

KAISER STAGGERED BY CARNAGE BILL

Meanwhile More Big War Loan Announcements Are Being Whipped Into Shape

ANOTHER FORD SCHEME

While American Dollar Has Practically Retained Its Purchasing Value, Foreign Moneys Have Shown a Contrary Tendency.

New York, March 1.—Do economic conditions forebode an early ending of the war? Some world bankers, I believe, are strongly of the opinion that exhaustion will close the great conflict—that the enormous cost of carrying it on, to say nothing of prohibitive prices for food and paralysis of foreign industry will result before fall in a peace movement in which isolated Germany will take the initiative.

The Aftermath.

Refunding of public debts on a scale never dreamed of would, of course, follow such outcome. But not necessarily that depression in the markets which pessimists predicted will be the aftermath of the European conflagration. On the contrary, experienced economists on both sides of the Atlantic take the position that one of the inevitable consequences of peace will be an uplift in business and security values. Great accumulations of gold now in private hands and government vaults over seas will be returned to normal uses. Reconstruction and rebuilding will create a new demand for materials and labor. In brief, following peace will be repeated the old story of war energizing and stimulating finance and trade. Forward looking American business men are preparing to take advantage of this chance when it eventuates. I hear that notwithstanding the unsatisfactory position of steel and related industries, for example, the starting of a number of new steel and tin-plate mills is in the cards. This, of course, is in expectation of a marked increase in the consumption of these products both at home and abroad when the dogs of war are recalled.

New Loans.

Notwithstanding the sanguine utterances of foreign finance ministers regarding their war chests I understand that banking circles at London, Paris, Berlin and Petrograd are on the anxious seat. More big war loan announcements are being whipped into shape and the carnage bill mounts so high as to stagger even the Kaiser.

Art and the Market.

Though quiet buyers of good stocks, big men have been more interested in the market for art works of late than in securities. The sale of several million dollars' worth of the all but priceless Morgan collection came as a surprise. But the statement that this was done in liquidation of accounts open when J. P. Morgan died partly illuminates this unexpected happening. I say partly for it is well known that the present head of the Morgan banking house deeply resented the attacks on his father incident to the New Haven debacle and that he has not been inclined, consequently, to be over-generous in his disposition of the late financier's art treasures. Otherwise he would have seen to it, or so his friends assert, that the recently sold found a resting place in the Metropolitan Museum in Central Park. The Morgan house by the way is almost daily the centre of vital negotiations whose purpose is new financing and which bring together from time to time all the big international and non-international bankers. Additional credits for Britain and her allies will result—and probably some rather large loans to neutral nations. Incidentally the movement of gold is interesting. I understand that the desire of the bankers is not to import gold too freely but to keep it where it will most benefit the foreign situation.

Partisanship.

As a rule our foreign bankers side with the Kaiser. They are pro-German strongly and in their hearts pray that he will win. On the other hand, most American bankers and especially J. P. Morgan, are for the Allies. Their principal affiliations abroad have for years been with London—not with Paris, or Berlin or Amsterdam or St. Petersburg. It can be imagined with what mixed feelings, therefore, banking circles received the news of the great German victory in East Prussia. In the case of our German-American friends satisfaction at the Russian disaster was a racial consideration, of course.

Brokers and the Laws.

That new regulatory laws, the income tax and other taxes and changes in the methods of commission houses have increased expense accounts is perhaps better known by the brokers than the public. Time was—in the old days—when a stock exchange had had little use for legal advice, probably not over once or twice a year. To-day a law department, I had almost said, is one of its essentials. Many firms have to consult their attorneys at the end of each month to settle doubtful points bearing on the income tax or other statutes enacted the past year or so. So several of the wealthier Wall Street firms employ counsel by the year at a salary, thereby saving money.

A Straw.

With the turn of the year, the business of America's largest jewelry house, that of Tiffany & Co., changed abruptly, and it had the best January, to quote one of its representatives, in its history.

Henry Ford.

