EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1918

GOSSIP OF THE STREET FOOD OIL BOOMED VAUCLAIN'S TALK ON BIG GUN

Increase in Capital Said to Be Favored-Brok-

VAUCLAIN'S TALK ON BIG GUN CAUSES DISCUSSION OF BALDWIN Increase in Capital Said to Be Favored—Brok-ers Claim Present Price Too Low. Gossip of the Street The announcement by Samuel M. Vauclain, the president and gen-rate manager of the Baldwin Locometive Works, president and gen-many and many auxiliary of the Council of National Defene, concern in the "war's greatest engine of destruction," which was to move pg the "war's greatest engine of destruction," which was to move ent of one of the factories on the Delaware today, naturally brought up considerable discussion on "Baldwin's" in the brokers' offices during the day, and in some instances sent customers to a belated study of the hast Baldwin statement. Some brokers say that "Baldwin's" is selling very much under a figure which it may reach in the not very distant fature. It is said that the directors of the company favor an acrease of the capitalization to \$80,000,000, divided into \$40,000,000 common and the same amount of preferred as is now outstanding, and in such an event \$10,000,000 of the common would be distributed to present stockholders as a melon.

A financial authority said to be in close touch with the Baldwin interests presents the following array of statistics to show that the Baldwin common, by the company's recent statement, shows a book valuation of 140 per cent:

	Investments Investments Accounts receivable Bills receivable Cash and marketable securities	1,158,937 11,218,818 612,287
	Total current assets Corrent liabilities Net working capital Bonded debt, including Standarii Steel	.\$47,149,412 . 23,468,305 .\$23,681,107
1	Working capital in excess of bonds, Baldwin plants' valuation Standard Steel plants' valuation	. 28,254,408 9,119,676
	Total valuation in excess of bonded debt Preferred stock outstanding	\$48,035,191

Balance, equal to 140 per cent on common.......\$28,055,191

These figures, he says, seem to warrant assertions of the common nockholders that they shall this year be given some substantial compensation, possibly in connection with the union of the various Baldwin properties; and it may be well to recall that in the last six and one-half years the Baldwin has put back into the property in the share of undistributed surplus earnings an amount equal to more than 64 per cent on the common stock. This, with the unknown value of the Eddystone concern, seems to show the stock is selling considerably below its tangible assets.

Money Not Yet Affected by Loan

Up to the present the third Liberty Loan campaign has had little effect on the money market. Bankers in this city ascribe this to the effect on the money market. Bankers in this city ascribe this to the small payments made on account of the bonds, and they say that early next month, when the campaign closes and the banks will be obliged to forward the first payments to the Government, the pressure on the money market will then show itself. It is true that the applicants for small amounts, paying on the installment plan, have already made their first payments, but those who have subscribed for large amounts are not likely to make any payments till the close of the campaign.

To a number of local bankers the problem of financing the Liberty Loan subscriptions present less difficulty than will financing of Federal income and excess-profits taxes, which fall due June 15. They hope that Congress may yet pass a law making provision for payment of these taxes on the installment plan, although the prospects of its passage at the present time are not very hopeful,

Certain banks expect some of their customers to look to them to supply the necessary funds on June 15. Several large concerns, however, have taken the advice of their banks and have purchased sufficient certificates of indebtedness to meet their tax demands. Nevertheless, it is generally acknowledged that there are still a number of concerns which have not been able to avail themselves of this convenience and must therefore fail back on their banks for assistance.

As for as the banks are concerned, the difference between financing These faxes and the Liberty Bond purchases is this: The subscriber for the bonds puts up his bonds as collateral for the loan with his note and his note can be rediscounted at the Federal Reserve Bank, whereas man who borrows from the bank to pay his taxes merely gives his prosory note, which is not eligible for rediscount. Few bankers see any serious difficulty in the situation and feel cer-It will work out all right, but the necessary legislation to enable payment of Federal income and excess-profits taxes by installments wo greatly relieve the situation.

