

ANNUAL REPORT
1950

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

ENDED JANUARY 31,1951


In the prescritation of dato in this Anneal Report we inave followed the pattern of content, lypography and format of our annual repon ot lost year. We have done this because our 1949 report was not only enthusiosticaity received by shareholders bul in addition was alsa owarded the highest mesis cilasion in onnual reporting by she "Financial World." a lcating business publication. Your comments and suggestions in connection with this report are misnt welcome because they assist us in our purpose of muking it helpiut to you.


This report is solely for the information of the holders of securities of Aldens, Inc., and is not a prospectus, notice, circular, advertisement, letter or communication in connection with any proposed sale of, or offer to sell or to buy, any securities.
Table of $\longrightarrow$ ontents
Your Management ..... 4
President's Letter ..... 5
1950 Review ..... 6 thru 8
Aldens Operating Facts in Brief ..... 9
Certified Consolidated Balance Sheet ..... $10 \$ 11$
Certified Statement of Consolidated Income ..... 12
Certified Statement of Consolidated Surplus ..... 13
Auditors' Certificate ..... 13
Ten Year Record of Performance ..... 14
Charts ..... 15
New Units .....  16 \& 17
Information About Aldens ..... 18
Locations - ..... 19

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R. L. ARSHFim
R. W. JACKSOH

Fresident, Alderis, Inc
W. A. Keafft . . . . President Enaporium World Milinery Co., Chicgqo
M. A. Riskind - . . . Partner, D'Ancona, Pflam, Wyalt \& Riskind, Chicago

Lawrence K. Schnadig . . . . President, Pullmain Couch Ca., Chicago
R. A. Seidel . Vice Pres., RCA Div. Radio Coro. of Amerjca, Camden, N. J.
H. J. Stentiford . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Vice President, Aldens, Inc.
W. P. Wigemai: . . . . Vice Pies, Kitast Officer, Chicogo Title \& Trust Co.

COMPANY OFFICERS


## FINANCE COMMITTEE

W. T. Bruckuer, Charman
W. A. Krafft, Vice Chairman
R. L. ARNHEIM
R. W. JACkSO:

# PROFIT SHARING PLAN COMMITEE 

R. L. Arnhem, Chaiman
W. T. Bruckner
M. A. RISkIND

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LAWERNCE K. SCHNADIG, Chairmon
W. A. krafft, Vice Chairman
C. A. Bfthger
R. W. JACKSON
M. A. RISKIN)
W. P. WISEMAN
$\qquad$ 1051
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE
April is

1) Sales increased 1950. Both in ail.
2) Aldens' customer list grew considerably as a result of the increased catalog circulation, made possible through new production techniques which reduced our catalog costs.
3) Catalog telephone offices were established in additional cities throughout the country increasing the number of these units to a total of 54 . This program permits us to tap tee urban community to a much larger degree and provide better service to these city customers.
4) We continued our expansion of retail stores, increasing the number of such stores from 7 to lo. Retail store sales in 1950 approximated $10 \%$ of total company sales.
The current international situation has introduced problems of price and credit control, shortages of man power and materials, and rising taxes. Notwithstanding, we are planning aggressively to continue our program of increasing catalog circulation, expanding retail store and catalog office operations and introducing new lines of merchandise.

Sales for the year to date exceed last year by about $10 \%$
1950 could not have been so successive a year without the loyal efforts of the men and women of our organization, the support of our customers, the help of our sources, the continued confidence of our shareholders, and the experienced judgment and guidance of our directors, for which I extend my personal thanks.

## Sincerely.



Note: You are invited to attend the Annal Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 25, 1951 at the office of Aldens, 511 So. Paulina Street. Chicago. Illinois. Shareholders of record at the close of business April 23 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.
Following is a list of the major new features of ign o

1) New lines of merchandironers.

