GENERAL TONE IS MUCH BETTER

Great Variety of Movement of Prices and Some Feverishness in Stocks.

MONEY IN STRONG DEMAND

Sentiment Is Confident That a Reduction of Money Will Come Next Week.

NEW YORK, December 14.—There was a great variety and no little feverishness in the movement of prices in today's stock market. The general tone became much better than yesterday, and recovery from yesterday's losses was achieved, but in a very spotty and irregular manner. The overwhelming share of attention was given to the Northwestern trans-continental group. There was evidence early in the day of the further aggressive movement in the Hill stocks and St. Paul, but the effective support and the latter touched its highest level comparatively early in the day.

Money continued in strong demand today, the call loan rate rising as high as 10 per cent. and receding only after the principal demand had been satisfied. Forecasts of the bank statement were not reassuring as to the re-establishment of reserves to the required legal proportion of deposits. The banks appear to have gained on balance on the interior movement, and a million dollars gold has come in from Canada, but this was not sufficient to offset the absorption of $1,381,000 by the subtreasury. With an indicated cash loss of several million dollars, the restoration of a surplus would be dependent, therefore, on a very heavy loan contraction. Cross influences seem to have been at work on the loan account, large calling of loans having been made in preparation for payments falling due, while some extension of credits was probably involved in other quarters in the accumulation of reserves for these payments. Sentiment is rather confident, however, over a relaxation of the money market next week. Numerous payments will be made of the government interest due up to May 1st next, amounting to some $12,000,000. It is expected that the government deposits with national banks elsewhere, to the amount of $28,000,000, will begin to return to New York next week, and the effect of the purchase by the treasury of $10,000,000 of government bonds also will be felt. A shipment of $250,000 to Argentina was in effect a transshipment of gold received from Canada. Bonds were steady. Total sales, par value, $1,000.

United States bonds unchanged on call. Total sales stocks, 1,267,500 shares.

NEW YORK, December 14—Money on call strong: 5@10; ruling rate, 10; closed, 5@6. Time loans firm and very dull; sixty days, 5@5; ninety days, 6; six months, 6@6 bid. Prime mercantile paper, 5@6½ per cent. Sterling exchange weak, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.8265@$4.8300 for demand and at $4.7820@$4.7830 for sixty day bills. Posted rates, $4.79@$4.80 and $4.84½@$4.85. Commercial bills, $4.77 3-4@$4.77 7-8. Bar silver, 68 1-4. Mexican dollars, 52 3-4.

RICHMOND STOCK MARKET.

Richmond, Va., December 14, 1906.

SALES AT BOARD.

Virginia Centuries—1,000 at 97.

STATE SECURITIES.	Bid.	Asked.
North Carolina 4s, C., 1910	102	...
North Carolina 6s, C., 1919	127	129½
Va. 3s, Ext. 1991, R. 1932	96½	...
Va. Centuries, 2-3s, C. and R., 1991	93	93½
RAILROAD BONDS.		
A. C. L. R. R. Con. 5s, 4 p. c.	97	...
A. C. L. R. R. Cons. of 1914, 4 p. c.	94	95½
Georgia Pacific 1st 6s, C., 1922	120	...
Georgia, Southern and Fla., 1945	111	...
Georgia and Ala. Con. 5s, 1945	110	...
N. and W. R. R. 4s, C., 1956	98	...
Norfolk and West. Ry. Pocah. 4s, 1941	98	...
Petersburg Class A 5s, R. C., 1926	111	...
Petersburg Class B 6s, R. C., 1926	123	...
York and Mecklenburg 1st 4s, 1949	87	...
Western N. C. 1st 6s, C, 1914	112	...
RAILROAD STOCKS.	Par.	
Atlantic Coast Line "A"	100	130
Atlantic Coast Line com.	100	120
Chesapeake and Ohio November 15	100	54
Norfolk and Western com.	100	91
R., F. and P. 7 p. ct. guar.	100	225
BANK AND TRUST CO. STOCKS.		
American National	100	130
Broad Street	25	50
City	25	34
First National	100	216
Merchants National	100	140
State Bank of Virginia	100	130
State Bank of Virginia	100	103½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Old Dominion 5s, R. C.	100	120
Va.-Car. Chem. pfd., 5 p. ct.	100	103½

BALTIMORE STOCK MARKET.

BALTIMORE, MD., December 14—Seaboard Air Line, common and preferred—Nothing doing.

