# WEALTH MARKETS AND COMMERCE



## Finance - Economics

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*Tuesday, September 26, 1916.*

A chastened stock market of nearly 1,500,000 shares! Enthusiasm for United States Steel common was much diminished by the discovery that it could become plentiful. The extraordinary fact, nevertheless, is its relative scarcity. That rumors of a corner could have been entertained by intelligent persons on the day the price touched 120 is an illustration of the change in quantitative relations since the creation of the United States Steel Corporation in 1901. Then the greatest living master of the art of stock market manipulation, on hearing that a company was about to be formed with $500,000,000 common capital stock, exclaimed: "It is preposterous. No such amount of stock could ever be sold to the public!"

Special strength in the railroad issues was treated by many commentators in a cynical manner, corresponding as it did to their notion of how they would "manipulate" a stock market if they had control of it. They would bid up the industrials under the leadership of Steel common until the decencies began to be offended, and then they would take hold of the railroad issues and run them up, while selling Steel common. Competent critics who participate in the present stock market agree, however, that never was there relatively so little manipulation. The speculation is largely of spontaneous origin. It builds upon its own resources. Speculators take profits in one group of stocks and then, unwilling to get into them again at the same prices, they seek about for other things that have gone up less, and hit upon railroads, perhaps, or coppers. What shall they do with their profits? Money is the thing that falls. Everything else goes up.

The bond market is rather thin. More than a quarter of the transactions are in the war loans of foreign countries. The investment demand for corporation bonds is moderate. Instances are frequent of holders of bonds converting them into stocks, because stocks can rise.

**If We Meant It.**

A conference in Wall Street between the British government's representative, on the one hand, and representatives, on the other hand, of American finance and industry, whatever may come of it, is the first rational step that has been taken to assert our theory of neutral rights. The notorious blacklist, the interference with American mail matter, and the incidental loss in transit by post of trade secrets were submitted for discussion.

British interference with American trade has been characterized by the State Department in notes of protest as "unwarranted," "illegal," and "unjust," and yet nothing has been done about it. Congress has placed the power of reprisal in the hands of the President. To exercise it is very difficult, for political reasons. The primary obstacles are the proportions of our export trade. In the month of August we exported, mainly to Europe, 510 million dollars' worth of goods. We imported 199 million dollars' worth. The balance in our favor was 311 million dollars. In the same month our net importations of gold amounted to 29 million. This is a prodigious foreign trade. It is the source of our amazing prosperity.

There is a great political tenderness for prosperity, especially in the year of a national campaign. If the restrictions imposed upon our foreign trade entailed a loss, then we should howl in earnest; but so long as foreign trade is enormously and increasingly profitable, in spite of those restrictions, and it is so largely owing to the purchases of the same belligerents whose invasion of our rights is complained of, the inclination is to leave protest in the region of theory and gather profits while the taking is good. The British government evidently thinks it extremely unlikely that we shall engage in any form of reprisals which would injure our foreign trade, and that our threat to do so is mainly a Yankee bluff. The British government is right. But if we were really in earnest about the principles we assert, and cared more about them in the abstract than our profits in the concrete, we should be able to save both the principles and the trade.

For lack of courage to test the strength of our own position we are forming habits of submission which are hurtful to our self-respect and will diminish our prestige abroad. Our commercial behavior belittles our political pronouncements. For the sake of war prosperity we open our credit unreservedly to the countries whose interference with our rights has been harshly condemned by our government. Do we mean it? Or, as our customers think, are we bluffing? This foreign trade, essential though it may be to the maintenance a while longer of prosperity on these lines, is yet much more essential to the belligerents. We could do without it. To the Entente Alliance it is vital. Yet they impose the terms and conditions that shall govern trade between the United States and neutral countries! It is absurd. What the government cannot do, representatives of American finance and industry could very easily do, first by evolving a theory about it and then by acting in a concerted manner. They could send the British government to the State Department.

## Money and Credit

Money on call at the New York Stock Exchange ruled again unchanged at 2¾ per cent, with a low of 2½ per cent.

Time funds on brokers' Stock Exchange collateral show no quotable change. Dulness prevails, with the tone easy, despite the extraordinary activity in the security markets. The inquiry is light.

