

GOSSIP OF THE STREET-PHILADELPHIA MARKETS

SHOULD WE HAVE "PROFITS" TAX AND PRICE-FIXING AT SAME TIME?

England's High Excess Profits Taxation Result of Imperfect Control of Price-Fixing. Gossip of the Street

"WHAT is my opinion on the proposed excess profits tax?" asked an uptown investment broker, repeating the question put to him.

"The Government's action puts me in mind of the Irish soldier, when his superior officer asked him what he was doing with his blanket, and he answered, 'Bedad, it is too short and didn't cover my feet, so I'm cutting a piece from the top to sew to the bottom and make it longer.'"

"It seems to me that it is absurd both to fix prices and tax excess profits at the same time. It looks like 'taking something from the top to sew on to the bottom' as to piece out the necessary taxes."

"I see by advices from London," remarked the principal of an investment house, "that one of the reasons why England made such drastic excess profits taxes, which in some cases were as high as 80 per cent, was because she did not succeed in controlling price regulation."

"I see," he continued, "that in England financiers believe that high taxation during the war will check inflation and aid in recuperation afterward."

Peace Bobs Up Once in a While

Every once in a while the subject of peace is broached in some of the brokers' offices or board rooms, but it does not seem particularly popular. The large numbers who have entered the army in one way or another from financial houses may have something to do with this almost universal unpopularity of the "dove of peace."

In one downtown office today the subject came up and the speaker, one of the house's customers, said: "No matter what effect the discussion on the subject may have on industries now operating under high-pressure war demands, I know of a number of bankers who are inclined to look on peace prospects with a great deal of optimism."

"It would end," he remarked, "the present world-wide destruction of capital and turn labor into productive channels where it is badly needed."

Northern States Power Company Shows Gains for July

The net earnings for the Northern States Power Company for the month of July, 1917, were 13.1 per cent greater than for July, 1916. Gross earnings for the month increased 21.6 per cent. For the year ending July 31, 1917, the increase in net earnings was 11.1 per cent, and for the same time there was an increase of 11.8 per cent in gross earnings.

The report of the company states the new business gains are satisfactory.

Present Conditions No Occasion for Worry

"No one can make me feel blue over present conditions," remarked one of the customers in a broker's board room yesterday.

"I know," he said, "the market is dull and all that, but look at the money that is being spent in this country by the Government, by England and by France. That money," he continued, "is all going through our industries; it is not leaving the country, and we are bound to see it reflected in the general prosperity of the nation. I read somewhere that we are spending \$50,000,000 a day in connection with the war; England is spending much more than we are; France is spending about as much as we are, and they are both spending a lot of it here."

"I can't feel blue," he repeated.

Is the Auto Supplanting the Interurban?

"There are some parts of the country where interurban traction is still declining, and many people don't know that it is because of the competition of the automobile," remarked an investment banker to another.

"Take, for instance," he said, "all over the State of Indiana, the western part of Ohio and the greater part of Michigan where farmers have, almost without exception, two or more automobiles each. These people don't ride in the trolley cars any more, although there is a network of them closely covering and uniting that whole territory."

"Before the advent of the interurban lines in that section they were well supplied with railroads, but they were nearly all trunk lines," he explained, "and these interurbans came along and upset all calculations."

"Maybe," he said, "there will come another turn of the wheel to bring these interurbans in that territory into their own again, such as famine in gasoline, or something of that nature."

Longing for Definite Action at Washington

"I sincerely wish that this week will clear up all doubt and uncertainty about excess profits and further price fixing at Washington," said the manager of a downtown brokerage house, "and let us get down to business when we know the way out."

"The trouble," he continued, "is that there are too many small-town country lawyers in our legislative halls in Washington, who don't know the first thing about these subjects and cannot treat them from a broad standpoint."

"Of all men," he said, "I have found lawyers the most incapable business men, and of the two classes in these small towns, the small merchant and the small lawyer, give me the small merchant every time."

"I have met," he continued, "many of these small merchants in towns in New Jersey, and all they needed was opportunity to be really big men. But the people never send that class of men to Washington. They pick out the small lawyer who thinks he has nothing more to learn and proceeds not to learn it. When he faces a situation such as we have in the country today he gets his first opportunity to display his gross ignorance of everything connected with finance. The small merchant has some ideas of finance and taxation and, above all things, he has guts and brains."

Municipalities Find Financing Expensive

As a sample of how difficult it is to get money for any new financing these days, the head of a banking house called attention to the fact that some cities are paying high prices for such funds as they need, especially Canadian cities, and they are resorting to the modern method of issuing short-term bonds and notes at high rates. Some of these cities, he said, are putting out five and ten-year securities yielding, at the price they are being sold at, from 6 to 7 per cent. Only a few days ago, he said, the city of Cleveland, O., sold its 4 1/2 per cent bonds at par where under ordinary conditions they would command a premium.