COTTON MARKETS.

NEW YORK, December 14—The cotton market was easier today and prices made a new low record under her pressure, and the close was steady at a decline of 29@32 points. Sales for the day were estimated at 300,00 bales.

The opening was easier on a decline of 7@12 points in response to lower cables. It was a December notice day, and notices for about 2,000 bales were estimated to be in circulation. This caused some hesitation by nearby longs, and long liquidation became aggressive, while stop-loss orders were caught on the decline. There was also a rumor current in spot markets, and while an effort was made by some of the local longs to check the decline after December sold 16 points under January and the notices had been taken care of, the market showed no rally of consequence and reached the low point of the session in the first trading, when the net loss was about 26@30 points. The close was 1 or 2 points up from the lowest as a result of covering. There was much less of the bullish spot news from the South than on yesterday, and the absence of bullish wires led operators to fear that the situation was weakening either as a result of sales of hedged cotton or in the interior.

Receipts at the ports today were 87,799 bales against 56,976 last week and 43,983 last year. For the week 415,096 bales against 436,499 last week and 258,325 last year. To-day's receipts at New Orleans 18,467 bales against 8,596 last year, and at Houston 19,622 bales against 6,826 last year.

Cotton futures closed steady.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing.
December	9.37	9.37	9.13	9.19
January	9.45	9.45	9.26	9.27
February	9.44	9.44	9.18	9.21
March	9.64	9.66	9.40	9.44
April	...	...	...	9.59
May	9.79	9.83	9.65	9.70
June	9.74	9.74	9.74	9.75
July	9.91	9.91	9.72	9.81

THOMAS BRANCH & CO.

(Established 1838.)

MEMBERS

New York Stock Exchange,
New York Cotton Exchange

Private Wires to Principal Markets.

Investment Securities.

OFFICIAL RANGE AND SALE OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK

By Thomas Branch & Co., Bankers and Brokers.