The United Gas

Improvement Company

36th Annual Report

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1917.

To the Stockholders of THE UNITED GAS IMPROVEMENT

electricity by the properties in which you are interested show, in com-

City of Philadelphia 9.11 per cent. increase.

Manufactured gas 11.40 per cent. increase.

Natural gas 26.93 per cent. decrease.

realized in cash during 1917 from the sale of a minority interest, pur-

chased several years ago, in certain oil producing and refining companies

whose business has changed from a domestic into an export trade and

which are no longer of assistance to your company in securing a supply

of gas oil. The balance of the profit from this transaction was repre-

sented by notes maturing and paid in 1918 and has been credited to this

year's account, thus insuring the continuation during 1918 of the regular

8 per cent. dividend, which will not be fully earned from regular sources,

owing to the great increase in operating cost due to war conditions and

owing to the fact that our share of the income from gas sales in Phila-

delphis was reduced on January 1, 1918, to 75 cents per thousand cubic

EARNINGS

\$7,153,461.08

508.638.30

431,025.22

14,154.91

1,600.00

47,718.46

\$35,845.82

29,469.01

1,500.00

16,272.45

2,020.00

3,831.33

477.85

13,865.13

50,000.00

15,000.00

685,000.00

Total Earnings \$8,163,444.

EXPENSES.

6,846,80

The net profits for the year, as shown in detail in the Statement

Of this amount \$507,938.30 is that portion of the profit which was

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 1917, the sales of gas and

COMPANY :

which follows, were \$5,915,505.27.

Properties outside of Philadelphia:-

feet, in accordance with the terms of the lease.

From Leased Works and from Investments in Stocks and Bonds

Sale of Securities

Engineering and Supervision

Interest

Sale of Storeroom Material

Rental of Broad and Tasker Streets

Rental of Offices in Building, Broad

Office

and Arch Streets, to Companies

in which this Company is a

shareholder

Streets, over Receipts

parison with 1916:-

DOIL BOOMED IN LATIN AMERICA Nanut Industry, Particu-anut Industry, Particu-

Statement of Assets and Liabilities, December 31, 1917

			AS	SETS.	
Plantal.	Walshaub	and it	athen	Dunman	

Gas, Electric, Welsbach and other Proper-		
ties at cost	\$78,922,480.27	
Uncompleted Construction Contracts	279,069.39	
Real Estate, Philadelphia and elsewhere	1,048,584.10	
Cash	4,330,466.46	
Accounts and Bills Receivable		
Coupons and Guaranteed Dividends (ac-		
crued but not yet due)	566,840.02	
Storeroom Material	262,404.82	
Sinking Fund Securities	6,942,000.00	
-		

LIABILITIES. Capital Stock Taxes (accrued but not due). Sundry Accounts Undivided Profits December 31, 1916	\$61,029,800.00 535,000.00 606.693.81
Less Extra Dividend paid in Year 1917 1,110,059.00	
\$34,805,185.73 Undivided Profits of Year 1917 1,832,750.02	

Undivided Profits, December 31st, 1917, invested as above...... 55,637,935.75

Messrs. Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, Certified Public Accountants, have audited these statements, and report as follows:

> "LYBRAND, ROSS BROS. & MONTGOMERY, Certified Public Accountants. Morris Building.

> > PHILADELPHIA, 6th April, 1918.

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.

We have examined the Assets and Liabilities of The United Gas Im-Profit and Loss Account for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1917 provement Company as of 31st December, 1917, and the Income and Operating Accounts for the year ended that date and found them correctly stated on the books of the Company. We certify that the foregoing statements of Assets and Liabilities as of 31st December, 1917, and Profit and Loss Account for the year 1917 are in accordance with the books.

LYBRAND, ROSS BROS. & MONTGOMERY, Certified Public Accountants."

