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DIVIDEND NOTICES UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP COMPANY

AIR REDUCTION COMPANY, INC. 120 Broadway, New York

The Colorado Power Company

Office of the United Gas Improvement Co.

May Permit Increase In Size of Bank Notes

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Amendments to the Federal Reserve act affecting reserve requirements of banks in outlying districts of reserve or central reserve cities, allowing increase of reserve requirements of Federal Reserve notes up to \$10,000,000 and making other changes in the law, were agreed upon by the House Banking and Currency Committee today.

Under the changes agreed upon a reserve of 13 per cent of demand deposits is required in the central reserve city, 10 per cent in reserve cities and 7 per cent in country banks.

Brokers reported a broadening inquiry for fixed date funds. It was learned yesterday that between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 has been loaned on time by the banks in the past two days.

Finance - Economics

WALL STREET OFFICE: Mills Building, 15 Broad St.

Telephone: Hanover 6514

There is little complacency but much faith in Wall Street's view of the great battle in progress on the West front.

Money brokers said that these transactions had not helped the general situation much. Ruling rates for money yesterday, compared with a year ago, were as follows:

Call money, 5 3/4 2/2

Time money (mixed collateral): Sixty days, 6 3/2 2/2

Ninety days, 6 3/2 2/2

Four months, 6 3/4 4/4

Five to six months, 6 4/4

Commercial Paper.—This market was unchanged, rates holding firm at 6 per cent for the best regular maturities.

Bank Acceptances.—The market for bank acceptances was somewhat broader yesterday, but rates were unchanged.

Discount Rates.—Official rates of discount for each of the twelve Federal districts are as follows:

Over 15 or less, 4 3/4

No Change in Steel Scale Until July 1, President Rules

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Prices on ore, coke, steel and steel products, recommended previously by the price-fixing committee of the War Industries Board, subject to revision on April 1, were ordered by President Wilson today to be continued in effect until July 1.

From April 1 to July 1, however, the maximum price of basic pig iron was ordered reduced from \$33 to \$32 per gross ton, and of scrap steel from \$30 to \$29 per gross ton.

Prices Subject to Change It is provided that new contracts calling for delivery of these products on or after July 1 are not to specify a price except with the understanding that it is subject to revision by any authorized government agency.

The announcement was made after approval by the President of a recommendation made to aim by the price-fixing committee, and all manufacturers and producers are expected to observe the maximum prices.

The Council of National Defense authorized the following statement: The President today approved the recommendation of the price-fixing committee of the War Industries Board that the maximum prices hereof, fixed by the President on the recommendation of the board upon ore, coke, steel and steel products, subject to revision on April 1, 1918, be continued in effect until July 1, 1918.

From April 1 to July 1, however, the maximum price of basic pig iron was reduced from \$33 to \$32 per gross ton, and that the maximum price of scrap steel be reduced from \$30 to \$29 per gross ton.

Maximum Charge Likely "No new contracts calling for delivery for any of said commodities or articles on or after July 1, 1918, are to specify a price unless coupled with a clause making the price subject to revision by any authorized United States Government agency, so that all deliveries after that date shall not exceed the maximum price then in effect on the date ordered or continued in effect in the meantime. It is expected that all manufacturers and producers will observe the maximum prices now fixed."

Coal Demand Large Piers Here Handle More Than 1,000 Cars of Anthracite Daily

Unusually large demands for the month of March are reported by the retailers and shippers in the coal trade. The reason for the unprecedented size of the buying for this season is, in the opinion of "The Coal Trade Journal," that the advice to stock up early against next winter's requirements is being heeded by the public.

The continued shortage of hard coal does not indicate, according to the journal review of "The Coal Trade Journal," lessened activity at the mines or reduced deliveries.

On the contrary, the official figures show that the piers in this harbor are handling anthracite at an average rate of over a thousand cars for each working day. It is noted that the supply has expanded faster than the demand.

With the exception of barley and screenings, the steam sizes are in active demand. In the two smallest sizes the initiative has passed to some extent from the buyer to the seller.

Many users are well stocked with these grades and are more interested in getting bituminous to mix with them than in adding to their accumulations.

There are many retailers, however, who will take anything in the way of steam coal in order to get domestic sizes.

Jobbers find after a week's experience in trying to line up business under the new purchasing agent rules that soft coal users are a class not amenable to entering into arrangements of the sort authorized, but that operators are still holding out on closing contracts. The latter take the position that until they know just how much tonnage they must furnish to the railroads, the Shipping Board and other buyers, they are not prepared to estimate what they will have available for commercial shipments, therefore they cannot make shipments with any assurance of being able to live up to them.