SALES:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing Bid.	Closing Asked.
600 Atlantic Coast Line, com.	135¾	137	135¾	136	137
15,300 American Smelters, com.	151½	152⅞	150⅝	152¼	152½
77,600 Amalgamated Copper	113½	115	112⅝	114½	114¾
2,100 Amer. Car and Foundry	44	44	43⅝	43⅝	43¾
100 Amer. Car and Foun., pfd	101	101	101	100½	105
300 American Cotton Oil	31½	31½	31½	31½	32½
Amer. Tob., pfd., ex. div.	...	...	...	96¾	98½
200 American Can	6	6	6	6	6¼
200 Amer. Can, pfd., ex. div.	54¼	54¼	54¼	54½	56
1,500 Amer. Locomotive, com.	72⅞	73½	72⅞	73½	73¾
Amer. Locomotive, pfd.	...	...	...	111	112
1,800 American Sugar	133¾	134¾	133¾	134¼	134¾
24,800 A., T. and S. Fe, com.	103½	104¾	103	104¾	104½
100 A., T. and S. Fe, pfd.	103	103	103	103	100½
1,500 Baltimore and Ohio	117¾	118	117¾	118	118¼
60,000 Brooklyn Rapid Transit	80	85	79¾	81¼	82½
20,900 Canadian Pacific	194½	200½	194½	200¼	200½
5,100 Chesapeake and Ohio	56¼	56½	55¾	56½	57
100 Chicago Great Western	17½	17½	17½	17½	17¾
217,300 Chicago, Mil. and St. Paul	192	198½	192	196½	196¾
9,900 Colorado Fuel and Iron	54¾	56¾	54¾	56¼	56¾
300 Colorado South., com.	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾	37¾
Colorado South., 1st pfd.	...	...	...	67½	68½
700 Colorado South., 2d pfd.	57¾	57¾	57	57½	57¾
Clev., Cin., Chi. and St. Louis, ex. div., ex. rts.	91½	92	91½	91¾	92
400 Consolidated Gas	138	138	138	138	139¾
1,800 Delaware and Hudson	228½	228	226½	227¼	229
Del., Lack. and Western	...	...	...	635	650
8,100 Erie, com.	44½	44⅞	43⅞	44⅝	44
100 Erie, 1st pfd.	75½	75½	...	75½	76
500 Erie, 2d pfd.	65½	66½	65½	66	67
1,500 General Electric, ex. div.	157¼	158½	157¼	158	158¼
15,400 Great Northern, pfd.	210	212¾	208¾	211¼	212
300 Illinois Central	174	175	174	174	175½
4,800 Louisville and Nashville	146¼	148	146¼	147½	147¾
100 Manhattan, ex. div.	141½	141½	141½	141	143
Metro. Street Railway	...	...	...	106	112
41,200 Mexican Central	27¼	29¼	27	29	29¼
22,200 Mo., Kan. and Tex., com.	39¼	42¼	39¼	41¾	42
2,100 Mo., Kan. and Tex., pfd.	72	73	72	73¾	77
2,000 Missouri Pacific	94	95¾	93½	94¼	94½
600 National Lead	73½	74	73½	73¾	74
Nash., Chat. and St. Louis	...	...	...	145	149
7,400 New York Cen., ex. div.	131	132¼	131	131¾	132
1,300 Norfolk and Western	91¼	91¾	91	91	91½
200 N. Y., Ont. and Western	48¼	48¼	48	48	48¼
44,500 Northern Pacific	208½	211¼	206	210¾	211
13,500 Pennsylvania Railroad	137½	138½	137½	138¼	138½
4,400 People's Gas (Chicago)	95	96	94¼	95½	96
1,300 Pressed Steel Car	54½	55	54½	54½	55
Pressed Steel Car, pfd.	...	...	...	98¼	99½
4,600 Republic I. and S., com.	38¼	40	38¼	39¾	40
1,100 Republic I. and S., pfd.	96¼	98¼	96¼	98	98½
190,500 Reading, com.	147¼	148	144⅞	147¾	147¾
Reading, 1st pfd.	...	...	...	88¾	90¾
Reading, 2d pfd.	...	...	...	91	93
11,400 Rock Island, com.	30¾	31¼	30⅞	31¼	31¼
1,800 Rock Island, pfd.	65½	66	65½	66½	66
900 Sloss	73	76½	74½	76	76½
Sloss, pfd.	...	...	...	102½	107
38,500 Southern Pacific	93	96¼	93¼	94¾	95
3,700 Southern Railway, com.	33¾	34	33¼	34	34¼
100 Southern Railway, pfd.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Seaboard Air Line, 1st pfd.	...	...	...	50	51
Seaboard Air Line, 2d pfd.	...	...	...	50	52
Seaboard Air Line, com.	...	...	...	22	23
Tennessee Coal and Iron	...	...	...	135	144
1,100 Texas Pacific	37½	37¾	37¼	37¾	38
193,300 Union Pacific	182½	185¾	181¾	185¼	185¾
79,400 United States Steel	47¼	48⅞	47⅞	48⅞	48¾
6,700 United States Steel, pfd.	104½	106	104¼	104¾	105
1,900 United States Rubber	61¼	63½	61¼	62	62½
300 U. S. Rubber, 1st pfd.	107¼	107¼	107¼	107½	108
200 U. S. Rubber, 2d pfd.	78	78½	78	77	79
600 Va.-Car. Chemical, com.	38	38¼	38	38¾	39½
Va.-Car. Chemical, pfd.	...	...	...	102	110
Wabash, com.	...	...	...	19½	20
700 Wabash, pfd.	42	42¼	42	42⅞	43½
400 Western Union	85½	85⅞	85¼	85⅞	86

Total sales, 1,282,400 shares.

CLOSING BOND QUOTATIONS.

