

The world of finance has its eyes on the railroad problem so it was inevitable that railroad developments should have Stock Market repercussions today.

~~The Interstate Commerce Commission a couple of weeks ago granted the roads a ten per cent increase on certain kinds of freight. When that was averaged up for freight in general, it came to a boost of five and three tenths per cent. The Railroads wanted a fifteen per cent increase - so you can see they felt their problem was still unsolved.~~ *That led to* ~~so there has been~~ a lot of confabulation with the idea that the government would try to do something for the great national system of *rails* ~~locomotives, cars and street rails.~~ What the President did was to appoint a three-man committee to investigate the possibilities of federal aid. That put things off; ~~then,~~ and therefore *there was* ~~was a~~ disappointment.

The Railroad executives have been saying that, since they couldn't get the rate increase they wanted, the only other thing that would help them would be to cut the wages of *a million* ~~the hosts of~~ railway workers. This the Unions promptly said they *would* ~~to~~ oppose.

And today President Roosevelt, at the White House press conference,

declared he saw no reason for a railroad wage cut.

Said a
~~he said the~~
A

slash of pay wouldn't help.

Such was the state of affairs when a big Railroad executive meeting gathered in Chicago, officials of a hundred and forty-two lines. The report was that they intended to ask the Unions to take a pay cut. But this did ^{not} happen. The Railroad

conference decided to put ~~off the plan to slash wages until the~~ *things off until the Presidential*
committee of three has
~~President can be free, had~~ a chance to make a report about the possibilities of federal aid.

~~The~~ Financial repercussions followed with ~~the~~ logical pessimism. Railroad securities tumbled on the New York Stock Exchange. Rails dropped to the lowest figures since Nineteen Thirty-Five, and ~~they~~ *that* led the way for a general decline. There was a wave of selling, liquidation all over the place. So much negative activity that the ticker ran behind, the telltale sign of a wild Stock Exchange pandemonium, ~~whether for better or for~~
~~worse~~

The ⁺ pandemonium of selling was at its height, ^{and} then there was a lull, a hush of drama - as Charles R. Gay, President of the

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New York Stock Exchange, appeared with an announcement. No, it had nothing to do with the railroads, stock selling or the decline in prices. President Gay read a statement, a verdict. And this is what it said - "Richard Whitney, barred forever from the New York Stock Exchange," the great financial market of which he was president for five successive terms. Yes, ^{even} trading excitement was lulled by that. Members on the floor, eager to put in bids and offers, were silent - ~~hardly~~ ^{not} a member who didn't know Richard Whitney in his day of glory as the Morgan & broker, the Stock Exchange President, and ^a financial power in Wall Street. Now, convicted of giant frauds, pleading guilty, facing a long term in prison.

~~President Gay continued his announcement with the names of Edwin D. Morgan Jr. and Henry D. Mygatt; ~~They were~~ partners ^{in the} ~~of the fallen Whitney in that~~ once powerful and respected firm of Richard Whitney and Company. They ^{too} are suspended from the Stock Exchange [^] for three years - not that this means they were implicated in the fraud. There's a Stock Exchange rule that makes every member responsible for the actions of his firm.~~

Such was the lull and hush of drama in the midst of the Stock Exchange pandemonium today. Then the trading continued. There was a turn. The decline of prices stopped, and there was a reaction upward. But that was only temporary. Later in the day the slump continued - down to the Nineteen Thirty-Five level of prices.

T.V.A.

The battle of the T.V.A. had its second session at the White House today, the President holding another conference with the three scrapping directors of the great federal power project. ~~Two of the directors arrived with plenty of documents, proof, evidence. But Chairman Morgan, who is in a bitter row with those two, came to the White House empty-handed. That was quickly taken to mean that he didn't intend to present his case before the President. At the previous session, Chairman Morgan took the attitude that the proceedings were futile, no use. So why should he present his proof and evidence. The appearances were - that he would take the same stand today - and, the appearances were not deceptive.~~

Right away the President said he wanted - facts.