Ruling rates on money yesterday compared with a year ago were as follows:

| | Yesterday. | A year ago. |
|---|---|---|
| Call money | 2¾ | 2 % |
| Time money: | | |
| 60 days | 3 @3¼% | 2¼@2½% |
| 90 days | 3¼@3½% | 2½@3 % |
| 4 months | 3½@3¾% | 3 % |
| 5 @ 6 months | 3½@3¾% | 3 % |

**Commercial Paper.**—Extremely dull trading is reported in the commercial paper market. Offerings are as light as usual and institutions are not particularly interested. Rates are 3½ to 3¾ per cent for prime regular maturities.

Official rates of discount at each of the twelve Federal districts are as follows:

| | Maturity in days. 10d. | 30d. | 60d. | 90d |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4 |
| New York | *3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Philadelphia | *3½ | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Cleveland | 3½ | 4 | 4½ | 4½ |
| Richmond | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Atlanta | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Chicago | 3½ | 4 | 4 | 4½ |
| St. Louis | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Minneapolis | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4½ |
| Kansas City | 4½ | 4½ | 4½ | 4½ |
| Dallas | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4 |
| San Francisco | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ |

*15-day paper.

**Bank Exchanges.**—The day's clearings at New York and other cities:

| | Exchanges. | Balances. |
|---|---|---|
| New York | $746,347,265 | $32,781,101 |
| Baltimore | 7,191,806 | 1,077,130 |
| Boston | 34,315,605 | 2,875,722 |
| Chicago | 75,127,010 | 3,369,185 |
| Philadelphia | 42,302,992 | 3,554,520 |
| St. Louis | 16,478,496 | 2,096,694 |

**Sub-Treasury.**—New York banks lost to Sub-Treasury $2,267,000.

**Silver.**—Bars in London, 32⅛d pence; here in New York, 69¼ cents; Mexican dollars, 53⅜@56⅝ cents.

**Gold to China.**—Gold coin to the amount of $50,000 was withdrawn from the Sub-Treasury yesterday for shipment to China.

**The Dollar in Foreign Exchange.**

Russian rubles broke rather sharply yesterday, falling to 31.90, compared with 32.20 the day before. Only a short while ago they sold as high as 34.00 as a result of speculative buying. Recently the delay in the closing of the new Russian loan negotiations has had an adverse sentimental effect on ruble exchange. Sterling rates were unchanged yesterday. The market was generally dull.

| | Yesterday. | Week ago. |
|---|---|---|
| Sterling, demand | 4.75¾ | 4.75¾ |
| Sterling, sixty days | 4.71¾ | 4.71¾ |
| Sterling, cables | 4.76⅛ | 4.76⅛ |
| Sterling, ninety days | 4.69½ | 4.69½ |
| Francs, demand | 5.85½ | 5.86 |
| Francs, cables | 5.85¼ | 5.85¼ |
| Guilders, checks | 40⅝ | 40¾ |
| Guilders, cables | 40⅞ | 40⅞ |
| Reichsmarks, checks | 70⅛ | 70 |
| Reichsmarks, cables | 70¼ | 70⅛ |
| Lire, checks | 6.46½ | 6.45¾ |
| Lire, cables | 6.45 | 6.45 |
| Swiss, checks | 5.31¾ | 5.33 |
| Swiss, cables | 5.31 | 5.32¼ |
| Austrian kronen, ch'ks. | 12.02 | 12.05 |
| Stockholm, kr., checks | 28.20 | 28.50 |
| Copenhagen, kr., checks | 28.40 | 28.30 |
| Pesetas, checks | 20.12 | 20.13 |
| Rubles, checks | 31.90 | 32.30 |

Below is given the current exchange value of foreign money in dollars and cents, together with the intrinsic gold parity as calculated by the United States Mint:

| | Current exchange value. | Intrinsic value. |
|---|---|---|
| Pounds, sterling | $4.75⅝ | $4.86⅝ |
| Francs | 0.17 | 0.19.3 |
| Guilders | 0.40 | 0.40.2 |
| Marks | 0.17.7 | 0.23.3 |
| Rubles | 0.31.9 | 0.51.2 |
| Lire | 0.15.5 | 0.19.3 |
| Crowns (Denmark) | 0.28.20 | 0.26.8 |

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling for $4.75⅝; the intrinsic parity is $4.86⅝ per pound. Thus, you get it at a discount. You get francs and marks at a discount; but for the guilders and crowns you pay a premium. This is owing to the fact that in England the pounds are at a discount that the dollars are at a premium with Holland and Denmark because of the relations of the countries with the belligerent. This is counted for in the exchange of this country and the belligerent countries to which to settle accounts in England.