U. S. refunding 2s, registered	104½	Chicago, R. I. and Pacific R. R. 4s	77¾	National R. R. of Mexico con. 4s	85¾
U. S. refunding 2s, coupon	104¾	Chicago, R. I. and Pacific R. R. 4½s	92	New York Central gen. 3½s	94¾
U. S. 3s, registered	102¾	C., C., C. and St. Louis gen. 4s	100¾	Northern Pacific 3s	75¾
U. S. 3s, coupon	102¾	Colorado Industrial 5s, series A	72¾	Northern Pacific 4s	102¾
U. S. Old 4s, registered	109¾	Colorado Midland 4s	58¾	Norfolk and Western con. 4s, 1915	94
U. S. Old 4s, coupon	109¾	Colorado and Southern 4s	81¾	Oregon Short Line refunding 4s	94¾
U. S. New 4s, registered	138½	Cuba 5s	101½	Pennsylvania conv. 3½s	96½
U. S. New 4s, coupon	140½	Denver and Rio Grande 4s	96¾	Reading General 4s	96
American Tobacco 4s	102¾	Distillers Securities 5s	105¾	St. Louis and Iron Mountain con. 5s	113¾
American Tobacco 6s	110¾	Erie prior lien 4s	94¾	St. Louis and San Francisco 4s	96¾
Atchison general 4s	104¾	Erie General 4s	77	St. Louis Southwestern con. 4s	95¾
Atlantic Coast Line 4s (big)	92	Genesse River 4s	90	Seaboard Air Line 5s (bid)	91
Baltimore and Ohio 4s	97	Japan 6s	92¾	Southern Pacific 4s	97¾
Baltimore and Ohio 3½s	91¾	Japan 6s, 2d series	92¾	Southern Pacific 4s, certificates	97¾
Brooklyn Rapid Transit conv. 4s	80¾	Japan 4½s, certificates	91¾	Southern Railway 5s	108¾
Central of Georgia 5s	104¾	Japan 4s, certificates	83½	Texas and Pacific 5s	118¾
Central of Georgia 1st inc.	89	Japan 4½s, certificates, 2d series	91¾	Toledo, St. L. and Western 4s	71¾
Central of Georgia 2nd inc.	76	Mexican Central 4s	80¾	Union Pacific 4s	102¾
Central of Georgia 5d inc.	71	Mexican Central 1st inc.	86½	United States Steel 2nd 5s	97¾
Chesapeake and Ohio 4½s	100¾	Minn. and St. Louis 4s	98¾	Wabash 5s	115¾
Chicago and Alton 3½s	73¾	Missouri, Kansas and Texas 4s	91	Wabash Deb. B	71¾
Chicago Union 5s	97¾	Missouri, Kansas and Texas 2s	79¾	Western Md. 4s	97¾
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul 4s	99¾	Mobile and Ohio Col. Tr. 4s	85¾	Wisconsin Central 4s	91

August ... 9.72 9.72 9.60 9.64

Spot cotton closed steady, 20 points decline; middling uplands, 10.45; middling gulf, 10.70; sales, 500 bales.

New York Produce Market.

NEW YORK, December 14.—FLOUR—Steady but slow. Buckwheat Flour—Steady. Buckwheat—Dull. Cornmeal—Steady. Rye—Steady. Barley—Steady.

Wheat—Spot easy; No. 2 red, 78c, elevator. Options opened weak but lower, July, 80¾c; December, 81c.

Corn—Spot easy; No. 2 yellow, 73c, elevator. Options opened lower. January, 67¾c; May, 66¾c. Oats—Spot steady.

Beef—Firm. Cut Meats—Quiet. Lard—Steady; western, prime, $8.90@9.00; refined, steady. Pork—Steady. Tallow—Steady. Hams—Steady. Turpentine—Steady.

Rice—Steady. Domestic, fair to extra, 5¼@6¼c. Molasses—Steady. Coffee—Spot, Rio, quiet; No. 7 invoice, 6c. Futures opened higher, Sugar—Raw, quiet; fair refining, 3 1-16c; centrifugal, 3 1-16@3 3-16c. Molasses sugar, 2 1-16@3 3-16c. Refined—Firm and unchanged. Cheese—Irregular; extra, 9@9½c. Eggs—Steady and unchanged.

Potatoes—Irish, quiet and unchanged; sweet potatoes—easier; Jersey, per barrel, $1.50@2.25. Cabbages—Steady and unchanged. Cottonseed Oil—Firm on covering. Prime crude, f. o. b. mills, 27½c; prime yellow, 32½c; other grades nominal.

Chicago Grain Market.

CHICAGO, December 14.—Lower prices for wheat outside grain centres caused weakness today in our new wheat market. At the close wheat for May delivery was off ¾c. Corn and oats each down 1@c. down. Provisions ruled lower.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
WHEAT—				
Dec.	71½	74½	71½	73½
May	75¾	75¾	75¼	75⅛
CORN—				
Dec.	42¾	42	41⅞	41¾
May	42¼	42⅛	41⅞	42⅛
July	44¾	44¾	44	44
OATS—				
Dec.	24⅝	24⅝	24¼	24¼
May	26¼	26¼	26	26⅛
July	25¼	25¼	25⅛	25⅛
MESS PORK—Per bbl.				
Jan.	15.95	15.95	15.77	15.80
May	16.05	16.05	16.07	16.10
LARD—Per 100 lbs.				
Dec.	8.70	8.70	8.65	8.65
Jan.	8.70	8.77	8.65	8.65
May	8.87½	8.92	8.77	8.80
SHORT RIBS—Per 100 lbs.				
Dec.	8.07	8.17	8.05	8.07
May	8.62	8.65	8.57	8.60

