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In the name of a booklet which we have just published. It gives a lot of interesting information regarding:

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BACHE'S WEEKLY REPORT

New York, N. Y., Jan. 27.—The quieting down in business is not necessarily an indication that the activity developed in December has petered out. It is hardly to be expected that the inertia in the spirit of general business which has so long prevailed would be overcome all at once and by a steady move upwards. On the contrary, it must be anticipated that this will be accomplished by a series of temporary accelerated movements, followed by quieting down until again the next upward movement gains force. In addition to this the settlements of the year and the prevalence of severe weather usually even in our most active business years, produce some dullness around February, in a period like this it cannot be expected that general business will show many signals of expanding enthusiasm. In iron and steel, nevertheless, the outlook continues favorable considering the period. Some effort has been made to explain the slight slowing down by attributing it to the effect of congress tariff talk, in which steel is picked as the victim. As far as the tariff is concerned, steel need have no anxious moments. It may be depended upon that no bill will be signed by Mr. Taft until a report from the tariff board is received on the subject.

The Tariff Board.

The remarkable report of this board on wool marks an era in the history of the tariff in America. Friends and enemies both agree as to its wonderful comprehensiveness, the value of its information, the indisputably just character of its findings. Manufacturers and those most intimate with the intricacies of the subject, admit and applaud its unprejudiced and its value. All this justifies the president's law, as just to much ahead of all other industries and the securities are being bought in anticipation of continued prosperity, untroubled by the tariff and the Leggett and Myers companies yield at the present prices about 5% per cent. The security is undoubted and the bonds are good to keep.

The bond situation, which was disappointing at the first of the year, is now beginning to give a better account of itself, and generally speaking, is showing marked improvement over

PRODUCE PRICES IN CANADIAN CENTRES

Montreal, Jan. 30.—OATS—Canadian Western, No. 2, 50½ to 51; Canadian No. 3, 48½ to 49; extra No. 1, feed, 49½ to 50; No. 2 local white, 48 to 48½; No. 3 local white, 47 to 47½; No. 4, local white, 46 to 46½.

WHEAT—Manitoba Spring, wheat, firsts, \$5.60; seconds, \$5.10; strong bakers, \$4.90; winter wheat, choice, \$4.85 to \$5.10; straight rollers, \$4.40 to \$4.50; straight rollers, bags, \$2.95 to \$3.15.

BRAN—\$23 to \$24; shorts, \$25 to \$26; middlings, \$28 to \$29; moullie, \$28 to \$34.

HAY—No. 2 per ton, car lots, \$15 to \$15.50.

POTATOES—Per bag, car lots, \$1.70.

value of the report, and has taken two months to consider what to do. It will be the same way with steel. Whatever may be put up to him, if it will not go to his satisfaction, Mr. Taft will wait, awaiting the report of the tariff board. So that the steel and iron industry for the present may completely ignore the tariff however, much political wind-blown may be indulged in this section.

On the subject of tariff then the business of the country may be relieved for the time being, as far as any real action is concerned.

Railroad Matters.

Average receipts for the railways in November, 1911, were \$1,054,000, a decline of \$18 from November, 1910. These figures represent 90 per cent. of the railway mileage of the country. Expenses also show a lower average per mile. Net revenues, however, average \$16 cents per mile—a decline of 4.3 per cent. The decline in general business was unevenly distributed. The lines of the eastern part of the country show only a slight decrease for November, 1911, when compared with November, 1910, while the lines in the Southern section show a slight increase and the lines in the Western section a falling off. Further decreases must be looked forward to in later months, due to the severe weather. The railroad labor situation is not favorable. A demand has been made by the locomotive engineers of the Baltimore and Ohio for a 15 to 25 per cent. increase in wages. This movement, to other trunk lines and is important as the Brotherhood of Engineers is one of the ablest and perhaps most conservative of the railway labor organizations. The situation is a difficult one for the railroads, with net and gross earnings declining.

The Puget Sound Extension, of which the St. Paul owns all of the \$100,000,000 stock and \$123,000,000 out of a total of \$154,000,000 4 per cent. bonds, paid last year into the treasury of the parent company \$5,000,000—a 5 per cent. dividend earned on its stock. This year in five months it has not earned any dividend. But it is impossible to continue that these conditions will continue, and when the Puget Sound becomes a steady dividend earner, St. Paul will swing back to its old position of one of the best investment stocks in the country.

Viewed from the light of past performances, St. Paul is the cheapest stock on the list.

Stocks and Bonds.

The high cost of living began three years ago to crowd investors depending more or less upon their savings, to desert the old time gilt-edged bonds in which paid only 4 per cent. and to make insistent search for something which would yield more income and still be comparatively safe. This has led to increasing activity in the bonds of the second class of railroads and in industrial bonds, and even to speculative issues, that would yield around 5 per cent. or more. Public utilities also have come in for very active participation in this quest. For a time investing institutions clung to the old issues, but even they have now largely abandoned them and this week a comparatively rapid business has been done in second-class investment bonds with higher yield, and in the more speculative issues.

The activity however, was confined mostly to last week to the Tobacco and Traction issues. The securities of the Third Avenue, once a prosperous proposition, are being widely dealt in by bond dealers, both in anticipation of their attractiveness being recognized by investors and for enhancement in value; and by astute investors who expect to see the properties restored to their old time prosperity.

