

FINANCIAL NEWS
SPECULATIVE ELEMENT ON THE FLOOR
CONTROLS MOVEMENTS OF STOCK PRICES

Covering by Shorts Brings About Advances in Early Trading, but Recessions Follow When Outside Interest Is Absent

High Points in Today's Financial News
Outside interest lacking in stock market. Short covering brought about advances in morning, but recessions followed in afternoon.

Outside interest was absent on the Stock Exchange again today. The price movements nearly all controlled by the speculative element on the floor.

When the urgent covering was in progress Industrial Alcohol moved up more than 3 points to 10 1/2 and Bethlehem Steel "B" also rose more than 3 points, selling at 12 1/2.

The display of strength was of short duration and was followed by a receding of prices, due more to an absence of outside buying than to any other factor.

Special attention was devoted in the last half of the day to the local traction stocks, with Interborough common and preferred selling at new low records.

The bond market showed a generally steady tone, with about the only weakness being in the Interborough-Metropolitan 4 1/2s, which sold down to 65 1/2.

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FEDERAL BLOW AT STANDARD OIL COMPANIES HITS STOCKS ON CURB

The recommendation made by the Federal Trade Commission in favor of renewing litigation against Standard Oil interests caused declines ranging from 4 to 12 points in nearly all the Standard Oil stocks around noon today.

Standard Oil of California declined from 287 to 272, and Standard Oil of Indiana yielded from 790 to 786.

Independent oil stocks were irregular, with Cuden Oil selling at 13 1/2 to 13 3/4.

Lake Torpedo was weak, falling from 7 1/2 to 7. Submarine sold at 20 1/2 to 21 1/2.

Mining stocks were irregular. Magnate being prominent with sales at 80 to 82 cents.

United Motor sold at 30 1/2 to 30 and Chevrolet at 98 to 100.

INDEPENDENT OIL STOCKS—Continued

Table listing independent oil stocks with columns for Bid, Asked, and Yes/No. Includes Am Reduction, Am Stores, Am Sumatra, etc.

STANDARD OIL

Table listing Standard Oil stocks with columns for Bid, Asked, and Yes/No. Includes Illinois, Ohio, Prairie Pipe, etc.

INDEPENDENT OIL STOCKS

Table listing independent oil stocks with columns for Bid, Asked, and Yes/No. Includes Barnett Oil & Gas, Cuden Oil, etc.

MONEY-LENDING RATES

NEW YORK—Call money opened at 2 1/2 per cent; high, 3 1/2; low, 2 1/2; last, 3; closed, 2 3/4.

In general way industrial loans are quoted at 4 1/2 per cent for sixty days, 4 1/4 per cent for three and four months, and 4 1/4 per cent for five and six months.

Prime bank acceptances are slow at 3 1/2 per cent for eligible and 4 1/4 per cent for ineligible.

Prime mercantile paper continues dull on limited demand and equally small offerings.

Philadelphia—Call 1/4 per cent. Time, 4 1/2 per cent. Commercial paper, three to six months, 4 1/4 per cent.

New York Stock Sales

Table listing New York Stock Sales with columns for High, Low, Close, and Net. Includes Alaska Gold, Alaska Juneau, Am Can, etc.

Sales in Philadelphia

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Local Bid and Asked

Table listing Local Bid and Asked prices for various stocks like Bethlehem Steel, Erie, etc.

New York Bond Sales

Table listing New York Bond Sales with columns for High, Low, Close, and Net. Includes 226000 Anglo-French 5s, 20000 Am Bond, etc.

INDEPENDENT OIL STOCKS—Continued

Table listing independent oil stocks with columns for Bid, Asked, and Yes/No. Includes Merritt Oil, Midwest Ref, Met Petrol, etc.

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DEMAND FOR TRANSIT CERTIFICATES ADVANCES PRICE MORE THAN A POINT

Buying Based on Belief of Agreement Between City and Company on Original Plan—Cambria Steel Falls Seven Points—Money Market Tighter

Demand for Philadelphia Rapid Transit trust certificates, making them the most active in many days, tightened up the trading on the local Stock Exchange today.