No Market for Inactive Securities

"I have never come through a time when it was so difficult to find a market for some kind of inactive securities," remarked the manager of one of the largest and largest banking houses today, after a conversation on the telephone with a customer. "It is hard enough with active securities, and even in dull times, professional buyers, we could find some kind of a market for anything that had a value to it, but at present there are no bids."

Five Per Cent Taxable Bonds vs. Four Per Cent Tax Free

London bankers are figuring out whether or not their next issue of Liberty Bonds would be more desirable if issued at 4 per cent not exempt from the super tax, or at 5 1/2 per cent and free from all taxation.

Great Britain experimented both ways with taxable 5 per cent bonds offered at 95 and 4 per cent at par, free from normal income tax.

At the end of last week the 5 per cent were quoted at a discount of 1/4 point from the issue price and the 4 per cent at more than 3 per cent premium, big this attributed to the expectations of a higher income tax.

When the British bonds were issued subscribers could select 5 per cent, or 4 per cent as desired, and it is said that nine-tenths of the applications were for 5 per cent.

Another View of Excess Profits Tax and Income Surtax

Samuel Untermyer, the well-known corporation lawyer of New York and himself a strong supporter of the present Administration at Washington, in an interview on the proposed changes in the income tax law now under discussion and also on the excess profits tax, sounded a note of warning for Congress to go slow on both of these matters.

Mr. Untermyer has always been a staunch supporter of the income tax as the only just way of raising revenues, but he maintains that the additional surtaxes on incomes of \$200,000 and over will defeat their own purpose and bring about a panic in real estate and in security values of railroads and industrials the like of which has never been known, as every man with an income of over \$200,000 will increase his net income by selling almost every income-paying security he now holds (that is based on the New York Stock Exchange, even at present low prices, and investing the proceeds in State and municipal bonds, and every one with an income of \$50,000 or over would find it in his interest to convert his holdings in securities and real estate into 3 1/2 per cent United States Government bonds.

As to the excess profits tax, Mr. Untermyer says he believes that 40 per cent of the excess profits is the utmost limit of public safety, and he adds, as his opinion, that no great manufacturing industry in this country now has or has had a way times in its history as much as 50 per cent of its total net profits in its treasury, including all the dividends paid its common stockholders. He also states that the alleged experience of Great Britain, with its 80 per cent excess profits tax, is no fair precedent or criterion.

Will Sell Railway Bonds

CHICAGO, Aug. 28.—Edward Daniels, manager in charge, will on September 17 sell at public sale at Indianapolis \$100,000 of Chicago Street Railway first mortgage bonds, due September 1, 1929, issued by the Gary and Interurban Company.

R. R. to Pay Interest on Bonds

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—The directors of New Orleans, Texas and Mexico Railway Company have ordered the payment of the interest on the bonds of the company for the period from October 1, 1917, to October 1, 1918, per cent interest on the bonds, an initial distribution of \$1,000,000 per cent was made on April 1, 1917, and the directors for the year 1917 are making the distribution for the year 1917.

PHILADELPHIA MARKETS

GRAIN AND FLOUR

WHEAT—Receipts, 33,194 bush. The market was firm. Quotations: No. 1 hard, 1.10; No. 2 hard, 1.05; No. 3 hard, 1.00; No. 1 soft, 1.05; No. 2 soft, 1.00; No. 3 soft, 0.95.

PROVISIONS

There was a fair trading inquiry and values were steady. Quotations: Corn, 1.10; Pork, 1.10; Lard, 1.10; Beans, 1.10; Sugar, 1.10; Coffee, 1.10; Tea, 1.10; Spices, 1.10.

REFINED SUGARS

The market was quiet on a basis of 8,250 lbs. for extra fine granulated.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

BUTTER—The market ruled firm under light offerings and a good demand. Quotations: Creamery, 1.10; Sterilized, 1.05; Sweetened, 1.00; Evaporated, 1.00.

POULTRY

LIVE—The market ruled firm under moderate offerings and a fairly active demand. Quotations: Chickens, 1.10; Turkeys, 1.10; Ducks, 1.10; Geese, 1.10.

FRESH FRUITS

There was a fair demand for most fruits of desirable quality and values generally were steady. Quotations: Apples, 1.10; Oranges, 1.10; Lemons, 1.10; Peaches, 1.10; Plums, 1.10.

VEGETABLES

The general market ruled steady under moderate supplies and a fair demand. Quotations: Potatoes, 1.10; Onions, 1.10; Cabbage, 1.10; Carrots, 1.10; Beans, 1.10.

GOVERNMENT'S LOCAL MARKET REPORTS

This daily report is sent out by the Bureau of Markets of the United States Department of Agriculture, Philadelphia branch, with headquarters at 306-313 Independence Exchange Building, Bell Telephone, Lombard 37.

FRUITS

APPLES, Virginia and West Virginia, per bushel, 1.10; Eastern Shore, 1.10; Michigan, 1.10; Washington, 1.10; California, 1.10.

GRAIN

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, 1.10; No. 2 hard, 1.05; No. 3 hard, 1.00; No. 1 soft, 1.05; No. 2 soft, 1.00; No. 3 soft, 0.95.