In addition to this, as has been our custom heretofore, a Committee of the Board of Directors, not executive officers, have examined and verified the company's securities, and report as follows:

	"MARCH 6, 1918.	i.
	Mr. Samuel T. Bodine, President, The United Gas Improvement Company,	
77	Broad and Arch Streets, Philadelphia.	
2	DEAR SIR:	

Pursuant to resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on February 13, 1918, we have counted all the stocks and bonds owned by The United Gas Improvement Company and found the same to agree with the amounts stated in the books of the Company.

We have attested in writing detailed list of said stocks and bonds and have filed the same with the Treasurer.

Very truly yours

pliances.

SILENCE MRS. SKEFFINGTON

ribed by the author, Commercial Agent R. A. Lundquist, who, however, devotes most of his space to detailed descrip-tions of the markets for particular lines

American electrical goods, siways well liked in Australia, have been in erating equipment, electric raliway equipment, lamps and domestic ap-

not proceed. KHARAS IS GIVEN PARDON

Harrisburg, April 25. — Governo Brumhaugh has pradoned Theodor Kharas, of this city, a bank promotes who was sentenced to eight months i jail last year on charges preferred is Mrs. Kharas, No. 1, following his secon marriage in Maryland. The Board of Pardous recommended

The Board of Pardons recommended Sacramento, Cal., April 25.—The au-thorities prevented Mrs. H. Sheshy-Sheffington, widow of one of the leaders of the Irish rebellion, from making a Sinn Fein addreas. The meeting was

The new power development, partly from steam but mainly from the water of the Housatonic River, is well under way and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible, together with the construction of the necessary transmission lines to carry the current to Waterbury, New Britain and intermediate territory.

Another of your companies called upon for large expenditures for Capital account is the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Company, which furnishes gas and electric current in the cities and towns of-

East Chicago,	Plymouth,	Logausport,	10
Hammond,	Fort Wayne,	Wabash,	
Michigan City,	Lafayette,	Frankfort,	
South Bend,	Bluffton,	Lebanon.	•)
Mishawaka,	Decatur,	Crawfordsville.	1.5
Whiting,		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

This is one of the most important industrial districts in the United States, and most of its important concerns have added to their regulas and ordinary business the demands of the Government for war material.

The past winter taxed to the utmost the strength and ability of your organization. Unusual demands for coal for war purposes, coupled with transportation difficulties due to these new demands and to an unusually severe winter, resulted in a scarcity of coal for domestic use and a phenomenal demand upon gas companies.

Take as an example our experience in the City of Philadelphia, which is typical of the experience in all northern and western cities:

In December, 1917, so soon as cold weather set in, the demand for gas increased rapidly. On December 10th, 11th and 12th the average daily send out was 54,285,000 cubic feet. Thereafter it decreased somewhat until the zero weather of the last few days of December, when the demand jumped to an average of 58,000,000 cubic feet per day,-the consumption tion on December 29th amounting to 59,764,000 cubic feet, as compared with 47,490,000 cubic feet on the maximum day of the previous year.

This entirely unprecedented and unexpected demand, due to the inability of the citizens to secure a supply of domestic fuel at exactly the period when the days are shortest and the nights longest, combined with a period of unusually cold weather, rapidly reduced the stock of oil which we had accumulated for the winter's use. This oil is carried in bulk by steamers from the Gulf of Mexico, delivered into tanks located on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, and thence by barges to the Gas Works at Passyunk Avenue and Schuylkill River, and Tioga Street and Delaware River.

We were unable to replace our depleted stocks because the Government seized for its own use a number of the steamers belonging to our contracting company, which was, therefore, unable to deliver to us the amount of oil which we ordered.

In addition to what we were able to secure under our contract, we purchased all the additional oil that it was possible to get into our Works by pipe lines, and paid for it much more than normal prices.

That we were able to supply gas through the winter of a candle power and heating value in excess of that furnished in any other city in the State of Pennsylvania was due to the large surplus capacity of the Gas Works over ordinary demands, ample size of mains, the vigilance and energy of our employees in the Manufacturing and Distribution departments, the co-operation of the City authorities in keeping open with ice boats the channel of the river and to the earnest and intelligent efforts of our Purchasing Department, with the co-operation of the authorities in Washington and the Philadelphia Fuel Administrator, to secure a supply of coal and oil, and to prevent the diversion of those materials to the use of others whose needs were of less importance to the public than ours.