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

Current exchange intrinsic value: Pounds, sterling, \$4.75 3/4

Francs, 5.71 1/4

Guillemets, 4.39 4/2

Swiss, 4.37 4/4

Guillemets, 46 45 1/2

Rubles, 13.25 13.25

Stockholm, kr., 33.00 32.75

Copenhagen, kr., 30.75 30.50

Pesetas, 25.30 25.00

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling at, say, \$4.75. The intrinsic value of the pound is 48 pence, which is owing to the fact that in England the demand for dollars with "oil" to settle accounts in this country is greater than the demand in this country for pounds with which to settle accounts in England.

Tax Discount Not Taxable Commissioner Roper Rules That Prepayment Allowance Is Exempt

A well known financial man, who will pay to the government nearly one million dollars in taxes, yesterday puzzled William H. Edwards, Collector of Internal Revenue in the Second District of New York, by inquiring whether the discount allowed on prepayment of income taxes this year would be considered as taxable income on next year's return.

After passing the question on to Commissioner Roper, Mr. Edwards received this reply: "Discount allowed on prepayment of tax this year does not constitute taxable income for 1918." This ruling is expected to bring many advance payments, as interest at the rate of 3 per cent a year is allowed on payments made before July 1.

At the Custom House yesterday one check in payment of an individual's income tax amounted to one cent, and another exceeded \$120,000, it was said.

Market Barometers

Stock Exchange Transactions

Yesterday, 71,400

Day before, 95,200

Week ago, 62,500

Year ago, 65,200

January 1 to date: 1918, 3,982,900

1917, 5,043,800

1916, 5,171,400

Stocks: Yesterday, 67.90

Industrials, 77.30

Stocks, 73.54

Bonds: Yesterday, 78.87

Industrials, 90.26

Utilities, 86.24

Bonds, 84.90

New Haven Financing Announcement yesterday that the New Haven stockholders at the annual meeting on April 17 will be asked to authorize an issue of \$16,750,000 of 4 per cent debentures to be exchanged for an equal amount of similar obligations of the Providence Securities Company was regarded as of more than routine interest in view of the existing uncertainty over whether the \$43,000,000 of the company's notes falling due April 15 will be taken care of entirely from the proposed issue of new preferred stock.

In some circles the opinion was expressed that the proposal to exchange New Haven debentures for the debentures of the securities company may be part of a possible arrangement with the Federal Reserve Administration by which the latter might acquire securities of the New Haven and thus provide at least part of the funds for meeting the maturing notes.

Dutch Failures Increase For the first time in three years the weekly reports of business failures in the Netherlands show increases in comparison with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

Good Friday Holiday Unlikely In view of the importance attached to the struggle now taking place on the Western European battlefield, there seemed little likelihood yesterday that the Stock Exchange authorities will follow the custom of former years and close on Good Friday.

Elections Charles E. Meek and Arthur D. Bright have been appointed assistant cashiers of the American Exchange National Bank.

W. D. Horton has been elected third vice-president of the Central Leather Company, succeeding the late Eugene Horton, and Max J. H. Rossbach and W. W. Hervey were elected directors, succeeding the late Leopold Rossbach and Eugene Horton.

Clarence D. Johnson, formerly with the National City Bank, Astor Trust Company, Mechanics and Metals and the old Fourth National, has been appointed to the new business department of the Atlantic National Bank of New York.

Secretary McAdoo's announcement that the requirements of the government at this time do not exceed the amount of the Third Liberty Loan offering—\$2,000,000,000—has been interpreted by the right to allot of the increase of the new issue seems very wise, because with developments abroad in the present tenuous struggle it seems certain that the government's appeal for funds in a way to develop possibly a billion or more oversubscription."

Forecasts Success D. E. Pomeroy, vice-president of the Bankers' Trust Company, said: "A sinking fund bond is always popular with investors and the issue of the new Liberty Loan offering will be sure to stimulate subscriptions, as it provides a means of retiring the bonds of the company, thus insuring a market for them. It also will tend to insure the stability of the market price of the bonds."

Le Roy C. Baldwin, president of the Empire Trust Company, 120 Broadway, said: "The terms are most satisfactory. The amount of the issue is a very favorable factor, and far less than was expected. The provision for a sinking fund is another fine feature. The intimation that 4 1/2 per cent is to be the interest rate is another very favorable factor, too."

Holding Down Food Prices Corn Products Company Agrees to Restrict Profits

Directors of the Corn Products Refining Company will not consider the payment of dividends on the common stock while the government dissolution suit is still pending. E. T. Bedford, president, told stockholders at the annual meeting yesterday. He said this action had been decided upon to meet the views of the government's attorneys, who had even opposed an increase in the rate on the preferred stock.

