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MARKET NEWS

NEW YORK MARKET UNUSUALLY DULL

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Trading in securities during the greater part of today's session was dull to the point of stagnation, the stock market itself being most often overshadowed by further persistent liquidation of Liberty bonds.

This condition experienced a sudden transformation in the final hour, when heavy selling of high grade shares, notably rails, swept over the stock market effecting extreme reversals of 2 to 4 points. The outpouring of transportation issues was unaccompanied by any explanation other than a statement issued by Director-General McCade which again emphasized the possibility of extending federal control over the rails to five years.

Transactions in Liberty bonds attained enormous proportions, the fourth 4 1/2's contributing more than their usual quota of the new low record, 84.72. This represents a depreciation of about 3 1/2 per cent from their initial quotation on the stock exchange.

Various theories were advanced in explanation of the further break in the government's rates, with the most bearing mainly on the cash requirements of corporations and institutions early in the coming year.

This theory lacked plausibility, however, as call loans were plentiful at 4 to 4 1/2 per cent and long time funds were freely offered at 3 1/2 per cent, a slight reduction from the ruling rate of the past month.

Among leading stock, United States Steel made a better showing than other industrials and equipments, forfeiting only a large fraction of its gains. Traction bonds issues were heavy with Liberty bonds but the international group held steady. Total sales, par value, aggregated \$20,000,000. United States bonds unchanged on call.

NEW YORK STOCK LIST.

Table with columns: Sales, High, Low, Close. Lists various stocks including American Can, Amer. C. and P., Amer. Locomotive, etc.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET FIRMER

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The cotton market showed renewed firmness today, particularly in the case of near months, with January selling up to 28.93 or 72 points above last night's closing figure and at the touched price touched 28.93 or 72 points above last night's closing figure and at the touched price touched 28.93 or 72 points above last night's closing figure.

The general list closing steady at a net advance of 10 to 68 points. The market opened steady at an advance of 22 to 23 points in response to firm cables, reporting that the Lancashire strike had been definitely settled, and more favorable views of the goods trade. There was considerable realizing but offerings were readily absorbed. Liverpool deliveries, which suggested that the short end of grades was being transferred to later deliveries while there was also some buying supposed to reflect the undoing of hedges against exports.

There was very little business in December but that delivery sold up to 29.50 or 70 points net higher with March advanced to 26.00 or 48 points above last night's closing figure. Later months showed gains of 25 to 29 points, and there was some buying here believed to be for southern mill account during the afternoon.

Very little attention appeared to be attracted by reports that all restrictions on short selling had been removed and the features discussed chiefly on the advance were the improving export prospects the advance of spot prices, and the talk of a broadening trade demand. A revision of the differences applying to deliveries on New York contracts which increase the discounts on low grades may have helped the near month advance.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—Prospects that a squeeze might be encountered in filling contracts for nearby deliveries had a strengthening effect today on December and January corn, but later months were inclined to sag. The close was unsettled. January 1.26 1/2 to 1.36 1/2 and May 1.34 1/2 to 1.35 with the market as a whole 1/2 cent to 1 1/2 cent higher with yesterday's finish. Oats lost 1/4 to 1/2. The outcome in provisions was unchanged to 25c lower.

Grain and provisions. Close: Corn—January 1.24 1/2, May 1.34 1/2; Oats—January .71, May .71 1/2; Pork—January 47.00, May 49.00; Lard—January 22.70, May 24.92; Ribs—January 24.75, May 25.72; Cash Corn—No. 2 yellow 1.42@1.44; No. 3 yellow nominal; No. 4 yellow 1.42@1.44.

Hogs receipts 43,000. Market steady. Cattle receipts 1,900. Choice steers and canners about steady; other beef steers and feeders slow to 25 cents lower. Fat cows and heifers and bulls 25 to 50 cents lower; calves 50 cents lower. Hotters choice 14.85@19.50; medium 9.00@14.85. Hitters choice, cows and heifers 7.15@14.00; canners and cutters 4.50@7.00. Yearling calves good choice 14.50@15.00; Western range beef steers 13.75@17.25; cows and heifers 7.25@12.00. Sheep receipts 14,000; market closing very dull, unevenly lower on fat classes; sheep and yearlings selling sharply lower. Feeding lambs steady. Lambs choice 14.50@14.95. Ewes, choice 9.00@9.25.