The price, at the same time, was carried up more than a point, but all of the gain was not held to the close. There was no trading on the Street to account for the strength and activity of this issue.

But the encouraging thing to the holders of the trust certificates was the fact that the greater representation in the trading, although during the day were in 100-share lots.

The buying appeared to be based on the belief that the original plan advanced by the transit company to the city would go through, and, while there was no real development to back this up, the feeling around the Street seemed to be that such would be the case.

The majority of the changes in price throughout the whole day were to a lower level than those ruling at the close last night, but those stocks which declined were generally those which are not represented in the trading very actively.

There was one exception, however, and that was the case of the transactions which were either unchanged or a fraction or so up.

Buffalo and Susquehanna common and General Asphalt preferred hit new year marks for the year, the latter, in fact, selling at the lowest point in two years, both issues falling 2 points.

The two best issues, however, were in Cambria Steel, which lost 7 points.

COTTON ENDS HIGHER, AFTER STARTING LOW

Sharp Advance in New Orleans Starts Buying Movement and Advances Follow

COTTON BELT WEATHER CONDITIONS
NEW YORK, April 24.—It was generally fair in the cotton belt this morning.

There was a sharp advance in New Orleans started by a buying movement here toward mid-afternoon which rallied prices about 27 points from the low point of the day.

Exports for the day were 12,739 bales, including 2,212 bales to Great Britain, 9,000 bales to France and 613 bales to the other points on the Continent.

LIVERPOOL, April 24.—Spot cotton was in good demand today and 13 points higher to the basis of 12.45d for American middling.

AMERICAN IMPORTS, 16,000 bales all American. The market for futures closed steady and unchanged to 2 points net lower.

LIQUIDATING VALUE OF U. G. I. \$100 A SHARE

Figure Named by President Bodine in Annual Report—Earned 13 Per Cent in Year

Samuel T. Bodine, president of the United Gas Improvement Company, says in his thirty-fifth annual report to the stockholders that the company's stock is a liquidating value of not less than \$100 a share.

For the year ending December 31, 1916, the total earnings were \$9,446,537, compared with \$7,269,095 for the previous year. After the payment of expenses of \$7,269,095, the balance was \$2,177,442. The earnings up to the \$55,922,950 capital stock were 12.1 per cent.

Mr. Bodine, in his remarks, calls attention to the disposition of the undivided profits. "In answer to the suggestion made from time to time," says Mr. Bodine, "your management is ultra conservative in not making distributions from undivided profits. I call your attention to the fact that the capital of your company, including these undivided profits, \$11,000,000, in excess of the securities now held in various sinking funds are invested in working capital and extensions and betterments for account of the Philadelphia Gas Works and will not be liquidated through the operations of the sinking funds until the expiration of the lease; and the balance is invested in the securities of various gas and electric companies, the interest and dividends from which go to make up the net income shown in the treasurer's statement.

"Several of these companies, such as the Conococton Railway & Lighting Company and certain New Jersey gas and electric companies, are no longer operated by the United Gas Improvement Company, but are leased to other corporations. Nevertheless they still receive constant attention from your executive staff, and in the judgment of your board of directors, their securities should still be retained in the company's treasury.

Your board of directors appreciates the natural desire of stockholders for returns from their profits which have been invested in extending the business, and are of the opinion that the company is now established on such a firm foundation that it is safe to adopt the policy of distributing by way of extra dividends a large proportion of the earnings had heretofore, when annual earnings and general business conditions will permit. In pursuance of this policy on April 14, 1917, an extra dividend of 2 per cent was paid out of profits accrued prior to December 31, 1916.

Freight Car Shortage Increases
The shortage of freight cars continues to increase and is a serious problem. This is indicated by the monthly statement of the American Railway Association, which shows that the shortage of freight cars continues to increase and is a serious problem.

Sugar Futures Lower
NEW YORK, April 24.—The sugar futures market felt the pressure of May notices at the start, and the price advanced to about 4500 tons, with prices 5 to 14 points lower. It was said that a leading Cuban contract tendered \$9.20. Wall Street said that the market was steady.