Henry Ford, altruist, philanthropist and multi-millionaire is the most conspicuous advertiser in the world and I understand he has some new arrangements up his sleeve which will add to his fame all over the globe without cost to his automobile man. Incidentally I should add that while at first Ford's way of doing things made him unpopular with the country's financiers, the latter have changed their views and now esteem him highly as a man who is trying to share his good fortune with his employees and in other ways to benefit his fellow-beings. Owing to his vast profits Ford can do what the average manufacturer would be ruined in attempting. His minimum wage scale of \$5 a day would bankrupt most concerns. Ford with his enormous profits can stand it and even make still larger profits. What his new plans are I do not know but whenever they are made public they will be heralded in the news columns of the papers as coming from perhaps the most original forceful personality in American industry. In the west, by the bye, Henry Ford and John Willys are considered the biggest men in the automobile business with Willys—the younger of the pair, growing rapidly—moneywise and businesswise.

Interstate Trade Commission.

As there are no Hays, or Root's or Bayards in the Cabinet so there are no Warburges or Fricks or Schwabes on the Interstate Trade Commission. It can hardly be said, however, that people are disappointed at the make up of the latter. From the comments I

CANADIAN JANUARY EXPORTS ALMOST BALANCED IMPORTS

Exports of Gold Were a Little Larger Than Imports—Total Exports Increased \$1,000,000 Over Last Year, While Imports Decreased \$10,000,000.

Ottawa, March 1.—According to a report of trade issued here for January and for the first ten months of the present fiscal year by the Department of Trade and Commerce, for the first time since the war started, exports of coin and bullion are again larger than the imports.

With the restoration of normal rates of exchange and the comparative balancing up of gold balances due from the United States to England, the flow of gold to Canada under the arrangement with the Bank of England, for holding in trust here, has ceased, and during January, the exports of gold were a little larger, than the imports, the relative figures being \$863,007 of exports, and \$838,174 of imports. As compared with the figures for January the total imports of gold for the ten months amounted to \$131,257,281, while exports amounted to only \$5,042,799. The total influx of gold during the seven months of the war was a little over \$120,000,000. That amount is still held in trust in the treasury here for the Bank of England, but from now on it is expected that the exports will exceed the imports.

For the month of January, Canadian exports for the first time in years were practically equivalent to the imports, and the balance of trade has now almost got to the stage where it is in favor of Canada. Total imports for the month amounted to \$30,938,331, a decrease of a little over \$10,000,000 as compared with January of last year. Total exports amounted to \$30,830,337, an increase of approximately \$1,000,000 as compared with January of last year.

For the ten months of the fiscal year, the total trade in merchandise amounted to \$763,478,347, a decrease of \$171,000,000, as compared with the corresponding ten months of the previous fiscal year.

For the twelve calendar months of the year ended with January last, the total trade of Canada was \$903,694,473 as compared with \$1,113,428,320 for the preceding twelve months.

QUAKER OATS BALANCE FOR COMMON STOCK EQUAL TO 20 P.C.

New York, March 1.—Although the net profits of the Quaker Oats Company for the year ended December 31, 1914, were smaller than those of the year before, the balance for dividends was \$2,099,619, as compared with \$2,051,429.

After allowing for dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. on the preferred stock the balance, \$1,559,649, was equal to 20.7 per cent. on the \$7,500,000 common stock, as compared with 20.15 per cent. on the same stock the year previous.

Net profits for the year were \$2,367,251, against \$2,287,019, in 1913, while the surplus after the payment of dividends was \$809,669, as compared with \$761,553. The total profit and loss surplus was \$3,772,752, as compared with \$2,962,083 for 1913.

LIGGETT AND MEYERS TOBACCO.

St. Louis, Mo., March 1.—Liggett & Meyers Tobacco Co. declared regular quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. on preferred stock, payable April 1 to stock of record March 15th.

HOLD \$134,761,700 RESERVES IN EXCESS OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

New York, March 1.—The statement of the actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies shows that they hold \$134,761,700 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is a decrease of \$2,412,750 from last week.