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour—Steady. No. 2 spring wheat, 69@70c; No. 3, 74@75c; No. 2 red, 77¾@78¾c; No. 2 corn, 40@40¼c; No. 2 yellow, 40¾@40¾c; No. 2 oats, 24½c; No. 2 white, 27¼c; No. 3 white, 24¾@26½c; No. 2 rye, 64¼@66c. Good feeding barley, 60@65c; fair to choice malting, 60@66c. No. 1 flaxseed, $1.07; No. 1 northwestern, $1.12; prime timothy seed, $4.50. Clover, contract grades, $12.75; short ribs, sides (loose), $8.25@8.62½; mess pork, $14.75; lard, per 100 pounds, $8.70; short clear sides (boxed), 8@8.12½. Whisky—Steady, $1.25. Butter—Steady; creameries, 21@28c; dairies, 20@27c. Eggs—Weak; fresh marks cases included, 24@25c; firsts, 24c; prime firsts, 25c; extras, 26c. Cheese—Firm at 12@14c.

CATTLE MARKETS.

CHICAGO, December 14.—CATTLE—Receipts about 3,500 head. Market slow and dull. Common to prime steers, $4.00@7.40; cows, $2.40@4.75; heifers, $2.00@6.00; bulls, $2.00@4.50; calves, $3.25@8.00; stockers and feeders, $2.40@4.25. Hogs—Receipts, about 19,000 head. Market strong to a shade higher. Choice heavy, $6.30@6.35; light, butchers, $6.15@6.35; choice, light, $6.30@6.35; light, mixed, $6.10@6.15; pigs, $6@6.50. Sheep—Receipts about 4,000 head. Market weak and slow. Sheep, $3@6.35; yearlings, $4.60@6.25; lambs, $5.75@7.75.

NEW YORK, December 14.—BEEVES—Receipts, 2,610 head. Steers, $5.50@6.00; bulls, $3.50@4.30; cows, $1.40@5.25. Dressed beef slow but steady. Calves—Receipts, 121 head. Veals, $5@9.00; barnyard, $3@5.25. Sheep and Lambs—Receipts, 2,171 head. Sheep, $3.25@5.50; lambs, $5.25@8.00. Hogs—Receipts, 2,906 head. Market nominally steady.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKET.

PEANUT MARKET.

(Reported by Rodgers, McCabe & Co.)

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 14.—PEANUTS—Spanish—Firm at $1.25 per bushel. Virginias—Firm at 4@4¼c. for fancy stock; machine picked, 3¾@4c.; shelling stock, 2¾@4c.

DRY GOODS MARKET.

NEW YORK, December 14.—The dry goods market generally quiet today. Great difficulty is being experienced by buyers in finding the goods they require. Prints and ginghams are now scarce, and the only class of dry goods not responding quickly to advance is heavy sheetings. Raw wool is more active. The cotton yarn market is steady, but there is considerable uncertainty about the near future.

NAVAL STORES.

WILMINGTON, N. C., December 14.—SPIRITS TURPENTINE—Nothing doing; receipts, 50 casks. Rosin—Firm at $3.80; receipts, 430 barrels. Tar—Firm at $2.35; receipts, 122 barrels. Crude Turpentine—Firm at $3.50@4.50; receipts, 65 barrels.

SAVANNAH, GA., December 14.—TURPENTINE—Firm at 60½c.; sales, 355 casks; receipts, 690 casks; shipments, 376 casks. Rosin—Firm; sales, 2,000 barrels; receipts, 1,641 barrels; shipments, 607 barrels; stock, 78,029 barrels.

CHARLESTON, S. C., December 14.—TURPENTINE AND ROSIN—Nothing doing.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF RICHMOND, DEC. 14, 1906.

ARRIVED.

Steamer Berkeley, Shelly, Norfolk, merchandise and passengers, Old Dominion Line.

Tug Radiant, Burk, Baltimore, barge of oil, Standard Oil Company.

SAILED.

