

GENERAL ASPHALT

We have discussed in detail this active stock issue, and have also analysed the Steel Situation in a special letter just issued.

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MEMORANDUM

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MARKET WAS VERY SPOTTY AND MIXED

Another Spectacular Rise in Studebaker Checked Early Reactionary Movement

New York, April 28.—The highly speculative character of the trading impeded the market's action in the stock market operations today. Studebaker came into the limelight again by reason of another spectacular advance of nearly 6 points, while on the reactionary side of the ledger Mexican Petroleum was the outstanding target of bear attacks, with a drop of 3 points. In the general list, waves of strength and weakness followed in quick succession, but as a whole the general list exhibited more definite resistance powers.

It was a market from the start to finish entirely dominated by the professionals and in which outside conditions cut a mighty small figure. This was due to the fact that the market paid to two highly speculative developments bearing upon the international and domestic monetary situation. One of these was the cable advice of the reduction of the Bank of England minimum discount rate from 7 to 6 1/2 per cent. This, of course, is true, but has been foreshadowed by easier movements in the money market, but in view of the still unsettled German reparations question the reduction was unexpected just at this time. The other development, indicating a good start toward normality in the domestic money situation was the easier rates for commercial paper. Both these events were believed to foreshadow an early reduction in the discount rate by the Federal Reserve Board.

The effects of the cut in Pennsylvania dividends and the disappointing steel earnings, as well as the unfavorable turn on the German reparation question apparently had not worn off. The reduction in the Pennsylvania dividends was the most important factor, due to the unsettling influence of the full recompensation of the conditions which made this step necessary on the part of the management. It was, therefore, doubly disquieting because it was felt the same conditions would necessitate similar reduction in dividend rates by some of the other larger systems.

With the exception of the repeated selling of the units at the opening session little surprise, but the pressure soon relaxed when it was found the lower level of prices was not followed up by fresh selling. Renewed cool activities in the oils and motors served to steady the market with gains of 1 to 2 1/2 points in Royal Dutch, Standard, American, Standard Oil, and Socony-Roskild.

A concerted drive against Mexican Petroleum, forcing that speculative oil out of town. Its points reflected the continued interest shown by overseas investors. It was quickly offset, however, by the sensational rise in Studebaker above 92, and this secondary recovery was given additional impetus by the quick comeback of the rail group, with gains of 1 to 1 1/2 points.

Moderate Selling of PENNSYLVANIA

Dividend Reduction Believed to Presage Cuts by Other Large Systems

The trading in the local market was generally quiet this morning, with prices unchanged from last night's closing level. Moderate selling pressure continued in Pennsylvania Railroad, causing the price to dip to 33 1/2. The offerings, however, were readily absorbed, indicating the dividend cut had not largely discounted by the recent general decline in that stock. This was confirmed by the subsequent rally to 34 1/4.

The sentimental effect of the dividend reduction, however, was distinctly chilling in that it was generally believed to presage similar reductions by some of the other large railway systems. On the other hand, it was pointed out in conservative circles that, although more dividend cuts were possible, the worst side of the transportation situation was now known. By reason of the drastic retrenchments already instituted and to be still further applied, the market moved more steadily, obtaining an upper hand in overcoming the high cost of operation. In the better informed circles the opinion is almost unanimously voiced that the dividend reductions are only temporary and with the accomplishment of the wage adjustments dividends will be restored.

A front from Pennsylvania, the trading was light. The Philadelphia Electric warrants for the new preferred stock were again offered freely. In view of the other local shares dealings were in small lots.

Philadelphia Stocks

1921 Am. Stars 36 1/2 36 1/2 Net
190 Am. Ship 36 1/2 36 1/2
25 Am. Gas 28 28 1/2
225 El Seg. 115 1/2 115 1/2
15 Leh. Ind. 66 66
224 Am. Gas 44 44
272 P. R. R. 33 1/2 33 1/2
203 Phila. Bldg. 21 21 1/2
204 Am. Gas 26 25 1/2
452 Am. Gas 26 25 1/2
60 Phila. Bldg. 17 1/2 17 1/2
301 Am. Trac. 30 1/2 30 1/2
212 G. I. Corp. 33 1/2 33 1/2
100 Liberty Bldg. 10 10
1000 Liberty 4th 4th 4th
2000 Bell Telephone 7 7
1000 Bell Telephone 10 10
1000 City 4th 34 1/2 34 1/2
1000 Penna. R. R. tempts 8 8
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4000 Phila. Elec. 1st 5s 5s
5000 United Railways Inc. 5s 5s

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