The statement shows the following changes: Loans, etc., increase \$10,556,000; reserve, in own vaults, decrease \$1,682,000; reserve, in federal reserve banks, increase \$1,370,000; reserve in other depositories, increase \$13,650,000; note demand deposits, increase \$13,650,000; net time deposits, increase \$749,000; circulation, decrease \$297,000; aggregate reserve, \$509,568,000; excess reserve, \$134,761,700; decrease \$2,412,750. Summary of state banks and trust companies in Greater New York, not included in clearing house statement: Loans, etc., increase \$1,726,800; specie, increase \$154,200; legal tenders, increase \$18,200; total deposits, decrease \$4,997,500. Banks: Cash reserve in vaults, \$10,839,000; trust company cash reserve in vault, \$43,367,000.

have heard they are thankful that the Commission is composed of respectable mediocrities. They had dreaded a Brandeis or an Undermyer. Probably nobody seriously expected the selection of men experienced in large affairs for this new federal body. Few high-class men can be found—and this is the weakness of all regulatory bodies, whether State or Federal—willing to give their time and knowledge in exchange for the government's paltry salaries. As in other respects needless to mention, Paul M. Warburg stands alone. The former banker saved up an income of several hundred thousand dollars a year to serve on the Federal Reserve Board at a salary smaller than that of many Metropolitan bank presidents.

Money.

Some financiers think that if the skies should suddenly clear they would disclose an unprecedented volume of capital for new enterprise and investment.

The Frick Mansion.

Henry C. Frick is always in the market as a would-be art buyer. The dealers, however, cannot always suit him. But in the Morgan Fragonard treasures he secured just what he wanted, as the papers have told. On the site of the old Lenox Library is being finished what will be the finest mansion in New York. There H. C. Frick will live surrounded by an art collection which in time will probably be quite as unique and valuable as that got together by the late J. P. Morgan. The steel man is a sphinx. Nobody knows what he is worth. Twenty years ago he was one of the country's extremely wealthy men. Many were the occasions on which his coke company financed the old Carnegie steel business in which he was a partner. The steel merger added to his fortune as shrewd investment of surplus income has done since. So the Frick millions no doubt exceed the century mark—a very high one in these days.

Bonds.

Considering the recent increase in foreign offerings the bond market acts well. A general comment among dealers is that while not active it is in good shape. Investment houses, I find, are looking to the future confidently. Europe weighs prices down—seller 20 transactions and dealings in high-class bonds, as California and Oregon's held almost entirely in Germany, testifying to her financial stress. But cheap money will, it is believed, lead before long to revival of demand and advancing prices in this department.



MR. W. S. DINNICK,
Vice-President, Standard Reliance Mortgage Corporation, the annual meeting of which was held in Toronto to-day.

WOOLWORTH STORES HAD RECORD SALES

Due to Splendid Business Prior to War and Fine Christmas Shopping

WORKING CAPITAL IMPROVED

Shipments of German Goods Had to be Replaced at Higher Prices by "Made-in-America" Goods Between First of August and Middle of October.

New York, March 1.—Numerous were the obstacles, occasioned by the European war, which had to be surmounted by the F. W. Woolworth Co. in order that a new record year's sales could be shown in 1914. Had it not been for the splendid business which the company enjoyed during the seven months prior to the war and the record Christmas shopping, it is certain that 1914 would have shown a reduction in sales rather than an increase of \$3,390,868, or 5.12 per cent.

But though sales showed only one-half the increase made in 1913 over 1912, the effect of the war is more conspicuous in the net earnings which were \$6,429,895, a reduction of \$31,223 from 1912. Shipments of German goods were practically cut off from August 1 to the middle of October and these goods had to be replaced at higher prices by "Made-in-America" goods. When shipments of German goods were resumed in October more than 35,000 cases were ready for delivery. Due to connection many consignments were sent to the wrong ports and about \$100,000 spent in extra freight.

The annual report, shows the preferred stock issue was reduced by \$1,000,000, and in addition to this the company last year, anticipated the sinking fund requirements for 1915, taking advantage of the low price for the stock. The only current liability which the company has is \$179,486 for accounts payable, an increase over 1913 of \$107,518. Compared with this the company has current assets \$13,841,906, a gain of \$1,354,852. One of the most notable increases in current assets is found in the inventory account of \$10,491,040, a gain of \$911,375. This is a large amount considering that most industrial companies are inclined, at the present, to reduce their lines.

