

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

TRADING CONTINUES VIGOROUS ON THE NEW YORK EXCHANGE, BUT PRICES MOVE IRREGULARLY

Some Issues Sell at New High Records for Many Years, While Others Decline—Reading Is Feature of Rails and Makes Big Gain

High Points in Today's Financial News There was vigorous trading on the New York Stock Exchange, but price movements were irregular. Reading scored big advance. The carb market showed a reactionary tendency. Grain moved up after being lower. Cotton was higher. Foreign exchange was steady, with business moderate. A Red Cross dividend was declared by the Hercules Powder Company. Bar silver was unchanged in New York and London. The Agricultural Department estimated the wheat crop much above that of last year.

New York, May 8. There was a good deal of vigor to the trading on the New York Stock Exchange again today, but price movements were irregular, some issues selling at new high levels for many years, while others were in liberal supply, with the demand in evidence at the opening quickly filled and a reactionary tendency was shown in the list generally.

Dealings in United States Steel were again on a large scale, with that stock selling at the new high for the year of 1917, but dropping in the early afternoon to 1923.

Reading attracted most attention in the railroad list, moving up 3 1/2 points to 86 1/2, but dropped to 85 1/2 on sales of about 1000 shares soon after noon. However, a buying wave just before the close put it up to 87 for a gain of 3 3/4 points.

The steel industrials generally moved in the same manner as United States Steel, Bethlehem Steel "B" advancing to 55 and then reacting to 53 1/2.

Distillers sold at 54 1/2 early in the day, the highest price touched since 1907, but more than lost its gain on a reaction in the last half of the day. Industrial Alcohol moved up 4 points to 130 during the forenoon, and General Motors made an advance of 4 1/2 to 121 1/2, with a reaction to 119.

There was a disposition to let the reaction proceed unchecked by the important market interests, who regarded the profit-taking sales in the leading issues as a natural sequence to yesterday's advance.

The buying of the railroad list was generally based on statements that an agreement had been reached between the railroads and the Administration of the contract for Government operations.

There was brisk trading in the bond market, with a strong tone shown in many of the railroad issues. Transactions in Liberty Bonds were again on a large scale, with the second issue ranging from 95.90 to 95.84. The 3 1/2s were traded in at 98.94 to 98.90.

The market on the Curb showed the same reactionary tendency generally that was displayed on the stock exchanges, with some of the more active issues declining about 1 point from the opening range.

Curtiss, which opened at 33 1/2, sold down to 34 1/2, and Wright-Martin declined from 10 1/2 to 9 1/4. Actna Explosives was strong at the start, selling at 12 1/2, followed by a decline to 11 1/2, but was in demand at that reaction and rallied again to above 12.

Submarine moved up from 16 1/2 to 17 1/2, a new high record for this movement. There was continued absorption of United States Steamship, which was traded in at 6 1/2 to 6 1/4.

United Motors dropped from 24 1/2 to 23 1/2. North American Pulp sold at 3 1/2 to 3 1/4 and New York Transportation was traded in at 4 1/2.

Independent oil stocks generally were firm, with Midwest Refining advancing to 108. Merritt sold at 19 1/2 to 19 1/4, and Oklahoma Producing at 6 1/2 to 6 1/4.

Mining stocks were steady. Mason Valley sold at 4 1/2 and Nipissing at 8 1/2.

Active Curb Issues Decline in Reactionary Market Actna Explosives Strong at Start, but Later Drops—Submarine Boat Up to New High on This Movement. United Motors Lower

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New York Stock Sales

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Net. Lists various stock sales including Alaska Gold, Am. Beet Sugar, Am. Car & F.W., etc.

New York Bond Sales

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Net. Lists various bond sales including 23500 Am. French 5s, 10000 Am. S. Sec. 5s, etc.

Sales in Philadelphia

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Net. Lists various sales including Am. Gas, B. & O. S. S. F., etc.

ACTIVE CURB ISSUES DECLINE IN REACTIONARY MARKET

Actna Explosives Strong at Start, but Later Drops—Submarine Boat Up to New High on This Movement. United Motors Lower

IRREGULARITY RULES THE COTTON MARKET

Close Is Steady, With Final Prices Showing Net Advances

Irregularity again characterized the trading in cotton today with final prices showing a net advance.

LOCAL MINING STOCKS

Table listing local mining stocks: Jim Butler, New York, etc.

