

Carnegie plant the Steel Corporation absorbed seven other plants with a very nearly equal earning power, especially when brought under one management as was done. Under date of May 15, 1899, C. M. Schwab in writing to Mr. H. C. Pick, says: "This would make rails at net cost to them (English manufacturers) of \$19 per ton. We can sell at this price and ship abroad, so as to net us \$16—at works—you know we can make rails for \$12 per ton, leaving a nice margin on foreign business."

Now, while it is not impossible for the prices of these stocks to go lower, we hold that the present market value of the securities is down to very nearly the actual value of the property and the enormous earning power of the company should make the stocks a very fair investment at present prices, for there is no doubt whatever that if this corporation can go through the next eighteen months or two years, that it will be one of the greatest and most successful corporations which the world has ever seen.

In the shipment of gold the week has been a record one, Thursday's steamer taking out \$9,000,000. The total export of gold since the present eastward movement began on April 7 last, foots up very nearly \$60,000,000. The payment of the Panama property and the \$10,000,000 to the Republic of Panama, the subscriptions to the Japanese loan and the Russian loan, are all factors in this movement and to what proportions it will attain it is of course, impossible to say, but in this connection, the April statement of the country's foreign trade is of special interest. The excess of exports over imports shows an increase of \$26,498,639 over those of April of last year. For the expired ten months of the fiscal year the excess of exports is \$448,856,321, or an increase over the same period of last year of \$89,551,402. It will, therefore, be seen that while the exports of gold are large they are not of alarming proportions, especially where the production of gold from our various mines is taken into consideration. So far, the only effect upon the money market of the shipments of gold has been a little stiffening in the rate for money, which is now about 2 per cent.

In the stock market Erie has been under special pressure, partly on account of the unfavourable statement and partly from manipulation. The Erie had a specially hard time during the winter, but the second quarter should show very much better results.

Holders of Ontario and Western and of Wabash Debenture B. Bonds are both feeling that it was full time that they received something upon their investments, and in both cases committees have been formed to press their claims, which are eminently just.

Committees are also being appointed by Mexican Central bondholders, and the reorganization of this property is quite likely to be drastic. It is said that the stock will be required to pay a 10 per cent. assessment.

Unless our information is very far wrong, we think that interesting developments may be looked for in connection with some of the copper stocks.

The market is in the doldrum, and when it will emerge it is impossible to say, and in view of the coming political conventions, nothing very much can be expected until they are out of the way.

The market has been intensely dull all day, and closes irregularly.

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LONDON LETTER.

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FINANCE.

Generally speaking the Budget has given satisfaction, especially considering the heavy deficit to be met. The buoyancy reported last week on the whole continues, with the exception of Russian securities. The severe defeats

suffered lately by the country has caused her French friends much uneasiness, most of the selling coming from Paris. Japan Fives, on the other hand are still going up.

Full advantage has been taken of the change in the market by different borrowing bodies, the London County Council, whose issue by the way was a great success, being followed by India and Natal. The Natal Loan is for \$10,000,000 and bears interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. with the price fixed at 95.

The bonus, which is becoming quite the usual thing is not lacking in the present instance, for six months' interest is payable in August, while allotted are to have the option of paying up in full under discount of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on or after the 29th April.

The India Government loan is for £12,500,000 and bears at 3 per cent. interest, and is not redeemable before Oct. 5, 1948. It is to be consolidated with the present India three per cent. stock, which is now quoted at 95½. The minimum price of the present issue is 94½.

Considering that bankers now only allow $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to depositors, and a yield of from 3 up to nearly 4 per cent. can be obtained on sound investment stock, there is every probability that prices in gilt edged securities will continue to appreciate. There has already been a quick response to this new development in the money market.

Canadian and American securities generally have been practically idle during the week, though the prices reported last week still stand. Very good reports are to hand on British Columbian mining. The ore shipments from the Rossland mines for the week ending March 30 are eminently satisfactory. Soon after the snow passes off it is expected that work will be started on several miles of side track required to connect with various mines. The total shipments for the above week were 9,869 tons, making a total for the year to date of 110,119 tons.

Taken as a whole, the condition of things here is certainly not to be grumbled at. While the boom of last week has not been sustained this week to the same extent, I think the welcome change has come to stay. It must be remembered that there have been several unsettling features lately to cause a lull. At home there has been the Budget and the Licensing Bill, while American securities have remained inactive, owing to the Northern securities case, which, though decided against Harriman and his friends, there still exists the doubt whether he will take his defeat in the proper way or go on with the litigation.

INSURANCE.

Parliamentary interference with insurance, whether by the government or private members, is not generally a success, as witness the latest example. A Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act has been presented to Parliament. Its defects are many. For example, all injuries of occupation by accident or "otherwise," a phrase that may include rheumatism to the ploughman, toothache to the clerk, and corns to the sandwich man. But this is not all, for by a further clause it is provided that it shall not be competent for the employer to set up contributory negligence "or any other defence." This, if passed, should certainly put a check to this kind of litigation. The definition of "workman" is so framed that it may include a general manager of a railway and an apprentice on board ship; should the latter be disabled, the case may be opened from time to time to see whether had he not been disabled he might not have become a mate or even a captain, and thus entitled to their rates of compensation. In its present shape it is an insult to Parliament to ask even for a first reading, and it would be well if it were properly drafted, for the present attempt is evidently that of an amateur.