## BRITISH ROW OVER SUBSIDIES

### Founding of Banks and Monopolies by Government Hotly Attacked.

[By Cable to The Tribune]

By FRANCIS W. HIRST.

*London, September 26.*

The gradual decline in Stock Exchange values under the output of war issues continued during September, but was very slight, according to the computation of "The Bankers' Magazine." Affairs in the City are still quiet. The strength of consols is remarkable.

Another prodigy is the great prosperity of our Far Eastern trade with India, the Straits and China. This trade not only has doubled in value, but is much greater in the actual quantities of goods represented. The prosperity of Japan of course may partly explain it, but a great authority with whom I have discussed it admits to me that he is puzzled, especially in view of the unfortunate political conditions of China.

The meeting of Parliament naturally increases political interest. The government's strength will be determined partly by the military situation and partly by the attitude of the Irish members. The vote of credit will involve general discussion and show the temper of the House.

The newspapers here express great satisfaction at the oversubscription of the Canadian war loan. "The Times" explains that we are spending nearly seventy-five millions sterling a year for war supplies in Canada, thus making possible very largely the savings out of which these loans can be arranged in return. Nevertheless, the total applications appear to reflect the wonderful independent resourcefulness of Canada. They reflect also considerable banking skill. It is supposed that there was some New York and New England support.

The new policy of subsidizing banks and trading corporations to engage in foreign trade is being sharply questioned. Gaspard Frerrer's refusal to sign a report favoring the big ten million bank project is significant. At yesterday's meeting of the Anglo-Russian Trust Crisp suggested again that no new subsidized corporations were required. The question is how to remove existing drawbacks to Anglo-Russian trade in a way to benefit all the merchants now interested. Crisp has written a letter to the Chancellor prospering an alternative policy of fair play all around. The British government, he says, might, for example, "ask the Russian government to act reciprocally in banking matters by allowing British banks to open branches in Petrograd, because Russian banks have for years enjoyed the privilege of opening branch establishments in London."

Monopoly corporations and subsidized banks would provide new salaried positions for privileged persons and become but a new hornets' nest of vested interest, destroying equality of opportunity.

Crisp's letter will do good. Indeed, it is now reported that the government has abandoned the idea of itself establishing an Anglo-Russian corporation or of conferring any new trading monopoly. The whole question will probably be ventilated in Parliament.

Free traders will meet at Manchester Friday, with Earl Beauchamp as the principal speaker.

## CANADIAN CAR CO. DIRECTORS EXPLAIN

### Serious Difficulties Encountered in Filling a Russian Order.

Although declining to make public a report of the corporation's financial position as compiled by Price, Waterhouse & Co., of New York, the directors of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company, which has encountered serious difficulties during the last year in fulfilling a contract with the Russian government for $83,000,000 worth of shell and shrapnel, issued an explanatory statement yesterday, in which they said:

> The directors authorize a statement that a careful analysis of the results shown by these reports, coupled with the amended contracts, made with the Russian government, convinces them that a substantial profit will accrue to the company from the undertakings. The numerous difficulties met with have been generally overcome and the directors anticipate that the contracts will be fully completed by January, 1917.

It is stated by those in close touch with the company's affairs, according to Montreal advices, that the directors would have been willing to give out the report compiled by the accountants if it were not for the fact that the company in its settlement with the Russian government has undertaken to pay a penalty which will absorb what profits the company has made on the original half of the contract.

It is announced that the Russian government has placed with British makers orders aggregating 19,200,000 yards of army cloth, to be delivered in the early spring.

## PLAN TO REORGANIZE WHEELING & LAKE ERIE

### Assessment of $27 a Share and Lower Capitalization Proposed.

A plan of reorganization for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad Company, which has been in receivership since June 8, 1908, has been prepared by Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and Blair & Co. It is proposed to raise, through the payment of $27 a share by the stockholders, $9,984,708 in new money. The total capitalization will be cut from $74,811,956 to $72,370,858. Fixed charges will be reduced by $976,435.

The present capitalization of the road compares with the proposed recapitalization as follows:

| | Present capital. | Recapitalization. |
|---|---|---|
| Bonds, underlying | $15,000,000 | $15,000,000 |
| Equipment obligations | 2,610,000 | 1,312,000 |
| Demand notes | 755,000 | —— |
| Obligations fixed by foreclosure | 11,882,597 | —— |
| Receivers' certificates, principal | 6,859,850 | 190,000 |
| Receiver's mtge. | 3,609 | —— |
| Capital stock | 36,980,400 | 55,868,858 |
| Total fixed capitalization | $74,091,456 | $72,370,858 |
| Annual interest charges | 1,744,950 | 768,515 |

**New Stock for Noteholders.**

In the capitalization of the new company there will be an issue of $11,882,600 prior lien stock, which will go to the holders of an equal amount of three-year notes of the present company. Holders of the $4,986,900 first preferred stock will receive, upon payment of the $27 a share assessment, $1,346,463 in new preferred stock and $4,986,900 in new common.

