GOSSIP OF THE STREET

FINANCIERS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROPHESY MARKETS' FUTURE

Many Things of Vital Importance Depend on Outcome of Steel Conference to Be Held Wednesday. Opinions of Bankers and Brokers

MINANCIERS as a rule find it difficult to express an opinion on the respects for the present week. Last week in many instances previous calculations were upset. So many matters of vital importance depend n the outcome of the conference of the steel manufacturers' committee, to be held in Washington on Wednesday, that even those usually considered as the best informed are chary of expressing any decided opinions as to the immediate outlook. They claim that European matters do not look any too promising for an early peace settlement, and that market

Bond houses, with a few exceptions, reported a falling off in business during last week. They do not expect a return to normal until after the Victory Liberty Loan is well out of the way.

The following is a synopsis of the opinions of some of the leading brokerage and banking houses on present conditions as they see them and the prospects for the immediate future:

Butcher, Sherrerd & Hansell-While the reconstruction from a way to a peace basis sometimes seems very slow, we are nevertheless making steady progress day by day. Many big issues are being settled in less with less disturbance than would have been possible before the It has in the past always paid in the long run to be a bull on the United States. We believe in this policy still.

Edward B. Smith & Co.-Increasing activity in the stock market is o marked that it encourages a belief that large improvement in business conditions is to be expected. With this in view, investment should be made in high-grade railroad stocks that are selling below panic prices and in public utility stocks, which will be directly benefited by lower costs

Thomas Newhall, a member of the firm of Edward B. Smith & Co.. commissioned a lieutenant commander in the United States naval reserve force, returned to his desk today. Mr. Newhall served for about a year in active service abroad and later was attached to the Fourth Naval District. During the last month or so he has been resting up with his

Frazier & Co.-It is a well-known fact that Wall street is ordinarily about six weeks ahead of the rest of the country in anticipating business conditions. Hence the "common citizen" is now wondering what the built market means-whether it is discounting a great turn in the tide in business or an artificial inflation to enable the large operators to unload. A survey of many lines of business shows many inquiries but few orders. Pig iron, one of the greatest barometers, is almost unsalable and steel mills are closing down all over the country. On the other hand, a 50 per cent increase in freight rates to England points to a new movement

We believe, therefore, that speculators and business men should practice a little caution until such time as they see inquiries turning into orders-then wade in and bet on the future of the United States.

MacMeekin & Williamson-In our opinion a long view of the stock market would call for decided optimism, but we think the substantial advance in the price of nearly all stocks (excepting the coppers and a few railroads) has for the time being met with some impediments.

Undoubtedly the public has participated to some extent in the recent rising market, but it is doubtful whether the prospect for firmer money rates during the coming spring, combined with the Liberty Loan campaign, may not impose certain difficulties in the way of any runaway bull market. On the other hand, should there be announcement of a constructive move for the relief of the railroads or the calling of Congress for this purpose in the next few weeks, it would give a decided stimulus.

Liberty Bonds, with their comparative exemption from taxation, are by far the most attractive bond investment, making an immediate advance in the general market for corporation bonds somewhat improbable. However, we think the prices of the latter will be maintained fairly stable in view of the attractive rates of return and high degree of security

Chandler Brothers & Co.-There never has been such an enormous expansion of credits, and therefore purchasing power, in the world before. There are, however, great readjustments in progress affecting labor, production, disposal of accumulated stocks, world-wide unrest, in many instances unrestrained, stabilization of nervous prices, the overhanging determinations as to the return of commandeered properties to their proper ownership, such as the railroads, telephones and telegraphs, the regulation of sane conditions concerning state and federal commissions, which instead of protecting the alleged abused public have really persecuted

The disposition to develop a constructive and helpful attitude is undoubtedly developing, but it is a large question and much work is ahead before substantial assistance may be rendered. These conditions naturally suggest the question as to whether present advances are to go forward to much greater heights at once or whether this is but one of the steps upward from which there will be occasional material recessions. The latter view seems to us the most reasonable, and we suggest that increased commitments on any further advance should be most carefully considered, and also that securing the generous profits already offered should be at least partially effected.

