

GOSSIP OF THE STREET RAILROADS CONTINUE TO LEAD, INDUSTRIALS MAY FOLLOW THEM

Some of the Reasons Given for Activity in Reading Shares - Gossip of the Street

THE sharp decline in Reading stock on the Saturday half-holiday did not disturb the prevalent opinion of the street and in brokers' offices that this is a railroad market. Attention has been called to the last notable feature in connection with the stock market during the last week, namely, the utter indifference of brokers and customers to the momentous events which were happening each day in Europe. They were not indifferent, however, to the course of events in Washington. Notwithstanding the opposition in some quarters there to the passage of the railroad bill, there was a strong undercurrent of belief that eventually the bill would emerge in pretty much the same shape as originally drafted by the Administration, and this was the reason generally given for the strength and continued upward movement in railroad stocks. One well-known broker of a speculative turn of mind, speaking of the future of railroad stocks, remarked that as soon as the bill is passed and signed by the President railroad stocks will become almost similar to railroad bonds; the dividends being absolutely assured on a recognized basis will take away every element of speculation from such securities. On the other hand, brokers who have been more or less identified with industrial stocks believe that a season of wonderful activity is ahead for this class of securities. They assert that the enactment of the war finance corporation bill will create a strong upward movement, just as the railroad bill has affected the railroad stocks. It is said that there are reports of large war orders being placed recently which will have a most favorable effect on dividend earnings. This, it is said, is especially the case with railroad equipment and motor companies. Now that the transportation difficulties have been largely removed by the passing of winter, the fuel situation virtually straightened out and the plants getting back to their former working basis, it is expected that the present year will show earnings far beyond the phenomenal earnings which are being revealed by the reports for 1917.

Electric Storage Battery's Coming Report

When announcement was made in this column recently of the quick rise of a large block of Electric Storage Battery stock by three well-known banking houses, it was said that it was understood the forthcoming report of the company would be an exceedingly favorable one for the stockholders. General information on the Street goes to confirm the forecast then made, and it is now common knowledge that at the annual meeting which is due March 29 the report which will then be presented to the stockholders will justify the anticipations which have been created. When the Electric Storage Battery Company put out a note issued last summer announcement was then made that the profits for the first six months of the year were \$1,267,061. This was a little better than a rate of 14 per cent per annum on the stock. It was understood, however, that the above amount did not allow for deductions for taxes, and while the earnings for the latter half of the fiscal year may not quite equal the figures for the first half, there is good reason to believe that the earnings will surpass any previous record of the company. The future earnings seem assured for some time to come, as it is said by a member of one of the large banking houses that recently took up and placed the large block of stock already referred to that in October last the company had considerably more than \$2,500,000 in unfilled orders on hand and quite a large amount had been added since that date. It is understood that many of these are Government contracts.

Status of Non-earning Railroads Discussed

There has been some discussion in financial quarters here as to the status of those railroads which have paid no regular dividends or none at all during the three-year guarantee period required by the railroad bill; also such railroads as during all or a considerable period of the above-mentioned three years have been in the hands of a receiver or have not been operated. It appears that the bill makes provision for both classes. For those which have paid no dividends during the guarantee period, dividends are to be paid at such rate as the President may determine. For roads inoperative or in the hands of a receiver during the three years mentioned, the bill provides that the President may make such compensation as he considers just. While permission for States to levy State taxes on railroads as heretofore is conceded, the powers of the States on this matter are considerably modified to the extent that no State shall levy a tax in excess of the ratio that taxes derived from railroads bore to the whole taxes collected in a State prior to the Government control of the railroads.

LOCAL LOANS INCREASE

Bank Deposits Also Larger Than Last Week - Reserves Jump

Table showing local loans and deposits for March 11, 1918, compared with the previous week. Includes categories like Loans, Deposits, and Reserves.

Coal Co. Plans Stock Retirement

Pittsburgh, March 11.—The Pittsburgh Coal Company directors have adopted a plan for retiring a sum each year for the purchase of preferred stock at 110 and thus retiring same. Money thus appropriated is derived from the sale of mine-trail coal not used for mortgage obligation, and is based upon value of unmined coal content as of January 1, 1918.

Advertisement for Union National Bank, Third and Arch Streets. Includes details about commercial convenience and financial resources.

LOCAL MINING STOCKS

Table of local mining stocks including Tonopah, Goldfield, and other regional shares.

CLOSING LIVESTOCK PRICES

Table of closing livestock prices for various types of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

NEW YORK BUTTER AND EGGS

Table of New York butter and egg prices.

CHICAGO BUTTER AND EGGS

Table of Chicago butter and egg prices.

Call for Condition of National Banks

Washington, March 11.—The Comptroller of the Currency today issued a call for statements on the condition of national banks as of the close of business March 4.

The Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Philadelphia

Statement of Condition, March 4, 1918.

Financial statement for Farmers and Mechanics National Bank, including Resources and Liabilities.

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PENN NATIONAL BANK

Immediately Available: Cash & Reserve, \$1,769,079.13

Table of assets for Penn National Bank.

Table of liabilities for Penn National Bank.

Table of other loans and discounts for Penn National Bank.

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Advertisement for The Philadelphia National Bank, Philadelphia, March 4, 1918. Includes detailed financial statement with Resources and Liabilities.

Advertisement for Franklin National Bank, Chestnut Street West of Broad, Philadelphia, March 4th, 1918. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for The First National Bank of Philadelphia, 215 Chestnut St. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for Central National Bank, Chestnut St. at Fifth, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for The Bank of North America, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for The Market Street National Bank, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for Corn Exchange National Bank, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for The Girard National Bank, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for The Girard National Bank, Philadelphia. Includes financial statement.

Advertisement for Fourth Street National Bank, Philadelphia, March 4, 1918. Includes financial statement.