

the rule as to public feeling should not be carried further than the protection of the public required, the Court was of opinion that the defendant company was not protected by the rule, and plaintiff was, therefore, entitled to recover.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

NEW YORK STOCK LETTER.

New York, October 28, 1903.

The improvement in the market, which set in some two weeks ago, continues to make very satisfactory progress, considering the numerous checks and disappointments which it has experienced. The main demand has been for the high-grade high-priced bonds, and the market is now bare of this class of securities, and other issues are now being taken in considerable quantities, and the movement now shows every sign of continuing until it spreads to the stock market. Indeed, there is even now a fair demand for preferred and guaranteed stocks by those who prefer to hold these instead of bonds, on account of their not being taxable. These purchases are for investment, and the securities so acquired are taken from the street, thus materially reducing the floating supply, and when this movement shall extend, as it surely will, to the general run of stocks, there is little doubt but that those who have gone short, or sold securities which they did not own, will find themselves in a very serious position when they come to complete their contracts and endeavour to make purchases in order to return the stocks which they have borrowed for delivery.

In a declining market it is always exceedingly difficult to say how far the movement will go before the turning point is reached, and the past few months have been no exception to this rule. Now, however, reports from various quarters are coming to hand from which one can make a pretty fair judgment of the situation now before us. These reports go to show that all over the country from the largest financial institutions to some of the smaller retailers all have endeavoured to put themselves in a position where they would be safe whatever happened. The result of this is that credits have been curtailed and purchases restricted to actual needs, and, speaking generally, the merchants throughout the country are not loaded down with heavy stocks of goods. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, for there are always some who will go beyond the limit of safety, but the agency returns of failures does not disclose any material weakness nor marked increase.

The failures for the week have been 216, against 203 for the corresponding week of last year, and 194, 223, 161, and 211 for the corresponding weeks of 1902 to 1899. This, considering the tremendous financial convulsions through which the country has passed during the past year, cannot be considered otherwise than as a very satisfactory showing and as holding out great promise for the future.

In considering the reduction of working forces by some of the roads, it must be borne in mind that the greater number of hands thus laid off have been engaged upon improvements and betterments which have placed the properties in a position where they could handle increased business at a minimum of cost. In fact, the roads have been preparing for just such a condition as now confronts them. Mr. Harriman says that during the past five years

nearly every railroad of importance in the United States has been rebuilt, and that they are now in a position to take care of the business more economically than ever before. Further than this they are now in a condition where no extraordinary expenditures will have to be made for some years to come. Consequently, the prospects for dividend upon many stocks are better than they have ever been before.

The market developed considerable strength and activity until Saturday, when on rumours of trouble in St. Louis, it fell off somewhat, but not to any very great extent, and gave another exhibition of its underlying strength. Later reports from St. Louis are that there is no real trouble there, or if there is that it will be taken care of by the local interests, and so the effect upon the market has been very slight. That there will be more or less trouble and perhaps an increase in failures for some time to come, must be admitted, but unless some unseen and very extensive disaster occurs they are likely to have less and less effect upon the market.

While we do not anticipate any very high rates for money, it now looks as if the rates would advance somewhat from the low level at which they have been ruling for some time, and, notwithstanding the assertions from the west, that they will not need funds with which to move the crops, we believe that they will have to have considerable amounts from the east for such purposes.

One of the interesting events of the week has been the handing down of the decision of Judge Clancy, of the District Court, in Montana, in the famous Minnie Healey Mining suit in favour of Mr. Heinze, and adverse to the Amalgamated Copper interests. The result of this decision has been that the Amalgamated interests have closed down all of their works in Montana. The stoppage of all these works will largely curtail the product of copper, and it would not be surprising to see the price of this metal advance whatever may happen to the stocks of the various companies involved.

The market opened with a fair degree of strength, but ran into a somewhat listless condition during the middle of the day under talk of shipments of currency to the west.

Pennsylvania and the Gould stock have been the most prominent in the trading.

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LONDON LETTER.

London, 15th October, 1903.

FINANCE.

Markets are still miserable places to be cheerful in. Now and again there have been slight revivals. For example, Mr. Chamberlain's speeches on fiscal reform help dealings from time to time, where cabinet resignations and rumours of war between Japan and Russia throw affairs back again. Temporary ease in the money market alternates with stringency, and the general effect is to limit business and market operators' profits. The prolonged dullness has produced a whole crop of market jokes. The following is an example:

A broker has just arranged the sale of a hundred Golden Treasures (we will call them). The excited money maker immediately hails a jobber and takes him out into Throgmorton Street, proposing to treat him to a drink. Upon being asked what the drink shall be, the jobber asks: "Old man, would you mind making it a steak?"