

MARKET PRICES RISING

The Advance, Nearly Universal, Betokens a Bull Market.

Wall Street Discounting the Effects of the Currency Law—Sale of Third Avenue a Turning Point in Speculation—Gossip Regarding Large Purchases of Railway Shares.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Wall Street was not waiting for an indication of the currency through the operations of the new financial legislation, as a basis for a bull speculation in stocks, but has, as usual, begun to discount the event. The advance in prices this week has been very nearly universal, and in many cases it has been pronounced. The sudden acquisition of the Third Avenue property by the Metropolitan Street Railroad appears to have been the event that gave the market its first upward turn. Misinformation of the Third Avenue Company, together with its heavy obligations to the financial community, were a most depressing influence up to last Monday. A feeling of "it was evident as soon as it became known that the control of the company had passed into the hands of men capable of financing it, and of managing it upon a profitable basis."

As a large short interest in Third Avenue was severely punished by the acquisition of the stock for control that same interest in other stocks was alarmed and has covered extensively throughout the list. At the same time the atmosphere of the financial district has literally been saturated with rumors of various developments favorable to a number of properties. Extensive buying of Norfolk and Western and Baltimore and Ohio is said to have been to effect changes in the control of those properties. Interests identified with the Pennsylvania Railroad are reported to have been the purchasers. Why those interests should have waited, assuming that they desired to control the properties mentioned, until speculative sentiment in Wall Street became bullish before making their purchases is a question that may be answered later by sanguine speculators, who are now getting their money on theories and conjectures, as they invariably do in a rising market.

The railway list has received unusual attention this week, while industrial issues have, as a rule, been neglected. The only iron and steel stock that makes a good showing is Colorado Fuel and Iron. Indications are, however, that there will be a large foreign and an increasing domestic demand for iron and steel products during the next few months. At the moment the industry that attracts the most attention is that of mining and transporting bituminous coal. The settlement of the differences between the partners in the so-called Carnegie properties is a development of far-reaching importance in both the iron and steel industries, that does not as yet seem to be fully appreciated by the public.

The weekly statement of averages of the associated banks showed, as had been fore-shadowed, a very small loss in deposits. The decrease of nearly \$12,500,000 in loans counteracted a decrease of nearly \$14,000,000 in deposits, and the smaller requirements against them resulted in an increase of over \$2,000,000 in the surplus reserve. Today's market was strong and active. London was a buoyant market. The only commodity houses. The exceptionally strong features were Denver and Rio Grande issues, Baltimore and Ohio, Union Pacific, and Sugar Refining. The closing was strong at about the best prices.

New York Stock Market. Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

Table with columns: Amer. Oil, Amer. & W., American Sugar, American Tobacco, etc. listing various stocks and their prices.

The past week in the stock market has been one of new high price records. The Norfolk and Western securities, the Southern Railway stocks, both common and preferred, the Atlantic securities, the common and preferred Baltimore and Ohio stocks, the Pacific stocks, and a number of less important issues have sold at the best prices in a long time. Many others have reached the best prices since last year, and the railway list generally has sold at the best prices of this year. It is a remarkable record within a few days of the time when the entire street was filled with pessimism and foreboding of immense breaks in prices. At the beginning of this month there were few Union Pacific newspapers and no so-called financial papers that expressed anything except bearish views regarding the situation. During March there has been a steady advance in prices. At the beginning of this month there were few Union Pacific newspapers and no so-called financial papers that expressed anything except bearish views regarding the situation. During March there has been a steady advance in prices. At the beginning of this month there were few Union Pacific newspapers and no so-called financial papers that expressed anything except bearish views regarding the situation. During March there has been a steady advance in prices.

earlier beginning of the movement, but it was not until they could not prevent its coming in time. It may be stated confidently that the important leaders of the market, the people who know most about the market, are confident at all times, are quite as sure of further advances of moment as they were sure of what has occurred. The advice is to buy the railway securities generally six months in advance, and not to wait for reactions if buying for investment. The railway securities are an uncertain quantity. Many careful people are firmly convinced that the steel securities are soon to have an upward movement, but it is realized that they must continue to be much more of a speculation than the railway list for some time to come.

The following are intrinsic reasons, briefly put, for optimism regarding the outlook for security values: Railway earnings, on which dividends are based, are the largest in the history of the country. Business is growing steadily in all lines, and the promise of continued increases is the best, so that the outlook for even larger railway earnings than at present is excellent. The steel and iron companies are mining and smelting and manufacturing more iron and steel than ever before in the history of this or any other country, and they are selling this tremendously increased amount of goods at the best prices. An unexampled foreign demand, owing to coal and iron furnaces in Europe and to the realization that American goods are the best made, is creating a market for the surplus products of the furnaces and factories for some time to come at high prices, so that this year and next year are well-nigh certain to be even more prosperous than 1899 was.