Mr. Bedford said that, following conferences with other representatives of the corn products industry, an agreement had been reached with the United States Food Administration that those products affecting the cost of living should be sold as closely as possible on a pre-war profit basis. He added that the price of corn had advanced \$1.00 a bushel while the cost of the company's products to the consumer had increased from 30 to 90 per cent since the war began.

Bankers Welcome New Loan Drive As Reply to Foe

Strong Pledges Overwhelming Support From This District

America will speak its heart in response to the German offensive in France by the eagerness with which its people subscribe to the third Liberty Loan bonds soon to be offered. In analyzing Secretary McAdoo's plan for the forthcoming financial campaign, Benjamin Strong, chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee, last night indicated that the announcement of the new loan came at a psychological moment in this nation's history.

"The announcement," Mr. Strong declared, "has to the amount and terms of the new Liberty Loan comes at an opportune moment. In neither of the two previous campaigns has the war situation been anything like as serious as it is now. To-day the American nation is aroused over the menace of the German drive, and its response will be evidenced in the new loan."

"The announcement contains several new features, the most important of which were scarcely noted in the previous campaigns. It is a psychological moment in this nation's history."

The Five Essentials "First, the amount at present asked for by the government is only \$2,000,000,000, a figure far below the general expectation of what might be required. Although it is provided that oversubscriptions may be allotted, the committee feels much relieved that the Treasury has been able to reduce so materially its estimated requirements for current disbursements."

"Second, the higher interest rate of 4 1/2 per cent on the new Liberty Loan on the first loan and 4 per cent on the second, will broaden the appeal of the issue."

"Third, all existing issues of Liberty bonds are convertible into the new 4 1/2 per cent bond, so that holders of these issues may secure the higher interest return afforded by the new bonds. The provision that the impending issue is convertible into any other issue indicates the government's expectation that 4 1/2 per cent is as high an interest rate as it will be obliged to pay on its long term obligations issued during the war."

"Fourth, the new bond, and the old bonds if converted, will be available at par in payment of the war interest tax. This is a provision likely to secure unusually large subscriptions from wealthy individuals whose estates will be subject to the heavily increased federal estate tax and whose heirs might otherwise be under the necessity of selling for this purpose securities during a period of low prices."

"Fifth, the new issue provides for a 5 per cent sinking fund which is calculated to operate during the period of the war, so as to afford steady and strong support to the market for the bonds."

"The citizens of the 2d Federal Reserve District have always done far more than their allotted portion of subscriptions to previous issues of Liberty bonds. We know that they and all the organizations which have worked so wholeheartedly in the past with this committee can be relied upon, when the campaign opens in early April, to yield to its prompt, their generous, their patriotic, their overwhelming support."

What Others Think Among bankers the feeling that the next loan would be easily oversubscribed seemed to be unanimous. Many of the financial leaders praised in detail the McAdoo plan and the only features which were the subject of any criticism were the lack of convertibility of the Third Liberty Loan bonds into future issues, and the fact that the interest rate is not to exceed 4 1/2.

Some of the opinions about the announced details of this country's new representative financial leaders follow: Francis L. Hine, president of the First National Bank, said: "Three features of the Third Liberty Loan will be favorably received. They are the amount, the sinking fund provision and the acceptability of the bonds for the payment of inheritance taxes."

Lewis L. Clarke, president of the American Exchange National Bank, said: "I was gratified to learn from Secretary McAdoo's announcement that the requirements of the government at this time do not exceed the amount of the Third Liberty Loan offering—\$2,000,000,000. The decision to reserve the right to allot of the increase of the new issue seems very wise, because with developments abroad in the present tenuous struggle it seems certain that the government's appeal for funds in a way to develop possibly a billion or more oversubscription."

Regular Declarations American Public Utilities Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the common stock, payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 26.

Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.—Quarterly dividend of 75 cents per share, payable April 2 to stockholders of record March 26.

Anaconda Copper Mining Company.—Quarterly dividend of 35 cents per share, payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 10.

Central Leather Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the common stock, payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 10.

Commonwealth Light & Power Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the common stock, payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 26.

International Traction Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the preferred stock, payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 26.

Great Northern Railway Company.—Quarterly dividend of \$2 per share, payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 10.

Monroe Spinning Company.—Quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per share, payable April 2 to stockholders of record March 26.

Monongahela Valley Traction Company.—Dividend of 37 1/2 cents per share on the preferred stock, payable April 6 to stockholders of record March 30.

Norfolk & Western Railway Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 12.

