

FINANCIAL NEWS
STOCKS WENT OFF ON REPORTS OF CANCELLATIONS OF ORDERS

Three to five points losses sustained in many issues. Reichsmarks Sold at New Low Record of 7 1/2 Demand Sterling Up a Trifle

High Points in Today's Financial News
Philadelphia bank statement showed increase in loans of \$5,330,000 during week, while surplus fell \$6,022,000. Initial dividend declared on Philadelphia and Western preferred of 1 1/4 per cent.

NEW YORK, March 20.—The reports which were first circulated late last week of a belief in foreign governmental circles that the end of the war is in prospect were intensified today by the publication of what were alleged to be details of cancellations of orders for export of munitions to the other side.

The return of J. P. Morgan, following the heavy arrival of securities last week and the heaviness in French exchange, caused reliance to be placed on assertions that foreign financing would be attempted more through sales of foreign-owned securities than by the placing of new loans.

Probably back of the weakness in today's market there was a desire on the part of the strong interests to create a new low level on which another upward movement could be based; but of such a thing nothing is said in boardroom gossip when a decline is in progress.

The deterring of speculative buying by the end-of-war reports, usual reaching of stop-loss orders and perhaps prearranged withdrawal of support by strong interests easily account for today's losses of three to more than five points in many stocks.

Reichsmarks sold at a new low record of 7 1/2 today, but after the bid on which this sale was made was filled there was no other nearby inquiry.

Mercantile Marine Foreclosure Suit Goes Over Until April 3
NEW YORK, March 20.—The foreclosure suit in the case of the International Mercantile Marine Company was on the calendar of the Federal District Court today, but there being no judge to take it up, it went over until April 3.

ACTIVE BUYING SENT WHEAT UP

Offerings Small, Except on Bulgw—Much Unfavorable Crop News Received

CHICAGO, March 20.—Unexpected strength was displayed in the wheat market here today on active buying. Shorts were put on the Texas crop at one point, but were small, except on bulgus, when they increased a little.

Unfavorable crop news was the factor. It included an announcement by the Department of Agriculture of Illinois that the condition of the plants in the State had declined eight points from March 1 to March 15 to 66, and that the area winter wheat killed had increased 19 per cent to 31 per cent since the beginning of the month.

An important commission house had word from correspondents in the principal wheat States that heavy losses had been suffered in the Eastern section, and the average loss in the reporting States, comprising 75 per cent of the total area, to date, amounted to 16 per cent.

Reports from Texas and Oklahoma indicated that the spring drought there was the most severe in history, although an important railway company contended that winter wheat in Texas could do without moisture for at least one month more.

Profits caused a reaction. May ended at 11 1/2, after having been as high as 13 1/2, against 11 1/2, at the close Saturday; July at 11 1/2, after having touched 11 1/2, compared with 11 1/2, at the close Saturday, and September at 11 1/2, after having sold up to 11 1/2, against 11 1/2, Saturday's last price.

Following strength at London, the market at Liverpool turned firm, after being dull, with an easier tendency at the start. Bulls insisted that there was no indication of early peace. Although there were rumors of a demand for foreigners, exporters said that what few bids were on the market were considerably under the market.

In sympathy with the rise in wheat, corn moved upward. Shorts advanced. Trade was not large. Oats also advanced.

What's—Open, High, Low, Close, Change.
May 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, +1/2
July 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, +1/2
September 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, 11 1/2, +1/2

NO LOAN BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT

Mobilization of American Securities as Collateral Deemed Unnecessary

NEW YORK, March 20.—It is not expected that there will be any important developments in the near future incident to the mobilization of American stocks and bonds by the British Government.

There have been large amounts of securities disposed of by Great Britain and the indications are that sales will continue in sufficient volume to stabilize foreign exchange rates and meet such obligations as this country as the British Government may have falling due from time to time.

Canada May Have Record Trade

MONTREAL, March 20.—Canada's total trade for the fiscal year, which ends this month, will in all probability reach the record figure of \$1,600,000,000, according to the monthly trade statement issued by the Ministry of Customs. For the 11 months ended February 29 the total was \$1,500,000,000, the statement showing domestic exports of \$853,290,000, and imports of \$646,710,000.

New York Stock Sales table with columns for stock names, last close, high, low, and close.

New York Bond Sales table with columns for bond names, high, low, and close.

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New York Coffee Market table with columns for coffee names, today's price, and Saturday's price.

American Locomotive Orders table with columns for locomotive names, quantity, and price.

Government Bonds table with columns for bond names, bid, and asked prices.

Trading on Curb on Smaller Scale

Business Almost at Standstill at Times—Heaviness Followed Steady Opening

NEW YORK, March 20.—In the market for outside securities today trading was less active and at times business came almost to a standstill.

Cobaltos Products broke more than two points on comparatively light offerings, rallying feebly. Cuban Cane Sugar likewise fell more than two points, while the preferred declined more than a point.

Midvale Steel came off about 5 1/2 points. Explosive was about steady. Driggs-Seabury fluctuated at a range of about 5 points.

Oil stocks were steady, but less active. There was a fair inquiry for Ohio Oil, Southern Oil of Indiana and Illinois Pipe.

Industrial Stocks table with columns for stock names, bid, and asked prices.

Local Bid and Asked table with columns for stock names, bid, and asked prices.

Financial Briefs

The New York Submarine gained \$948,000 from the banks on Saturday, making a cash net gain since Friday of \$1,451,000.

Net earnings of the Otis Elevator Company for the year ended December 31 were \$735,669, against \$876,425 in 1914. Surplus was \$279,984, compared with \$224,660 the previous year.

LOCAL LOANS EXPAND

There was an expansion of \$5,330,000—Surplus \$6,922,000 Smaller

There was an expansion of \$5,330,000 in the amount of the loans of Philadelphia and Western Clearing House Association during the last week, bringing that item up to \$490,145,000. Surplus fell \$6,922,000.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

NEW YORK, March 20.—The feature of the foreign exchange market at the opening was strength in French exchange, which was quoted at 5.91 for cables and 5.91 1/2 for checks, as compared with 5.91 1/4 and 5.92 at the opening on Saturday morning.

RATES FOR MONEY

New York Call 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2.
Philadelphia 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2.
Chicago 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2.

BANK CLEARINGS

Bank clearings today compared with corresponding date last year:
New York \$1,600,000,000 vs \$1,500,000,000

RAILROAD EARNINGS

Second week March—\$20,985,000 vs \$20,985,000.
First week March—\$20,985,000 vs \$20,985,000.

PHILA. AND WESTERN PREFERRED STOCK PLACED ON DIVIDEND LIST

Initial Payment of 1 1/4 Per Cent. Announced—Earnings for February and Year Good—Cramp Shares Fell Two Points

The most interesting piece of news in the local financial district today was the declaration of an initial dividend on the preferred stock of the Philadelphia and Western Railway. As action of this kind was far from common, it did not occasion any surprise.

Following the announcement of the initial dividend the earnings statement for the month of February and the year ending February 29 was given out.

The earnings for the year were \$471,759; increase, \$75,804, and the net earnings for the same period were \$244,183; increase, \$55,854.

Few Sales Recorded on Cotton Exchange table with columns for cotton names, bid, and asked prices.

Local Bid and Asked

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