

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17—6 P. M. The elements of Wall street are ranging themselves with the various cliques which originally gave the impetus to the speculation which carried prices to their present figure. New cliques are forming and will soon be waging a fierce war with each other. The latest of these organizations is the "government clique," who were discovered through the terrible lesson inflicted upon them by the unexpected appreciation of our bonds in Europe. They were largely "short" and were forced into flight by the writing which they showed at the sudden disappearance of their plans. The "bear" element in the general market has also been augmented by the turn which affairs have taken, so that Wall street promises to be the scene of a very pretty struggle in the immediate future between all the various interests. It is now said that it is to the advantage of two of these powerful combinations to prevent the passage of the Hooper bill in the Senate, forbidding the increase of the bonded debt, and that the effort will be made, if not to defeat it, at least to delay it until the cliques have been enabled to withdraw from the complications of the street. It will be noticed by the Washington reports that the House has passed the bill which is to take the excess of currency from the New England banks and distribute it to the South. A redistribution of this kind will be beneficial to the great metropolis in removing another of the sources of monetary disturbance arising from the shipments and reshipments of currency.

The government market was steady at the opening this morning, but on receipt of the cable telegram announcing a yielding of the London price there was a disposition to sell, and quotations were lower. The market was variable, excited and fluctuating during the day. The feeling on the street in subsequent transactions was a better one and prices improved, but did not return to the high figures of the late sharp advance. The market closed strong with the following quotations:—United States sixes, 1881, registered, 112 1/2; do, coupon, 114 1/4; do, 1884, do, 109 1/2; do, 1885, 110 1/2; do, 1886, 110 1/2; do, 1887, 110 1/2; do, 1888, 110 1/2; do, 1889, 109 1/2; do, 1890, 109 1/2; do, 1891, 109 1/2; do, 1892, 109 1/2; do, 1893, 109 1/2; do, 1894, 109 1/2; do, 1895, 109 1/2; do, 1896, 109 1/2; do, 1897, 109 1/2; do, 1898, 109 1/2; do, 1899, 109 1/2; do, 1900, 109 1/2; do, 1901, 109 1/2; do, 1902, 109 1/2; do, 1903, 109 1/2; do, 1904, 109 1/2; do, 1905, 109 1/2; do, 1906, 109 1/2; do, 1907, 109 1/2; do, 1908, 109 1/2; do, 1909, 109 1/2; do, 1910, 109 1/2; do, 1911, 109 1/2; do, 1912, 109 1/2; do, 1913, 109 1/2; do, 1914, 109 1/2; do, 1915, 109 1/2; do, 1916, 109 1/2; do, 1917, 109 1/2; do, 1918, 109 1/2; do, 1919, 109 1/2; do, 1920, 109 1/2; do, 1921, 109 1/2; do, 1922, 109 1/2; do, 1923, 109 1/2; do, 1924, 109 1/2; do, 1925, 109 1/2; do, 1926, 109 1/2; do, 1927, 109 1/2; do, 1928, 109 1/2; do, 1929, 109 1/2; 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