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LAKE SUPERIOR CORPORATION

IS LEADER OF HOME SHARES IN TRADING ON LOCAL 'CHANGE'

That Issue Scores Fractional Advance, but Declines Just Before the Close—Reading Active and Much Higher

Trading continued fairly active on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange today, with Lake Superior Corporation shares attracting virtually all the interest given home shares, and business in the arbitrage issues was made up largely by United States Steel common, Reading Railway and Midvale, all of which were much more active than usual, and each of them, excepting Steel, scored a substantial gain.

Superior was the local leader from the start of trading, and although it was off a trifle at 16 at one time during the session, the majority of sales were at higher prices, and by mid-afternoon more than 2300 shares had changed hands and a gain of 1/4 had been recorded to 16 1/4. Near the close it sold off to 15 1/2 on a few sales.

Reading reflected the advance in New York for many of the rails on expectations of an announcement of increased rates from Washington by advancing nearly 4 points to above 87, Midvale moved up more than 1 point to 48 1/2 and Steel, which was the leader in activity, was lower after advancing to a new high price for this year, but recovered part of its loss before the close.

William Cramp trust certificates, which showed unusual weakness in yesterday's trading, came back on a few transactions today, advancing 2 1/2 to 78, and Baldwin Locomotive was up 1 1/2 points. One of the soft spots was Railway Company General, which declined 2 points to 2 on the first sales since last January.

Outside of Reading the railroad issues were quiet here, and Pennsylvania sagged a little. Other issues were quiet also and price changes were small. Liberty Loan 4s were a trifle higher and other issues were dull.

Payments on New Loan Tomorrow

Interest in local banking circles now centers on the payments due on the Liberty Loan tomorrow. The financial institutions which have been receiving subscriptions will pay the first installment of 5 per cent to the Federal Reserve Bank tomorrow, and subscribers also have the opportunity to make payment in full. It is expected that many individual investors will make full payment, as interest on the bonds begins tomorrow.

Indications are that subscriptions in the Philadelphia Reserve District will approximate \$25,000,000. To Monday the Federal Reserve Bank had delivered to cash subscribers \$54,324,000 in bonds, and this figure will probably be swelled to \$60,000,000 by tomorrow, leaving \$25,000,000 on which the 5 per cent will be due. This will amount to \$12,500,000. Payments in full will increase the amount of payments, and although no figures are available at this time, some bankers look for substantial payments.

There matures tomorrow an issue of \$500,000,000 treasury certificates issued in anticipation of the Liberty Loan. Institutions in this district purchased \$30,000,000 of this issue, and the certificates were more widely distributed than any of the six issues sold, 871 institutions having subscribed. To the extent that treasury certificates are used in making loan payments, the Government's obligations are merely cancelled.

BUMPER GRAIN CROPS PREDICTED FOR YEAR

Condition of Winter Wheat Forecasts Yield of More Than Half Billion Bushels

Washington, May 8.—The condition of the winter wheat crop on May 1 was 86.4 per cent of normal, against 78.5 on April 7, 73.2 on May 1, 1917, and 83.7 the ten-year average on May 1, the Agriculture Department reported today. This condition forecasts a total yield of 572,539,000 bushels, against 418,076,000 for 1917.

Winter wheat average on May 1 was 26,292,000 acres, against 27,430,000 acres harvested last year, and was 13.7 per cent less than the average sown last fall, due to abandonment. The estimated yield per acre is 12.7 bushels.

The condition of the rye crop on May 1 was 85.8 of normal, against 85.8 April 1, 88.8 May 1, 1917, and 90.2, the ten-year average. This condition forecasts a production of about 82,629,000 bushels, against 60,145,000 in 1917.

The condition of hay was 89.6 per cent of normal, against 88.7 on May 1, 1917, and 88.5, the ten-year average, forecasting a yield of 107,550,000 tons, against 94,920,000 tons in 1917 (estimated). Stocks of hay on hand on farms May 1 were estimated at 1,096,000 tons, 11.7 per cent of the crop, against 12,659,000 tons on May 1 last year. The condition of pastures on May 1 was 83.1 per cent, against 81.9 on May 1, 1917, and 85.5, the ten-year average.

U. S. STEAMSHIP CO.

The continued heavy demand for the shares of the above-named Company around \$6.50 per share has resulted in this stock becoming the outstanding feature of the New York Curb.

Conducting a remarkably profitable coastwise steamship business, from which handsome dividends are being paid, the Company is now rapidly taking rank with the greatest shipbuilding concerns in this country. It is estimated that orders for construction work already on hand total \$50,000,000.

We have advocated the purchase of this stock for the past year, and if you will get our free Report on the Company, you will appreciate why the shares are fulfilling our predictions.

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COFFEE MARKET

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