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## DISCUSS ADJUSTING RAILROAD FINANCES

Government Officials, Railway Executives and Bankers Hold Conference.

**ACCEPT EQUIPMENT PLAN**  
Congressional Compromise Bill Is Not Wholly Satisfactory to Railroad Men.

An important conference of officials of the Railroad Administration, railroad executives and local bankers was held here on Wednesday. It was learned yesterday, to discuss financial readjustments necessitated by the return of the railroad properties to their private owners March 1.

The Railroad Administration was represented at the conference by Swager Shirley, who came from Washington to attend it. Eugene Meyer, Jr., head of the War Finance Corporation, was another government official to attend the meeting. T. C. Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, represented the railroads and members of the special committee of bankers for railroad financing, of which Jerome J. Hansauer is chairman, were present on behalf of the financial interests involved.

While here Swager Shirley, on behalf of the Railroad Administration, conveying the provisions of the Guaranty Trust Company regarding the selection of that company as trustee for the \$350,000,000 equipment trust to be created by the Administration to finance the equipment of the railroads during Government operation of them.

Recommendation of the special committee on allocation and financing of equipment of the Association of Railway Executives that the Guaranty Trust Company be appointed sole trustee has been approved by the sixty-five railroads concerned. Details of execution of the agreement must now be completed. It is probable that the Guaranty Trust Company will execute one trust agreement with the Railroad Administration after the individual roads execute their individual equipment trusts, under which each road agrees to pay up to \$50,000,000 in fifteen equal annual installments.

Upon receipt of news yesterday that Congressional conferees had arrived at an agreement on the railroad bill under the provisions of which the roads will be restored to their owners on March 1, Thomas De Witt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, issued a statement in which he makes the following comment on the agreement: "It must be a source of gratification to all those interested in the welfare of the railroads in this country that the conferees have arrived at an agreement to support a bill which, it is hoped, will be protective both to the security holders and the shareholders of the properties and to the public at large.

"There can be no question that the conferees and the House and Senate have had an earnest desire to do justice to the railroads. If the bill be enacted by Congress the railway executives and the owners of the properties will be glad to provide in good faith with the earnest hope that it may be productive of the desired result, namely the protection of the present credit of the roads, and the extension of that credit so they may provide in the future adequate facilities for the transportation system of the country. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that this question does not affect alone, nor even principally, the owners of the properties. The public is much more concerned. If the transportation system of the country is not adequate to its needs the country must suffer.

"It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that the protection of the credit of the proposed bill seeks to establish will prove successful. If it does not, the railroads will continue to be in a state of financial distress, and additional legislation may be necessary to further protect the companies and the public."

While railroad men believe that the compromise measure reported to Congress is the best that they can hope for they do not conceal their disappointment that one of the features of the bill, namely that even the Guaranty Trust would have been determined as a Government body what were the needs of the railroads to enable them to render efficient public service and make recommendations which would guide the rate making power, which is the commission.

Without such a balance wheel railroad men are apprehensive that the commission will fail to function properly. It is the possible result that the railroad bill will fall to restore the credit of the railroads, which is its principal function as railway men view it.

## TO FLOAT PART OF FRENCH LOAN HERE

Will Be Placed by Consortium of Bankers and in Dollars to Aid Exchange.

**AMOUNT IS NOT YET FIXED**  
Bonds to Bear 5 P. C. and Be Redeemable With 50 P. C. Bonus in 60 Years.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—A portion of the new French loan will be floated in the United States through a consortium of bankers and will be placed in dollars, with the view of easing the exchange situation, it is learned here. The bonds will bear 5 per cent. interest, as in France, being redeemable with a 50 per cent. bonus within sixty years.

It is understood that the amount of bonds to be placed in the United States has not been fixed, as estimates of American financiers who have been consulted have varied considerably as to the total subscriptions probably obtainable. Some of their estimates have run as high as \$2,000,000,000.

Subscriptions will be received also in London in pound sterling on the terms given United States financiers. Experts here count on the success of foreign subscriptions to give relief in the stabilization of exchange.

While subscriptions are being received here, final details as to the date for opening subscriptions abroad have not been determined. French financiers and officials do not look to the foreign part of the loan for anything more than a temporary relief to the exchange market. J. P. Bloch, French financial agent in New York, is supposedly arranging details for floating the loan in the United States.