What were the facts in the bitter accusation that Chairman Morgan made against his two colleagues? What were the grounds for the charges of crookedness and corruption? Chairman Morgan replied, as he did ~~the~~ ^{:- that} other time ^{ed} he considered the White House conference ~~was~~ futile, a waste of time. And that started the wrangling - with the President talking in tones of sharp warning to the ^{T.V.A.} Chairman.

The argument continued and kept on and on and finally

culminated with a significant suggestion from the President;
~~It is~~ a suggestion which has a point of meaning in ~~the~~ light
of the fact that the battle of the three T.V.A. directors seems
almost certain to bring about a congressional investigation which
will go into the whole business of the mighty power project in the
Tennessee Valley. That would turn the whole thing into a red hot
issue for the fall congressional elections.

So let's see what the ~~President's~~ President's suggestion
is. He told the three directors that his authority over the T.V.A.
was such that he could appoint a committee to investigate. The
President indicated that he might **do** so. So there's the idea,
most cogent and pertinent - a presidential committee of T.V.A.-
investigation instead of a congressional investigation. That ~~would~~
~~be~~ calculated to head off any T.V.A. action by Congress - ~~would~~ keep
the whole business out of congressional politics.

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~~The President asked the recalcitrant Chairman Morgan -
"Are you ready for such an investigation?" The Chairman wouldn't
answer definitely - whether he'd be satisfied with an investigation
by a presidential committee, whether he'd consider that also a
waste of time. He argued around and raised questions about the~~

REORGANIZATION

As far that government

~~The~~ Reorganization Bill ^{it} is working up a most acrimonious atmosphere, more bitterness ^{than} ~~is~~ Washington ^{has} ~~is~~ seen ~~that~~ in a long time. ~~I~~ ^{such} suppose ~~that~~ is to be expected, since it concerns something that always makes Congress nervous and jumpy - an extension of executive authority, more power for the President.

~~The Reorganization Bill would be just that - give the White House all sorts of control in the huge job of revising a complicated system of government bureaus, simplifying, changing, alteration of civil service procedure, ^{even} abolition of the comptroller. It all spells efficiency on one hand, and more presidential power on the other. So the proceedings in the Senate today were hot and exciting.~~

The lawmakers considered the motion by Senator Wheeler to amend the Reorganization Bill so as not to give the White House quite so many new prerogatives. ~~In the debate, the opponents of the Bill declared that the administration was lining up senators on its side by means of federal jobs and the ~~xxx~~ pork barrel ^{"pork"} patronage and projects was the charge.~~

Senator Wheeler, defending his ^{amendment,} ~~bill,~~ took a sharp crack at some committee proceedings today. There's a lobby-^{committee}

~~commission~~ in session, and it has been questioning witnesses who have appeared to declare themselves against the Reorganization Bill. Today, Senator Sherman, Chairman of the Committee, made some charges against one of these witnesses - said that during the World War he had been convicted under the Trading-With-The-Enemy-Act, had had improper dealings with the Germans. Also, that this witness had been a worker for the Ku Klux Klan of Indiana. All of which was denied by the gentleman accused.

That's what Senator Wheeler objected to. On the floor of the Senate he denounced the Committee for its attitude ~~toward witnesses opposing the reorganization.~~ He demanded to know: "Are we going to have a kangaroo court and browbeat witnesses just because they say they are opposed to the Bill?"

While all this verbal fireworks was going on, the *Wheeler* ~~amendment of Senator Wheeler's~~ ~~objection~~ went to a vote and was defeated. A majority of forty-three supported the *administration* ~~bill~~ against a minority of thirty-eight. All the Republicans were against it and a sizeable group of Democrats.

HITLER

The Hitler speech today was no blast of international high explosive -- although many supposed Der Fuehrer would follow up his seizure of Austria with a declaration of new and more violent claims. The Berlin report was that he ^{would make} ~~intended~~ ~~dramatic~~ inflammatory demands on Czechoslovakia, -- which would ~~have made the turmoil still more dreadful~~. But nothing of the sort. Hitler, talking to the Reichstag today, made no mention of Czechoslovakia. ~~He~~ Passed that by.

