

shown a gradual improvement, and important recoveries have been made in almost all the standard stocks, the mining shares being the only exceptions.

The London market was at its lowest on Friday, but on re-opening this morning after the three days holiday a decided change for the better set in. This is taken as an indication that the settlement now in progress is moving along satisfactorily.

Rates for money in London keep at about the same figures as prevailed last week, namely, 6 3/4 to 7 per cent. This is a somewhat bearish factor, but it has been overcome by the great improvement in conditions in New York and the rapid advance in stocks there during the past few days which have forced the London market to respond.

In New York money is decidedly easier than it has been for a long time past, and the average rate during the week has been well below 6 per cent.

The squeeze in money which was anticipated for the end of the year is apparently not coming to pass, and the heavy interest disbursements which are about to be made should materially improve the conditions from a stock speculator's point of view.

The argument is being used that stocks will rule on a considerably lower basis for some time to come, because of the advance in money rates.

This on the face of it seems plausible, but a careful consideration of the conditions as they actually exist tends to disprove this theory. There is just as much money as ever seeking investment, and in fact more than ever, as witness the ever-increasing bank deposits, and it is just as difficult to find suitable investment for it as it has ever been. The high rates which are now being charged by the banks affect only the brokers and the casual borrower; rates to the banks' desirable customers have not been advanced; the rate of interest allowed by banks to depositors has not been altered, and mortgage loans can still be procured at the low figures of the past.

The monetary disturbances which we have been witnessing all over the world are due to the coincidence of the South African war with a period of the greatest commercial activity and company promotion which has ever been known, and it is not to be wondered at that in the process of resting the financial equilibrium tremendous convulsions should have taken place. Money, however, will as surely find its level as water, and signs are prevalent that the worst is over and when the South African situation is cleared up conditions will be much the same as they have been.

Cheap money and high security values are not absolutely synchronous, although closely associated, and with the improved outlook we believe higher prices may reasonably be looked for.

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Canadian Pacific had a decided recovery in London to-day, the closing being at 92 3/4, an advance of 2 1/2 points over Saturday. Locally the stock sold as high as 90 3/4, but closed at 90 1/4.

The earnings for the third week of December show

an increase over the same period last year of \$51,000. The number of shares which changed hands during the week was 3,619.

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The increase in earnings for the third week of December of the Grand Trunk Railway Company amounted to \$67,069.

The stock quotations as compared with a week ago are as follows:—

	A week ago.	To-day.
Guaranteed 4 per cent.	94	94
First Preference	80 1/2	82 1/2
Second Preference	52 1/2	52 1/2
Third Preference	20	19 1/2

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Montreal Street Railway sold on Friday last as low as 267, but has been recovering gradually since, and closed to-day at 285, after having sold as high this forenoon as 289 1/2. The number of shares which changed hands was 4,133. The earnings for the week ending 23rd inst. show an increase of \$2,107.14 as follows:—

		Inc.
Sunday	\$3,095.01	\$ 21.45
Monday	4,876.98	491.33
Tuesday	4,526.15	393.05
Wednesday	4,635.52	389.64
Thursday	4,823.21	170.47
Friday	4,960.84	337.32
Saturday	5,932.83	293.28

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Toronto Railway sold to-day at 103, but closed at 101, an advance of 3 1/2 points as compared with last week. The number of shares which changed hands was 3,659. The earnings for the week ending 23rd inst. show an increase of \$1,852.87 as follows:—

		Inc.
Sunday	\$1,556.28	\$256.56
Monday	4,361.95	547.69
Tuesday	4,337.07	464.92
Wednesday	4,299.55	214.13
Thursday	4,316.60	* 118.93
Friday	4,743.19	* 56.64
Saturday	6,519.73	555.14

* Decrease.

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The lowest point touched by Twin City was 57, but 61 was bid this afternoon without bringing out any stock. The transactions for the week amounted to 1,515 shares. The earnings for the third week of December show an increase of \$8,228.96. A good deal of speculation is being indulged in as to the rate of the coming dividend. The surplus earnings applicable for dividend on the common stock amounted to \$480,611 for the 11 months ending November 30th. This is at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent. per annum.

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The lowest point for Royal Electric was 175, the close to-day being 185 bid and 187 1/2 asked. The number of shares which changed hands was 1,461.

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Richelieu declined to 97, but was strong to-day at