**Confirm Report Here.**  
New York bankers with French connections confirmed yesterday the report from Paris that it is proposed to form an American syndicate of bankers to place a portion, say up to \$500,000,000, of the French loan in this country. It was reported that J. P. Morgan & Co. would head the consortium of bankers to handle its marketing, but at the Morgan office the day before they could be interviewed. It was stated that the latter firm had advertised in a French newspaper that they would receive subscriptions to the new French internal loan.

The French High Commission state that the information given regarding the members of the proposed syndicate, but they gave out the following information regarding the internal loan: "It will be unlimited and its subscription books open on February 19 and close on March 29. The issuing price is par with denominations of 100 francs. The interest is 5 per cent., payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1. At maturity, which is within thirty years, the redeemable price will be 150 francs. There are to be semi-annual drawings on September 16 and March 16. The numbers drawn will be redeemable at 150, but the amount to be drawn on each date is not fixed.

"There is a wide difference of opinion as to how much of the French internal loan can be sold here, but any amount above \$500,000,000, it was said, would be out of the question. Actually the amount which will be placed is estimated at a smaller amount than \$500,000,000. Bankers pointed out that subscriptions to the loan are not expected to be large enough to affect exchange rates more than briefly. From that source only temporary relief is expected.

Favorable features regarding the new internal loan from an investor's point of view are the speculation in exchange during the life of the loan, and the possibility of getting 150 at an early date on account of a fortunate drawing. On the other hand, an important investment institution declines to participate in the sales of foreign internal bonds here on the theory that demoralization as well as capital taxes may prove to be the outcome of the present international situation.

Bankers pointed out yesterday that the public has little knowledge of the floating obligations of the French to bankers in the United States. About a year ago the floating debt, meaning obligations of the French Government against French railways and industrial concerns that sum has been reduced steadily until the present time, the floating debt is estimated at between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000. Sales of the internal loan here would help to reduce the floating debt still further.

It developed yesterday that bankers are devoting attention to schemes regarding refinancing the \$500,000,000 Anglo-French loan which matures next November. It is thought that H. P. Davison and equipment were written slightly lower in 1919 than they were in 1918, and inventories of materials and supplies were in 1919 likewise somewhat below those of 1918. The item of cash, however, showed an increase of \$15,000,000 to \$3,534,231. Changes in the liabilities listed were represented in an increase in accounts payable and in the increase of reserves and surplus in 1919.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECOVERS

Mark Is Exception—Sterling Rises 7 Cents on the Day.

Exchange quotations, except for marks, recovered yesterday a moderate amount of recent losses, but experts declared that the improvement was only temporary. A falling off in the demand for dollars in European centres was responsible for advances above Wednesday's final. At the same time it should be noted that gold rose to a new high record price in London, the premium approximating 50 per cent.

Sterling sold as low as \$2.23 1/4 a pound, but closed at \$2.29 1/4, up 7 cents on the day. French francs advanced from 14.97 a dollar at the opening to 14.72, closing at 14.77 for a gain of 15 centimes. Belgian francs advanced to 14.52 a dollar, but lire sold down to 19.75 a dollar, a new low record.

It is probable that the French quotations were aided by cables from Paris to the effect that American bankers would offer a portion of the new internal loan to investors here on an attractive basis.

## NORTHERN PIPE LINE REPORTS

In 1919 Net Income Represents \$10.41 a Share.

The Northern Pipe Line Company reports for 1919 a net income of \$11,777 after charges, taxes, etc., which is equivalent to \$10.41 a share on the \$4,000,000 of its capital stock outstanding. Its net income was \$109,234, or \$12.53 a share in 1918. Dividends paid were unchanged from 1918 at \$400,000, making the final surplus for the year \$16,777, against \$193,234.

The balance sheet of December 31, 1919, shows total assets and liabilities of \$6,508,420, an increase of about \$150,000 compared with that of 1918. Plant and equipment were written slightly lower in 1919 than they were in 1918, and inventories of materials and supplies were in 1919 likewise somewhat below those of 1918. The item of cash, however, showed an increase of \$15,000,000 to \$3,534,231. Changes in the liabilities listed were represented in an increase in accounts payable and in the increase of reserves and surplus in 1919.

## NEW YORK TRANSIT GAINS

Net Profits of 1919 Show Increase of More Than \$100,000.