Steamer Berkeley, Shelly, Norfolk, merchandise and passengers, Old Dominion Line.

Steamer Pocahontas, Graves, James River landings and Norfolk, merchandise and passengers, Virginia Navigation Company.

Tug Radiant, Burk, Baltimore, oil barge.

PORT OF WEST POINT, DEC. 14, 1906.

ARRIVED.

Steamship Baltimore, Short, Baltimore, passengers and general cargo.

SAILED.

Steamship Baltimore, Short, Baltimore, passengers and general cargo.

ON LOCAL MARKETS

COUNTRY PRODUCE SELLING WELL.

Receipts of country produce and the demand for it were both large enough yesterday to keep the Cary Street commission merchants and wholesalers busy, but there was not that rush of business that all are looking for next week. In fact, there is now just a little lull on "the block," the usual lull that precedes the mighty volume of trade that comes with the last week before Christmas. The market was firm and all goods sold went for the prices before quoted. There was no change whatever in the prices lists.

ANIMATED MARKET FOR LEAF TOBACCO.

Farmers from the sun-curing tobacco belt exchanged about 100,000 pounds of fairly good leaf tobacco for Christmas money on the Richmond market yesterday. The breaks were a little larger than the warehousemen had expected, and the stock offered showed marked improvement. It would seem that all the damaged stock has been marketed now, and everything that finds its way to the warehouse floors is in good order. This of itself makes the market more animated, and the buyers bid with more vim.

The sales yesterday seemed to be very satisfactory to the sellers.

BELIEVED WHITE WILL COME HERE

Has Not Announced Decision Yet, But Will in All Likelihood Accept.

Mr. William H. White, the newly-elected president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, arrived in this city Thursday afternoon, and remained here until yesterday morning, returning then to Norfolk. He had a conference with Judge W. J. Leake, the retiring president of the road, but has given no formal announcement of the acceptance of the new post. He is understood to be still considering the proposition, and it is said that the severance of family ties is the cause of his hesitancy. The committee of the stockholders which officially informed him of his election has received no definite indication of his decision.

It is generally believed, however, that Mr. White will accept the position, and that as soon as he can perfect his arrangements he will remove to this city.

* * *

President George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, who has been in the city since Monday, left Thursday night for New York, and is still there on railway business. Mr. Stevens was unable to attend the opening of a new depot in West Virginia, as announced in some of the papers a few days ago.

* * *

The Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line and Southern Railways are preparing to inaugurate their midwinter special trains from New York to Florida, via this city. These superb special trains will be put on about January 7th, and will run until the tide of Southern travel recedes. The Florida special of the Coast Line, the Palm Limited of the Southern, and the Florida Limited of the Seaboard, are all splendid specimens of the car-builders' art. The competition among the three roads is lively for this Southern tourist business, a great deal of which makes a stop-over in this city.

The hotels of the city are beginning to bustle for this business, and when the additions to the several hostelries shall have been completed the returning Florida travel will greatly augment their arrivals and their business.

* * *

Comptroller M. F. Plant, of the Southern Railway has issued the following statement of earnings of that system and of the line leased by it for the first week in December, showing an increase of nearly $60,000 for the week, compared with last year, or an increase for the year of about two millions, if maintained thus. Here is the statement:

Southern Railway Company, exclusive of St. Louis-Louisville lines—1906, $1,023,093; 1905, $975,339; increase, $47,754.

Southern Railway Company St. Louis-Louisville lines—1906, $85,998; 1905, $78,141; increase, $7,857.

* * *

Directors of the Norfolk and Western Railway Company Thursday announced an issue of $14,576,000 four per cent. convertible gold bonds maturing 1932. The bonds are part of the $34,000,000 authorized recently and will be offered to holders of the adjustment preferred and common stocks at par on the basis of one-sixth of their present holdings.

BREAK RECORD.

Business Is of Enormous Proportions.

