

COMMON MARKET IS RATHER UNSETTLED

Brisk Selling, Low Barometer and Price Fixing Are Disturbing Elements.

A rather wide break, due to New Orleans selling, which was further accentuated by heavy selling by Wall Street yesterday morning, after they had opened buoyantly and higher. Much of this loss was later regained, but the market continued unsettled, though the close of the net change was gain of 10 1/2 points to a loss of 7, with March at 31.43, a loss of 31.06, July at 30.65, October at 29.83 and December at 29.10.

Several rumors were advanced to account for the selling. The most prominent of them was the presence of a low barometer over the southwestern section of the belt, although the needed rain has not actually arrived. The forecast is for cloudy and unsettled weather, with a low barometer, and another price fixing bill in the offing was another disturbing element, as was the news from England that further restrictions on the import of raw materials are planned.

The early tone was strong, with prices 10 to 15 points up from the close of the previous day. In the latter part of the hour, however, the selling became more insistent and before the sag had stopped March had declined 20 points, with the four months of the year at 29.10.

Trade was fairly active in the late afternoon.

Table with columns: Range of prices, Open, High, Low, Close, Change. Rows include March, May, July, August, September, October, December.

COTTON STATISTICS

Table with columns: Port receipts, Cotton, Exports, Interior, New York stocks, Liverpool cables, American, 1,000, Imports, Market.

YUKON GOLD CO. HOLDINGS.

Forecast of Dividend Reduction is Made by President Leach.

Forecasts of a reduction in dividend distribution from Washington of the Yukon Gold Company stock are made by President William Leach, Jr., in his annual report.

INCREASE IN DIVIDENDS.

Continental Can Common Rate Up From 5 to 6 Per Cent.

Dividend announcements yesterday included the Continental Can Company. Common annual rate from 5 to 6 per cent and the reduction of the Wolverine Copper Mining's semi-annual rate from \$2 to \$3 a share.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

BEANS AND PEAS—Receipts, 800 bags. Marrow, 1917, choice, 100 lbs. \$1.10; 1918, choice, 100 lbs. \$1.10; 1917, choice, 100 lbs. \$1.10; 1918, choice, 100 lbs. \$1.10.

LIMITS CONTRACTS ON U. S. UNIFORMS

Government Also to Make Its Inspection Standards Much Stricter.

Limited contracts for the making of uniforms for the United States Army and Navy are included in a new program of contract award mapped out by the Depot Quartermaster's Department, according to reports in the clothing trade here yesterday from sources generally regarded as well informed.

The War Department has decided, it is said, to abolish the plan of issuing contracts for uniforms from now on. Under the reported new order a manufacturer will be fortunate if he receives a contract for a period of more than two months. In the majority of cases, it is said, a one-month contract will be given.

Furthermore, with the reorganization of the Quartermaster's Department, the department is expected to make the maximum of efficiency from the contractors, and it is said instructions have been issued to the inspection department to reject all garments which fail to meet certain standards.

The examination of the garments will be made with the possibility of obtaining uniform or exact shading of the same colors by different tannages.

American's first year in the war will show a marked increase in merchandise activity if retail conditions in March and April are any indication of the present.

Based on the compilation of over 100,000 active ledger experiences aggregating over \$40,000,000, purchasing activity shows an increase of 2 per cent over January, but remains stationary in comparison with February, 1917.

China Faces High Cost Too. American made shoes at \$18 a pair, coal at \$22 a ton, gasoline at \$1.60 a gallon, and other necessities are some of the prevailing prices in China.

Raw silk prices good. The local raw silk market is active, with a good demand for spot silk and forward delivery, according to the weekly market report of H. L. Gwaller & Co., 121 Broadway, Hotel Bristol.

Australian Wools Shown. BOSTON, Feb. 27.—The Australian wool to be auctioned at the Boston Chamber of Commerce March 7 will be of the highest quality.

Names Percale Prices. The Algonquin Printing Company has put the following prices on its 64x60 percales, stock goods, 18 cents for light and 19 cents for dark.

Buyers in the City. Ready to Wear. ALBANY—Union Clothing Co. S. S. & Co., 121 Broadway, Hotel Bristol.

Spot Drugs in Demand. Larger inquiries were noted for spot supplies of numerous drugs and pharmaceuticals, says Drug and Chemical Markets this week.

White Leather Shoes for Men. White leather shoes for men may be the fashion in the near future, if resolutions adopted by the Council of National Service of the Shoe and Leather Industry are carried out.

Business Troubles. The petition in bankruptcy filed yesterday in the United States District Court follows: EDWARD W. SCHAEFER, Voluntary petitioner by Edward W. Schaefer, individually and as partner in Schaefer & Co., with Bernard W. Winterschaefer & Co., 225 Broadway, New York.

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U. S. Watches Cotton Mills for Violations

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Feb. 27.—The official eye of the United States Government is trained on the mills in this vicinity. Some of them, it became known to Government agents, last week started running machines on fancy cloths, despite orders from Washington to hold their thirty-six-inch looms until further notice.

That Washington's orders were being disobeyed by certain establishments here, the Government is understood to have sent to the manufacturers in question circular letters commanding them to hold their looms at Government purposes.

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YESTERDAY'S FIRES.

Both Are Wanted in Baltimore on Serious Charge.

John Herck of 66 Fort Washington avenue and David Lutz, both curb brokers, were arraigned in the Tombs Court yesterday and held for extradition to Maryland on charges of kidnaping. They were arrested after Lieut. Thomas P. O'Connell of Baltimore reached the city with copies of an indictment charging them with conspiracy to kidnap.

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