The net profits of the New York Transit Company for 1919, as shown in its annual income statement made public yesterday, totalled \$1,028,818, an increase of more than \$100,000 compared with its 1918 profits. Those of 1919 were equal to \$20.37 a share on the outstanding capital stock of \$5,000,000. Dividends were unchanged in 1919 at \$1,000,000, leaving a surplus for the year of \$28,818. The balance sheet shows a surplus on December 31 of \$5,342,711.

An increase of nearly \$300,000 in total assets and liabilities was shown in the balance sheet of the close of 1919. Plant and equipment increased more than \$200,000, and cash showed an increase of more than \$300,000. Materials and supplies carried were slightly lower. Accounts payable and surplus and depreciation reserves were the increase shown in the liabilities column.

## FINANCIAL NOTES.

New York Trust Company has been appointed registrar of Century Oil Company, capital \$1,000,000.

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Chartered 1822

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## GOODYEAR TIRES SALES INCREASE

Report for Last Fiscal Year Shows Gain of More Than \$37,900,000 in Period.

The report of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company covering its operations for the year ended on October 31, 1919, issued yesterday, shows that the company's sales for the year increased more than \$148,000,000, compared with those of 1918, and also that net profits advanced nearly 45 per cent.

Total sales for the year, as shown in the report, were \$168,914,953 against \$131,247,593 in 1918 and net income, subject to Federal taxes, \$22,277,245, against \$15,128,191. The company's appropriated surplus of \$33,232,686 at the end of the year.

The balance sheet at the close of the fiscal year showed current assets of \$75,522,070 and current liabilities of \$11,785,434, leaving working capital of \$63,736,636. Dividends totalling \$5,302,395 were paid during the year on capital stock at the rate of 7 per cent. on the first preferred, 2 1/2 per cent. on the second preferred and 15 per cent. on the common.

In his remarks to stockholders, F. A. Seiberling, president of the company, said: "It is gratifying to be able to state that of the new issue of preferred stock offered to our stockholders and employees, \$41,135,906 has been subscribed by 30,403 individuals, representing over 250,000 shares of stock in the Union, of which amount \$7,843,400 was subscribed by 17,407 employees of the company."

It was announced that during the last year the directors had caused to be organized the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of California, of \$20,000,000 capital, and the Pacific Coast Mills Company, of \$5,000,000 capital. Plants for these companies are being erected and when completed the rubber plant will have a capacity of 7,500 tons a day, and the cotton plant of 150,000 tons a week. The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Ohio purchased all of the common stock issued by both companies in the amount of \$5,000,000.

## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Continued from Preceding Page.

