

Wall Street

Price Fixing in New Steel
Regulations Worry
Traders.

BY RALPH HENDERSON

Times Special Financial Writer

Some confusion seems to exist even in Washington over the question of whether price fixing is or is not to be a code feature. An executive order issued last Friday was construed to mean that price fixing was out, and that the anti-trust laws would be invoked upon violation. Dispatches from the capital later in the week, however, quoted General Johnson as saying that this feature applied only to new codes.

Assuming the latter pronouncement to be the final word on the subject, Wall Street was wondering how the new steel code would be worked. The old steel code expires today after having been extended twice, which might or might not place it under the new ruling.

The old code never contained a price-fixing clause, but those who have been closest to the steel situation say that price fixing was practiced from a practical point of view. All price changes had to be posted with the code authorities, and there was a provision calling for such filing not less than ten days before the new prices were to become effective. This made it possible, so it was said, for the bigger concerns to tip off the smaller ones as to what they were doing relative to prices, giving them a chance to fall in line. And the records indicate that they had been in the habit of meeting all changes.

IT is difficult to understand why it is to be understood why it is to be between industries which have and those which have not been coded. If price fixing is a good thing in the more important industries it should also be a good thing in the smaller industries, which make up the bulk of those which still have no codes. As a matter of fact, the privilege should be of even greater importance to the less important ones, for it is in those industries that the least amount of organization exists and where price cutting is the most dangerous.

The further General Johnson goes with the codes the deeper water he appears to be getting into. The chief trouble would seem to be the great difficulty in securing proper enforcement. There are always those who refuse to abide by the provisions, and these people naturally make it almost impossible for others who like the code to abide by it. Underselling invariably attracts business, and, from a practical standpoint, it appears almost impossible for the legitimate concerns to protect themselves against the so-called chiselers.

CONDITIONS in the printing trade may be cited as an example. On the very day the first price-fixing announcement was made public a meeting had been called by a large group of printer concerns in the vicinity of New York. A formal protest against price cutting had been proposed.

The local administrator was quoted as having told the members he could do nothing about the violations except threaten and bully the guilty persons, but he later pointed out that the ruling which had just been made tied his hands completely. The meeting broke up in gloom.

N. Y. Coffee, Sugar Futures

COFFEE—June 12—
Santos—
High. 8.42
Low. 8.37
Close. 8.47
May 8.47
June 8.38
July 8.38
August 8.35
September 8.40
October 8.45
November 8.42
December 8.40
SUGAR—
High. 1.73
Low. 1.73
Close. 1.73
January 1.80
February 1.78
March 1.78
April 1.78
May 1.77
June 1.75
July 1.75
August 1.64
September 1.64
October 1.75
November 1.75
December 1.75

DAILY PRICE INDEX (1930-1932 average 100)

NEW YORK, June 12—Dun & Bradstreet's daily weighted price index of thirty basic commodities compiled for the United States.

Today (1934) high—118.87
Week ago—112.94
Month ago—108.92
Year ago—103.33
High (June 12)—113.37
Low (Jan. 3)—101.05
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STOCK SHARES
RISE FRACTIONS
TO TWO POINTS

All Groups Strengthen as
Trading Turns Active;
Silver Higher.

BY ELMER C. WALZER

United Press Financial Editor

NEW YORK, June 13.—Gains were recorded in all sections of the stock market in the morning dealings today. Around noon the market was fractions to 2 points above the previous close.

Utility shares were active as noon approached with gains in all issues of the group. Rails firmed, featured by Atnish, which reached 60, up 1%. National Lead gained 2% to 149%. Sugars were strong with sugar futures.

In the utilities division, American Telephone reached 120%, up 2%; Peoples Gas 33%, up 1%; American Water Works 20%, up 1%; Public Service of New Jersey 38, up 1, and Consolidated Gas 33%, up 3%.

Gains of a point or more were noted in American Can, Du Pont, Great Western Sugar, Johns Manville, New York Central, National Biscuit and United States Steel.