The activity in the Tobacco securities is evidence of realization that these properties having passed through the shadows of the Sherman law, are just to much ahead of all other industries and the securities are being bought in anticipation of continued prosperity, untroubled by the tariff and the Leggett and Myers companies yield at the present prices about 5% per cent. The security is undoubted and the bonds are good to keep.

The bond situation, which was disappointing at the first of the year, is now beginning to give a better account of itself, and generally speaking, is showing marked improvement over

FINANCIAL WORLD

MARKET CLOSED NEW YORK STOCK MARKET AT HIGHER LEVEL

New York, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Under the spur of a keen demand for the leading railroad stocks, prices moved quickly forward in the early trading today. Shares of all the best roads and a number of industrial corporations rose from 1 to 2 points, at a few more extensive gains. Trading was active and the market broadened in a way which seemed to indicate considerable underlying strength. But the fickleness which recently has been the characteristic of the market again asserted itself. Shortly after noon prices broke. At the exception of the Vanderbilt roads gains were either cancelled or largely reduced. In the last half hour the market made another of its perplexing shifts. Prices rose quickly, and in some instances the high level of the day was reached before the close which was firm at a level appreciably higher than the high prices of the preceding day.

The variety of influences of conflicting character were brought into play on the market. The most important were the reports of the Harriman roads for December, the strength of the shares of the Vanderbilt lines and the quarterly statement of the United States Steel Corporation. Although the steel figures were not received until after the close of trading, the market was influenced by the fact that they were to be made known today, and the uncertainty as to the character of the report heightened speculative interest in U. S. Steel. It rose a point in the early trading and although it subsequently sold off to below 63 for the first time this year it rebounded back to 64 in the late trading.

The steel corporation's net earnings of \$23,105,000 were well up to expectations. Preliminary estimates ran all the way from \$19,000,000 to \$25,000,000, but in view of the low prices of steel products during the last quarter the most common estimate was somewhat below the figure reported. To that extent the statement was regarded as favorable one. It remains true, however, that the next earnings of the company will be nearly \$3,000,000 less than those of the corresponding period of 1910, when business conditions were none too good, and that they are barely sufficient to pay the dividends on the common and preferred stock. The fact of the fact that no appropriations have been made this year for depreciation.

The appearance of the Harriman statements, showing a decrease in net earnings in December of \$600,000 for the United Pacific and of \$176,000 for Southern Pacific was followed by a break in the stock market to the lowest points of the day. Unfavorable reports had been expected, however, and these statements did not effect a change in the market. The Harriman Union Pacific's showing was good by comparison with the November statement. Chicago and Northwestern reported a reduction of \$135,000 in net earnings in December, but the strength was explained by its report of a gross increase of nearly \$2,000,000 for last month, and a gain in net of \$819,000. The pronounced strength of the stocks of the Vanderbilt roads made them the centre of speculative interest. New York Central, Northwestern, Chicago C. & N. St. Louis, New York, Chicago and St. Louis and Omaha all made gains of 2 to 5 points. The buying apparently was an accumulative character such as has been noted in New York Central for several days. Gossip had it that the movement was the result of plans for a further combination of the Vanderbilt lines.

St. Paul displayed marked weakness. After gaining a point early in the day, it sold off to 104½, the lowest figure since 198.

National Biscuit rose nearly four points, to be the highest priced stock on the list. The highest price for this stock ever sold. Great Northern Ore dropped more than two points, following publication of the company's annual report, suggesting the possibility of suspension of payments on the part of the company. Trading in bonds fell off, but the market was firm. Total sales par value \$3,062,000. U. S. two coupon declined ½ and Panama three coupon ½ on call.

the corresponding period for last year, both in activity and strength. Money is abundantly increasing in supply here, and abroad the situation is lightening somewhat. Foreign exchange has advanced to 45½, which is within one-half point of the price at which gold may be exported to London. It is not yet certain that gold exports will be started, but the continued increase in the supply of money and the briskness of trade abroad, keeping up the demand there, may bring about shipments of gold, and as far as this country is concerned, this would be of no adverse importance. The stock market is irregular, without much movement either way, and speculation is quiet.

J. S. BACHE & CO.

MUNICIPAL BONDS

Province of N. B. 5½ p. c. Bonds, due Jan. 1st, 1923. Price 93 and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

City of Dartmouth 4½ p. c. Bonds, due Jan. 1st, 1921. Price 100 and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

Town of New Glasgow 4½ p. c. Bonds, due June 1st, 1923. Price 100 and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

Town of Pictou 4½ p. c. Bonds, due Sept. 1st, 1924. Price 100 and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

Town of Parrishaw 4 p. c. Bonds, due June 1st, 1923. Price 93½ and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

Town of St. John's 5 p. c. Bonds, due Aug. 1st, 1921. Price 98½ and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

Town of St. John's 4½ p. c. Bonds, due June 1st, 1923. Price 96½ and Int. To yield 4½ p. c.

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MONTREAL STOCK MARKET

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Am. Bet. Sug. 55½ 55½ 55½ 55½

Am. C. and F. 51 51 50½ 51

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