GOSSIP OF THE STREET-PHILADELPHIA COMMERCIAL MARKETS-CORPORATE ACTIVITY

TIMIDITY OF INVESTING PUBLIC DUE TO UNFAMILIAR CONDITIONS

Disturbance in Prices of Securities and Low Levels of Last Few Days Discussed by Banker-Gossip of the Street

AN UPTOWN banker said yesterday that in his opinion the present disturbance in the prices of securities and the reasons for the low levels reached during the last few days is because people have not yet become accustomed to surrounding conditions, and that as soon as they come to understand that, while the war seems to dominate everything and actually does so to a large extent, there is a good deal of regular business going on and will continue to go on whether the war comes to an end soon or becomes more intense.

"People," he remarked, "and especially the people of this country, can adapt themselves to any combination of circumstances. They are to a large degree the descendants of the sturdy races that came over from Europe and pioneered, settling the country by enduring Mardships which, no matter how hard the war hits us, we will never have to endure, and overcoming offstacles in the path of progress. Suddenly we have been ushered into new surroundings and are timid as to the future. but very shortly, when we see that while we may not have 'business as usual,' we must have enough business outside of war activities to take care of the wants of the civil population, and when we consider the relative propertion of that part of the population to the whole, we will realize that quite some business must still go on in these United States, When these timid investors get fully accustomed to surrounding circumstances they will come into the market and buy."

Brokers See No Evidence of "Unloading"

Inquiry in brokers' offices brings out the information that their customers are not unloading their holdings in any unusual quantities and that there is no panic feeling among them to dispose of stocks before they go still lower. The head of one well-known firm said that the last sale of Pennsylvania stock put through their house was about three months ago, and the customer wanted the money to pay for some real estate he had purchased.

"One of our customers asked us yesterday," he said, "if there was a deluge of selling orders from our other customers to cause such breaks. in prices, and we called his attention to the very small volume of stocks involved in the current sales to prove that no such condition exists.".

Cause of Weakness of Railroad Stocks

There were several reasons advanced yesterday for the pronounced weakness shown in high-class railroad shares. One was the failure or delay in Washington in announcing whether or not some definite action was soon to be taken in regard to the appointment of a railroad dictator. Another was the absence of any news from the same quarter as to the financial assistance to be given to the railroads by the Government, as virtually every one seems agreed that no matter what the final decision about the roads may be they must first of all have financial aid. Still another reason was said to be the resumption of liguidation of railroad securities by representatives of foreign Governments who had floated loans in the United States that were backed principally by American rails as security. The action of the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio in deferring action on the dividend until their meeting in January did not help matters any, although several brokers sail the directors did the only sensible thing under the circumstances.

In connection with the action of the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Daniel J. Willard, president of the road, is reported to have said after the meeting that "notwithstanding that the company will have handled the greatest business in its bistory and will have realized the largest gross earnings, it was evident that the operations of the year would show earnings applicable to the common stock of less than 5 per cent."

In other quarters it was denied that the weakness in stocks and bonds of railroads was occasioned by liquidation of collateral owned abroad and deposited here to secure foreign Government loans. It was said that any such selling has been conducted privately with institutions which are always in the market for high-class bonds, and even that has been carried out on a very limited scale.

Brisk Business but Small Sales in Market

The principal of a well-known banking and investment house said yesterday that he does not take any stock in all this talk about the public not fully appreciating the fact that stocks are cheap or that they lack the backbone to buy them.

"We are doing," he said, "a big business in small lots of ten or twenty shares. The sellers are, as a rule, rich meh, who are liquidating and investing in 31/2 per cent Liberty Loan tax-exempt bonds, and while the individual purchases are small, they aggregate a considerable amount at the close of each day."

Terms of British Loan of September, 1916

There is oulto a little misunderstanding regarding the terms and litions surrounding the British loan of September, 1916, about which

WOOL MARKET ACTIVE PHILADELPHIA IN THE LOCAL DISTRICT

Some Dealers Report Large Transactions, But Fair-Sized or Moderate Sales Are the Rule

WHEAT-Receipts, 19,833 bushels. The The second secon Special maximum prices Only to be applied when the other qualities in the wheat re high shough to warrant it. No. 3 wheats-Maximum price containing 13.1 per cent molecular to 13.5 per cent maisture, to under No. 1 or No. 3 red. 52.22; No. 5 So three, 52.20, No. 4 wheats-Maximum price containing 13.6 per cent to 14 per cent molecular to ining 13.6 per cent to 14 per cent molecular So of red. 52.20, No. 4 wheat have been somewhat spotty, some dealers medium and low wools. Manufacturers pally on Government work. No. 1 or No. 4 red. \$2.21; No. 4 soft red.