NEW YORK, December 14.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say:

"Holiday trade, now in full swing, attracts most attention. Business, which is of enormous proportion, bids fair to outdo most or records, a significant feature being the demand for high-grade goods. In other respects retail trade is irregular, good in sections favored by cold weather, but backward in the Northwest and parts of the South, where mild weather has restricted demand for heavy-weight wearing apparel. Business in jobbing and wholesale lines displays a slight falling off, but only by contrast with the activity prevailing early in the season, the point being that trade is more than seasonably active, especially in dry goods. Filling in orders are of fair proportions, and demand on spring account is coming up in a satisfactory way. Best reports coming from the Southwest. Industrial lines were never so active, and the labor situation, so far as grievances are concerned, seems to have improved. Wages are still being advanced and the supply of help still continues scarce, although the season for the comparative suspension of outdoor activities is approaching. Car shortages still prevail, and it is alleged that the railways are diverting rolling stock from grain to other higher revenue-paying freights. Collections range from fair to good, though the car shortage defers payments in various parts of the country, particularly in the Northwest. In the South Atlantic States poor crop returns are responsible for conservative buying, close scrutiny of credits, slow collections and some requests for extensions.

"The excitement and decline of half a cent in raw cotton has been without effect in cotton goods, some of which are higher than a week ago. Thus print cloths have been marked up 1-8 to 1-4 cent, and other kinds are tending upward. The main anxiety in trade at present seems to be in getting goods already ordered, deliveries of which are slow, owing to labor conditions at mills.

"Business failures in the United States for the week ending December 13th number 220, against 218 last week, and 226 in the last week of 1906."

PRAISE FOR WOMEN WHO FIGHT FIRE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

ALEXANDRIA, VA., December 14.—The stable adjoining the Hotel Alton, at Occoquan, Va., was destroyed by fire at a late hour last night, and it is reported that the hotel came near being destroyed. It is said that the men and women of that little place formed a bucket brigade, and through their efforts the hotel was saved from destruction. The women, it is said, proved their ability to fight fires in time of need, and their work received favorable commendation from the residents of the little place.

Mrs. Leadmen, of Occoquan, is the owner of the hotel and stable.

J. T. Sweeney has been elected president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of this city.

Make Good Haul.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

ALEXANDRIA, VA., December 14.—Mr. Phillips, who resides in Fairfax county, about eight miles south of this place, reports to the police that thieves entered his house last night and stole considerable silverware, a gold watch, Masonic charm and other articles of value. He offers a reward of $25 for the apprehension of the thief or thieves.

HAS BRITTLE LEG.

Boy's Limb Broken Seven Times in Same Place.

Wesley Findlay, a fourteen-year-old boy, of No. 716 East Marshall Street, is confined to his home with a broken leg. Seven times he has broken the same leg in the same place. On Wednesday Dr. Hudgins, of the ambulance corps, was called to the home to treat the boy. The physician is of the opinion that the leg is very brittle and that the boy will have to see a specialist before he will be safe from injury.

Commencing Saturday, December 15th, and continuing each Saturday thereafter until further notice, Chesapeake and Ohio train No. 7 will leave Richmond for the West at 11:45 P. M., instead of 11:00 P. M.

On days other than Saturday train will leave Richmond at 11:00 P. M., as at present.

WANTED—A COLORED PORTER. MEYER'S, 915 East Main Street.

Financial.

Virginia Trust Company

No. 922, N. W. Cor. 10th and Main Streets

Capital, - - $500,000

JAMES N. BOYD, President. MANN S. QUARLES, V.-Pres.
LEWIS D. AYLETT, Sec'y. JOHN H. SOUTHALL, Treas.

This Company, now in its new quarters, offers its services for prompt and careful attention to all the business pertaining to Banking, Trust and Fiduciary matters, and solicits patronage.

Accounts received subject to check, Certificates of Deposit issued bearing interest, or allowed on account by agreement.

Depository of Court and Fiduciary Funds.

This Company acts as Executor and Trustee under wills.

Administrator of Estates. Guardian of Minor Children.

Assignee and Receiver.

Registrar and Transfer Agent of Bonds and Stocks.

Trustee for the Execution of Trusts of every nature.

Loans Money on approved real estate and collateral security.

Issues Guarantee, Judicial and Contract Bonds.
Rents Safety Boxes. Vault Burglar and Fire-Proof.

MR. LYNCH DUE TO GET HERE TO-DAY

National President to Pay Visit to Richmond Typographical Union.

DECLINED TO ARBITRATE

Gist of Correspondence Between Union and Typothetae Through Mayor McCarthy.

The refusal of the Richmond Typothetae to enter into conference with the International Typographical Union and the Richmond Union regarding the strike of printers which has been on some fifteen months seems, as indicated in The Times-Dispatch of yesterday, to remove all likelihood of the adjustment of the trouble here.