Henry L. Doherty & Co .- Reports from the producing oil fields of the United States show that consumption of oil is still far in excess of production and that the drain on stocks of crude oil in storage continues at

At the close of business on January 31, 1919, there were 72,737,377 barrels of crude oil in storage in the principal eastern and western fields. comparing with 77,401,245 barrels in storage at the end of November. 1918, and 74,530,477 barrels at the end of December, 1918. Stocks of oil in storage were reduced 1,796,070 barrels in January, 1919, and 2,867,767 barrels in December, 1918.

Another large drain on the stocks was made in January, the reduction for the month being 1,796,070 barrels. This was wholly of midcontinent stocks, as those held in eastern lines and by the Illinois Pine Line showed an increase. The reports from midcontinent showed a loss of 2,253,488 barrels for the month, while the stocks held in the eastern lines increased by 431,539 barrels and those of Illinois made a gain of 25,879 barrels. All the grades held in the eastern lines made fair increases. though none of them large. The greatest gain was in the crude received from the midcontinent, which was larger at the close of January than at the end of December by 293,650 barrels.

H. M. Byllesby & Co .- There is always a tendency among utility investors to become nervous when the fanfares of the public ownership doctrinairescare blown with vigor, and the talk about the railroads and telephone and telegraph systems is a present-day example. Whatever may be the outcome of the railroad and wire line controversies-and it will hardly be government ownership and operation-there are several movements taking place affecting electric and gas companies of profound

One of these is the rapidly widening distribution of utility investment securities among the people-not the citizens of wealth, but among the wage earners, the laboring men, the storekeepers, the farmers, professional men, executives and workers.

This has now been carried down to the man who works with tools and the widow coming into a little legacy, by the customer-ownership movement, whereby the utility companies build up a partnership interest among the people whom they serve. Beginning about 1915, this movement has made remarkable headway in various parts of the country. The government's war financing has helped the companies to get people of small means interested in their bonds and preferred stock. Investments in small lots of utility securities proceeded steadily in 1917 and 1918 along with the absorption of Liberty Bonds.

The National City Company-The extravagant demands which are seing made throughout industry at this most inopportune time are due for the most part to vague assurances which have been freely held out by writers and orators who, with little knowledge of business affairs themselves, have been moved by generous sentiments to promise that a heaven and new earth would be realized after the war. They don't know how industry is to be revolutionized so that the wage earner will receive a much larger share of the product, but they have been sure that it would be done somehow, because they say it "must be." But nothing ust be, or will be, unless somebody knows how to accomplish it. As a rule the parties who are so sure that things will be very different in the fature know very little about the problems of the business world, and have never had the responsibility of meeting a payroll, managing an industry or marketing the product of a group of workers. They don't know how hard a task it has always been to make a business pay a margin we the costs of operation and how few, comparatively, succeed in

eral years ago, confined to corporations, and reported that most of the corations doing business in this country were not making even a foir it. How are the employers of this class going to cradically increase and bear the cost out of their own profits.

Outside Stock Prices

(March 17, 1919)

The following table shows the last recorded sale price and dates of transactions of lank, trust company and various local stocks seldom, and, in some cases, never dealt in on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, (Quotations compiled by Barnes & Lofland):

Banks		3 100
		ate of
		t Sale
Amerikan Bank 541s	Mny	29, 11
Bank of Commerce. 125 Bank of North America 251%	Nov.	18. 1
Bank of North America 25114	Jan.	
Broad Street 60	Feb.	26, 11
Broad Street	Apri	22. 1
Central National 415	Nov.	
Central National 415 Corn Exchange Nat'l . 345	Mar.	6. 11
Eighth National 429	Dec-	24. 11 28. 1
Parmers & Mech Nat . 170	Aun	58 . 1
First National 215	Aug	21. '1
Fourth Street National 310	Feb.	4. 1
For Chare 121	Oct.	81. 1
Fox Chase 121 Franklin National 50212	Feb.	81.
Germantown 140%	Oct.	2, '11
Girard National 344	Nov.	20, '11
Kensington National 105	Oct.	2.1
Manayunk National 330	Dec.	18, '1
Market Street National 180 Middle City Bank 52%	Jan.	20, 11
Middle City Bank 52%	Oct.	2. 11
National Security 442		31. '11
Ninth National	Nov.	18. '1
North Penn 125	Mar.	D. 11
Northern Matternal 200	July	11. 11
Northwestern National 4014 Penn National 279 Philadelphia National 350	Dec.	20. 1
Penn National 279	Feb.	20.00
Philadelphia National, 350	Feb.	10 '11
Quaker City National 130	Jan.	22. 11
Second National 317 4	Nov.	14. 17
Sixth National 202	Nov.	8. 11
Southwark National 15554	Oct.	3. 17
Southwestern National 115	Apr.	19. '1
Tenth National 120	Jan.	8, 11
Textile National 115'4	July	81. 11
Third National	Rept.	12 :1
Tradesmens National., 250	Dec.	24. 11
Tradesmens National 250 Union National	Jan.	0 '11
West Philadelphia 45	Nov.	29. 1

