

Buys Bonds

Major Insurance Firms
Purchase Federal
Issues.

BY W. IAN MACK
Times Staff Financial Writer

NEW YORK, Sept. 10.—The major insurance companies are turning strongly to government bonds in lieu of other outlets for their funds. This was disclosed in a survey which showed that companies represented by the Association of Life Insurance Presidents expanded their holding of federal obligations by \$553,000,000 during the last year. In that period total resources increased by \$457,000,000. Most of the government issues purchased were long-term bonds.

The reason for the heavy purchasing of federal issues is generally assumed to be the dearth of new capital offerings by firmly established private corporations.

Mortgages Liquidated

This change was effected chiefly through the liquidation of mortgage investments to the extent of \$314,000,000 and the reduction of railroad bond holdings by \$27,000,000. In consequence, the former declined to \$5,398,000,000 from \$5,910,000,000 last year, and the latter receded to \$2,586,000,000 from \$2,613,000,000.

Rail bonds held constitute nearly 22 percent of the nation's railroad indebtedness, while mortgage holdings are equal to about 12.5 percent of the national mortgage debt.

Government Securities Owned

By the insurance units now aggregate \$2,047,000,000, compared with \$1,494,000,000 a year ago, an increase of about 33 percent. Currently, they are equal to 12 percent of the companies' combined resources, amounting to \$17,487,000,000 compared with a ratio of slightly more than 8 percent a year ago, when assets totaled \$17,030,000,000. The portfolio of governments, incidentally, approximates 8 percent of the federal debt.

Utility Holdings Expands

Farm mortgages have been reflecting gradual liquidation, some through foreclosure. They declined every month in the period from \$1,322,000,000 on May 31, 1933, to \$1,124,000,000. Likewise urban mortgages have shown persistent declines, now totaling \$4,274,000,000, against \$4,589,000,000 a year ago.

Public Utility Bond Holdings Expanded

By \$58,000,000 from \$1,669,000,000 to \$1,727,000,000. Other investments, including stocks and bonds of a miscellaneous character, rose \$62,000,000 to \$559,000,000.

Policy Loans and Premium Notes

continue to be a problem which insurance companies find difficult to solve. Currently, the total outstanding is only \$63,000,000 below a year ago at \$2,907,000,000.

Cover Living Expenses

Most of these loans were contracted in the period immediately preceding the banking moratorium of March, 1933, but the proceeds, instead of going into hoards, as then suspected, are understood to have been utilized to cover living expenses, taxes and interest requirements.

Premium Receipts Exceed \$200,000,000

more than \$300,000,000 usually collected in December. Both the Atlantic Seaboard and Pacific Coast companies contribute more than two-thirds of the volume of new insurance policies written monthly.

Lapsed Policies are Showing a

gradual decrease, the current rate being only 25 percent in excess of the 1925 figure, contrasted with 54 percent above the 1925 level in 1933.

AUTO OUTPUT SHOWS

INCREASE OVER 1933

Production in First Eight Months

Totals 167,407 Units.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Sept. 10.—Automobile production by members of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce (all leaders except Ford) for the first eight months of 1934 has increased 10 percent over the same period for 1933, the chamber reported today in announcing its August production estimate.

August production by members

was estimated at 167,407 units, a decrease of 14 percent from the 173,712 cars produced in August, 1933.

Eight months' production was

placed at 1,640,230 units, an increase of 42 percent over the 1,155,429 produced in the corresponding period of 1933.

PLANS FOR CORN-HOG

ACT ARE DISCUSSED

Representatives From Six

Attend Meeting Here.

Plans for a corn-hog adjustment act in 1935 were discussed today by corn-hog contract holders at a regional meeting in the Claypool.

The livestock feed situation also

was discussed at the session in which representatives from six states, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee, were present.

Officials of the agriculture adjustment

administration attending the meeting were Dr. A. C. Back, chief of the corn-hog section, Claude R. Wickard, state senator and associate in the corn-hog section; Dillon Myer of the compliance section, and G. B. Thorne, senior agriculture economist.

In the Cotton Markets

—Sept. 8—

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