Public Service Corporation of Northern Illinois.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the preferred and 1 1/2 per cent on the common stock, both payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 15.

Rio Tinto Company, Ltd.—Final dividend of 45 shillings.

Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, payable April 25 to stockholders of record April 15.

Central & South American Tel. & Tel. Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on the common stock, payable April 10 to stockholders of record March 26.

New Idria Quick Silver Mining Company.—Dividend of 20 cents per share, payable April 15 to stockholders of record March 28.

Mexican Telegraph Company.—Quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per cent, payable April 17 to stockholders of record April 10.

Pierce-Farmer & Wadsworth.—Dividend of \$1.25 per share on the common stock, payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 15.

Banking Facilities for Americans Serving Abroad

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This Company offers its services for all banking transactions to American officers and enlisted men serving here or in France.

The Company has been designated as Depository of Public Money in New York, London and Paris by the United States Treasury Department.

Condition of Bell System No Cause For Worry—Vail

Says It Is Unfair to Compare 1917 With 1916

Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, at the annual meeting yesterday told stockholders that they should not be disturbed by the comparatively poor showing made during 1917, while the dividend requirements were scarcely more than earned.

"Attempts have been made to discredit our financial position and future prospects by comparisons with 1916, which was an abnormal year from every standpoint. In the annual report we said that the plant and staff were overburdened, that the surplus plant, which is being sold, was a source of growth and emergency, was brought into use; that as this increased plant carried no additional capital charges, and the gross earnings were abnormal, so were the surplus earnings of the Bell system."

"To get at the real status of our business, comparison should be made with normal years, and these certainly give no reason for apprehension. To appreciate fully the value of your property and its securities you must take the statements of the Bell system, as these show the operation of the whole. The statements of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company show only the financial operations and the dividends and other receipts from the subsidiaries of the Bell system."

Mr. Vail laid particular emphasis on his statement that the Bell system can only be considered as a unit, and that the results of regulation by public commissions has been the limitation of dividends of subsidiary properties.

Whenever earnings are in excess of requirements, Mr. Vail said that, if they are not absorbed by improvements in service they are invested in plants which form a safeguard against possible obsolescence on a large scale. He explained that the increase of the Bell system's surplus and reserve for 1917 was \$41,500,000, a greater increase than for any previous year. The income from outstanding obligations was \$36,000,000.

At yesterday's meeting G. D. Milne was elected a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Richard Olney.

Dividends Extras United States Steamship Company.—An extra dividend of 3/4 of 1 per cent has been declared, in addition to the bi-monthly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, both payable May 1 to stockholders of record April 10.

Columbia Gas and Electric.—The company reports gross income for February of \$1,175,000, compared with \$1,175,000 for the corresponding month of the year before. Net after taxes was \$612,500, compared with \$612,500 for the corresponding month of the year before. Surplus after charges was \$425,750, compared with \$425,750 for the corresponding month of the year before. Twelve months' gross income was \$11,232,322, compared with \$11,232,322 for the same period of the previous year. Net after taxes for that period was \$5,338,788, an increase of \$538,788 over the corresponding period of the year before. Surplus after charges was \$2,375,148, compared with \$2,375,148 for the same period of the preceding year.

Central and South American Telegraph Company.—Traffic receipts for the quarter ended March 31, 1918, were \$1,000,000. Operating expenses and taxes amounted to \$250,000. Dividend payable April 10, 1918, \$209,871, leaving a balance of \$540,129. Estimated depreciation for the quarter was \$1,000,000, leaving a surplus of \$540,129 for the quarter.

Wisconsin-Minnesota Light & Power 1918. 1917. Gross for twelve months ended January 31, \$1,725,001 \$1,828,217

Net after taxes 587,724 604,381

Surplus after charges 634,108

Great Western Power System February gross \$340,451 \$320,000

Net 211,834 210,000

Surplus 4,051,611 \$761,000

Twelve months' gross \$2,608,319 \$2,710,000

Net 1,622,996 1,728,000

Surplus 355,393 350,000

Twin City Rapid Transit February gross \$780,372 \$820,000

Net 175,638 175,000

Surplus 1,622,996 1,728,000

Major Childs in France.—Word was received here yesterday of the safe arrival in France of Major Herbert H. Childs, attached to the ordinance department of the United States Army. Major Childs is a member of the Exchange firm of Clark, Childs & Co.

Poulsen Wireless Corporation STOCK

Bought—Sold—Quoted

MacQuoid & Coady Members N. Y. Stock Exchange

14 Wall Street

Corporate Returns

Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Railway.—The company's annual report for the year ended December 31, 1917, shows operating revenue of \$1,599,125, compared with \$946,002 for the preceding year.</