

GOSSIP OF THE STREET

LEGION ORGANIZES SERVICE BUREAU

Work of Finding Positions for Unemployed Veterans Now Under Way

MORE MEMBERS SOUGHT

Although the stock market at the close of the week showed a good deal of irregularity in price movements and leading stocks, outside of Reading, ended the week without any important expression of popular opinion continued bullish except from that element that has been persistently committed to the bear side and is understood to be heavily short of various groups of stocks, including many specialties. Some of this group are understood to have been the heaviest sellers of Reading all through Friday, and to have been responsible for the break of 4½ points in the price of that stock.

The operations in Reading were based wholly on the published statement in regard to the details of the plan now under consideration. Whether or not to carry on the order of the Supreme Court to dissolve the company. They had much to say about the various classes of stock being called on for the payment of \$10 a share before receiving equities in the assets of the company, and were extremely vigorous in expressions of opinion as to how far they will be able to make Reading come in.

A few days before these statements were published some of these interests predicted that Reading would be forced down to 76, but in the statements made on Friday the predictions were of even more levels being reached on this selling.

It is a matter of general understanding that the statements published about the points of the plan were virtually correct, but it is insisted by some of the leading members of the stock exchange that it should occasion no surprise if the plan now under consideration should be disapproved by the Supreme Court and suggestions made as to other steps which must be taken with perhaps direct instruction as to the course to be pursued.

In some circles it is insisted that when dissolution comes the Reading general mortgage is, the Jersey Central collateral is and the two classes of preferred stock will be paid off at par and that the assets of the Reading company will be distributed to the common stock.

There has been some borrowing of Reading in the stock loan market, but it has been easily obtained for delivery. It has been frequently noted, on previous occasions, that Reading is always kept easy in the stock loan market, and that rates of short stock are virtually instant.

Orderly Reduction in Selling Prices

Much is said about indications of business improvement in many industries and it is insisted by some of the industrial recession that was reflected in unemployment all over the country had been intensified by those who seemed to believe that oversupply has been so extensive that there would be no market for new production for a long time to come.

It is said by some of those making a study of industrial conditions that a matter of fact the surplus of finished product in many industrial lines does not really amount to more than a few per cent. The consumption, while production has been retarded for a far longer period and business, in many lines, interrupted to a period dating back to last summer. Those who believe in improvement attach much importance to the fact that wage reductions have been accepted generally as good will and that an orderly reduction in selling prices can be made without any further unsettlement of the business situation.

No Let-up in Bond Offerings

Within the next week, according to prominent bankers, official announcement will be made of the sale of \$25,000,000 of long-term Chilean Government bonds to a group of New York banking interests. It is stated that the sole bidder is American group, is simply waiting for confirmation of terms to the South American republic before making official announcement of the conclusion of the transaction. In the trade, the opinion is expressed that these bonds will go well with investors, as it is expected that they will be competitive with foreign issues as well as a substantial income return.

The \$40,000,000 of one, two, three and four year notes of the Copper Export Corporation authorized for the purpose of financing 400,000,000 pounds of copper, which is to be trusted and received from the United States, were well received by investment dealers. Little difficulty was experienced in placing them with investors. As a matter of fact, the demand for nearby maturing obligations has been better than that for longer maturities recently, with the result that most of the short-term paper has been taken out of the hands of dealers and lodged in permanent quarters.

Unless there is a let-up in offerings of new securities in the near future it is regarded as highly probable that the bond market will pass into a stage of dormancy, but it is evident that the large issues which have recently been put out have not been properly distributed, as is evidenced by the fact that, for them, almost immediately after the closing of the books and flotation of the bonds, have declined to below the subscription quotations.

It is also indicated that there is an oversupply of issues at this time and, while the public demand for securities is exceptionally large because of the peculiar circumstances obtaining, it is not sufficient to absorb the continued offering of securities with the result that most of the short-term paper has been taken out of the hands of dealers and lodged in permanent quarters.

Gold men fully realize this phase of the situation, but, as yet, have failed to take heed of the dangers inherent to overrunning the market or otherwise there would have been a cessation of new issues.

It is also well known that there have been considerably more than \$100,000,000 bonds or notes offered for public subscription, an amount which in ordinary times would be looked upon as tremendous.

The "cigar way" is said to have brought about a large increase in savings and investments in the financial markets of the two institutions. Depositors are largely in the majority in the list of recruits to the saving habit. Many who have no checking accounts and have been making a practice of carrying around in their pockets larger sums of money than they had any need of have been sharing and are depositing their savings cash where it is safe before some bank has a chance to take it from them.

Market Opinion

Hedger Co.—The market is so fully hedged that there is no telling what it may do at any time. It has had a number of temporary successes. The last market has resisted bad news, and there has been plenty of it since the formation of the January rally, is roughly in the same position. The market is thus confused by its present nature, there can be no doubt that fundamentals, which always govern in the long run, are steadily improving, and in direction more than as relating to the railroads.

THE TRADER

100 N. Y. Firms on Open-Shop Basis

New York, Feb. 14.—More than 100 New York City members of the building metal industries, announced in a joint statement made public yesterday that beginning tomorrow the industry would respond for work "without discrimination against union or nonunion men." The announcement stipulated a forty-eight-hour working week and no reduction in wages.

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