During the Red Cross campaign of 1917 many of the financial and other corporate institutions of the country declared special dividends earmarked as "Red Cross Dividends," and in sending out checks suggested. that they be endorsed over to that fund. The work of the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association will be most potent in winning the war and protecting the property interests of this country. Therefore, your Board of Directors, who in common with other shareholders contributed to the extent of their ability individually, felt that it was a wise business measure for the protection of your property for the Company also to make direct contributions to this work, and authorized subscriptions of \$50,000 to the Red Cross and \$15,000 to the Young Men's Christian Association 1917 War Funds.

U. G. I. Reflects Changed Conditions

"The talk about the listing of the U. G. I. stock on the Exchange mid a well-known banker today, "brings back to my memory the old da when any one, whether stockholder, rank outsider or banker, who tried 10 get any information about the U. G. I. was politely informed that it was none of his or any other person's business. In those days there were no annual statments, and the U. G. I. was not alone by any means in taking this position. The first break toward frank publicity in the conduct of the affairs of what are now acknowledged to be semipublic concerns came with the formation of the United States Steel Corporation At the end of their first year of operation they put their cards on the table and said, 'we have so much of unfilled orders, we have so much cash on hand, etc., and took stockholders and the public into their confidence. Before they did this we had no reports of industrials, the only companies about which any information could be obtained was the railroads.

"I don't believe," he continued, "that the public appreciates the stupendous change which in recent years has come over the managements of these corporations in this particular respect, and I believe we are due for still greater publicity."

Vauclain's View of Banks

The criticism leveled at Philadelphia banks and bankers by Samuel M. Vauclain was brought to the attention of some prominent bankers Yesterday, who said that the statement was not broad enough to admit of a specific repty, and some hinted that if Mr. Vauciain would give an instance of just what he meant they would be in a better position to reply to him.

One well-known investment banker and broker who read Mr. Vauciain's Temarks said he was perfectly right in saying that if Philadelphia bankthe don't soon adopt the broad liberal method of financing big enterprises, or even small ones which may grow big in a brief time, they will find themselves simply handling the payrolls instead of carrying the big accounts.

He gave an instance of one corporation which came to his notice a few days ago which wanted to extend its plant and wished to borrow \$200,000. The concern, he said, was manufacturing munitions and other materials for the Government and had large coveracts on hand. One bank after another in this city refused financial aid on the ground that they did not think plant-extension work was the proper thing to be financed by a bank; that if the money was to buy material it might be considered. etc. The result is, he said, that the concern is driven to try to find some New York financial institution to assist it.

This broker called attention to the big concerns like Midvale Steel. Hog Island and the dozen or so shipyards recently constructed on the Delaware, besides many more enterprises which, if given the proper financial assistance by Philadelphia bankers, will not be compelled to resort to New York financiers who, if they give the needed help, will, of ogurae, insist on the bank accounts of these concerns being kept in New York, while the petty cash and the payrolls will be the part of the local banks. He instanced the situation in Pittsburgh, where, before the formation of the United Steer Corporation, the Carhegie concerns kept their principal accounts in the Pittsburgh banks, but after the formation of the corporation the principal accounts were transferred to New York banks that assisted in financing the company and the Pittsburgh banks simply carried the petty cash and payrolls, as they are doing today.