The leading retail stores are sold to be No. 5 wheats-Maximum price containing not over [1.3] per can mosture, de noder No. 1 or No. 5 red. \$2.211 No. 5 sect. \$2.19 Maximum price containing und over [15] per can moleture. To under No. 1 or No. 5 red. \$2.200 No. 5 soft ed. \$2.19 No. 5 red. \$2.200 No. 5 soft ed. \$2.19 No. 5 red. \$2.201 No. 5 soft ed. \$2.19 No. 5 red. \$2.201 No. 5 soft ed. \$2.19 No. 5 Sumption and the soft of previous soft containing not over [15] per cent molecure, Sumption wheats in the soft of previous soft Sample wheats in the soft of previous soft Sample wheats in the soft of previous soft doing a large volume of bubiness at the

Continuing, the review says: "There is hitle change in conditions Simily wheats—Vaim stall be determined wath sample leasts of the class and start manufacturers. Business in this income the subrunals, the sample sam Sample wheats liandled on merits but in more shall price be higher than to under the of the adhetise represented. When the adhetise represented by the sample has a size of the class and sub-tions of sample hashes of the class and sub-

done the volume of husiness owing to inability to get merchandise and deliv-eries promptly. Shirt nanufacturers have had a good season and are well sold up.

No. 5 yellow, nominal, OATK--Receipts, 43,857 pushels. The mar-fort fulled strongly in selfert rayor, with of ferfines excessingly light and dul press. Itoms: Scientific of the selfert rayor, with of ferfines excessingly light and dul press. These promotions of the selfert rayor, with of ferfines excessingly light and dul press. No. 4 white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 869 80% of white, 869 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 give: No. 1 white, 860 80% of white, 860 90% of white, 860 80% of white, 860 90% of

MARKETS

GRAIN AND FLOUR

and to enoice, 44.9.466; do, artifustr, 41.96 do: prime, meaning, fame, 34.6; average atra, 51.9.50; firsts, 47.9.46; meconde, 12.97 sweets librards jokhing at 55.9.576. EGOS-Fine fresh eggs were source and be market ruled steady, with demand read-y incording the offerings. The outlat-tics were as follows: Free cames, nextly-rets, 317.105717.40 per standard came; cur-fit receipting the offerings. 313.50 415, re-nigration, atta 316.80 per came meconds, 515.0 415, western, extra firsts, 417.103717.40 per light for a standard case; firsts, 311.40 417.70 per case; seconds, 315.00411.10 per light for case; seconds, 315.00411.10 per light for the standard case; firsts, 311.40 417.70 per case; seconds, 310.00411.10 per line; famey selected eggs were jobbing at 36.006 per dozen.

case farcy selected engs were jobbing at une -CHERESE was in moderate request, but prices were firmly held. Quotations New "The prices were firmly held. Quotations New Work, fulleream, fancy, func, for specially of do, do, fresh-made, fair to good, 220 220 c. do, do, fresh-made, fair to good, 220 220 c. "The trade in domestic leaf tobacco

POULTRY

FRESH FRUITS

URGETABLES The unriket ruled firm on choice stock innert description. but freest-damaged and innertrative stock was dell ind weak (nu-hasket (23 lbb.-No. 1, 73490c; No. 2, 40 8 db. White potatose, per 100 lbb.-Permis sivaria, 82.2502.240. Sweet potatose prover the No. 1, 73490c; No. 2, 40 8 db. White potatose, per 100 lbb.-Permis sivaria, 82.2502.240. Sweet potatose freese per Schukh basket (13 lbb.-Honso was and the state of the schult state of weatern St.2000 lbb. No. 4, 70 state was and the schult basket (13 lbb.-Honso was and the schult state of the schult (13 lbb.-No. 4, 70 state of weatern St.2000 lbb. No. 4, 70 state was and the schult state of the schult schult schult state of the schult schul

NEW YORK BUTTER AND EGGS

NEW YORK. Dec. 21. -BUTTER-Re-stora 644 tube. Market steady to firm. Inrite 44 with the seconds. 41 943c. Other ugations uncharged. 1903-Receiptin 3213 cases. Market ur-stifed. Extra 00 61ci sairs frate 340 et first. 64 537: seconds. 52 550; stor-er special, says when the first first.

