...LLY, BROCK & CO.
BANKERS

INVESTMENT SECURITIES

GOVERNMENT
MUNICIPAL
RAILROAD
AND
PUBLIC SERVICE
CORPORATION
BONDS

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

306 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

BARNETT OIL & GAS CO.
PRODUCER—REFINER—
DISTRIBUTOR
Barnett paid in dividends during 1916 23% and is now paying at the rate of 24% per annum. Semi-Annual Report mailed upon request.
E. H. CLARKE INC.
Morton R. Alexander
Philadelphia Stock Exchange Bldg
27 William St., N. Y. City

PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT OF CITY TRANSIT
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
754 Bourse Building
Philadelphia, January 28, 1918.

Sealed proposals, addressed to the undersigned at the office above mentioned, will be received until 12 o'clock noon on **Thursday, February 14, 1918**, and opened immediately thereafter, for the following work and material, to be constructed by the tenant to the Frankford Elevated Railway, authorized by Ordinances of Councils approved July 20, 1916, July 20, 1918, and March 6, 1917:

CONTRACT NO. 541—Plumbing Installations in Station Buildings at Torresdale Avenue and at Tioga Street.

CONTRACT NO. 542—Electrical Installations in Station Buildings at Torresdale Avenue and at Tioga Street.

Plans and specifications can be seen at Bourse Building, and copies of same, with blank forms for proposals, will be supplied to intending bidders upon deposit of $10.00 (cash or certified check) for each set of plans, which will be refunded upon return of plans.

Bidders must be skilled and regularly engaged in the class of work bid for.

Contractors will be required to comply with the act of Assembly of July 18, 1917, relative to Workmen's Compensation Insurance, and proof must be furnished the Department by each contractor that he has complied the provisions of said act and insured his liability thereunder, or approved exemption therefrom.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certificate from the City Solicitor that a proposal bond in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00) has been filed in accordance with the provisions of an Ordinance approved May 25, 1869.

The Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as he may deem best for the interest of the City of Philadelphia.

WILLIAM S. TWINING,
Director.

ANNUAL MEETINGS
PENN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Philadelphia, Pa., December 15, 1917.

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Penn Public Service Company will be held on the **18th day of February, 1918**, at 1:00 o'clock p. m., at the office of the Company, Room 335, Real Estate Trust Building, in the City of Philadelphia, Pa., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors, voting upon the proposition of increasing the authorized indebtedness of the Company, voting upon the proposition of authorizing an issue of this Company's short-term notes and securing the same by contract, by pledge of collateral or by a mortgage upon all of the properties of this Company now owned or to be hereafter acquired, and the sale of said notes, and upon the proposition of increasing the authorized capital stock of this Company and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

L. A. WOOD,
Assistant Secretary.

DIRECTORY OF ACCOUNTANTS
Certified Public Accountants

LAWRENCE E. BROWN & CO.
1015 REAL ESTATE TRUST BLDG.
INVESTIGATE & ADJUST PARTNERSHIP
CORPORATION & DISPUTED ACCOUNTS

RAILROADS' TIE-UP CLOGS STEEL TRADE

Conditions Continue Far From Satisfactory—Labor Situation in Bad Way

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.

Steel trade conditions are still far from satisfactory. In fact, in some quarters it is reported that the situation has grown slightly worse than it was during the last few weeks.

This is due to a great extent to the congestion on the railroads which has clogged mills in many sections of the country. Eastern plants have been facing this congestion for some months, but reports received here from the Middle West state that the mills in that section also are confronted with this unfavorable factor at present.

While the labor situation is still in a bad way, it is said by some of the largest steel trade authorities that operations at many plants could be increased if it were possible to move out the products or bring in the raw materials needed with any degree of regularity.

It is probable that the operations of the entire industry at present are no better than 50 per cent of normal for present facilities. Even this percentage is considered remarkable under the circumstances at this time, but in this connection it is pointed out that a number of plants doing Government work are running as high as possible and this fact has brought up the percentage.

