock of the Chesapeake and Potomac Bridge Company fell 1/2 point to 157. The selling of the stock was reported as coming from London and Montreal, and was intended as a bear movement, to create the impression that the company's property was in danger of serious damage by German sympathizers. Supporting orders later carried the stock to within 1/4 of the close yesterday at 158 1/2. Despite the fact that the December earnings of the New York Central made a very favorable showing as compared with recent months, the net increase of 26 1/2 cents over the same month of last year, the stock sold down 1/2 to 90. The gross for the 12 months was \$3,900,540 below the same period of 1914.

Third Avenue stock, quoted at 47, on the announcement that a quarterly dividend of 1 per cent had been recommended to be declared shortly after the beginning of the next fiscal year, and to be paid not later than October 1, 1919. Sears-Roebuck sold down 2 points to 26 1/2. Sales of the company in January were \$7,487,323, a gain of \$212,767, or approximately 2 1/2 per cent. California Petroleum was a strong specialty and appeared to be receiving attention from the pool which recently put up the price on Michigan Petroleum. Call money loaned at 1 1/2 per cent, during the greater part of the day, but it rose to 2 1/2 per cent at the close. The foreign exchange market was steady, with demand sterling off fractionally.

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