The following table gives the gross and net earnings, dividends paid, surplus after dividends, total surplus and percentage earned on the common stock:

	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Gross inc.	\$69,615,669	\$66,228,072	\$69,557,767	\$52,616,123
Net inc.	6,429,895	4,641,118	5,414,798	4,955,255
Div. paid.	3,997,500	3,900,000	1,000,000	—
Sur. af. div.	2,431,474	2,661,118	3,364,798	—
Total surplus	8,367,391	6,025,917	3,364,798	—
Earn. on com. 10.86%	10.82%	8.72%	—	—

1911 was year before present organization was formed. It will be seen from the above table that in three years sales have increased \$17,008,545, or 32.32%, while net income increased \$1,474,689, or 29.67%. Probably the most salient feature is the total surplus item which now amounts to \$8,367,391, compared with \$3,364,798 in 1912, a gain of \$5,002,593, or approximately 150%. The balance sheet also discloses the furniture and fixture item of \$5,095,932 in 1914, compared with \$3,358,103 in 1911, while real estate and buildings account increased from \$607,751 in 1911 to \$1,929,521 in 1914.

During the year the company opened fifty stores and on January 1, 1915, had 737 stores in the United States and Canada. F. W. Woolworth Co., Ltd., the English company, has 44 stores in operation, having opened 14 new ones last year. The English company, incidentally, enjoyed a most prosperous year with sales registering a new record.

HANSON BROS. OFFER LACHINE BONDS.

Debentures of the City of Lachine to the amount of \$100,000, and bearing interest at 5 per cent. are being offered by Hanson Brothers at 90 and accrued interest. The yield at that rate is over 5.80 per cent. The net debt of the city is \$1,421,685, against which the assessed valuation of the city's taxed property is \$12,244,915.

OWES \$790,000 AS DUMMY

New York, March 1.—Serving as a dummy for big real estate corporations and operators for the past twenty years or more, Mrs. Theresa Abelson, of 134 West Eighty-sixth street, has incurred \$790,000 worth of liabilities according to a petition in bankruptcy filed by her in the United States District Court recently. She has no assets.

According to her attorney, Merwyn Wolff, Mrs. Abelson's name was used by the real estate operators chiefly in bonding and mortgaging their property. In this way the mortgages were recorded against her so that the indebtedness is really paper liabilities.

All the claims against her for money loaned are secured by mortgages on valuable property. Among the creditors are the estate of Thomas Saffern, \$64,000; Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, \$47,500; the Church, \$27,000; Mary A. Chisholm, \$40,000, and the estate of Sarah V. Benson, \$26,000.

Chicago, Ill., March 1.—A dispatch from Evansville, Ind., says that the Blumer Steel Co., capitalized at \$100,000, will ask for a temporary receivership in order to re-establish the business on a paying basis.

PENNSYLVANIA POWER OFFERING \$2,000,000 BONDS AT 90 1-2

These Are Secured by First Mortgage on Large Modern Hydro-Electric Plant, With Developed Capacity of 112,000 Horse-Power.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 1.—Kiesel, Knickerbocker & Co., and Drexel & Co., have purchased from the Pennsylvania Water & Power Co. and allied interests about \$2,000,000 of that company's first mortgage 5 per cent. sinking fund gold bonds. These are part of a total of \$10,427,000 in the hands of the public out of a total authorized issue of \$12,500,000. They are followed by \$8,490,000 of stock, which is paying dividends at the rate of 4 per cent.

The bonds are being offered to investors at 90 1/2, yielding over 5.70 per cent. The Pennsylvania Water & Power bonds are secured by a first mortgage on a large modern hydro-electric plant, with a developed capacity of 112,000 horse-power, and a bonded debt of less than \$100 per horse-power, including transmission lines. The properties of the company cost approximately \$16,000,000, over one and one-half times the outstanding bond issue. The bonds are (tax free in Pennsylvania). The Pennsylvania Water Co.'s plant, located at a point of the Susquehanna River less than 20 miles from tide-water of Chesapeake Bay, is within seventy-five mile radius of Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, York, Lancaster and Chester.