## EARNIN©S-\$5.35 PER SHARE

Consolidated proiit before Federal income and excess profits taxes amounted to $\$ 4,554,448$, or $5.7 \%$ of sales, for the year of 1950 as compared with $\$ 1,378,742$, or $2.0 \%$ of sales for the year of 1949 . After provision tor Federal income and excess profits taxes, consolidated net profit for the year of 1950 was $\$ 2,047,808$, compared to $\$ 878,742$ for the previous year. After providing $\$ 147,241$ for dividends on preferred stock, net profit per share of common stock amounted to $\$ 5.35$ on 355,181 shares of common stock outstanding, compared to $\$ 2.03$ per share last year. A three-year comparison of earnings follows:


## (1) 6 months $\left.\quad{ }^{2}\right) 7$ months

## SALES-\$79,784,448

Consolidated net sales tataled $\$ 79,784,448$. This represented an increase of $15.8 \%$ from the comparable 12 -month period last year. A three-year comparison of sales follows:

(1) 6 months
(2) 7 months

## INVENTORY AND COMMITMEMTS IMCREASED

Following is a comparative summary of the company's inventory and commitment position as of January 31, 1951 and


Total inventory and commitments as of January 31, 1951 amounted to $\$ 20,868,385$, and exceeded last year's total by $\$ 7,502,674$. This increase was considered necessary to protect the company against increased prices, to cover increased sales volume, and to insure prompt filling of our customers' orders. As has been our practice in the past, all goods have been inventoried on the basis of cost or market, whichever is lower.

## INSTALLMENT ACCOUNTS INCREASED IN 1950

Installment accounts receivable increased from $\$ 8,377,438$ at January 31, 1950 to $\$ 12,557,652$ at lanuary 31, 1951. Installment sales were $23 \%$ of total 1950 sales volume as compared with $18 \%$ last year.

## FEDERAL IMCOME TAX RETURNS REYIEWED THROUGH IAMUARY 31, 1949

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has completed its examination of Aldens' and its subsidiaries' income tax returns through January 31, 1949, and concurrently with the publication of this report the Bureau is examining Aldens' and all of its subsidiaries' income tax returns through January 31, 1950. The reserve tor taxes appears ample to cover requirements through January 31, 1950 and estimated requirements for the year ended January 31, 1951.

## FINANCING

The linancial position of your company has been materially strengthened through the sale, on February 16, 1951, at par value, of a 15 -year $31 / 2 \%$ promissory note in the principal amount of $\$ 7,600,000$, dated February 16. 1951. The provisions covering the sale of said note provide for the repayment of $\$ 200,000$ on February 1, 1952, $\$ 300,000$ annually from 1953 to 1956, and $\$ 400,000$ annually thereafter through 1965. In February 1966 the remaining balance will then be due. Aldens may, at its option, prepay an additional amount equal to the stated repayment in any year without premium.
The proceeds of this sale were used to retire the outstanding $\$ 4,500,000$ of Sinking Fund Deberitures, without premium. and to effect a reduction in current bank loans.

## PREFERED STOCK RETIREMENT

The sinking fund provisions tor preferred stock retirement reguire 800 shares to be retired on July 1, 1951. At January 31 , 1951, 2,700 shares had been acquired at an average cost of $\$ 71.12$ per share for sinking fund purposes and are being carried as treasury stock. These shares will be available for the July 1, 1951 and subsequent sinking fund requirements. All shares of preferred stock surrendered for sinking fund purposes are required to be concelled and cannot be reissued.

## WORKING CAPITAL RAFIO-2.14

The company's working capital position at Jomuary 31, 1951 compared with prior years is presented below:


The working capital ratio at January 31, 1951 does not reflect the benefits of the $\$ 7,600,000$ financing. completed February 16. 1951.

## DIVIDENDS PAID-\$1.50 PER SHARE

During 1950 dividends of $\$ 1.50$ per share were paid on common stock and aggregated $\$ 532,772$. This ecualled last year's dividend. Dividends paid during the year to the holders of the compmy's common and prelerred stock amounted to $\$ 680,013$.

The year 1950 marks the seventeenth consecutive year in which dividends have been paid by Aidens.