VEGETABLES

ate, Pennsylvaria and Ohlo tobaccos are in fair request for good grades, but prices rule high. Sumatra and Havana are selling moderatels for im-mediate uses at good prices. The large

The do, Tremmander, Tair 10 good, 22 92 94 54.
FOULTRY
Inty E-There was a model demand and the particle interval of the problem of the particle interval of the problem of the particle interval of the part



An occasional loan is made for thirty days to four months at 6 per cent on all industrials or good mixed, indifferently The acceptance market on prime bank material has not reflected so far the ber 20.

material has not reflected so far the increased discount rates put in effect to-day by the New York Federal Reserve Bank. Bates are quoted unchanged, at 41 633% per cent for eligibles. Prime mercantile paper continues slow and is quoted, nominally, at 5% 85 per cent parable December 12. Dated Mille, regular quarterly 5 ber cent for, ineligibles. Prime mercantile paper continues slow and is quoted, nominally, at 5% 85 per cent parable December 22. Cates Control Amile, regular quarterly 5 ber cent parable December 15. Dated Mille, regular quarterly 5 comber 23. Date Mille, regular quarterly 5 control and South American Tokerash and is quoted, nominally, at 5% @8 per cent. The tone is firmer.

Central and South American Telegraph Company, regular surferity of 15 per cent, paviate January 8 to stock of record De-cember 31. enter 31. Consolidated Traction Company of New gracs, semiannual of 42 per share, payable annary 15 as refisiered becember 31, Rooks lose December 31, respen January 16, Mexican, Telegraph Company, usual quar-orie of 72 per cent, payable January 16 s shock of record December 31, per cent: six months, 5拉做 5强 per ce

LONDON-Money, 4 per cent, unchang-ed from the rate prevailing late vester-day, and compared with 3% early in the preferred. Common is payable January II day. Discount rate for short bills 4% formed January 15 to stock of read De-per cent, and three months' bills 4% center II. LONDON-Money, 4 per cent, unchang-

per cent, and three months' bills 43, per cent unchanged. FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEW YORK, Dec. 21.--The feature of the foreign evoluting market in the early dealings today was an improvement in Prench exchange. Sterling was vell hold, but swiss todi an englet turn. Business Quistations were: Demand at e initiation in all descriptions. Quistations were: Demand at e initiation in all descriptions. Quistations were: Demand at e initiation in all descriptions. Quistations were: Demand at e initiation in the early in the second back of record back of the day. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 16 to hold. The backet of record back of the day. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 16 to hold. The backet of record back. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 16 to hold. The backet of record back. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 16 to hold. The backet of record back. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 20 to holders of record back. Demand of the per cent, pushie January 16 to hold. The backet of record back. Demand of the per cent backet. Demand of the per cent back. Demand of the per cent backet. Demand of the per cent backet.

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DIVIDENDS DECLARED COTTON TURNS EA City Investing Company, regular quarters 1% per cent on preferred, payable January 2 to stock of record Docember 27.

AFTER FIRM STA

Bearish Reports From S ern Spot Centers Lead b General Selling

COTTON MALT WEATHER CONDI-NEW YORK, Dec. 11-The for instructures were recorded in the bill this mormapy. Askertike, Bill Alisata, New, Rogy The and August Alisata, New York, Alisata Marking, St. Meretan, San Mark, A Menchina and Xashyille, Alis Tama Nan Alisata, Schwartz, Bay (Christi, 36; Galvester, 87.

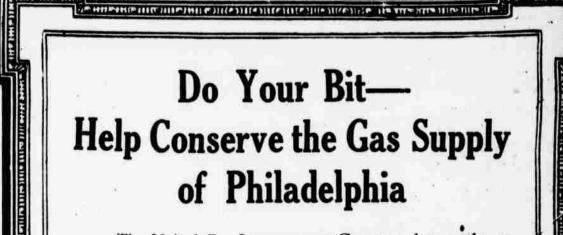
NEW YORK, Dec. 21.

