

STOCK BREAK DUE TO UNCERTAINTY OF PEACE, FLYNN SAYS

General Adjustment Takes Place in Decline.

By JOHN T. FLYNN

Times Special Writer

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—A stock market has nerves like a frog. You cannot start a row anywhere in the world—particularly this world of today—without sending a shiver through these frog-like nerves.

When the stock market cracked up some weeks ago, everybody looked about for the blow which had given it a nerve jolt. Looking back now it seems fairly clear that the market went down, not because of any blow knocking it down, but because the force which had pushed it up had ceased to work. Markets almost always come down because they went up in the first place.

But, while that was true of the general adjustment which has taken place, it is entirely possible that the world crisis has had much to do with the latest fall in stocks.

The market which had declined since the middle of August, after two or three bad bounces, seemed to have ended its descent in the last week of September. But it sank dismal as soon as October started and a few days ago had another bad sinking spell. It is now at the lowest mark in two years. It is this last decline which I think has been deeply influenced by the world situation.

Must Examine

The ultimate of England and France to Italy and Germany and their Spanish adventures and the rapid development of the Chinese-Japanese conflict, which may have been seen nearer than at any time since the present series of crises began to develop. It is certainly a contingency which any prudent speculator must examine. And any speculator knows that the first effect of war or a genuine war scare in Europe would be a general collapse of the market here.

Several forces would tend to produce this. But the most important is the withdrawal of foreign funds from our markets.

About four months ago the Federal Reserve Board expressed great fear of the potential dangers in the fact that the country of so much "hot money"—foreign funds sent here because of the disbanding movement in Europe and the general flight from disorder there.

Since that time over 600 million dollars of foreign funds—most of it from Europe—has flowed into this country. This is twice as much as came in in the preceding three months. In the last two and three-quarter years over three and a half billion dollars of frightened or speculative foreign money has come to our shores.

Of course if war broke out in Europe a great deal of this would be happy to remain here. But a great deal of it would leave at once. Nationals would repatriate their funds. But governments would seize the foreign holdings of their citizens and take measures at once to convert them into cash in order to buy goods here. There would be a good deal of withdrawal of funds and a good deal of dumping of securities.

The market, therefore, has been no place for the last few weeks for a person with bull instincts. And this doubtless is contributing heavily to the latest weakness of the stock markets here.

Today's Business At a Glance

GENERAL BUSINESS

National Coal Association reports week ended Oct. 2, 2,610,000 net tons, an increase of 180,000 tons or 1.9 per cent over the corresponding 1936 week; production so far this year stands 8.4 per cent ahead of 1936 while output of all coals stands 6.2 per cent above a year ago.

CORPORATION NEWS

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., week ended Oct. 9, carloadings 25,933 vs. 36,365 previous week. An increase of 180,000 tons or 1.9 per cent over the corresponding 1936 week; production so far this year stands 8.4 per cent ahead of 1936 while output of all coals stands 6.2 per cent above a year ago.

EDDINGTON

Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co. week ended Oct. 9, carloadings 33,388 vs. 36,000 previous week and 38,185 year ago.

CHICAGO

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific R. R. Co., week ended Oct. 9, carloadings 21,987 vs. 23,297 previous week and 22,886 year ago.

INTERNATIONAL

International Great Northern R. Co., Aug. net loss \$165,299 vs. \$185,944 year ago; 8 months net loss \$1,666,081 vs. \$1,880,364 year ago.

ST. LOUIS

St. Louis Southwestern Ry. Co., Aug. net income \$40,710 vs. net loss \$20,661 year ago.

ADDRESSOGRAPH

Addressograph-Multigraph Corp., first 8 months net profit \$1,444,525 equal to \$1.91 a common share vs. \$793,184 or \$1.06 a year ago.

CHICAGO

Chicago, Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry. Co., Aug. net loss \$94,833 vs. net income \$111,664 year ago; 8 months net loss \$2,118,999 vs. \$1,183,557 year ago.

DOMINION STEEL

Dominion Steel Co., 4 weeks ended Oct. 2, Sales \$1,519,101 vs. \$1,497,007 year ago, up 2.2 per cent; 4 weeks (compiled from company's reports) \$14,915,510 vs. \$14,820,914 year ago up 0.6 per cent.

MENGEL

Mengel Co., September bookings \$6,622 vs. \$6,055,589 year ago, off 10.8 per cent; 9 months \$8,361,457 vs. \$7,147,691 year ago, up 16.5 per cent; September billings \$927,799 vs. \$932,244 year ago, off 0.4 per cent; 9 months \$8,375,119 vs. \$6,917,368 year ago, up 21 per cent; unfilled orders as of September 30 totalled \$1,816,437 vs. \$1,532,771 year ago, up 18.5 per cent.

MONROE

Monroe Machine Tool Co., first 8 months net profit \$334,173 equal to \$2.23 a common share; Septem-

TRADE TREATIES BOOST INDUSTRY

Foreign Business Study Indicates Beneficial Effects.

By THEODORE JASSON

Excellent results have been obtained through the operation of our reciprocal trade treaties. With domestic well-being greatly enhanced by these pacts, it seems reasonable to urge additional agreements to stimulate United States foreign commerce.