I for one did not
~~I must say that I myself didn't~~ expect the Nazi chief to throw a new bombshell. That isn't the Hitler way -- to strike a dangerous blow just after he has upset the world with a previous blow. No, it isn't his way to act while the nations are at a tension, alarmed and resentful. Let that die out, let things ease off. And then, when everybody is busy with something else and nobody is looking, then do something. That's the Hitler way.

So today the Big Boss of the Nazis confined himself to righteous explanations about Austria -- said he moved into that little country to avoid bloodshed there. ~~He declared that Austria would have been plunged into civil war if the Nazis had~~

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~~had not taken it over in a hurry. And that's true, though the reasons for the civil war were created by the Nazis themselves.~~

Hitler confirmed the fact that the plebiscite he will hold in Austria will coincide with an election in Germany. The present Reichstag will soon pass out, and a new one will be elected. The Austrians will vote at the same time as the Germans and elect their own representative as a province of the German Reich. Of course the thought hasn't entered Hitler's mind that the Austrians might vote not to become ~~an~~ a German province. ~~But~~ Nazi elections don't go that way. Austria will turn in a Nazi majority just about the same as the German majority. ~~will turn in, as Germany always does.~~

One significant thing that Hitler said concerns the affair we have all been wondering about -- those hundreds of thousands of Germans ~~within~~ ⁱⁿ the border of Italy, the Austrian territory that Italy won in the World War. Wouldn't Hitler go after them? Wouldn't it be a Nazi aspiration to liberate those Germans from Italian control? Hitler didn't mention this point specifically today, but he was exceedingly emphatic in

~~re~~assuring Mussolini. He shouted that the Italian northern frontier was inviolable, would never be touched by Germany -- something sacred. And that of course applies to all those Germans right across that frontier.

Which
~~All this~~ ties in with rumors we've hearing ~~x~~ -- that there's some sort of German-Italian arrangement ~~on~~ whereby the Germans within the Italian boundaries shall be re-patriated into ~~ast~~ Austria, shall be moved peaceably out of Italy and given homes within the boundaries of the new and enlarged Germany.

The one ominous thing in the Hitler address concerned the old question of colonies. He repeated that Germany must have colonial possessions. He said that in getting them -- violence might be necessary. Not nice to talk about violence *--- especially* and colonies -- *British* colonies.

But on the whole today's big Nazi pronunciamento was not of the high explosive, slam-bang kind.

POLAND

The war peril today is concentrated in Poland where there's a frenzy of national anger. Crowds paraded and roared: "Eliminate Lithuania!" The demonstration was ^{overwhelming} ~~concentrated~~ in the City of Vilna, which Poland took from Lithuania some few years ago. There, the mobs howled for immediate war. *And there is a late report of Polish troops on the border.*

Poland has sent to Lithuania an ultimatum of the sternest sort. We are told it demands an immediate answer, ^{of} yes or no. Any delay or ~~an~~ equivocation about a "yes" or "no" will be considered - No. We are likewise informed that the main Polish demand is that Lithuania shall resume immediate diplomatic relations with Warsaw, and negotiate in the ordinary way. The two countries, at bitter odds for a long time, had ^{we} not been speaking to each other, in a diplomatic sense. No ministers, consuls, etc., accredited to each other. ^HThe present flare was caused by an incident of Lithuanian violence against Poles, which has incited Warsaw to a determination that something must be done about the two hundred thousand Poles living in Lithuania, and then - there's the port of Memel.)

~~The significance of that most disputed city ~~xxxxxx~~ can be revealed by a glance at the map. But since we have no television~~

There may be in the cards a deal whereby Poland is to give up the Polish Corridor and reunite East Prussia with the rest of Germany. For that Poland might get either Lithuania altogether, or a strip to the sea through Lithuania to Memel. Hitler might make such a bargain, taking the Polish Corridor and giving in exchange somebody else's land - Lithuanian land.