Holders of the $11,993,500 second preferred stock, after meeting the assessment, will get $3,238,245 in new preferred and $10,794,150 in new common. To the common stockholders, after payment of the assessment, will be given $5,400,000 in new preferred and $17,500,000 in new common.

The cash raised by the plan will be used to pay off $6,673,459 in receiver's certificates, $755,000 in demand notes and other claims aggregating $2,556,249. Holders of unsecured claims are to receive in payment $50 of new preferred stock and $50 of new common for each $100 in claims.

The reorganization will be effected through the agency of a company to be incorporated, probably under the laws of Ohio. It will be vested with title to all the railroads, franchises, rights and other property owned by the existing corporation.

It was announced yesterday by the reorganization managers that in order to become parties to the plan securities must be deposited on or before October 25.

## CHEMISTRY IN THE WAR AFTER WAR

### John E. Garden Talks on Need of Preparedness.

John E. Gardin, vice president of the National City Bank and head of its foreign exchange department, speaking yesterday before the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society at Columbia University, laid special emphasis on the need of industrial preparedness if the United States is to hold its own in the international trade conflict that is expected to come after the cessation of European hostilities.

The present struggle at arms, he said, sooner or later will be followed by a struggle, possibly just as fierce, for the supremacy of commercial interests, and in this the chemist will play no small part. Continuing, he said:

> The people of the United States of America never before have realized how dependent they were upon the German chemist, not alone in the matter of dyes, but also of other chemicals, and the sudden collapse of the commercial relationship between the two countries is a calamity. The lesson has been taught us, and it now remains for the people of this country to profit by it. That they will do so, there is not the slightest doubt in my mind. But the great fear is that the attempt will only be a sporadic one, and that, just as soon as the European equilibrium is reestablished, matters will again run along the lines of least resistance, and before we know it we will again be the vassals of some European power so far as certain industrial products are concerned.
>
> The capital invested in the chemical industry in this country, not alone directly, but indirectly, is something enormous, and unless we enter upon a campaign of preparedness now we are likely to receive some very rude shocks when the other war—that is, the economic war of nations—is launched upon us. Theorizing is all very well, but it does not take a very astute mind to determine that if the floodgates are open for the influx of the world's products later on a great deal of this capital will be absolutely wiped out, and it therefore behooves the banker, the merchant and the professional man to put his best efforts behind the one thought at the present time, and that is, to create a stability in our production that will resist all attempts of the outsider to overcome.

## THE INCREASE IN EQUIPMENT COSTS

Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the Southern Pacific, in the company's annual report issued yesterday stated that the 25 per cent increase in wages to the federated organizations of enginemen, firemen, conductors and brakemen granted by the passage of the eight-hour law will mean an annual increase of $2,500,000 in operating expenses.

Comparative prices paid during the year, and in 1913 and 1914, for some of the principal items of materials and supplies show increases as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pacific type passenger locomotives | 30% |
| 10,000 gallon locomotive tenders | 48% |
| 125,000 gallon tank cars | 28% |
| Plate girder bridges | 97% |
| Rolled beams | 97% |
| Bar iron | 143% |
| Journal bearings | 99% |
| Rivets | 134% |
| Barbed wire | 78% |
| Tie plates | 91% |

## BIGGEST YEAR FOR SO. PACIFIC

### Both Freight and Passenger Revenues Show Substantial Gains.

Interruption of steamship service through the Panama Canal and the extraordinary travel which was stimulated by the California expositions enabled the Southern Pacific system despite no abatement of automobile competition to establish a new high record for gross earnings during the year ended June 30 last. The movement of troops to and along the Mexican border and the general improvement in agricultural and commercial conditions along the company's lines aided in increasing revenues.