The feature of the bond market during the last couple of days has been the htrength and activity in foreign Government bonds, particularly the city of Paris 6s, which have advanced about 2 points over last week's toms. City of Lyons and city of Marseilles ds also were strong and scally highes. Analo-French is were firm, although the furnover crement une not as large as that is the Wranch lauses

note :	Construction Department Storeroom	3,831.33
the	Litigation, Retainers, Lawyers' Fees, etc	19,940.78
mis-	Operating Telephone Service	6,157.42
	Dues to Trade Organizations	2,112.00
tain	Advertising in Trade Journals	960.13
the	Special Advertising (Annual Report, etc.)	6,230.15
oniq	Office Furniture	7,790.55
	Cost of Operating Building, Broad and	
	Arch Streets, including Taxes.	83,846.40
ige."	Salaries and Traveling Expenses	555,942.53
laya.	Office Supplies	17,818.81
1 m g 1 m g	Coursel Postantin	10 000 00

Department of Tests

Expense of Restaurant, Broad and Arch

Rental of Safe Deposit Boxes.....

Registration of Stock

General Expenses 43,939.76 Taxes, State and Federal 536,178.99 Insurance, Taxes and Maintenance of Broad and Tasker Streets Office Construction Contracts 66,801.29 Replacement of Elevators, Building, Broad and Arch Streets 48,939,60

ment in Philadelphia Gas Works

Bonus Tax, Increase Capital Stock Contribution to American Red Cross War Fund

Contribution to Y. M. C. A. War Fund Contribution for Year 1917 to Sinking Fund created in 1908 to retire Invest-

Total Expenses

Net Profits for Year 1917.....

Dividends paid in 1917:

Laboratory

January 15th April 14th	\$1,110,059.00 1,110,059.00 1,217,719.00
October 15th	1,218,222.00
	\$4,656,059.00
Less Interest Adjustment on Capital Stock Subscriptions	73,303.75
	\$4,582,755.25
Balance to Undivided Profit Account	1,332,750.02

In comparison with the previous year this may be

summarized as follows:

4	1916.	1917.	1.1	
l. e r.	From Regular Sources \$8,817,981.18 From Special Sources:	\$7,654,806.47	\$1,163,174.71 I	
0	Profit from Sale of Securities 622,576.50	508,688,30	113,938.20 1	- 1 C
4	Total Earnings \$9,440,557.68	\$8,163,444.77	\$1,277,112.91 1	Decrease
r	Expenses, Taxes and Sinking Fund 2,171,226.26	2,247,939.50	76,713.24 1	ncrease
111		AT ALL PAR ON		

				\$1,358,826.15 Decrease
Dividends	**********	4,440,236.00	4,582,765.25	142,519.25 Increase
			-	the second se

To Undivided Profit

Profits of prior years, from Sale of Securitiance

WILLIAM WOOD, MORRIS L. CLOTHIER. EFFINGHAM B. MORRIS, THOMAS J. DOLAN."

It has been our custom for many years to advance to the various companies in which we are shareholders a considerable portion of the funds which they require for the extension of their plants, being repaid from the proceeds of their securities issued for Capital account, and, in the case of the Philadelphia Gas Works, through the operation of various sinking funds which will return our investment at the termination of the lease.

The first estimate of such requirements for 1918 was radically cut by limiting extensions to those necessary to meet the requirements of customers engaged in Government work and of the franchises of the various companies,-by the decision not to provide reserve apparatus against possible break-down of the largest units of the various plants at the time of drawing on one company's surplus stock for another company's needs .and by cutting out all canvassing for new business and reducing the New Business Department force to the smallest possible nucleus upon which to base reorganization, with the final result that there is required for the Philadelphia Gas Works and for the various companies in the State of Pennsylvania in which we are shareholders \$2,400,000, which will be provided by The United Gas Improvement Company from its current resources, and for the companies outside of the State of Pennsyl-2.247,939.50 vania \$7,500,000, to be provided as outlined later in this report.

Simultaneously with the completion, after three months careful study, \$5,915,505.27 of these estimates, the National Government took the position that during the period of the war there must be no issues of securities by State, Mu-Capital Issues Committee of the Federal Reserve Board.

Your Company was one of the first applicants under this ruling and, refused. after two presentations of our case by your President to the Main Committee in Washington and one hearing by the Philadelphia Advisory Committee, permission was granted us to borrow \$7,500,000 for one year. year's loan for like amount.

