

GOSSIP OF THE STREET

BEAT INCOME TAX BY BOND SELLING

Deluge of Security Sales for Registering Losses for Last Year

Any one who had been observing the trend of the security market for several days past was not at all surprised at the deluge of selling which occurred early in the week, when on one day a record of close to \$45,000,000 of bonds were sold on the New York Stock Exchange.

As the wave of liquidation continued, especially during the early part of the season on Tuesday, a new reason was found for the deluge of selling.

Several brokers expressed the opinion that many of those selling were also trying to buy back again as soon as their losses had been registered and that this movement had created the advance in prices.

Will likely bring closer relations between employer and employees in 1919. When the Standard Oil and other large corporations that have always been successfully managed establish plans for co-operation and mutual benefit of company and men; when such an association of business men as represent the Chamber of Commerce of the United States devote a

When the news came over the ticker on Tuesday of the sale of a seat on the New York Stock Exchange for \$70,000— an advance of \$2000 over the last preceding sale—well-known broker here said it was the best evidence of an improved sentiment he had seen for several months.

He said he believed the fund which has been made by the Government to stabilize the market for the bonds was being used to an extent, but that, he said, would not altogether account for the increase in prices in the face of the large number of transactions, many of which were for large amounts.

The principal of a large investment house which deals extensively in high-grade rails and equipments, called attention to a comparison between the closing prices in such stocks as Northern Pacific, New York Central, Reading and Union Pacific in 1918 as compared with the closing quotations for 1917 and remarked that it was a most gratifying

Very hopeful for much better conditions during 1919.

Charles H. Howell will be admitted to membership in the firm of H. H. Morris & Co. today.

William B. Potts will be admitted to membership in the firm of William C. Hesse, Jr. & Co. today.

Harold M. Peterson withdrew from the firm of Brown & Peterson on December 31. The business of the firm will continue under the same name.

As previously announced the firm of Charles D. Barney & Co. dissolved on December 31. The new firm of Charles D. Barney & Co. consists of Henry E. Butler, John P. Grier, Philemon Dickerson and Edward H. Lewis with J. H. Hesse and Henry Sanderson as special partners.

J. Alton Bates, of Cassatt & Co., whose pleasing address and very extensive clientele are the envy of many bond experts, has just been promoted to the position of sales manager for Cassatt & Co. for the Philadelphia district.

All previous records of bond transactions on the New York Stock Exchange have been broken by the continued heavy selling of Liberty Loan bonds during the past few days.

The bonds sold down to the lowest quotations since the various issues were first placed with American investors in New York.

While there is some diversity of opinion as to the future course of the market for the Liberties, some of the most careful observers entertain the belief that with the turn of the New Year a change for the better will take place and a steadier tone will be maintained.

These bonds are highly attractive at the present level of quotations, but by reason of their unusually wide distribution.

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\$150,000,000 LOSS IN RAIL OPERATION

Figure Does Not Include Big Sums Loaned Carriers

SIX MONTHS TO RECOVER Loss Complete if Roads Are Released at Early Date

ARGENTINE CROP FORECAST

Wheat Shows a Reduction in 1919 of 889,460 Acres

Table with columns: Provinces, Wheat, Lined, Oats, Acres, Value. Rows include Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, etc.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The Government's loss in operating the railroads in 1918 is calculated by railroad administration officials at less than \$150,000,000.

Operating revenues for the entire year, officials calculate, probably amounted to \$440,000,000. The Government's net income from the railroads, as reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission, was \$605,000,000.

War taxes and expenses of maintaining financial and other corporate offices, including salaries of officers actually employed in physically operating the railroads, must be paid by the railroad companies out of the \$50,000,000 which the Government guarantees them.

All Records Broken For the railroads, 1918 was a year which broke all records of revenues and expenses. Although receipts were nearly 20 per cent greater, expenses were even more.

LOVETT QUILTS, URGES R. R. COMPETITION

Roads Should Compete in Service, but Not Rates, He Says

New York, Jan. 2.—Opposition to Government ownership of railroads, on the ground that competition in service and facilities, but not in rates, should be preserved, was voiced in a statement issued by Robert S. Lovett, when his resignation as director of the division of capital expenditures of the railroad administration became effective yesterday.

After asserting that "there is nothing so essential to the financial peace of the commercial and industrial welfare of this country as a definite governmental railroad policy," Mr. Lovett declared that the necessity for exclusive national control, as against State regulation, was now too obvious for discussion and that "the only debatable question is whether such control shall be through Government ownership or by exclusive Federal regulation of private ownership."

Eastern roads in the ten months reported \$1,828,000,000 revenues and \$1,851,000,000 expenses; western roads, \$1,549,000,000 revenues and \$1,630,000,000 expenses; and southern roads \$642,000,000 revenues, and \$492,000,000 expense.

30 U. S. Chasers Arrive at Malta Valetta, Island of Malta, Jan. 2.—Thirty American submarine chasers have arrived here from Corfu. They will leave here for home January 7 or 8.

GOLD AND SILVER OUTPUT

1918 Production of Precious Metals Lowest in Years

Washington, Jan. 2.—Gold production in the United States in 1918 fell to 3,213,000 fine ounces, worth \$68,492,000, the lowest in twenty years, and silver production dropped to 67,873,000 fine ounces, worth \$27,875,000 at the standard Government price of \$1 an ounce, the smallest record since 1871, according to the joint preliminary estimates of Director of the Mint Baker and the Geological Survey.

California led as a gold-producing State, the estimate showing \$38,359 ounces, valued at \$117,207,000, while Colorado ranked second with \$21,791 ounces, valued at \$87,853,000. Texas is credited with having produced five ounces valued at \$100. Montana, with 15,341 ounces, was the principal silver-producing State, while Utah gave 15,430 ounces, Idaho 10,188 ounces and Nevada 10,113 ounces.

THE PRUDENTIAL Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia

Member of the Federal Reserve System

The Company publishes the following Statement of its Assets and Liabilities at this date:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Assets: Real Estate, Mortgage Loans, Bonds, Cash, etc. Liabilities: Insurance Department, Capital and Surplus, etc.

INSURANCE BONDS

Table listing various insurance bonds with columns for Par Value and Present Market Value. Includes bonds from Chicago, St. Louis, and other cities.

BONDS AND STOCKS APART FROM INSURANCE

Table listing various government, state, county, and municipal bonds and stocks with columns for Par Value and Present Market Value.

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