Resulting from big earnings, new and increased dividends are being declared by the railways and the industrial companies. The dividends of the past six months have never been equaled in the number of new dividends declared and paid and the number of increases in rates already established. The dividends of the past six months have never been equaled in the number of new dividends declared and paid and the number of increases in rates already established. The dividends of the past six months have never been equaled in the number of new dividends declared and paid and the number of increases in rates already established.

The favorable technical conditions in the market, and the general belief that the new currency law will give an abundance of circulating medium throughout the country and of funds in New York, to allow of a broad and active speculative market. A large short interest, not yet eliminated from the market by any means. The presence of nearly all the market leaders on the "bull" side. The newly-awakened enthusiasm of the public.

The bank statement yesterday was more satisfactory than had been hoped for by even the most optimistic. The reserve shows an increase of \$2,000,000 and more, the first increase in more than a month. The cash items show a decrease of considerably less than \$1,000,000. The figures are as follows:

Table with columns: Reserves increased, Loans decreased, etc. listing financial figures.

The statement reflects conditions known to exist, but much more radically than was expected. The outflow of cash to the West and South has practically ceased, and the losses of the banks to the Sub-Treasury during the week were very small. The outflow of cash to the West and South has practically ceased, and the losses of the banks to the Sub-Treasury during the week were very small.

The gross earnings reports furnished by the railways continue to show immense increases over the corresponding records of last year. The gross earnings of sixty-four lines for the second week of March were \$7,723,571. Of all the lines fifty-four showed increases of earnings amounting to \$75,875, and ten showed decreases, amounting to \$28,820, so that the total increase for the sixty-four lines was \$46,055, or 12 per cent. The net earnings reported for the second week of March were \$4,000,000, and the net profit was \$2,000,000. The gross earnings report for the third week of March were as usual yesterday with that of the St. Paul, which shows a heavy increase.

What has actually occurred in the range of prices during the past week is very well illustrated by the following table, showing of course, an increase in the prices of those of last Saturday. Prices in yesterday's column, marked with an asterisk, are the highest on record.

Table with columns: American & W., Colorado Fuel & Iron, etc. listing stock prices.

The Pacific securities, the trunk line stocks, the Southern securities, the Norfolk and Western securities, the Southern Railway stocks, both common and preferred, the Atlantic securities, the common and preferred Baltimore and Ohio stocks, the Pacific stocks, and a number of less important issues have sold at the best prices in a long time. Many others have reached the best prices since last year, and the railway list generally has sold at the best prices of this year.

The St. Paul gross earnings statement for the third week of March was fully up to the recent record of increases. The amount being \$8,569. The increase from the period for July 1 was \$2,969,688. The St. Paul gross earnings statement for the third week of March was fully up to the recent record of increases. The amount being \$8,569. The increase from the period for July 1 was \$2,969,688.

net earnings reports of some of the granger lines will be published this week. From reports of officers of the different systems during the past week it is known that the records will all be excellent. St. Paul sold at 100 cents, 10 per cent on Friday, and at the close yesterday had retained a portion of the dividend, although this group has been comparatively inactive this week. Rock Island will sell "on" on March 30. The stock was advanced well during the past week as the result of the operations of the clique that is operating in it, but it is understood that a further advance of importance is likely to occur.

The traction securities have been weak, comparatively, though prices yesterday at the close showed favorably with those of a week ago. Fear of the franchise tax and bear talk of poor business and poor prospects of dividends, transferred by the Third Avenue, for example, have prevented the group from participating in the general advance. It cannot be said if these conditions will continue to have the same effect or not, but there are many careful people that expect to see a squeeze of the shorts in Metropolitan and Manhattan very much this week. The shorts in Third Avenue are understood not to have been able to cover in any account of the lack of stock in the market. The spectacle of these gentlemen hanging in the air, holding on to private settlements to let them out with the least measure of damage is not calculated to make short selling of the group popular.

There has been a flood of bear talk regarding Sugar stock since the publication of the report of the Massachusetts chieftains authorities, and since the circulation of the story that negotiations for the settlement of the sugar war are off again. Their effect on the stock has been to show a strong reaction, double what the close yesterday was at a net gain for the day and for the week. The Sugar company does not attempt in its report to hide the fact that it has been hurt financially by the sugar war. The surplus has been cut to \$1,000,000 during the past year. The very frankness of this report will continue to make progress if the war is not near an end and Sugar on the verge of an upward movement. Predictions regarding a stock so skillfully manipulated are not worth while, however.