## BOOK VALUE OF COMMON STOCK INCREASES TO \$33.43 PER SHARE

The common stcck and surplus at January 31, 1951 amounted to $\$ 11,872,799$ compared to $\$ 10,478,756$ at January 3!. 1950. This is a book value of $\$ 33.43$ per common share as compared to $\$ 29.50$ per share at January 31. 1950. The determination of book value is as tollows:


## STOCK OPTION

In comection with a contract entered into between your company and Lehman Brothers and approved by the shareholders on December 7. 1943, five option warrants tor a total of 53,000 shares of the unissued common stock were granted to Lehman Brothers. Option Warrant No. 1 for 9,000 shores at $\$ 17.00$ per share was exercised in 1945 ond four option warants remain for a total of 44,000 shares of common stock as follows:

| Warrant Number | Number of Shares | Option Price Per Share | Period for Exercise of Option |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 9,500 | \$18.00 | July 1, 1946 to July 1, 1951 |
| 3 | 10,500 | 19.00 | July 1, 1947 to July 1, 1952 |
| 4 | 11,500 | 20.00 | Iuly 1, 1948 to July 1, 1953 |
| 5 | 12,500 | 21.00 | July 1, 1949 to July 1, 1954 |

## SELECTION OF AUDITORS

A committee of three directors, not officers of the company, oppointed by your Board of Directors, selected David Himmelblau $\&$ Co. to audit the company's records. Certified reports for the !iscal year ended January 31, 195] are shown on pages 10 to ! 3.
Fiscal year ended
January 31 , 1951
\$79,784,448

## MET SALES

Inctuding leased departments

PROFITS
Betore Federal Tax on Income
\$ 4,554,448
Net Frofit for Year
2,047,808
Preferred Stock Dividends
1.900.567

## ASSETS



Current Assets . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30,420,380
Total Assets - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 34,198,141

LHABIEITIES, RESERYES AND CAPITAL
Current Liabilities - $-\ldots-\ldots .$.

Current Ratio
2.14 to 1

PER SHARE OFPREFERRED STOCK

| Number of Shares Outstanding $-\ldots \ldots$ | 34,100 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Net Frofit Before Preferred Dividends $\ldots \ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Castı Dividends |  |

4.25

## PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK



Cash Dividends . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1.50
Book Value - . - . - . . . . - . . . . . . . 33.43
fiscal year ended January 31. 1950
$\$ 68,918,480$

13 months ended
January 31, 1949
$\$ 87,841.639$
\$ 2.617,379
1.482,979

161,458
1,321,521
\$ 3,542.172
8,731,871
8,664,715
$22,331,757$
$25,630,151$
\$ 3,121,401
$10,038,905$
10,327,989
24,947,194
$28,749,377$
$\$ 6,609,218$
$8,243,393$
298,786
\$ 9,528,083
8,665,675
285,156
10.270 .463
$\$ 15.419 .111$
2.62 to 1
37.400
$\$ 39.65$
4.25
355.181

355,181
$\$ 3.72$
1.50

## ASSETS

$\begin{array}{r}3,729,048 \\ \$ 34,198,141 \\ \hline\end{array}$

CURRENT Ass ers
Cash resources-

JANUARY 31, 1951
\$ 2,661,923
U. S. Government securities at par plus accrued inmerest (market value $\$ 202,574$ at January 31, 1951) $\qquad$ \$ 2,862,678
\$ 1,809,572 12,557,662 \$14,367,234

Less-Reserve for doubtful accounts and collection expense

Prepaid expenses-
Advances on Spring season catalogs ard expenses - \$ 1,733,054
Unexpired insurance - . . . . . . . . . . . . 129,361
Total Current Assets

$$
\frac{1,862,415}{\$ 30,420,380}
$$

48,713
JANUARY 31, 1950
\$ 3,361,416
180,756
\$ 3,542,172
\$ 1,342,849
$\begin{array}{r}8,377,438 \\ \hline 9,720,287\end{array}$
$\qquad$ 8,731,871
Inventories (at lower of cost or market)-
Merchandise inventory, including in transit - - - \$12,236,964
Paper, supplies and postage stamps - . . . . . . 591,276
$\square$

OTHER ASSETS

## FIXED Assets:

Real estate, leasehold improvements and equipment (at

$$
\text { cost) }-\ldots \text {. . . . . . . . . . } \$ 5,578,297
$$

Less-Reserves for amortization and depreciation - . 1,849,249
\$ 4,831,419
1,634,708
$3,196,711$
$\$ 25,630,151$

## LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

| Current habilities: Janua | January 3i, 1951 | JANUARY 31, 1950 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bank loans - - - | \$ 6,550,000 |  | \$ 2,100,000 |
| Accounts payable--trade creditors - | 1,522,783 |  | 1,253,669 |
| Due to customers for unfilled orders and refund vouchers | 1.469,021 |  | 1,212,871 |
| Sinking fund debenture installments payable within one | 300,000 |  | 300,000 |
| Accrued payrolis - - - | 954,057 |  | 444,270 |
| Accrued property and franchise taxes - | 206,467 |  | 200,031 |
| Accrued lederal and state taxes (returns have been reviewed by Treasury Department through January 31, 1949) | 2,894,639 |  | 865,654 |
| Due to employees profit sharing trust - | 218,824 |  | 156,000 |
| Sundry payables - . - - - | 77,368 |  | 76,722 |
| Total Current Liabilities | $\overline{\$ 14,193,159}$ |  | \$6,609,217 |
| SINKING FUND dibimpuris (seo Motol: |  |  |  |
| 3\% series, fincl maturity October 15,1960 - . . - - \$ 1,000,000 |  | \$ 1,100,000 |  |
| 3\% series, final maturity November 1, 1962 - - - - 3,600,000 |  | 3,800,000 |  |
| \$ 4,600,000 |  | \$ 4,900,000 |  |
| Less-Installments payable within one year . . . . . 300,000 | 4,300,000 | 300,000 | 4,600,000 |
| Reserve accounts: |  |  |  |
| Insurance reserve - . . - . . . . . . . . - - \$ 208,093 |  | \$ 184,104 |  |
| Returned goods profit and customers adjustments - - 130,000 |  | 111,000 |  |
| Sundry - . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6,117 | 344,210 | 3,681 | 298,785 |
| capital: |  |  |  |
| $41 / 4 \%$ preferred stock, cumulative, $\$ 100$ par- Issued $-\ldots . .-23,680,000$ |  | \$ 3,760,000 |  |
| Common stock, $\$ 5$ parAuthorized 600,000 shares |  |  |  |
| Issued 355,181 shares . - - - - - . - - 1,775,905 |  | 1,775,905 |  |
| Paid-in surplus (premium on capital stocks) - . . - 1,415,008 |  | 1,388,260 |  |
| Earnings retained in the business (See Note) - . - - 8,681,886 |  | 7,314,091 |  |
| \$15,552,799 |  | \$14,238,756 |  |
| Less-Preferred treasury shares, at cost - . . . - - 192,027 | 15,360,772 | 116,607 | 14,122,149 |
|  | \$34,198,141 |  | \$25,630,151 |

NOTE: Sinking fund debentures were retired at par from proceeds of $\$ 7,600,000$ promissory note ( $31 / 2 \%$ ) dated February 16 . 1951 due in installments to 1966 . Under its pravisions with respect to the payment of dividends on the common stoek. $\$ 1,000,000$ of the earnings retained in the business was unrestricted at Fanuary 31, 1951.

Statement of Comsolidated Sncome
FISCAL YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1951 AND JANUARY 31, 1950


## Statement of Consolidated Supplus

FISCAL YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1951 AND JANUARY 31, 1950

## Palb-IN surplus (premium on capital stocks):



Balance at end of year


Fiscal Year Ended
January 31, 1950

## EARNINGS RETAINED IN THE BUSINESS:



## To Shareholders of Aldens, Inc.

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of Aldens, Inc and its wholly-owned subsidiaries as of January $3 i, 1951$ together with the related statements of consolidated income and consolidated surplus for the liscal year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance witi generally accepled auditing standards, and accordingly included ruch tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet and related statements of consolidated income and consolidated surplus present iairly the dinancial position o: Aldens, Inc: and its wholly-owned subsidiaries at january 31, 1951 and the results of their operations for the fiscal year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with the preceding neriod.

Chicage, Illinois
March 22, 1951


Certiiied Public Accountants

## A Ton Year Tappomenece <br> Recond of Alams, ina.




$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1041 & 87,841,639 & 2.617 .379 & 1.1344,400 & 1.482,979 & 10.270 .463 & 13.74) & 28.92 & 6.91(4) & 3.72(4) & 1.50\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1947 & 79,248,307 & 1,912,571 & 751,525 & 1,061,046 & 9.613,602 & 9.74) & 27.07 & 4.644) & 2.52(4) & 1.50\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1944 & 70,111,169 & 4,476,901 & 1,854,119 & 2,622,792 & 9,251,018 & 35.3(4) & 26.05 & 12.32(4) & 7.10(4) & 1.37 / 2\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1045 & 47,756,102 & 1,652.271 & 1.092,519 & 559,752 & 7,158.019 & 0.3 & 20.15 & 4.77 & 1.62 & .75\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1944 & 42,223,447 & 2,119,329 & 1,413,734 & 705,595 & 6.704,902 & 11.3 & 19.37 & 6.12 & 2.04 & .75\end{array}$

| 1043 | $36.573,518$ | $1,554.756$ | 898,998 | 605,758 | $6,258,943$ | 10.5 | 18.08 | 4.35 | 1.75 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