\$7,500,000 of one (1) year 6 per cent. unsecured notes, dated February 1, 1918, with a refunding option to the Company, were sold to Drexel Improvement Company on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange." & Company.

The cost of securing this capital will be a charge against the com-\$5,915,605.27 panies for whose benefit it was borrowed, and will not directly affect the earnings of The United Gas Improvement Company.

> pany, in which your company became largely interested early in 1917. light and power in the Naugatuck and Housatonic valleys, of Connecticut, of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. in a series of essentially manufacturing communities, among which are:

Waterbury.	Newington,	East Portchester,
Naugatuck,	Southington,	Stanwich,
Waterville,	Norwalk,	Cos Cob.
Watertown,	East Norwalk,	Riverside.
Oakville,	New Cansan,	Sound Beach.
Cheshire,	Wilton,	Branford,
New Britain,	Georgetown,	New Milford.
Plainville,	Rowayton,	Seymour,
Berlin,	Greenwich,	Beacon Falls.
		 A state of the sta

Even in peace times this is one of the most important manufacturing districts in the United States; at present a large number of its manufacturing plants are engaged in the production of war materials and most of them depend upon this company for power. Their demands have an Extra Dividend of \$1,110,009.00 was paid April 14, 1917, out of increased, and are increasing, so rapidly that the Connecticut Company is not able to meet them with its misting steam and water p ver plants. DIFFICULTY IN SECURING ENVELO

To the First Liberty Loan your Company subscribed \$600,000 and way allotted \$325,000.

To the Second Liberty Loan your Company subscribed \$500,000 and was allotted \$300,000.

Of these two issues \$120,250 were sold to employees on the instalment plan, and \$225,000 of the 316% bonds were sold to the public at par and accrued interest. We still have in the Company's treasury \$279,750 of the 4% bonds, and have subscribed to \$250,000 of the 4%% bonds of the Third Issue.

War conditions involve special hardship for Public Utility Companies. peak load; by treating storeroom stocks of all companies as though one, because they cannot, as in the case of private business concerns, recover greatly increased operating costs by automatically and promptly increasing selling prices.

> This has been recognized by our National Executives and you are urged to read carefully the enclosure sent to each shareholder with this, report, viz:

(1) Letter from the President to the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the President. (3) Excerpt from the Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

A number of the companies in which The United Gas Improvement Company is a shareholder have applied to the Public Service Commissions" nicipal and private corporations without the approval of the newly created of the States in which they operate for permission to increase rates; some of these petitions have been granted, others are pending, none has been

> In the Annual Report of last year two new policies were announced by your management:

(1) "To distribute by way of extra dividends a larger proportion of with the right to refund the same, if necessary or expedient, in a second the earnings than heretofore, when annual earnings and general business conditions permit."

(2) "To take the steps necessary to list the stock of The United Gas-

Any increased dividend under existing conditions would in the unanimous opinion of your Board of Directors be most unwise.

Your officers have been so engrossed in meeting the many daily problems of operating under new and burdensome conditions as to delay Sixty (60) per cent. of the proceeds of these notes will be used in the preparation of the statements required in connection with an applithe development of the plants of the Connecticut Light and Power Com- cation for listing your stock. I am glad to report, however, that on April 18th, 1918, the Stock List Committee, under authority from the Governing The Connecticut Light and Power Company supplies electricity for Committee, admitted the Capital Stock of this Company to the regular line

> With great regret I record the death, on March 13, 1918, of Janua Ball, Assistant Treasurer of The United Gas Improvement Compo During thirty-three and one-half years spent in your company's service. was faithful to every trust committed to his care.

All employees of The United Gas Improvement Company and of Ucompanies in which The United Gas Improvement Company is a sha holder have worked with more than their usual energy and fidelity the strenuous conditions of the past year. This applies both to sale and to day-paid employees. There is complete harmony, co-operation sympathy between labor and capital in the case of The United Gas provement Company.

> By order of the Board of Director SAMUEL T. BODINE. Presi

-MAILING OF COPIES OF T