

GOSSIP OF THE STREET

What many are pleased to call a "cold water banquet," if it appears, was given a few nights ago at one of the prominent clubs by the head of a big business concern. According to the story, business associates of the concern while gathered around the festive board, one after another eulogized the firm for their remarkably successful business career, and in glowing terms, as every successful general manager would expect, the great esteem and affection business men and socially for the head of the enterprise. The host in response to their unstinted praise said he was highly flattered by the compliments and remarks, that it made him feel he had not labored in vain, neither had his business efforts been in vain. He told them he was proud of such cordial friendship and confidence and then in conclusion said:

"Gentlemen, I will now tell you the reason you are brought together here tonight and why this dinner was given. You are all business men, and the conditions over which we positively had no control; make it compulsory for us to come to you tonight and request you grant us three years' extension. He then proceeded to make a clean breast of the affairs of the company, concealing not the slightest detail. While the totally unexpected announcement of financial distress of the concern was like throwing a bucket of cold water over the assemblage, the frankness of the statements won the day, and before the little party broke up the majority of the largest creditors had signed papers making the requested extension a sealed document.

Street gossip has it that the alleged recently formed pool in P. R. T. is greatly disgruntled in the failure of the carefully worked out campaign to carry through. It is understood they ran against an unlooked-for snag a fortnight ago when the stock was raised above 10, in liberal offerings of the stock by brokers who were not acting directly or indirectly for certain banking interests. This source of supply was either overlooked or not taken into consideration. It is stated, amounting to an accumulation of approximately 40,000 shares of stock covering a long period between 14 and 16 a share. It was believed this had practically cleaned up the market in terms of stock, and it was figured the quotation could safely be carried to 25 without danger of releasing any considerable amount of stock. To make the situation more disconcerting, members of the pool have been unable to ascertain the identity of the sellers or the real source of the supply, as it was kept so secret. The workings of the banking interests were liquidated when the stock was selling at much higher figures. In all events, it has meant a purchase of the pool demonstrations, and in the meantime some of the tail-enders have been letting go, and the stock yesterday was over 2 points under the recent top.

Note Supply Running Short For some time past, there has been a disposition to purchase short-term securities, particularly on the part of institutions, insurance companies, etc., and at times there have not been enough of this class of issues to go around. Prices have advanced sharply and the manner in which the gains have been maintained has been the subject of favorable comment in the trade. There has been both an absence of pressure and a demand for notes which in its entirety has brought about considerable buoyancy in the trade. This has applied not only to certain issues or groups of notes but has been quite general throughout the entire list.

With the easier money rate ruling there naturally has developed a better demand for short-term paper than could have been expected or hoped for during the last year or so when both call and time funds held at unusually high interest rates. Recently there has been a more urgent demand for acceptance bills, with the result that the discount rate has risen from 10 per cent from around 6 per cent to 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. There have been rumblings in the air for several days past that the Federal Reserve discount rate will again be reduced within a week or so and this in turn will mean a further revision of rates for acceptance bills.

Traffic Movement Spotty Reports of officials of railroads operating east from Chicago and St. Louis indicate a spotty traffic situation. In the case of general merchandise, officials generally report traffic leaving off well compared with a year ago. On the other hand, tonnage of coal is much smaller, with the comparison still against the period of a year ago. The comparatively small tonnage of coal keeps down the gross tonnage of most roads below the level of the same period of 1920. Steel tonnage is comparing fairly well with last year and also shows some improvement the past few weeks, but is still far below normal, affecting the coal tonnage figures in the same way. There is no lack of equipment for any kind of traffic. Packing-house products are being shipped in about the normal volume, but may be held down by the strike situation. The closed navigation on the Lakes, there is some evidence of an increased export rail movement of corn.

Foreign Credits Walter Gabell, president of the Northern Central Trust Company, in the current issue of the "Northern Central Advocate," reports that institutions and devoted to the business interests of North Philadelphia, says: "Frozen Credits" and "Liquidity" are somewhat unusual terms in the mind of the layman. They are words however which mean much to the banker. The ability of a bank to liquidate its assets without loss or delay is of prime importance during the troublous years just passed, bankers have probably given more thought to what these words represent than to any other one factor entering into their business. When the weather is extremely cold and things are badly frozen, nature does not move very freely, but when spring comes and the earth softens, all life begins to move again. Apply the simile to banking and it becomes very impressive.

Foreigners Seek Crude Oil British, Dutch and French oil men have approached several of the larger independent oil producers recently seeking large quantities of crude oil. One company was asked to take orders to deliver 1,000,000 barrels of crude at an attractive price, but it is strictly a producing company without ocean transportation facilities. It could not avail itself of the business. This unusual situation is taken by the oil trade to mean that some foreign refiners are short of crude oil supply. Very little crude oil is exported from this country for use in foreign plants. American companies in the export oil business are largely oilmen who sell refined products abroad. Foreign refiners are usually supplied with crude from fields such as Mexico, Dutch East Indies, Persia, Russia, Rumania and India. Several of the larger European countries have had their Mexican production considerably reduced by the salt-water intrusion. Production in the Dutch East Indies is also being held down, due to virtual stoppage of new work on the Royal Dutch interests because of alleged excessive taxes.

NEW YORK CURB MARKET

Table listing various stocks and bonds with columns for 'Bid', 'Ask', and 'Last Sale' prices. Includes entries for American Express, United Fruit, and various municipal bonds.

Today's Range in Liberty Bonds Table with columns for 'High', 'Low', and 'Close' prices for various Liberty Bonds.

LOCAL MINING STOCKS Table listing prices for various mining stocks such as Tonopah, Nevada, and others.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED Table listing companies and their respective dividend amounts and dates.

Reserve Banks' Discount Rates Table listing discount rates for various reserve banks.

Smaller Anthracite Shipments Table listing shipment details for anthracite coal.

Northern Securities Extra Table listing details for Northern Securities Extra.

German Bank Statement Table listing financial statements for German banks.



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