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THAT delicious Armour steak that you enjoyed for dinner! Do you realize the steps taken to get it to you fresh, sweet, tender and wholesome?

The prime quality in which it reached you would not have been possible had there been a weak link in the chain of production and distribution. It is a big story, taking us right back to the livestock country. The breeding of high-quality cattle is being encouraged. The sleek, corn-fed steer has replaced the scrawny animal of years ago. Assurance to the producer of a dependable year-round market is making it profitable for him to improve the quality of his product.

When it is remembered that 80 per cent of food products are grown where less than 20 per cent of consumers live, it is obvious that to reduce freight—prevent long-haulage loss—guarantee the producer a steady, accessible market—modern, scientific, sanitary packing houses must be maintained at logical points.

Then, there's the vital question of nationwide distribution. This calls for an adequate fleet of refrigerator-cars and icing-stations en route so that perishable products may be delivered pure and fresh. How efficient this system has proved is attested by the Interstate Commerce Commission in its report of July 31, 1918, where they say: "The carriers of the country could not as

efficiently handle the entire refrigerator-car equipment as is now done by the intervention of private owners."

And as Armour and Company get closer to your door—almost ready to put that steak on your table—comes the Branch House. It is the community purveyor, with facilities ample to your need. As Manager of the local Armour Branch House, it is my duty and privilege to constantly study your tastes and desires. Foods that you like are kept in perfect cooling rooms, and delivered to your dealer in first-class condition. All Armour meats (fresh or in packages) are Government inspected.

Each of our salesmen is charged with the responsibility of keeping in close touch with the food needs of this territory, and it is upon the results of the knowledge thus gained that we plan ahead.

By doing all this the Armour system assures to our community the best food the world affords at the lowest possible cost. Upon the service given depends the prosperity of this Branch House and it shall be my endeavor in the future, as in the past, that there be no lowering of our high standard.



W. J. BRIDGES
Manager Asheville Branch House.
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NEW ORLEANS COTTON.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 19.—Fresh advances were scored in the cotton market today on the strength of the increased spot trading in Texas markets and the continued bullish feeling regarding the export situation. There was much realizing which made for reactions several times and also there were renewed bearish forecasts on ginning and a private bureau was credited with having added 50,000 bales to its figures to December 13, but setbacks were only temporary. Opening at the advance the improvement was widened to 29 to 27 points. The close showed net gains of 22 to 25 points on the most active months.

January was the strongest month on the boards and it rose 77 points to 27.90 which price compared with the spot quotation on middling of 22.28. Floor gossip was that one of the large spot concerns was the chief buyer of January, but setbacks were only temporary. Opening at the advance the improvement was widened to 29 to 27 points. The close showed net gains of 22 to 25 points on the most active months.

NEW YORK MONEY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Mercantile paper 8. Sterling 60 day bills 4.73%; commercial 60 day bills on banks 4.73%; commercial 60 day bills 4.72 1/2; demand 4.75 1/2; cables 4.76 1/2. Government bonds heavy. Railroad bonds easy. Time loans easier, 90 days, 90 days and six months 5 1/2 bid. Call money steadier, ruling rate 4 1/2. Bank acceptances 4 1/2.

NEW YORK DRY GOODS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Cotton goods were firmer today and sales a little more active. Yarns quiet. Wool goods auctions comprised about 8,000 pieces with prices irregular from 40 per cent off to par for some merchandise. Raw silks were firmer.

NEW YORK CATTLE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Beeves in trading. Cows steady; veals 19.00@21.00; culls 14.00. Sheep and lambs steady; sheep 6.50@9.25; culls 4.50@5.50; lambs 12.50@18.00; culls 10.00@12.00. Hogs steady at 18.00; roughs 15.75.

NEW YORK PRODUCE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Raw sugar steady; centrifugal 7.28, fine granulated 8 cents. Spot coffee nominal; Rio 7 1/2 17 1/2; Santos 4 1/2 around 22 1/2. Butter steady; cheese firm.

COTTONSEED OIL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Cottonseed oil was dull with prices nominal. Prime crude 17.50. Oh, Man! "I shall never ask Hobbs for his advice again." "What's the matter?" "He never thinks what I have made my mind to do is right."—Boston Transcript.