Much bullish gossip regarding Colorado Fuel and Iron has been circulated during the week. A statement concerning the earnings and capitalization of this company with those of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in this column yesterday has attracted considerable attention, and there has been a decided increase in the trade in this market.

The local security market. Activity and buoyancy have characterized the local security market during the past week. Business has been larger than at any time in many months, before, quite equaling the largest of the days last year, when the deals of the Washington Traction and Electric Syndicate were on the tapis. The total number of shares transferred was 1,000,000, and the total value of all business, including bonds, was \$200,000. The larger half of this big business was made up of Capital Traction stock. Brokers have been active in the market, and as Capital Traction, the most active security, continued to advance steadily, investors and speculators were all happy. No one can deny that the professional traders on the exchange had the tendency to go short of the stock. The coming week promises to be quite as interesting as that which we have just passed. It has not been closed as yet, and may not be all the week, and there is good prospect of an active market in the stock, as until it is closed or thought to be off.

The sales of Capital Traction during the week of the exchange were 4,351, and the value, \$462,000. The value of Traction Railway stock sold was about \$50,000. The price of the stock on Saturday a week ago was par, and the high and last price yesterday was 110, so that the advance for the week was ten points. It has been the most rapid movements in the history of the exchange. The stock was bought by speculators, inside and outside of the market, and the demand was so desperate to be close to the American Railway Company, which is negotiating with the controlling interests of the Capital Traction, and the total value of the supply nearly all the time, and the close yesterday was strong and active. The statement was made yesterday, by a broker who had been in the negotiations, that they will probably reach a climax now in a few days. He expressed the opinion that the purchase of the line will be made.

There has been much figuring as to the wisdom of the purchasers paying 112 1/2 a share, the price at which the Capital Traction people are said to be willing to sell. Many calculations have been made, and the valuation at 112 1/2 a share. These figures are unimpeachable as far as they go. The competition of the syndicate lines may prove to be somewhat of a handicap to the business for some years to come. On the other hand, a prominent capitalist and former street railway man yesterday expressed an opinion that the system will soon be carrying ten per cent on \$1,000,000, basing his estimate, he said, on an intimate knowledge of the property. And he is not a friend of the company, either.

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Something over 1,000 shares of Pneumatic Carriage were traded in during the week at 21 to 23 cents. A continued active market would probably lead to another fit-tem of this plaything of the exchange. Telephone stock has been weak. The best bid yesterday was 58.

Chicago Grain and Provision Market. Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Exchange, 1419 F Street.

Table with columns: WHEAT, CORN, RICE, etc. listing grain and provision prices.

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCKS. Bids. Asked. Washington Gas 44 45. Georgetown Gas 40 41. U. S. Electric Light 40 41. Telephone Stocks. Chesapeake & Potomac 45 46. Miscellaneous Stocks. Mercantile Linotype 19 1/2 19 3/4. Lantion Monotype 14 1/2 14 3/4. American Graphophone 11 1/2 11 3/4. Columbia Graphophone 11 1/2 11 3/4. Gramophone Co. 11 1/2 11 3/4. Washington Market 10 10 1/2. Norfolk & Washington 10 10 1/2. Lincoln Hall 6 1/2 7 1/2.

THE CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET. The Bull Movement in Corn Continued. CHICAGO, March 24.—Wheat was dull with a steady tone for the best part of the day, but near the close it turned weak and acted heavy. Liverpool was steady to 3-8 higher. Paris 1-2 higher. Primary receipts about 150,000 bushels larger than last year, and clearances light, 115,000 bushels, but the total for the week 200,000 bushels reported, but we can confirm only 50,000 bushels. There was nothing done at the seaboard. Visible supply will probably show some increase. Weather is all that can be desired for the growing crop. Corn at Liverpool was up equal to 11-2 per bushel, incentive for our advance of the report of the company to the market, but there was some profit taking, however, by the closing. Cash demand slow; there was some evidence of increased offerings. Corn has become a popular deal, and there are very intelligent holders in the market, and a speculative side. On the cash side, country offerings continue light. Of late the shipping demand has been slow, but the report of the company is in support of that after a few days of lack of demand, there has been invariably a large aggregate of shipping orders. Primary receipts of corn last week were 115,000 bushels, and they were last week, and primary shipments no larger. Holders are pursuing the policy of realizing on the strong days and replying the lines on the weak.

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