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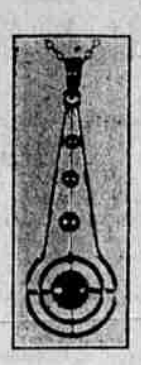

Splinters from the stars the ancients called them, and they were to them the symbol of affection as undying as the stars themselves. So what could be more fitting as a Christmas gift—mounted in ring brooch, La Valliere, or other attractive ways.

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WEST REFLECTS TREND OF FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Financial "dopesheets" prepared by the National City Bank of Chicago, are credited, generally, with being the nearest to correct of any middle-western forecasts. Hence the following from their monthly financial letter, rceived by La Grande banks, will be of interest to La Grande people:

The west is about the brightest spot in the country, for an immense volume of business is being done with the movement spreading to virtually all industries. The primary market movement of grains is surpassing all records and the car shortage on many lines is becoming acute. In many localities there is considerable complaint about the condition of corn, and farmers are selling the best corn at very good prices. Advice from various sections tell of reduced acreage for new winter wheat, but it is impossible to say yet what the real condition is. Most farming communities are enjoying a high degree of prosperity which is likely to continue for some time to come. The country merchant is making large purchases in this market to supply the demand for the sort of merchandise which ordinarily moves as soon as prosperity becomes prevalent in the crop districts.

Notwithstanding successive advances in price, the steel mills have more business than they can handle and the demand seems to be increasing all the time. The prosperity reflected by business revival in this section is not due to rush work for foreign governments but on the contrary "war orders" are no longer the chief factor making for industrial recovery in this section. It is due rather to the increased demand from domestic sources with better buying in many branches which up to a few weeks ago were not active at all.

The present recovery is likely to go a good deal further, for the country has scarcely yet felt the good effects of the bountiful harvests and the phenomenal showing of our foreign trade. The European war is still the chief factor affecting trade affairs but its influence is not nearly as depressing as it was a few months ago.

About $125,000,000 in dividend and interest payments will be disbursed this month, while in January the total will be considerably in excess of $200,000,000. This will swell the fund available for reinvestment to unprecedented figures and ought to give new impetus to bond trading which just now is showing the greatest activity of the year. Since the European war began the American makets have taken nearly one billion dollars of foreign government securities. Three quarters of this amount, or $750,000,000, represented loans put out by European governments, the balance being accounted for by the loans made to Canadian and Latin American governments.

The position of the foreign exchange market has been materially strengthened within the last six weeks by the negotiation of large credit balances for the account of foreign governments.

Money market conditions will continue easy but interest rates may be expected to advance moderately in response to the expansion of business.

The people fear little from the present session of congress. This is because the disturbances caused by the war abroad have been so great as to put a stop, for the time being at least, to the sort of radical legislation which a few years ago upset business and led to pronounced depression. What is more to the point, the effect of recent decisions handed down by the United States Supreme Court has been distinctly helpful.

Unless fresh complications should develop abroad the chances are that the bond market of the next few months will be as memorable as the bond market of 1909. The "pure investment buying" seen of late has been the best and most intelligent that has been witnessed in any market for years past. People are no longer thinking first of a large income return but chiefly of the things which go to insure the safety of principal. This is a scund position and means much for the security of a situation which might easily become dangerous if undue inflation should be permitted. With a record breaking surplus reserve, the banks have been forced to adopt such safeguards as should restrict loans on collateral in which the so-called "war stocks" figure prominently. Business generally is being conducted safely, and even in the stock market there is less indication of speculative excesses than there was a few weeks ago. The country is going ahead rapidly although cautiously.

London—The government post office telegraphs department has begun the employment of girl messengers in all parts of England.

FOREIGN WORD BAN FAILING

....BY CARL W. ACKERMAN....
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Berlin, Oct. (By Mail)—The crusaders against the use of foreign words and languages in Germany are temporarily blocked. Ernest Brues, a Dusseldorfer writer, has discovered that there are 100,000 foreign words in the German distionary and it is calculated that it would take many years to get them out.

The weeding process, which began several months ago, is continued in some part of Germany every week. Last week a big meeting was held in the townhall of Duesseldorf. At the meeting were members of the German Language club and the President of the International Hotel Keeper's club. All agreed that foreign words should not be used, especially on signs, but the Hotel Keeper won a point of having the word hotel, which is originally French, remain as a German word on the ground that 40 per cent of the visitors to hotels here are foreigners.

Finally the meeting adopted this resolution:

"This meeting, which is attended by representatives of Commerce and Trade for the District of Duesseldorf, considers it its duty to point out that foreign words still appearing on signs, labels, nameplates, etc., should be replaced as far as possible by good German words.

The phrase as far as possible was put in after Brues informed the meeting of the 100,000 enemies in the German language.

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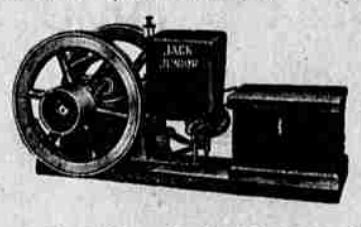

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