Sugar futures featured commodities with the May position at a new high for futures in four years. Grains were firm, especially corn, which rose more than a cent a bushel. Rubber, silver, copper and hide futures were higher. Silk eased.

Money and Exchange

INDIANAPOLIS BANK CLEARINGS

—June 13—

Clearings—\$2,227,000,000

Deposits—4,600,000,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE (By Abbott, Hoppin & Co.)

—June 12—

Sterling, England—\$8,000,000

Franc, France—\$868,000

Lira, Italy—\$861,000

Pound, Belgium—\$469,000

Guilder, Holland—\$674,000

Peso, Spain—\$240,000

Kron, Norway—\$228,000

Krone, Denmark—\$228,000

Treasury Statement

(By United Press)

WASHINGTON, June 13.—Government expenses for the fiscal year ended June 11, compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year:

This Year Last Year

Expenses—\$6,472,100,000 \$6,419,428,800

Receipts—\$2,853,180,000 \$2,851,414,94

Excess—\$3,724,391,419,12 2,954,502,400,00

Cash Bal.—\$1,942,004,308,70

Investment Trust Shares

(By Abbott, Hoppin & Co.)

—June 12—

Bid. Ask. Bulk.

American Bank Stocks Corp.—1.15 4.50 6.00

American Can Co.—4.50 6.00

Basic Industries shares—3.36 3.42

Borden, Typewriter share—4.50 5.00

Corporate Trust shares (old)—2.13 2.18

Corporate Trust shares (new)—2.35 2.38

Corporate Trust shares—2.13 2.18

Diversified Trust shares—6.25 7.87

Diversified Trust shares—3.12 3.16

Diversified Trust shares—4.75 4.87

First Common Stock Corp.—6.80 7.70

Fundamental Industries Inc.—2.01 2.21

Incorporated Trust shares—17,300 19,300

Investment Bank Trust shares—1.18 1.30

Low Priced Trust shares—6.10 6.20

Low Priced Trust shares—18.20 19.20

Nation Wide Securities—1.20 1.25

North Am. Trust shares (55)—1.91 1.98

North Am. Trust shares (58)—2.35 2.38

Selected American shares—2.59 2.60

Selected Cumulative shares—6.68 6.70

Side American Trust shares—3.48 4.00

Trust Shares of America—2.72 7.78

Trust Shares of America—5.00 5.00

U S Electric L& Pwr A.—12.62 13.00

New York Bank Stocks

(By Abbott, Hoppin & Co.)

—June 12—

Bid. Ask. Bulk.

Bankers—111 114

Central Hanover—129 130

Chemical National—41 41

National City—28 29

Continental—14 15

Empire—16 17

First National—1,681 1,700

Guaranty—368 370

Income—121 124

Irving Trust & Co.—223 224

Manufacturers—161 162

N.Y. Trust—34 35

Public—34 35

Daily Price Index

(By United Press)

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Bright Spots

(By Abbott, Hoppin & Co.)

—June 12—

High. Low. Close.

January 11.31 11.28 11.28

February 11.35 11.35 11.37

March 10.78 10.75 10.75

April 10.50 10.50 10.75

May 11.32 11.16 11.17

June 11.32 11.16 11.17

July 11.32 11.16 11.17

August 11.32 11.16 11.17

September 11.32 11.16 11.17

October 11.32 11.16 11.17

November 11.32 11.16 11.17

December 11.32 11.16 11.17

Retail Coal Prices

The following prices represent quotations for coal from Indiana coal dealers. A cash discount of 20 cents per ton is allowed.

Domestic Metal Prices

Anthracite—\$1.25

Benzene—\$1.75

Boron—\$1.00

Coke, nut size—\$1.75

Coke, regular—\$1.75

Indiana Forked Lump—\$1.50-\$1.60

Indiana Egg—\$1.25-\$1.30

Indiana Lump—\$1.25-\$1.30

Kentucky Lump—\$1.00

Foothills Lump—\$1.25

Pocahontas Forked Lump—\$1.25

Foothills Lump—\$1.25