So you can see the dynamite potentialities in the present Polish war fever, with the howling popular demand "Take Lithuania!!"

Great Britain today warned Poland and Lithuania not to go to war.

There's a London rumor that Lithuania has capitulated.

And Britain and France sent a joint note to Spain denouncing the bombing of civilians, like the Barcelona tragedy. Bombed again today. Stop it.

In the European uproar in the last few days, it was supposed that the British policy of negotiating with dictators was about the British parley with Mussolini. Rome chimes in with rather astonishing word today. It tells us that London and Rome have already reached the basis of an agreement. More than that -- the dispatch tells us that the negotiations have gone ahead faster and in a more satisfactory way than had been expected when they were started. That does sound odd, after all the hostile hullabaloo in the last few days. Anyway, that's what we hear from Rome.

From London there's word about the British-Italian trade agreement, not the big political pact that's supposed to settle international questions, it's amere agreement concerning commerce. It was signed today, and among other things it provides that Italy will buy more British coal and testiles.

Only a trade agreement, but the signing does provide some small substantiation of Rome's favorable report of progress in the British-Italian political talks.

BRIDGE

In the world of bridge, where they deal the aces and kings, and the deuces and treys, there's been a long standing rumor that whispers one of the ugliest ~~of~~ and most offensive of all accusations -- cheating at cards. One of the great masters of contract has been frequently mentioned in gossip -- as a cheat. It's been told how this wizard of bridge was barred from play in the swanky clubs and top-ranking tournaments, and ostracized by the other masters. Who is he? Well, that will seem like a ticklish question -- mentioning a name in connection with crookery at cards. But it's to be told this evening, because here's the news:—

In New York a million dollar damage suit ~~was~~ filed in the Supreme Court today -- by William Karn. Remember him? One of the top-flight bridge players of half a ~~xx~~ dozen years ago, ~~was~~ winner of tournaments, way up in the ^{highest} rank of the masters? The law suit relates that Karn was charged with cheating, charged falsely. Rumors of crookery were spread about him, the complaint alleges, and thereby Karn was quote "eliminated from the various forms of remunerative endeavor in the contract bridge world,"

close quote. In other words, ostracized, blackballed. Karn is suing a whole string of the leading lights of bridge, including Ely Culbertson and Mrs. Culbertson, Oswald Jacoby of the "Four Horsemen", Walter Malowan, ^{and} Waldemar von Zedtwitz. Karn intimates that the charges against him began when he refused to join forces with the Culbertsons in 1933 and went on his own as a competitor.

^{So now}
~~is the story~~ a long-standing scandal of bridge flares into the open, breaks into the law courts. — a million dollar suit.

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There's something doubly pathetic about a tragedy of childhood, doubly pitiful when sorrow comes to innocent bright-eyed youth. Take the sad case of Clyde Bootan, a ten year old lad at Los Angeles. Today Clyde ^{was} ~~is~~ in the hospital suffering, the helpless suffering of a brave little lad.

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Today the chubby cheeked youngster went to school, and he took with him - two tacks. In the classroom where youth acquires the blessing of an education, Clyde placed one tack on the seat of an adjoining bench where another boy sat. At that moment the teacher called him. And Clyde concealed the second tack in his mouth. He went to the teacher's desk and she told him what a good little boy he was, ^{for} ~~that~~ he was one of her best pupils. Clyde returned to his seat - the second tack ^{still} ~~is~~ in his mouth. He sat down, and that's when the tragedy occurred. For the other boy had seen the tack and moved it from his seat to Clyde's seat. So as poor Clyde sat down on that one tack he gulped ~~a~~ wildly and swallowed ~~swallowed~~ ^{swallowed} the other tack in his mouth.

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Whereupon, amid much commotion, Clyde was rushed to the hospital and there the doctors made him eat balls of cotton

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accompanied by large quantities of spinach - stuff in which the
tack became imbedded so they could remove it. *And they did.*

Hereafter Clyde is going to use railroad spikes to
put on the other boy's bench - not so likely to swallow them.

And -- SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.

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