Closing Bid	Ask	Div. (in %)	Notes	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Net Change
48 1/2	49 1/2	4	10900 Midvale Steel & Ord.	48 1/2	47	45 1/2	48 1/2	-1 1/2
12 1/2	13 1/2	4	10900 Minn. St. P. & S. M.	12 1/2	12	11 1/2	12 1/2	-1 1/2
63 1/2	70	7	10000 Missouri, Kan. & Tex.	63 1/2	64	63 1/2	63 1/2	0
7 1/2	8	4	10000 Missouri, Kan. & Tex. pf.	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	0
23 1/2	24 1/2	4	6400 Missouri Pacific	23 1/2	24 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	0
23 1/2	24 1/2	4	6400 Missouri Pacific pf.	23 1/2	24 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	0
63 1/2	64 1/2	2	500 Montana Power	64	64 1/2	64	64 1/2	+ 1/2
99	100	7	100 Montana Power pf.	100	100	100	100	+ 1
40 1/2	42 1/2	4	300 Mullins Body	42	42	41	41	-1
36 1/2	37 1/2	3 1/2	500 National Acme Co.	36 1/2	37 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2	0
40	41	4	500 Nat. Am. & Chem. pf.	40	41	40	40	0
63 1/2	64 1/2	2	100 Nat. Am. & Chem. pf.	64	64 1/2	64	64 1/2	+ 1/2
113	116	7	200 Nat. Biscuit Co.	113 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	-1 1/2
70	75	6	100 National Cloak & Suit	75	75	75	75	0
8 1/2	9 1/2	6	1200 Nat. Conduit & Cable	9	9	8 1/2	8 1/2	-1/2
72 1/2	73	8	500 Nat. Enam. & Stamp	72 1/2	73	72 1/2	72 1/2	0
75	76	8	1000 National Lead Co.	75 1/2	76	75	75	-1/2
5	5 1/2	5	300 Nat. R. of Mex. 2d pf.	5 1/2	5 1/2	5	5	-1/2
100 1/2	102	1 1/2	400 Nevada Con. Copper	101 1/2	102 1/2	101 1/2	101 1/2	0
100 1/2	102	1 1/2	800 New York Air Brake	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	0
37 1/2	38 1/2	3	300 Nat. Enam. & Stamp	37 1/2	38 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2	0
25	27	2	200 New York, Chi. & St. L.	25 1/2	27	25 1/2	25 1/2	-1
38	42	2 1/2	100 New York Dock	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	+ 1/2
25 1/2	26 1/2	4	4600 New York, N. H. & H.	25 1/2	27	25 1/2	25 1/2	+ 1/2
18 1/2	19 1/2	1	100 New York, Ont. & West.	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	0
32 1/2	34 1/2	4	100 Norfolk & Western	32 1/2	34 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	0
70	75 1/2	6	5400 Northern Pacific	70	71 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2	-1/2
60	65	6	1800 Nova Scotia S. C.	60	61	59 1/2	59 1/2	-1/2
42 1/2	43 1/2	4	11100 Ohio Cities Gas	42 1/2	44	42 1/2	42 1/2	-1/2
47 1/2	48 1/2	2 1/2	100 Ohio Fuel Supply	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	0
7 1/2	8	5	6400 Oklahoma Prod. & Ref.	7 1/2	8	7 1/2	7 1/2	0
127	130	6	400 Ontario Silver Mining	127	130	127	127	0
31 1/2	32 1/2	3	2400 Oils Steel	31 1/2	32 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2	0
55 1/2	56 1/2	3	1100 Owens Bottle Co.	55 1/2	56 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2	0
82 1/2	84 1/2	2	1000 Pacific Mail	82 1/2	84 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2	0
80 1/2	80 1/2	6	13500 Pan-Am Petrol. & T. B.	80 1/2	82 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2	-1/2
76 1/2	77	6	500 Pan-Am Petrol. & T. B.	76 1/2	77	76 1/2	76 1/2	0
40 1/2	41 1/2	3	200 Parrish & Bingham	40 1/2	41 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	0
41 1/2	42 1/2	3	3125 Pennsylvania R. R.	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	0
23 1/2	24 1/2	4	1000 Penn. Seaboard Steel	23 1/2	24 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	0
35 1/2	36 1/2	4	400 Peoples Gas, Chicago	35 1/2	36 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	-1/2
29	29 1/2	2	10500 Pere Marquette	29	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	+ 1/2
60	64	3	300 Pere Marquette prior pf.	63 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2	0
25 1/2	26 1/2	3	300 Philadelphia Co.	25 1/2	26 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	0
56 1/2	57	2	2500 Pierce-Arrow Motor	56 1/2	57	56 1/2	56 1/2	0
95	102 1/2	8	300 Pierce-Arrow Motor pf.	100	101	100	100	-1
17 1/2	17 1/2	1	3700 Pierce Oil Corp.	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	0
50	52	4	100 Pitta. C. & St. Louis	50	52	50	50	+ 2
53 1/2	57	4	1700 Pittsburg Coal of Pa.	57 1/2	58 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2	-2 1/2
82 1/2	81	1	1000 Pittsburg Coal of Pa. pf.	82 1/2	83 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2	0
23	26	3	1000 Pittsburg & West Va.	23 1/2	25 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	-1/2
17 1/2	18	1	1600 Pott. Creek Coal	17 1/2	18 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	-1/2
32 1/2	33 1/2	3	1000 Pressed Steel Car	32 1/2	33 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	0
112	118 1/2	8	1000 Pullman Co.	114	114	113 1/2	113 1/2	-1/2
82 1/2	80 1/2	3	2000 Pullman Motor	81 1/2	82 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	-1/2
103 1/2	107 1/2	7	300 Railway Steel Spring	103 1/2	104	103 1/2	103 1/2	-1/2
19 1/2	20 1/2	2	4500 Ray Consol. Copper	20	20 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	-1/2
70 1/2	72	2	400 Reading	72	72 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2	-1/2
75 1/2	76 1/2	2	300 Reading	75 1/2	76 1/2	75 1/2	75 1/2	0
47 1/2	48 1/2	1	100 Republic Motor Truck	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	0
105 1/2	105 1/2	6	42000 Republic Iron & Steel	104	105 1/2	105 1/2	105 1/2	+ 1/2
103	104 1/2							