LEGUMES

BEANS, No. 1, 1.10; No. 2, 1.05; No. 3, 1.00; Lentils, 1.10; Peas, 1.10; Chickpeas, 1.10.

VEGETABLES

POTATOES, Eastern Shore of Virginia, per bushel, 1.10; Michigan, 1.10; Washington, 1.10; California, 1.10.

SOILS AT AUCTION YESTERDAY

CHANGES, California, per acre (24 pounds), Malaga, \$120.00; Tokay, \$125.00; Mission, \$130.00; Contra Costa, \$135.00; Contra Costa, \$140.00.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

CARPAÑO, Aug. 27. SALVAYOR CARPAÑO, husband of Carlotta, formerly of 822 8th Ave., Edgewater, Pa., aged 35. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, Fri., 2 p. m., at 1710 W. Jefferson.

DEATHS

RICHARDS—Aug. 26. MARY JANE RICHARDS, aged 88. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, Fri., 2 p. m., at 1710 W. Jefferson.

CLOSING LIVE STOCK PRICES

CHICAGO, Aug. 28.—HOGS—Receipts, 400 head. Market 25c higher than yesterday's average. Market 25c higher than yesterday's average. Market 25c higher than yesterday's average.

NEW YORK BUTTER AND EGGS

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—BUTTER—Receipts, 10,000 cases. Market 25c higher than yesterday's average. Market 25c higher than yesterday's average.

RAILROAD EARNINGS

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM. Total operating revenue for July, 1917, \$1,100,000,000, an increase of 10 per cent over July, 1916.

NEW STOCK FOR BETHLEHEM

Steel Company to Issue \$30,000,000 Preferred. Bethlehem Steel Corporation has announced that it will issue \$30,000,000 of preferred stock.

NEW YORK COFFEE MARKET

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—The market for coffee futures opened quiet today and without special features. Prices were unchanged.

AMBULANCE CORPS MEMBER PROBABLY FATALY HURT

Washington Man Struck by Trolley Car Near Allentown and Base of Skull Fractured.

ALL-AMERICAN

ALL-AMERICAN. A. CLINTON WUNDERLICH. A commission as second lieutenant rewards Mr. Wunderlich for his assistance at the army officers' training camp at Fort Niagara.

ALL BUSTLE AND HURRY AT MOUNT GRETTA CAMP

Men Go to Work With Enthusiasm When Welcome Orders to Go South Are Received.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

Business Is Not Large—American Railway Shares Record Small Declines.

Refined Sugar Lower

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—Arbuckle Brothers have reduced their prices for hard sugar to 47 1/2 points to the 50c basis.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED

Kennecott Copper Corporation annual dividend of 25 cents per share declared.

PURE FRESH PAINT Believe Me

Kuehnle painting reflects the skill of master craftsmen. Every Kuehnle job is highly distinctive in appearance and quality.

Prisoner Wants to Enter Army

LANCASTER, Pa., Aug. 28.—John Page Nein, of Bainbridge, convicted of manslaughter and serving a sentence in the county prison, was brought before Draft Board No. 1, of which Sheriff C. G. Garber is a member.

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FOUR UNITS SOON TO GO TO AUGUSTA

Department of East Certifies Notice of Order to Major General Clement

ONE DUE TO LEAVE TODAY

General Sanitary Inspector, After Careful Review, Gives Camp Hankcock Bill of Health

CAMP HANCKOCK, Augusta, Ga., Aug. 28.

Major General Clement, commanding the twenty-eighth army division, formerly the Pennsylvania National Guard, received a telegram last night from the Department of the East, informing him that four units were to be sent to Camp Hancock, one of which will move today.

Colonel Henry C. Fisher, general sanitary inspector, representing Surgeon General Gorgas, today gave Camp Hancock a clean bill of health.

The second artillery is commanded by Colonel Hamilton B. Turner.

On their arrival the units will find their reservations prepared for them. The Second Artillery, especially, will find little difficulty in settling down for battery E, the advance detail, has performed wonderful work during the last week preparing the regional area for the reception of the expected units.

Major General Clement today repeated his assurance that Camp Hancock would be in condition to accommodate the division by Thursday of this week.

It is the intention of the War Department to go to extreme lengths to prevent disease in camps throughout the country.

In giving Camp Hancock a clean bill of health he re-echoed the opinion which has been expressed here by all officers and enlisted men since the first unit arrived.

General Clement and his staff will take up quarters in the field probably tomorrow.

The only feature which bothers the officers is lack of amusement for the men.

LOOK FOR MAIL FROM HOME. If parents, friends and sweethearts know how eagerly the boys in the field watch for mail, letters would come here by thousands.

NEVER before has the United States rallied so many men to the Stars and Stripes for military service in such a short period as at the present time.

Charles W. Duke has written an important article for Sunday's Public Ledger, in which he tells how Uncle Sam's defense forces have grown since war was declared last April. Read it in

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