Many plants are not doing better than 25 per cent of normal, it is maintained, and this, of course, is reflected in the supplies available for regular consumers, who are compelled to wait longer for their requirements, first because of the low operating ratio, and second because of the congestion of freight in all leading centers.

Government buying of steel continues on a large scale and the shipments for war purposes are receiving the attention of those handling the railroads, priority being given to the products which are needed for the prosecution of the conflict. But in some cases these shipments also have been interfered with, and this fact is pointed to by steel men as indicative of the seriousness of the situation on the railroads.

The lack of fuel is felt by virtually all plants. Even those having their own mines have found it difficult to keep their plants supplied with sufficient coal, so as to keep going, and virtually no stocks of fuel have been accumulated for winter years.

Likewise the production of ship plates is being interfered with to a smaller extent than any other branch of the industry, but the output is not what it would be were present facilities are utilized to their fullest extent. Some plants are giving almost their entire attention to the needs of the shipbuilding industry.

NEWS OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD—NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA STOCK PRICES

STOCK TRADING IS CONTRACTED BECAUSE OF HEATLESS HOLIDAY

Absorption Good and Many Issues Advance, Although Closing Out of Orders for Realizing Causes Some Active Selling

High Points in Today's Financial News

Trading was in small volume on the New York Stock Exchange owing to approach of heatless Monday holiday. Many issues advanced as absorption was good, although realizing occurred. Oils were most active on the Curb. Grain steady. Cotton ended session higher. Foreign exchange was dull. The New York bank statement showed big increase in average and actual loans. Bank clearings throughout the country this week were below those of last week and corresponding week of 1917. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad earnings' statement for December and twelve months showed big decreases in net operating revenues, although the total operating revenues were much larger. Bar silver prices were unchanged.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.

Trading on the stock exchange today was naturally contracted because of the general disposition to extend speculative commitments prior to the public holiday which results from the observance of Doctor Garfield's Monday holiday order, and business in many issues to a great extent consisted of the closing up of contracts by the speculative element on the floor.

At times there was a good deal of realizing from this source, causing sharp reactions, but this selling was offset by continued accumulation for special purposes in a number of issues, and the manner in which liquidated stocks were absorbed indicated that the situation is far stronger than the Street generally comprehends.

Advances were noted in many issues, with Marine preferred bobbing up 1¾ to 96¼, and being in increased demand on the advance. United States Steel, after selling at 96¼, rose to 96⅞, but lost its gain in the later trading.

There was an unusual degree of activity in Reading, which was in demand all through the two hours of trading, advancing more than a point to 77, but other railroad stocks were neglected.

There was a 4½-point advance in Industrial Alcohol to 128½, and General Motors fluctuated over a range of about 4 points, with important changes at the end of the half day. Central Leather was a strong feature, advancing to 69⅝.

The copper stocks were generally quiet and without important change.

There was heavy trading again in the Liberty issues, but fluctuations were narrower than usual. The 3½s ranged from 98.26 to 98.14 and the 4s sold at 95.96 to 96.

Hope of Early Peace Rules Stock Market

The market for securities this week has taken one of its unexplainable but not unusual swings. The tendency is distinct, to adopt the view of the optimist. Depressing influences there are in plenty, but the Wall street mind has much the characteristic of a single-track road—it can operate only one way at a time. Hence gloom for the moment appears to have been sidetracked throughout the entire system.

The basis for the new optimism is the cumulative hope—one may hardly call it belief—that underneath all the rumors of disaffection among the laboring classes of the Central Powers there is a movement that is entirely substantial. Peace today is admitted on all sides to be the one outstanding "bullish" feature. It means emancipation of finance and business generally from the restraint, the huge war taxes and all the fetters which are so necessary if the war is to be fought to a successful conclusion. But above all this, from the actual market standpoint, is the psychological influence which peace will exert upon the people as a whole.

It will result in a cheerfulness, a confidence, a desire to embark in new enterprise and to jump at one bound from the slough of despond to normal and buoyant conditions. Sentiment plays such an important role in Wall street conditions that the inevitable rebound from the war depression, in the view of most experienced banking and other interests, will be on a remarkable scale.