The total revenues during the year were $152,694,228, an increase of $22,828,553 over 1915, and surpassing the previous high record of 1913 by $9,919,523. Passenger earnings were $40,338,000, an increase of $3,474,000. The surplus available for dividends amounted to $29,950,416, equal to 10.98 per cent on $272,677,906 capital stock, against 7.20 per cent earned on the same share capitalization the year previous. Last year's balance after fixed charges was the largest in the Southern Pacific's history, with the exception of 1910, when the 13 per cent shown for the stock included a $4,500,000 distribution received on Wells Fargo stock owned. The 1916 income account compares with the previous year as follows:

| | 1916. | 1915. |
|---|---|---|
| Av. miles | 10,956 | 10,554 |
| Gross | $152,694,223 | 129,865,675 |
| Total op. rev. | 152,694,228 | 129,865,675 |
| Operating exp. | 97,443,658 | 87,753,842 |
| Taxes | 7,023,326 | 6,371,273 |
| Uncol. rev. | 37,273 | 50,946 |
| Total op. exp. | 104,504,257 | 94,176,061 |
| Net op. rev. | 48,189,971 | 35,689,614 |
| Other income | 12,203,035 | 17,791,564 |
| Total income | 60,393,006 | 53,481,178 |
| Fixed charges | 29,507,752 | 33,850,583 |
| Sinking fd. chgs | 934,838 | —— |
| Surplus | 29,950,416 | 19,630,595 |
| Common divs. | 16,360,632 | 16,360,984 |
| Surplus for year | 13,589,784 | 3,269,611 |

An increase of $18,547,135 in freight revenues last year included the following gains: Mineral products, $5,082,812, resulting from the unusual demand for copper created by the European war; agricultural products, $2,319,641; forest products, $2,829,874; manufactured products, $5,801,075, chiefly received from shipments of automobiles, iron and steel articles and sugar.

**Operating Expenses Increase.**

An increase of $22,828,553, or 17.58 per cent, in railway operating revenues was earned with a decrease of 11.10 per cent in the average revenue per ton mile of revenue freight, a decrease of 4.79 per cent in the average revenue per passenger mile and an increase of $9,689,815, or 10.23 per cent, in operating expenses. Of the latter increase $5,061,444 was allocated to maintenance and $4,628,371 to transportation and other expenses. Improvements in operating efficiency were shown in the average car and train loads, in locomotive fuel consumption and in the movement of freight cars.

On June 30 the principal advances to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico amounted to $40,048,950. The cost of property destroyed as a result of the revolutionary disturbances in Mexico was estimated at 5,020,552 pesos, equivalent to $2,510,276.

## READJUSTMENT PLAN FOR GENERAL MOTORS

### Formation of New Company with 1,000,000 Shares Proposed.

Holders of more than 65 per cent of the stock of the General Motors Company, it is reported, have signified their approval of a plan for the readjustment of the affairs of the corporation which provides for the formation of a new company, with 1,000,000 shares of the par value of $100, of which 200,000 shares will be 6 per cent cumulative non-voting preferred stock. Holders of the present preferred and common stock of the General Motors Company will be given the privilege of exchanging their present shares fo socks of the new company on the basis outlined in the following official announcement issued yesterday:

"A corporation is being formed under the laws of Delaware, to be known as General Motors Corporation. Stock of this company will consist of 1,000,000 shares of the par value of $100 each, of which 200,000 shares will be 6 per cent cumulative non-voting preferred stock, redeemable on and after September 1, 1918, at the option of the company, at $110 a share, plus accrued dividends. The basis of exchange is as follows:

> (a) For each share of present preferred stock one and one-third shares of preferred stock of the Delaware Company.
>
> (b) For each share of present common stock five shares of the common stock of the Delaware Company.
>
> The above plan is to become effective as of November 1, 1916, so as to entitle shareholders of the General Motors Company of record at the close of business October 14 to receive the dividend declared on September 26, payable on November 1, 1916.
>
> Stock to be exchanged may be deposited with the Guaranty Trust Company on and after October 18, 1916, and not later than December 15, 1916.

**Canadian Loan Subscriptions.**

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 26.—The $100,000,000 Canadian loan has been more than doubly subscribed, it was announced here to-day. Subscriptions are still pouring in from all parts of the country. The loan will be followed by arrangements for further imperial credits in Canada, and to this end Finance Minister White is to meet the Canadian Bankers' Association for a conference.

## RISE IN WHEAT NETS PATTEN A MILLION

### Big Chicago Operator Said to Have Sold on Advance.

James A. Patten, the big Chicago grain market operator, has made profits of more than $1,000,000 by the rise in wheat. According to "The Northwestern Miller," he only recently sold out the bulk of 4,000,000 bushels, bought at $1.18 to $1.23 a bushel in July. On one day of last week he unloaded 1,500,000 bushels and at another time sold 1,000,000 bushels at more than $1.52 a bushel. His profits from the operation are estimated to have averaged more than 30 cents a bushel.