The company supplies the United Railways & Electric Light & Power Co. of Baltimore, the major portion of the electric current used in the city of Baltimore and vicinity for all purposes. It has also a contract with the Edison Co. of Lancaster, Penna., under which it supplies that city and vicinity with practically all of its electrical requirements.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY.

London, March 1.—The annual report of the Imperial Tobacco company for the year ended Oct. 31, 1914, shows net profits of £3,533,359, an increase of £178,884. The income account follows:

	1914.	1913.	Increase
Net profits	£3,533,359	£3,354,475	£178,884
Exp. and taxes	264,871	221,574	43,297
Balance	£3,268,488	£3,132,901	£135,587
Depos. and reserves	1,150,000	1,100,000	50,000
Surplus	£2,118,488	£2,032,901	£135,587
Dividends	1,826,611	1,826,257	354
Bonus to custom.	109,447	103,225	6,222
Balance	£28,428	£103,319	£79,109
Previous surplus	132,589	160,7518	£27,529
P. and loss surplus	£315,417	£263,835	£51,582

*Decrease.

RAILROAD EXPENSES LOWER.

Washington, D.C., March 1.—The Bureau of Railway Economics states that the railway operating income for December reduced to a per mile of line basis and compared with that for December, 1913, shows decrease of 23 or 11.4 per cent. For the calendar of 1914 railway operating income per mile decreased \$32, or 11.5 per cent., as compared with the calendar year of 1913.

MONTREAL BANK CLEARINGS IN FEBRUARY LOWEST IN FOUR YEARS

Bank clearings in Montreal during the month of February were less than in any single month since 1911.

Compared with January, 1915, last month's clearings show a decrease of almost \$25,000,000.

With the exception of the \$53,510,000 decrease shown in December, the falling off last month is the largest reported since the outbreak of the war.

Comparisons for the past seven months are as follows:

	1914-15.	Decrease.
August	\$196,434,000	\$43,166,000
September	203,588,000	38,239,000
October	226,518,000	42,846,000
November	201,355,000	42,991,000
December	197,991,000	\$53,510,000
January	188,434,000	\$5,790,000
February	163,499,000	46,832,000

NATIONAL BISCUIT CO. SUFFERS FROM INCREASE IN RAW MATERIAL.

New York, March 1.—Earnings of the National Biscuit company for the fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 1915, were the poorest since 1910. The annual statement issued yesterday showed profits of \$4,520,402, a decrease of \$647,616, or 12 1/2 per cent., compared with the previous year. Not since 1910 were the earnings below those shown for the year just ended. Then they were \$3,897,576.

The profits applicable to the common stock in the fiscal year just closed were 8.52 per cent. against 11.73 per cent. last year. The preferred issue outstanding is \$24,904,501, on which 7 per cent. is paid. Also 7 per cent. was paid on the \$29,236,000 common stock.

The statement of profits for the year follows:

Profits	\$4,520,402	\$5,168,018	\$4,529,378
Pfd. dividend	1,736,315	1,736,315	1,736,315
Balance	\$2,784,087	\$3,431,703	\$2,803,063
Com. dividend	2,046,520	2,046,520	2,046,520

Surplus for year... \$737,567 \$1,358,183 \$ 736,453
The figures of earnings were a disappointment, since friends of the company had been asserting that the earnings were as large as the previous year, etc. The fact that the Loose-Wiles company will be obliged to pass the dividend on the second preferred should have afforded a trustworthy indication of what the National Biscuit company was doing. The drop in profits is attributed to the increased cost of raw material, although the effect of competition has been discernible since 1905.

STRIKERS AMENABLE TO REASON.

March 1.—The peremptory order of the Government for the resumption of work to-day by the shipyard engineers at the Clyde yards, who went on strike for an increase in wages, has produced speedy results. Committees representing the strikers decided to advise the men to return to work immediately.

BUILDING WELLAND CANAL.

Toronto, Ont., March 1.—Addressing the students of the School of Science, Mr. J. S. Weller, Chief Engineer of the new Welland Canal, said about 1,000 men are now at work. The number will be increased as soon as the weather moderates. Last year in the busy season 3,000 men were employed.