The benefits of these contracts to promote mutual welfare can best be illustrated in the case of our automobile industry. Our automotive exports to Cuba and Belgium, the countries with which reciprocal agreements have been in force for the longest period, have increased 379 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

Results Summarized

The following is a summary of the net results obtained thus far with the following countries:

Country and Month Per Increase
Date Sept. 31, 1936 20 372
Belgium, May 1, 1936 24 100
Sweden, Aug. 3, 1935 24 46
Brazil, Jan. 1, 1936 18 48
Netherlands, Feb. 1, 1936 18 32
Switzerland, Feb. 15, 1936 18 32
Colombia, May 20, 1936 12 38
Guatemala, June 15, 1936 12 18
Nicaragua, Oct. 1, 1936 9 129
Peru, Nov. 2, 1936 9 232

The treaties with both El Salvador and Costa Rica are of too recent date to enable us to make any conclusions.

I have chosen the automobile industry by reason of its excellent leadership and because of its very exacting methods of production and distribution. It seems as the best example of what can be accomplished.

If the automobile industry achieves, as it hopes to do in the very near future, an export volume equivalent to that of 1929, when it exported a million units, the following are the raw materials that would be required to produce such an export volume:

Steel, 800,000 tons.
Rubber, 36,000 tons.
Lumber, 228,000,000 board feet.
Aluminum, 6,000 tons.
Zinc, 3,000 tons.
Cotton, 54,000 bales.
Curtain and top material, 4,000,000 yards.
Malleable iron, 114,000 tons.
Plate glass, 22,000,000 square feet.
Leather, 4,000,000 square feet.
Copper, 30,000 tons.
Lead, 20,000 tons.
Nickel, 3,200,000 lbs.
Upholstery cloth, 10,000,000 yards.
Paint, laquer, 3,500,000 gallons.
In that event 260,000 men will have received employment in the automobile and parts factories from our foreign sales and at a wage 35 per cent higher than the average wage paid workers in other manufacturing industries.

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It is always very interesting at a time like this to see what the big fellows do with their investment holdings. An opportunity to peek into such operations is afforded in the report of the Lehman Corp. for the three months ended Sept. 30, 1937.

It will be recalled that the stock market broke rather sharply in the final month covered by that report.

A rather quick examination of the report would seem to indicate that this group of experts fared little if any better than the rank and file of traders, who have been hiving under the table in recent weeks.

The net market value of this company's holdings declined approximately 13% per cent during the three months' period, whereas the market value of all stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange fell a slightly smaller amount during that time. The percentage of decline in bonds listed on the Exchange was much smaller than stocks so that if both groups were included the showing would not be so favorable.

It is impossible to make a very accurate comparison, of course, because the investment trust had been holding a somewhat more speculative group of securities than

Analyst Says Rail Unions And Management Should Work Without Trouble

He Believes Carriers Partly to Blame for Failure to Form Large Integrated Systems Making Economies — Warns Against Imposing New Burdens.

By EDWIN J. SCHLESINGER

With an increase of 44 cents a day for the railroad operating unions, the atmosphere has been cleared considerably, but in no sense has the situation brightened completely. It would seem that the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroad unions and the railroad management should get together with the thought of laying out a program which will enable the railroads to function without a sword hanging constantly over their heads.

The owners and creditors of the railroads rightfully also should be consulted, but it would seem that for that is not entirely ripe. Ownership in the railroad industry has less to say, perhaps, than in either the public utility or industrial fields, although it is to be anticipated that ultimately some way will be found for owners to raise the day coach rate above the 2-cents-a-mile level.

All Industry Affected

There are many who, since July when the railroad picture became less rosy than during the early months of 1937, have again begun to say that the future of the railroads is none too bright. This may be true; but if it is, it sounds a warning note as to what may be expected generally from all types of investments. The railroads are such a vital organ of the country's economic body that if they do not function properly the entire financial situation will become sick.

In addition, the rate of 2 cents a mile in day coaches has brought transportation down to about as attractive a price as anyone could expect. In this connection, it is to be most sincerely hoped that the railroads will be enabled to keep expenses sufficiently well within hand so that no valid reason arises which will require raising the day coach rate above the 2-cents-a-mile level.

COST OF LIVING GAINS IN MONTH

Study Shows Purchasing Values Up Slightly in September.

By EDWIN J. SCHLESINGER

Living costs continued to rise in September, but still were well below the 1929 levels, the National Industrial Conference Board reported.

The Board's study showed September living costs were up 0.4 per cent compared with August, 4.1 per cent from a year ago, 24.7 per cent from the spring 1929 depression low, but still were 11.6 per cent lower than in September 1929.

The purchasing value of the dollar was 11.1 cents in September, against 11.2 cents in August, 11.6 cents in September 1929 and 100 cents in 1923.

All major categories in the cost of living showed increases. Food prices were up 0.3 per cent for the month, 1.7 per cent for the year, 43.4 per cent from the spring of 1933, but still 26.6 per cent lower than in 1929. Rents were up 0.9 per cent for the year, 41.2 per cent since the low point for the depression early in 1934, and only 4.0 per cent below the level of September 1929.

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