Italian Situation an Influence

This view may be regarded as explaining adequately the favoring inspiration drawn from the week's developments abroad. The Italian victories may, of course, accord with the theory that the wintry weather has cut off the supplies of the Austrians, and that with the return of spring another drive of the latter may quickly retrace lost ground. Nevertheless, developments in this direction are merely following out predictions made by the Italian authorities.

We are now at midwinter, when major military operations must wait upon the weather. It is the appropriate time for negotiations, which, however, should be brought to a head within the next four or six weeks.

Labor Disorder in Germany Interests Street

On this account the labor uprisings in Germany and Austria are attracting attention as representing developments that can be connected logically with the hopes for the only kind of a peace which is possible, namely, the defeat of the Central Powers. The openness of the home criticism of the German Government is considered one of the most significant items of the week's news that has come by cable, since it must be accepted as direct evidence of the growth of popular power and the recognition by the military government that the time has arrived for making concessions. This obviously is a first step of a practical character toward a condition of democracy which will operate a long way in the direction of bringing about a basis for peace.

The German people have recently been buoyed up with a hope of an early peace to follow a separate treaty with the Russian Bolsheviki. The terms which their Government published, namely, no annexations and no indemnities, were considered terms that would mean a lasting peace. Thus hopes were raised to the highest pitch, only to be dashed to the ground by irrefutable evidence of the insincerity and duplicity of their negotiators at Brest-Litovsk. No annexations, from the German standpoint, meant that the Baltic provinces and other valuable territory of Russia were to be occupied indefinitely and were to become to all practical purposes a part of the German empire; in other words, no annexations for the Allies and no indemnities to be paid by Germany.

Austrian People Want to Be Satisfied

Even German opinion could not stand for this kind of negotiation and it was seen that the Bolshevik representatives had ample justification for breaking off negotiations. Furthermore, Austria did not see where its interests were being served by carrying on the war for such purposes. These Baltic provinces were not to be participated in by Austria. The Austrian Foreign Minister, Count Czernin, in an apparently sincere speech, declared unequivocally that Austria did not wish either land or money from Russia. Thus a distinct line of demarcation exists between Austria and Germany on the Russian situation, and it is considered in Wall street that this division represents one of the most important factors which may contribute to peace negotiations in the near future.

See Improvement in Business Control

Another factor responsible for the admittedly better feeling in Wall street circles is the belief that improvement is in sight in connection with the control that is being so widely exercised over business by Washington. By this is meant that there will not be in the future the same degree of determination to hold down profits of manufacturing plants by the system of fixed prices. This is another thing that is psychological rather than definitely practical, for it would be difficult to place the finger upon many specific indications of a reversal of policy. As a matter of fact, if we look frankly at business conditions throughout our country, there is no important department, aside from farming interests, which is not arbitrarily controlled either in whole or in part by Washington.

Railroads, as is well known, have been taken over bodily, and now announcement is made of an equally definite control of all shipping in American waters. This control is to be exercised by a committee headed by P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine Company, with the co-operation of H. H. Raymond, recently appointed shipping controller at the port of New York, and of Sir Connor Guthrie, representative of the Allied chartering executive in the United States, who is also in charge of Allied shipping on this side of the Atlantic. Thus we have all transportation facilities directly under the control of the Government, and in the long run transportation is, of course, the prime factor in trade and industry of all classes.

Then iron and steel, copper, coal, wool, foodstuffs, petroleum and all large lines of merchandise are subject to Washington dictation—everything but labor, which apparently is still beyond the bounds of control.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

	Bid	Ask
2s registered 1930	97½	99
2s coupon 1930	97½	
4s registered 1925	99	99½
4s coupon 1925	99	99½
4s registered 1907	105	106
4s coupon 1907	105	106
4s registered 1925	99	
4s coupon 1925	99	
3s registered 1908	96	
3s coupon 1908	96	
3s registered 1918	98	
3s coupon 1918	98	
3s registered 1961	98	
3s coupon 1961	98	
4s registered 1925	99	
4s coupon 1925	99	
4s registered 1907	105	
4s coupon 1907	105