ARE SHIPPING FEW LUXURIES ABROAD

States Sending Out Only What is Absolutely Necessary to Feed Peoples of Europe

EASE IN MONEY NATURAL

Big New York Jewellery House Had Best January in Its History—Thankful For Interstate Commission of Respectable Medicineries.

New York, March 1.—International politics dominated the bond and stock markets during the past month, from first to last, say Messrs. Spencer Trask and Co., in their review of the situation. The declaration of a war zone by Germany has put the danger to shipping in the neighborhood of the British Isles squarely up to neutral nations, and as our commerce, with north of Europe ports is such an important factor in our economic life at present, an extraordinary hazard to navigation in those parts affects us vitally.

Barring untoward accidents, the solution of the problem may safely be left to the Administration in the first place, or in the last instance to the sole judgment of the nation itself, but in the meantime, the possibility of complications may exert a certain restraining influence on our over-seas commerce. At the same time it must not be forgotten that this restraint can hardly go very far, since we are shipping few luxuries abroad. What goes out is what is absolutely necessary to feed the peoples of Europe, to replace the terrific waste occasioned by this, the greatest war in history, to replace also the enormous volume of trade which has been diverted from its regular course, permanently perhaps, for a considerable time certainly, for the bitterness that is being engendered is likely to affect currents of business between the now warring nations for long years to come.

The balance of trade continues to run heavily in our favor. In this month it promises to be approximately \$130,000,000, while for the period from September 1st, when foreign trade first began to feel the full effects of war conditions, to the present, we have piled up a balance of over \$550,000,000.

It may be fairly questioned whether we can continue to show in the coming months quite as large balances as hitherto, as we have already exported the major portion of what cotton and wheat Europe may be expected to take of this season's crops, and these are two of the heaviest items in our present export trade. Over 5,000,000 out of an estimated output of 7,000,000 bales of cotton has already been shipped, and soon the breaking of the ice at Archangel or possibly the forcing of the Dardanelles will permit Russia to export of her immense stock of wheat, which has been awaiting an outlet for months past.

The balance of merchandise in our favor has been naturally affected our exchange markets to an extent that would have been considered fantastic a few months ago. Sterling, at 1 1/4 per cent. below parity, is selling at its lowest point in our history, with the single exception of the panic period of 1873; Paris exchange is 2 per cent. below, Italy 10 per cent., Germany 12 per cent., Austria 20 per cent., and Russia 23 per cent.

Whether these abnormal discounts represent merely the immediate effects of unfavorable trade balances, or if they reflect something deeper, namely a decrease in the value of European moneys, is a very fine, and also a very important, question.

As we analyze the situation, it looks as if while our American dollar has been practically retaining its purchasing value, foreign moneys have on the contrary shown a tendency to decrease in purchasing power, and advancing prices of commodities abroad tend to confirm this opinion. In the case of England, and possibly of France, the rise in prices may be in large part due to the increased cost of laying goods down on their shores, owing to the heavy advance in freight rates, insurance charges and the costs incident to delays in delivery; but in the case of the other countries it is our judgment that the rise in prices reflects in great measure a relative decrease in the purchasing power of their money.

Ease in money under such circumstances is natural, and thus we see it plentiful in the principal markets of the world. In Great Britain this is particularly true, as is evidenced by the fact that within the last few days the Treasury has been able to discount a new issue of six months notes at 1 1/2 per cent. and twelve months notes at 2 1/2 per cent., and the rates at that were more than thirty times over-subscribed.

In our own markets, money continued easy, though with a tendency to become slightly firmer, for which recent financing is no doubt largely responsible. Bonds have been quite active, although generally at the expense of prices, particularly during the second half of the month. In great measure this has been due to the increasing amount of foreign liquidation, particularly it would seem from Germany. This liquidation may have been induced partly by favorable rates of exchange, but as there is a possibility of a change in this respect, we do not look for a volume of foreign sales that would seriously affect our markets. On the contrary, we feel that the present offers many favorable opportunities for the purchase of well selected bonds.

WILL NOT PAY INTEREST.

London, March 1.—The Dominion Bank has notified current account holders that after to-day they will be unable to allow interest, this being due to the great difficulty