GOSSIP OF THE STREET

These are days of pleasing dividend announcements and it is to be regretted that such a small figure in stock market considerations [illegible]. Yesterday a fresh batch of happy [illegible] to the patient stockholders. [illegible] Copper directors found conditions sufficiently favorable to authorize resumption of dividends on the stock, which were suspended in December, 1920.

This was preceded by the stock dividend of the 20 per cent stock dividend by the Studebaker directors. But the most gratifying feature was the accompanying statement of the directors to the effect that "earnings of the company and its prospects are such that the management believes the present rate of 10 per cent on the common will be continued on the new capitalization." In May, 1920, Studebaker directors authorized a stock dividend of 33⅓ per cent. At that time the stock was on a 7 per cent annual basis. That was maintained until last July, when the dividend rate was increased to $10 per annum and an extra $1.50 was declared.

New Missouri, Kansas and Texas

The reorganization plan approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission will start the new Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company in operation with capital liabilities $46,376,000 less than those carried by its predecessor, and annual interest charges also less than those of the former corporation by $1,700,000. The new company will have total stock and bond issues of a par value of $196,800,000 and 1,000,000 shares of common stock without par value.

While all the property of the new Missouri-Kansas-Texas is acquired from the holdings of the old system, a number of lines, chiefly branches in Texas and Oklahoma, which the old company operated, will not go into the new system. The commission gave notice that its approval of the reorganization was not to be construed as granting authority for the abandonment of these lines. Most of them, it was indicated, would be acquired by other railroads or persons and would be continued in operation.

Western Freight Movement

Substantial increases were reported in the movement of freight on many of the Western roads, indicating there is still a considerable surplus of goods to be moved this year in both the east and west-bound traffic. Commodity loadings of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy show an increase of 25 per cent over the same period last year. Total movement on Rock Island was 12 per cent heavier. On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe a 57 per cent increase was reported. The total number of loaded cars on the Northwestern was 43 per cent in excess of a year ago. St. Paul reports a gain of 37 per cent and Illinois Central 32 per cent.

Tremendous Buying Power

"Periods of prosperity and depression are often the product of men's imagination as much as they are of actual tangible conditions," says the monthly review of the Mechanics and Metals National Bank of New York.

"Three years ago prosperity prevailed throughout the United States; there was an intense industrial and commercial activity, and everywhere prices [illegible] demands [illegible] supply [illegible], and [illegible] human needs were the same as before, because [illegible] goods fell short of the supply, and prices collapsed. Lately there has been a renewal of industrial and commercial activity, and though human needs are not vastly changed, buying has increased and prices have moved upward.

"In the short period which has elapsed since last spring, when the period of deflation, which began in 1920, ran its course, it has been made remarkably clear that the force of the buying power of the rank and file of the American people, when that buying power is operating, is tremendous. The American temperament is exemplified by the contrast which the present current of buying bears with that of as recently as six months or a year ago; either we take fright all together or buy all together, and just now the spirit of buying has changed the business aspect of the country from one of sagging prices, accumulating stocks and unemployment, to one of firm prices diminishing commodity supplies and full employment of labor.

"On the whole, the recent business situation is one that is marked by a fair measure of prosperity, and though signs of caution and reactionary tendencies are seen here and there, virtually every trade index shows the improvement of the autumn months fairly well maintained."

Anaconda-Chile Merger

Although officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company and the Chile Copper Company have refrained from openly discussing the merger possibilities, it is learned in reliable quarters further progress was made and thus far there has been absolutely no hitch in the negotiations.

This merger would be the most important development in the copper industry in several decades. It would bring about increased stability, because it would remove from the open market the production of a low cost producer such as Chile, and to this extent would strengthen the situation.

The purchase of the American Brass Company by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company was one of the big steps in the industry taken in the last year and eliminated one of the largest consumers from the open market. The step was the subject of bitter discussions at times, especially as some of the other producers, aside from the Anaconda, had numbered the Brass Company among its leading customers.

Naturally, they were disappointed to have such a consumer taken from their books, and this is believed to have caused considerable price-cutting at times. As a matter of fact, there were reports in the trade only a few months ago the market was being held down by the action of the Chile Copper interests who were increasing production and underselling the other producers in this country.

THE TRADER.

$7,000,000 IN DRUGS TAKEN

Canadian Police Find Huge Store of Morphine

Montreal, Dec. 6.—Morphine shipped from Switzerland to Canada for illegal distribution in Canada and the United States, and valued, at peddlers' prices, at $7,000,000, was seized at a local commission house yesterday by Canadian mounted police.

COMMONS PASSES BILL AIDING TRADE

Resolution Increases Maximum Guarantees Under the Facilities Act

OTHER FOREIGN BUSINESS

London, Dec. 6. — The House of Commons yesterday passed a resolution authorising amendment of the Trade Facilities Act to renew it for one year and to increase to £50,000,000 the maximum guarantees provided by the measure.

St. John, N. B.—The New Brunswick Power Company, controlling the electric light and power, street car and gas services here, has rejected the municipal offer of $2,577,656 for its plant and equipment.

Ottawa—A new postal agreement between Canada and the United States will be prepared by Canadian postoffice officials, it was announced today at the close of the first international postal conference. The new convention, which will supersede that of 1888 and will embody the decisions of the conference just closed, is to be made effective January 1.

Santiago—The majority group in the Chilean Senate at a private meeting passed a resolution asserting that it would not authorize the contraction of further loans by the Government or new issues of paper money. The Senators also favored the adoption of new legislation giving the Government new sources of income.

London—Asked in the House of Commons concerning the debt incurred for the sale of silver during the war from the United States, and whether it had been reduced since the 1st of April, Stanley Baldwin, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replied that the total debt was approximately $122,000,000, of which $61,000,000 is still due, and arrangements had been made to repay this amount within two years.

Santiago, Chile — A lockout is reported to have been declared in the artificial nitrate plant at Oppau, Germany. Twenty thousand men have been left without employment.

London—The British Rubber Growers' Association has accepted an invitation from the Rubber Association of America to send representatives to the United States in January to confer on conditions in the industry.

London—An exhibition of foodstuffs prepared by Canadian manufacturers will be a feature of the British industries fair which will be held concurrently in London and Birmingham early next year, says the American Chamber of Commerce in London.

O. T. MALLERY REAPPOINTED

Harrisburg, Dec. 6.—Otto T. Mallery, of Philadelphia, was reappointed a member of the State Industrial Board.