

FINANCES AND MARKETS

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.—The approaching steel strike was again the sole factor of importance in the stock market today, many prominent issues recording lowest quotations of the week, with irregular recoveries at the close.

were partly relieved, the rally being attributed more to short covering than actual buying. Total shares amounted to 500,000 shares. Bonds were steady but featureless. Liberty issues again supplying most of the activity. Total sales, par value aggregated \$3,500,000.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing various stocks and their prices, including Am. Beet Sugar, Am. Can, Am. Locomotive, etc.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, including Norfolk & Western, Northern Pacific, Pan American Oil, etc.

FRENCH MOTHER STILL HOPES

(Elizabeth Fraser in the Saturday Evening Post) Frant is my loyal little aide-camp and maid of all work, a good little scout who darts me, mends me, runs my errands, instructs me in Parisian slang, corrects the French in my articles, corrects my French, and avarice of her rapacious countrymen in the shops who spot me for an American multimillionaire on sight, retails the scandals or French high life, puts up with my tempers, and if I have a trouble, Frant trots off to church to say a special prayer for me, before a special saint—not a grand, aristocratic, popular saint—not a grand, aristocratic, popular saint, you understand, who is in constant demand, but an obscure, modest, sensible little saint whom Frant knows personally and who takes an interest in small events.

To her Frant confides my case. They understand each other perfectly, this nice little saint and Frant, having known each other for a long time. And between the two of them, seven times out of ten, they straighten the trouble out. I think the saint's name is Gertrude—but I am not sure.

Frant, I should add, is about 50, gray as to hair, tiny in body as a mosquito, always rakishly scented, with a ribbon at her withered throat or in her hair, a typical boulevardier, Parisienne to her finger tips, gay, witty, a philosopher who laughs at life in order not to cry. For life has treated this stout hearted little mother of France severely. Out of three stalwart soldier sons that she gave to her country one disappeared in 1914 at the Battle of the Marne; another, gassed, is dying of consumption in a distant hospital, and the third, three times a German prisoner and three times escaped, with a list of citations as long as your arm, is still soldiering in Germany.

Concerning her youngest son, the one who disappeared, Frant has an obsession. She refuses to believe he is dead. She knows some day he will return. And though she has received official notification that his entire company, in those dark early days, was wiped out to a man, she still clings tenaciously to the hope that he lies wounded in a German hospital; that his memory is gone, or that he is working in the German mines. She has gone to every society in France, begging news of him, until they are weary to death of the sight of her and the callous smiles show her the door. When one clerk fails she patiently seeks another. Often I come upon her, needle idle, her toil knotted hands in her lap, staring off with strange unseeing eyes. Then she will look up and smile at me in a remote voice: "Mademoiselle, you remember that society I told you of—the last one? They say they cannot find my son, mon petit bonhomme." She looks at me with bright, tearless eyes. And I reply: "Never mind, Frant. Some day you will find him. Be sure."

For I am convinced that the day Frant gives over the search something in that poor little brain will crack and let immortality in.

MATERIAL FOR STAGE SUCCESS

(David Belasco in the Saturday Evening Post) Granted the innate ability to act, I would by preference choose for his- trionic instruction and training a girl of the factory or the shop, with no more than a common school education, and of the ardent, intense, tempera- mental and impressionable order. Such a girl will make the finest artist. When she gets stage struck it is not only in her mind; it is with her whole heart and soul as well. She is literally pos- sessed of the purpose and determina- tion to act, and she will undergo any hardship, make any sacrifice, in order to fulfill her desire—and not even know she is undergoing hardship or making sacrifice.

She will wear the cheapest of clothes and live in a back hall bedroom, four

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for incident's are often the starting point of famous song hits. Such was the luck which once befell Frederick Knight Logan in the case of his "Mis- sissippi Waltz."

Walking along a country road, he came across a seely-looking chap seated on a rock picking on an old mandolin. Over and over the stranger thumbed a weird and peculiar strain that made a deep impression on Logan. When questioned as to where he had heard the strain, the fellow replied: "It's as old as the hills, mister. My grandfather told me he used to whistle it when he was a boy in Missouri. And he said he first heard an Indian hum it."

Logan went his way, the strain haunting him for weeks. To get it out of his system he sat down at the piano one night and worked over the strain until he had developed it into a waltz, which in short order became one of the best sellers.

Such a girl will give you the last beat in her heart, run till she drops, without any urging. She is the kind you have to hold, to restrain, to guide, to ride with vigilant caution and care, saving her strength and forcing her to rest enough and not work herself to death. Put the right kind of books, of music and pictures, of general information and instruction in the way of that girl, tie them up with her stage career and her artistic triumph, and she will suck in all the education to be deprived from them as naturally and as quickly as a weasel sucks eggs.

SONG HIT STARTS IN OLD MISSOURI

A popular song hit is taken for granted by most people with never a thought of what made it appeal to public fancy. Considering what a fickle thing this fancy is, it is small wonder that experts in the song writing world have failed to analyze it, and are continually taking chances with it. They seldom know beforehand whether their songs are going to "get across." The results of their hopes and guesses are frequently so astonishing as to completely upset any theories that they may have had on the subject.

In a way you cannot blame them when you stop to think that George M. Cohan took parts of "Johnny Get Your Gun" and a bugle call, and after blending them with a few strains, called the collection "Over There" and sold it for \$25,000. But, then perhaps George M. has that art and inimitable knack of knowing what the public wants, a knack for which publishers think no price too high. Accidental happenings and unlooked

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ROOSTER KILLED A RACCOON

(Philadelphia Record) Greensburg, Pa.—The mystery of the disappearance of many of his fine fowls was solved when Clem Lauffer, near Harrison City, went to his hen- house and was surprised to find lying dead a big raccoon and standing over

him triumphantly crowing, one of his fine big roosters. The supposition is that the rooster hearing a commotion among the younger poultry investi- gated, and vanquished the intruder after a vicious battle. Mr. Lauffer had fifteen half grown chickens and six- teen ducks killed before the raider met his doom.

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