Cotton Oil Production Heavy
WASHINGTON, April 24.—The Census Bureau report issued today for the period from August 1 to March 31 shows 4,330,922 tons of cotton seed, exclusive of 5,833,183 metric tons received at oil mills, and 2,828,183 tons crushed; also 482,066 tons held at oil mills March 31. Crude oil produced during the period, 1,185,609.174 pounds; shipped out, 1,084,845.222 pounds; refined, 1,026,422.539 pounds and held March 31, 144,122.539 pounds. Refined oil produced during the period, 958,548,973 pounds, and stocks March 31, 330,930,163 pounds. Oil imported during the period, 4,112,000 pounds and exported, 36,480,617 pounds; cake and meal exported, 462,463 tons; unbleached lint, 144,001 running bales, and bleached lint, 56,414 bales.

Cotton Buyers and Sellers
NEW YORK, April 24.—May—Hartout, Mitchell, Geer, Schill, and C. Hicks bought; C. Hicks, Burnett, Wiggin, and Cone sold. July—Sellar, Hicks, Carsons, and Schill bought; McGee, Downs, Smith, Wilson, McPadden, and Traverso sold. October—Schill, Black, Wiggin, Garson, and Traverso bought; Burnett, Carsons, Hents, Sellar, McPadden, and Smith sold. December—Mitchell and Wilson bought; Brooks, Russell, and Schill sold. January—Downs, Montgomery, Lehman and Traverso bought; Burnett, Carsons, and Schill sold.

BANK CLEARINGS
Bank clearings today compared with corresponding days in 1916: 1917 1916. Total, \$2,500,000,000; 1917, \$2,500,000,000; 1916, \$2,500,000,000.

RAILROAD EARNINGS
NEW YORK, April 24.—The market for foreign exchange was quiet in the early dealings without particular feature. Swiss shaded and rubles had a heavy appearance. On the other hand French exchange and pesetas were fully steady.

Quotations were: Demand sterling 4.75 1/4, checks 4.76 1/4; 60-day bills nominal 4.72; 90-day bill 4.70.

Franc cables 5.70 1/4, checks 5.71 1/4; Lire cables 5.91, checks 5.92; Swiss cables 5.13, checks 5.16; Quilder cables 40 13-16, checks 40 1/2; Ruble cables 28.45, checks 28.28; Pesetas cables 21.70, checks 21.60; Stockholm cables 29.80, checks 29.10; Christiania cables 28, checks 28.10; Copenhagen cables 28.20, checks 28.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES
COTTON—NEW YORK, April 24, 1917. Middling upland, 12.45; good upland, 12.50; low mids., 12.40; low upland, 12.35; good lowland, 12.30; lowland, 12.25; low mids., 12.20; low upland, 12.15; good lowland, 12.10; lowland, 12.05; low mids., 12.00; low upland, 11.95; good lowland, 11.90; lowland, 11.85; low mids., 11.80; low upland, 11.75; good lowland, 11.70; lowland, 11.65; low mids., 11.60; low upland, 11.55; good lowland, 11.50; lowland, 11.45; low mids., 11.40; low upland, 11.35; good lowland, 11.30; lowland, 11.25; low mids., 11.20; low upland, 11.15; good lowland, 11.10; lowland, 11.05; low mids., 11.00; low upland, 10.95; good lowland, 10.90; lowland, 10.85; low mids., 10.80; low upland, 10.75; good lowland, 10.70; lowland, 10.65; low mids., 10.60; low upland, 10.55; good lowland, 10.50; lowland, 10.45; low mids., 10.40; low upland, 10.35; good lowland, 10.30; lowland, 10.25; low mids., 10.20; low upland, 10.15; good lowland, 10.10; lowland, 10.05; low mids., 10.00; low upland, 9.95; good lowland, 9.90; lowland, 9.85; 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lowland, 7.85; low mids., 7.80; low upland, 7.75; good lowland, 7.70; lowland, 7.65; low mids., 7.60; low upland, 7.55; good lowland, 7.50; lowland, 7.45; low mids., 7.40; low upland, 7.35; good lowland, 7.30; lowland, 7.25; low mids., 7.20; low upland, 7.15; good lowland, 7.10; lowland, 7.05; low mids