After showing a firm jone during the greater part of the session under hu by trade interests and in sympathy the strength in the stock market. suddenly turned easier in the late deal ings on bearish reports from south spot centers, which led to general pelling. As a result prices showed not. citnes ranging from 4 to 27 points

Offerings increased for a time after the opening, but were well absorbed. and after prices had sold almost a points under last night's close,

points under last night's close, they rillied on rumors that Germany had re-jected the Russian peace terms. Nothwithstaading the larger number of December notices, that delivery was relatively firm with its streagth halp-ing to steady later positions. December yold up t 30.67c, making an advance of

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The United Gas Improvement Company has made an appeal to the public to help conserve the gas supply. They

are reported steady and collections fair. "The sole leather market continuer active and prices are steady. Glazed kid is in demand and prices are 0me. Manufacturers are operating chiefly on orders. Shoe dealers report sales for spring delivery good. There has been a large sale of rubbers during the last work. last week.

"Millinery dealers report a fair volume of business for this period of the

during the last week has been moder-ate. Pennsylvania and Ohio tobaccos

JOHN H. MASON Former Philadelphia newspaper man, who will become president of the Commercial Trust Com-pany of Philadelphia in January.

JOHN H. MASON CHOSEN BANKING HOUSE HEAD

100

80

there is so much talk concerning the liquidation of the collateral securities supporting the loan.

The collateral consisted of \$100,000,000 American securities, \$100, 600,000 Canadian securities and \$100,000,000 bonds of neutral countries. If the market value of these securities declined, as they did, the agreement called for additional collateral to make up the deficiency in order to keep the collateral up to 120 per cent of the par value of the notes. The Government had the right to sell from time to time any of the securities pledged, and in that case the proceeds were to be applied to the purchase of the outstanding notes at the then redemption price.

The British Government also reserved the right to substitute other approved security if it so desired, but such substitutions were not to vary the relative amounts in value of the three groups of collateral. In other words, the British Government could not sell all the American securities and buy its own notes to a corresponding amount without substituting some other American securities, otherwise such a condition could be brought about that the remaining outstanding notes would be secured only by "'e Canadian and neutral countries' stocks id bonds

World Wagging Despite the War

Although we are in a world war and are making colossal preparations to carry it on successfully to a finish, we haven't yet begun to comprehend it from a world standpoint. We are still viewing it and everything connected with it through neighborhood spectacles. A prominent banker said yesterday in this connection that while the assertion way too true, it is inevitable, and is the result of our environment for more than 100 years. "It is only recently," he said, "that a foreign bond could be sold in this country, while England had been dealing in them for more than 100 years, encouraged by a Government that saw such purchases were her greatest trade anchor to windward

"The limited view which people of the United States take of things in general is going to be displaced by a much broader conception when this war is over. In the financial districts today everything is concentrated around the ticker. Our grasp of finance and commerce seldom reaches beyond the boundaries of the States. There our world begins and ends, and at present the war and our preparations for it naturally dominate our thoughts to the exclusion of the commercial activities going on in other nations of the world, even in those where the battles Server at the words the

are raging." A good antidote to the formation of such narrow views is a perusal of the commerce reports published by the Government in Washington. They give from day to day a series of plotures of the commercial activiiles in even the most remote nations of the world. When the ticker is clicking off the figures which are knocking the bottom from under the "rails" and "industrials" of the United States without any substantial reason, it is a relief to pick up one of the most recent of these reports and .ead, for instance, of the sample fair at Bordeaux, France, which now goes on in spite of the war. We find in that war-wrecked country a miniature world's fair in progress, exhibiting the peaceful products of factory, loom and shop ! and not only that, but of the preparations being made for a similar exhibit next year. In these reports we can find particulars' about the wine trade of Italy for 1917, about a new textile industry for Bolivia, of Great Britain's purchase of Egyptian cottonseed, tables showing the commerce of China, the favorable condition of Irish agriculture, the demand for American goods in India and hundreds of other matters bearing on the commerce and trade of the whole civilized world.

Light, Power and Railway Company Dividends

Georgia Light, Power and Rallways Company has declared a dividend of 114 per cent on the preferred shares, payable January 2, 1918, to preferred shareholders of record December 21, 1917.

South Carolina Light, Power and Railways Company has declared 1 of 116 per cent on the preferred stock, payable January 2, 1918, and shareholders of record Debiator 32 1917.