	West Philadelphia 45	Nov.	29. 1
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Fire Insurance Grard Life Ins Philadelphia Life	10 Cemp	May Feb.	23. '17 26. '10	
Life Insurance Alliance Fire Association Franklin Independence Security.		Feb. Feb. Anr. Max	00 110 19 119 5 116 15 117	

Life Insurance Comp	nnles	
Alliance 10% Fire Association 312% Franklin 12% Ina Co of North Am. 28% Ins Co of State of Pa 34 Lumbernen's 100 Mechanics 75 Poonle's National 18 Reliance 12% United Firemen's 12	Feb. Anr. Max Mar. Dec. Sept. Nov. Feb. May Apr.	15. 15. 15. 17. 18. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19
Passenger Bailway S	tocks	
Camden & Suburban . 18 Citizens' (10th & 11th). 273 Continental Fmt Pk & Haddington . 45 Fifth & Sixth Streets . 284	Jan. Aug. Feb. Oct. Aug.	15. 26. 80.

Fifth & Sixth Streets, 284 Germant'n (4th & 8th), 90% Hestonville M & F. 32½ do nef 51½ Green & Coates Sts. 117½ Philadelphia & Darby, 30½ Philadelphia & Darby, 30½ Phila & Grays Ferry, 67½ Ridge Ave., 200½ Second & Third Sts. 213 Finiteerib & 15th Sts. 201% Union Passenger, 150 West Philadelphia, 168	Mar. July Mar. June Feb. Dec. Jan. Nov. Dec. Mar. Dec. Mar.	14. 19. 18.	16
Railroads			
Camden & Burling Co. 30 Catawhesa 1st pref. 40½ do 2d pref. 40 Chestnut Hill 63 Delaware 341½ Dela & Bound Brook 186 East Mahanov 504 Fast Pennsylvania 58 Elmira & Williams com 50 o pref. 704 Hunting & B. T. com 6 do pref. 10	Mar. Feb. Jan. Mar. June Aug. Jan. Oct. June July Feb.	20. 80. 18. 18.	1

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Miscellar	POUR				
Amer Pipe & Con. Bergner & Engel Brew d pref Brill. Co. Long Hoek & Eye. Enterprise Mfg Co. Keystone Watch Case. Merchants' Watchouse, uniford (H K) Co. Northern Liberties Gas. Penn Traffic.	70 30 70 70 70 70 87	Peh. Apr. Dec. Mar. Mar. Peh. Jan. Apr. Sept. Jan. Jan. May	19, 30, 17,	118	

LIVESTOCK QUOTATIONS

Chicago, March 17.—HOGS—Receipts, 42,000 head. Uneven but more active than early and averaging mostly steady with Saturday's general trade. Top, 519,55; bulk, 119,106(19.35; heavy, \$19,306(19.35; heavy), \$19,306(19.35; heavy), \$19,306(19.25; heavy) packing sows, \$18,25 (18.75; colves, and butcher, stock strong to 15c bigher. Others and feeders steady. Calves, 50c lower, Heavy beef steers, choice and prime, \$16,50 (29.55; medium and good, \$13,506(18.65; common, \$12 (18.75; butcher cattle, heifers, \$7,50 (18.50; colves, \$12,617.50; SHEEP—Receipts, 19,000 head. Steady, Best lambs held higher.

SHEEP—Receipts.

Gest lambs held higher.

Pittaburgh, March 17 (ATTLE—Receipts, 1700 head; steers very slow and 25c to 50c lower; cows, helfers and bulls mostly steady.