$\begin{array}{llllllllllll}1942 & 36,348,337 & 1,882,558 & 1.290,000 & 592,558 & 5,786,037 & 11.0 & 16.87 & 5.44 & 1.71 & .50\end{array}$
$1941 \quad 31,829,578$
(1) 1949 and subsequent cover the liscal years ended January 31: 1948 covers the thirteen month period ended January (2) In , 1947 and prior cover calendar years.
${ }^{(2)}$ In addition earned surplus was credited $\$ 385.019$ in 1948 for reserve lor contingencies and was charged $\$ 527.144$ in 1948 for writeof of investment in subsidiaries in excess of cost of net tangible assets at dates of acquisitions, and was

(2) At beginning of year. (3)At end of year. (3) Atter preferred dividends. $_{\text {a }}$



## ALDENS new units established in the year of 1950



## merchandige sold

Dresses (Juniors', Misses' and Women's), Coats, Suits, Hats, Sportswear, Shoes, Work Clothes, Hosiery, Lingerie, Underwear, Sweaters, Jewelry, Handbags, Accessories, Fabrics, Toys, Housewares, Appliances, Radios, Television Sets, Furniture, Stoves, Floor Coverings, Curtains, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Table Cloths, Intants' and Children's Wear, Sporting Goods, Luggage, Tools and Sundries
Emphasis is placed on tashions in wearing apparel, home furnishings, and those men's furnishings customarily purchased by the woman shopper.

## employes

Approximate average number of employees

## CORPORATE DATA

Incorporated
Approximate average number of shareholders . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Common-2400; Prelerred - 450
Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Directors . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..... Fourth Friday in May
Regular Meeting Date of Directors . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Fourth Friday in February, August and November
Regular Dividend Dates - \{Preterred . . . . . . . . . . ....... April 1, July 1, October 1, and Jamuary 1

Registrar-Common - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . The Chase National Bank of the City of New York
Transler Agent-Preferred - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . National City Bank of New York
Registrar-Preferred - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . The Commercial National Bank and Trust Company of New York

## auditors

Certified Public Accountants - . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . David Himmelblau \& Co., Chicago

## counsel

General Counsel-D'Ancona, Pflaum, Wyatt \& Riskind. Chicago - . . New York Counsel—Pokart \& Pokart, New York

## STOCK EXCHANGE DATA

Preterred and Common Stock Listed on New York Stock Exchange

|  | 1950 | $\begin{gathered} \text { CoMM } \\ 1949 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Stock } \\ 1948 \end{gathered}$ | 1947 | 1950 | PREFE $1949$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { D stock } \\ & 1948 \end{aligned}$ | 947 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shares Traded During Year | 207,460 | 71.430 | 97,900 | 83,500 | 3,510 | 4,290 | 3,270 | 4,2 |
| High Price During Year | \$245/8 | \$187/8 | \$213/4 | \$311/2 | \$791/2 | \$73 | \$803/4 | \$1023/4 |
| Low Price During Year | \$153/8 | \$131/8 | \$131/2 | \$161/8 | \$70 | \$64 | \$65 | \$ 75 |
| Price at Close of Year - | \$241/2 | \$17 | \$141/2 | \$20 | \$791/2 | \$691/2 | \$651/2 | \$ 78 |



## ADMINISTRATIOM AND BUYING OFFICES

Central Office
511 South Paulina St., Chicago 7, Illinois
Fashion Buying Olfice
200 Madison Ave., New York 16, New York
Retail and Credit
1401-17 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago 7, Illinois

## waremouses



Approximate total space occupied by above locations
1,335,000 sq. ft. Locations of retail stores and catalog telephone offices are listed on pages 16 and 17 .