HARPER - Dec. 20, at the residence of her datatier, Mrs. Hariman Baker, 1232 S. Gub at. Mrs. R. D. HARPER, Folatives and friends invited to services, Sot. 2 p. m. at the Oliver H. Bair Bidg., 1820 Chestnat M. Int. Private.

14. Int. brivate. STANFON — Dec. 20. JOHANNA, widow of Patrick J. Station. Belatives and friends, who Hosseet Virali, Mont. Sodality, Lesgue of Sacroil Heart, invited Sodality, Lesgue S30 a. in. 1103 Brandwarf futural, Mon. S30 a. in. 1103 Brandwarf, Nucl. 110 and Spring Clarlen sts. Soleme has reacted muss at Charlen of Assumption. 10 a. to Int. Old Cathedral Com.

Other Death Notices on Page 18

BELP WANTED-MALE

books or variant jour have sold in the agent numbers of a good men, also builts me, with little experience. I turns Sales Co., 1105 Weiterset J SAT MANUEL

Other Help Wanted Ads on Page 19

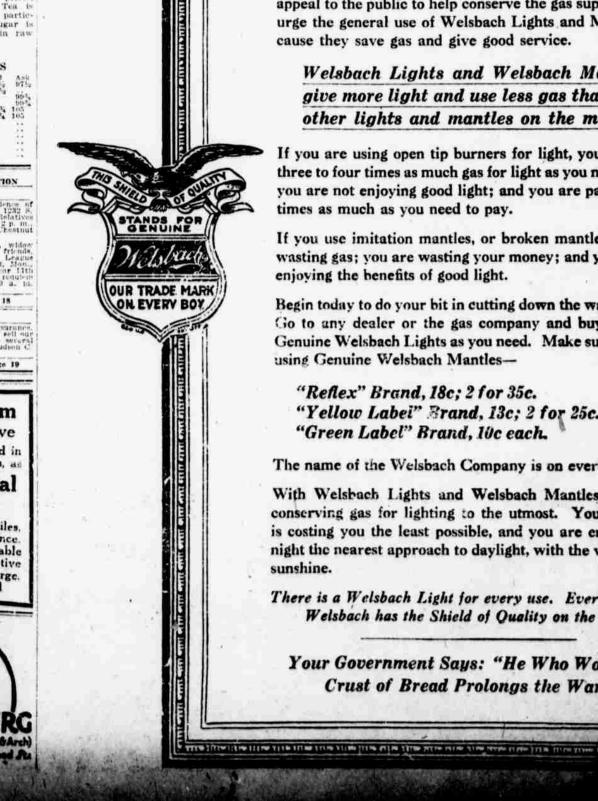
What Phila. firm has need of a "live

wire," a man well versed in general business methods, as

Sales or General **Manager?**

xperience --- automobiles dvertising and insurance. Exceptional, unquestionable success in each as executive of company in entire charge. J 448, Ledger Central

MONEY LOWEST TO RATES ON LOAN & GOODS OF VALUE FRIDENBERG 37 N. III JT. (Bet. Filbert & Arch)



urge the general use of Welsbach Lights and Mantles because they save gas and give good service.

Welsbach Lights and Welsbach Mantles give more light and use less gas than any other lights and mantles on the market.

If you are using open tip burners for light, you are using three to four times as much gas for light as you need to use; you are not enjoying good light; and you are paying three times as much as you need to pay.

If you use imitation mantles, or broken mantles, you are wasting gas; you are wasting your money; and you are not enjoying the benefits of good light.

Begin today to do your bit in cutting down the waste of gas. Go to any dealer or the gas company and buy as many Genuine Welsbach Lights as you need. Make sure you are using Genuine Welsbach Mantles-

"Reflex" Brand, 18c; 2 for 35c. "Yellow Labei" Brand, 13c; 2 for 25c. "Green Label" Brand, 10c each.

The name of the Welsbach Company is on every box.

With Welsbach Lights and Welsbach Mantles, you are conserving gas for lighting to the utmost. Your lighting is costing you the least possible, and you are enjoying at night the nearest approach to daylight, with the warmth of sunshine.

There is a Welsbach Light for every use. Every genuine Welsbach has the Shield of Quality on the box.

Your Government Says: "He Who Wastes a **Crust of Bread Prolongs the War**"