HOGS—Receipts, 7000 head; 25c to 50c lower and slow. Heavy heavy mixed, medium and heavy vorkers, \$10,506910.60; light yorkers, \$186918.25; pigs, \$17,50% 17.75; packers \$12618.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 1700 head; steady to strong. Heat sheep, \$15, head; steady to strong. Heat sheep, \$15. head: steady to strong. Heat sheep, \$15. Lambs. \$20@20.25. CALVES—Receipts, 1200 head: market lower at \$18. Everything closed steady.

ad: steady to ambs. \$20@20.25.
200 head: market lower at \$18. Every lossed steady.

Cincinnati, March 17.—HOGS Receipts, 200; alow. Packers and butchers, \$18@10; conmon to choice, \$12@17; pigs and lights, \$11@11.5; stage, \$10@11.00. Stores, \$15.50 for \$1.50. Calves what, \$17@17. SHEEP—Receipts none; \$15.00 claves what, \$17@17. SHEEP—Receipts none; \$17.00 for \$1.50. Calves what, \$1.50. Calves what, \$1.50. Calves what, \$1.50. Calves what, \$1.50.

East Buffele, March 17 - CATTLE-Recipts, 4500; steady; prime steers, \$17.50 ft; 18.50; a few \$19; shipping steers, \$18.50 ft; butchers, \$10.60 ft.50; vearings, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers, \$10.60 ft.50; vearings, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers, \$10.60 ft.50; vearings, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers, \$10.60 ft.7; vearings, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers, \$10.60 ft.7; vearings, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers, \$10.60 ft.7; butchers

Kansas City, Mo., March 17.—HOGS—Recipts, 15,900 head. Market higher, Heavy, 118,65 ft 18,98; butchers 118,40 ft 19; lights, 118,65 ft 18,98; butchers 118,40 ft 19; lights, 118,67 ft, 18,67 ft, 18 _

St. Louis. Ms., March 17.—HOGS—Receipts 18,500 head. Market lower Lights, 518,800 lb.40; pigs. \$15.00 ft.7.75; butchers. \$19.00 jb.40; pigs. \$15.00 ft.7.75; butchers. \$19.00 jb.60; heavy, \$19.00 jb.800 head. Market lower \$11.500 ib.800 head. Market lineady. Native steers \$11.500 ib.800 head. Market lineady. Native steers \$11.500 ib.800 head. Market lineady. Lamis, \$10.00 ib. 00 head. Market lineady. Lamis, \$10.00 jb.800 head. Market lineady. And the lineady lineady. Lamis, \$10.00 jb.800 head. Market lineady. And the lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady. Lamis, \$10.00 jb.800 head. Market lineady. And the lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady lineady lineady lineady lineady lineady. And the lineady lineady. And the lineady linea

CORN HITS NEW TOP

COUNTINATED TO PRICE FOR MANON

vited to funeral services. Thurs., 2 p. m., parents' residence. 3440 N. 3d st. Int. Oakland Cem. Remains may be viewed Wed., after 7 p. m.

KELLER. — March 15, MARY ELIZA-HETH wife of Martin V. B. Keller, ared 73, Relatives and friends invited to funeral services. Tues. 8 p. m. 4d4 N. Yewdell st. Services and int. Woodland Hill Cem. Lancaster. Fa. Wed., on arrival of train leaving Broad St. Station 11:30 a. m.

KIELY.—March 15, JOHN J. son of Cornelius and Rose Kiely. Relatives and friends invited to funeral, Tues. 8:30 a. m. 1 parents residence. 312 W. Seymour st. Solemn requiem mass Church of St. Prancis Assisi 10 a. m. Int. Holy Sepuichre Cem. Auto funeral.

KIERNAN.—At the Lenox Adaptments. March 18, MARMARST MARY, daughter of inte James P. and Ellen A. Kiernan Relatives and friends invited to funeral.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

No. 3 for the Country of Philadelphia.

September Term. 1918. No. 3303.

In the matter of the assumed catale of Jacob Schreiber & Son.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to sudit, settle and adjust the account of Bernard Howay. Assumes of Jacob Schreiber & Son, a corporation, and to make distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant. Will meet the purpose of the accountant. Will meet the purpose of the accountant of the accountant of the account of the purpose of 151 to 11 to 11