The same authority says Arthur Cutten, another Western operator, is credited with having a larger line than Patten, bought from near the bottom price up to $1.15. He has taken profits on some of it, but is a "$2 bull."

This is interesting to Wall Street, since much of the recent buying of stocks is reported to have come from speculators in the West who are said to have used their grain market profits to buy stocks.

## News Digest

### Foreign

**London Stock Market.**—London, Sept. 26.—The feature of to-day's generally quiet stock market was the strength of first class stocks, supplies of which were scarce, and prices advanced sharply on the execution of a number of buying orders. Shipping shares were active and firm, but most of the recently active industrial and rubber stocks yielded under realizing and a general decline occurred. American securities were dull throughout.

Money was in moderate demand and it was easily supplied. Discount rates were quiet. Money, 4½ per cent; discount rates, short and three months' bills, 5½@5⅝ per cent; gold premium at Lisbon, 58.

**Paris Bourse.**—Paris, Sept. 26.—Trading was quiet on the Bourse today. Three per cent rentes, 62 francs 30 centimes for cash; exchange on London, 27 francs 90 centimes; 5 per cent loan, 90 francs.

### New York

**Worried by Anthracite Shortage.**—The scarcity of anthracite at the local loading ports, says "The Coal Trade Journal," reflecting as it does the feverishness of demand in other markets, is causing a good deal of worry among the city dealers. Lacking storage facilities for more than a few days' supply, they cannot make suitable provision for meeting the rush that always comes with the first cold weather, and they apprehend serious trouble at that time. So far they have been able to secure enough tonnage to keep fairly well abreast of orders, but it is becoming harder to do so in the case of sizes and grades most in demand locally.

**New Reserve Bank Director.**—The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York have selected Joseph D. Higgins as an assistant cashier. This action was approved by the Federal Reserve Board. Mr. Higgins was formerly with the American Exchange National Bank, of this city.

**Universal Joints.**—It was announced yesterday that $1,500,000 8 per cent cumulative first preferred stock of the Spicer Manufacturing Company has been purchased by a group of investment bankers, headed by Merrill, Lynch & Co., of New York, and Cassatt & Co., of Philadelphia. This issue, which will be offered at 100 and accrued dividends, is convertible at any time, share for share, into common stock. The company is the largest manufacturer of universal joints in the United States. C. A. Dana, president of the Spicer company, states that additional plant facilities have already been provided and machinery is being installe., whereby the production for 1917 will be brought to approximately 700,000 universal joints.

**On an Errand to Russia.**—Professor Henry C. Emery, former chairman of the United States Tariff Board and for nine years professor of political economy at Yale, sailed September 23 on the St. Paul for Petrograd, where he is to represent the Guaranty Trust Company, of New York, in some special work preliminary to an extension of that institution's interests in Russia.

**Stock Increase Proposed.**—Directors of the National Surety Company at a special meeting held yesterday made the recommendation to stockholders that the capital stock of the company be increased from $3,000,000 to $4,000,000, by giving to stockholders the right to subscribe to one-third of their present holdings at $150 per share.

**Erie Bonds Ready.**—J. P. Morgan & Co. announce that they are prepared to deliver definitive bonds in exchange for their trust receipts for the Erie Railroad Company general mortgage 4 per cent convertible gold bonds, Series D, upon presentation of the trust receipts at their office.

**Texas Company Capital Increase.**—Directors of the Texas Company, which has large oil properties in Texas and along the Mexican border, to-day recommended an increase of 25 per cent in the capital stock, to $55,500,000. The new stock is to be offered at par on a pro rata basis.

**Stock Exchange Seats Up.**—A membership on the New York Stock Exchange changed hands yesterday at $69,000, an advance of $1,500 from the price of the last previous sale, which was at $74,000 in 1910 and as low as $34,000 in 1914. The high price record was $96,000, established in 1906.

**Mail Censorship Committee.**—The committee to be appointed by A. Barton Hepburn to consider the question of British mail censorship and to advise in the matter of American firms being placed on England's blacklist will consist of representatives of banking institutions, financial and commercial bodies, having a large business in foreign trade. Mr. Hepburn will confer from time to time with Sir Richard Crawford, trade adviser to the British Embassy at Washington.

A committee, consisting of representatives of London branches of New York banks, ...

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