President Lynch, of the International Union, is expected here to-day, and will address a meeting of members of the union, to be held at Elliett's Hall, Fifth and Marshall Streets, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. While it is understood that Mr. Lynch, who is a very attractive and strong speaker, will speak along general lines, he will almost certainly deal with the situation in Richmond.

Would Not Arbitrate.

The correspondence between Mayor McCarthy, who has made a fruitless effort to bring the employers and their former employes together, and the two sides to the controversy, was made public yesterday, but really throws very little light on the subject. Practically all the facts were given in the story printed in this paper yesterday, when Mayor McCarthy's letter to Organizer Brady, who has been here for some weeks, advising him of the refusal of the Typothetae to appoint a representative to such a conference as the Mayor proposed in a letter of December 3d.

It was on the 29th of November that Organizer Brady and President R. H. Hudson, of the Richmond Union, united in a letter to Mayor McCarthy, submitting a proposition for him to communicate to the Typothetae, looking to a settlement of the strike. This letter, after outlining the proposition, said:

"The above is no change from the conditions existing between the employing printers and the Richmond Typographical Union, under the old union contract, with the exception of the reduction in the number of hours constituting a day's work from nine to eight.

"While the question of the wage scale did not enter into the matter at the beginning of the strike, the union not asking for an increase over the minimum scale of $18 per week, yet we are willing, if the employers so desire, to submit the wage scale to arbitration, and let an arbitration board, to be selected, decide whether the wages shall remain at $18 per week, or be more or less.

"As to the eight-hour day, and union shops, we will not arbitrate."

The Mayor communicated this proposition to President William Ellis Jones, of the Typothetae, on the same day, and on the day following received a polite acknowledgment of its receipt, with the assurance that the matter would receive careful and attentive consideration.

Decline to Arbitrate.

Under date of November 28th, Mr. Jones wrote the Mayor a letter, in which he says:

"I am instructed by the Richmond Typothetae to say, in further reply to your letter of November 20th, covering communication addressed to you by Mr. R. G. Brady and Mr. R. H. Hudson, representing the International Typographical Union and the Richmond Typographical Union, that there is not now, nor has there been for years, any question of wages existing between this Typothetae and the members of the Richmond Union, and therefore the proposition made by Messrs. Brady and Hudson has no interest for us.

"The Richmond Typothetae further desires me to say that it appreciates highly the public spirit which prompts you to consent to be the channel of communication through which the views of the union's representatives are submitted to it, and also desires me to say that the ultimatum which the union's representatives lay down states the Typothetae position exactly—i. e., "As to the eight-hour day and union shops, we will not arbitrate," the failure of the Typothetae to accede to the demand made by the union for the eight-hour day having been the sole cause of the strike inaugurated in September, 1905."

Mayor McCarthy, under date of December 3d, wrote to Mr. Jones, saying:

"Still cherishing the hope that the present conditions in the printing trade in Richmond may be improved, I have suggested a conference between the representative of the International, some representative of the Richmond Union, with possibly a third person, and three representatives of the Typothetae, the conference between these representatives to be in the presence of the Mayor at some date to be agreed upon.

"I am authorized to speak for the International representative and for the Richmond Typographical Union, and to say that they approve of my suggestion for this conference. I should be glad to hear of the approval of the Typothetae and the appointment by that association of representatives for the conference."

Refuse to Confer.

Mr. Jones addressed to the Mayor on Wednesday, the 12th, his reply, in which he says:

"Your esteemed favor under date of December 3d has been received by me and answer deferred until your communication could be laid before the Richmond Typothetae. This has been done, and under the instructions of the Typothetae I am compelled to decline the invitation to appoint the representatives of that body to attend the conference suggested between the representatives of the International, some representatives of the Richmond Union, and others, the conference to be held in the presence of the Mayor at some date to be agreed upon.

"I am directed further to say that in the opinion of the Typothetae you seem to have gained a very erroneous idea of the condition of the printing trade in Richmond. This, no doubt, results from your source of information.

"The condition of the printing trade in this city is as satisfactory as ever in its history, except possibly to those who are voluntarily unemployed. All of the offices are working full time with a satisfactory complement of men—faithful, sober, industrious and satisfied employes—producing as great an amount of work per man as ever heretofore, with satisfaction to the customer and peace and profit to the employers. We have no vacancies in our plants and see no reason for a conference, which would simply be an unpr