



INVESTMENT MANAGER COMMENTARY - MARCH 31, 2018

We expect annual global growth in 2018 to continue near the high level of growth recorded in 2017. With that said, monthly and quarterly measures of global growth such as industrial production, the Purchasing Managers Index and quarterly real GDP will likely weaken in a growing number of countries in the second half of this year. Consequently the prospect of slower growth in some regions of the world, combined with relatively high valuations and continued news on trade in addition to some more micro issues, has led to a return of equity market volatility, particularly in Canada. The S&P/TSX has continued to underperform most developed country markets since the beginning of 2017, and with Canadian economic growth unlikely to produce an upside surprise in 2018, returns for the S&P/TSX are likely to trail behind that of the S&P 500 throughout the remainder of this year.

Blue Ribbon Income Fund performed in line with the S&P High Dividend Total Return Index , however, it underperformed the broader market during the last quarter largely owing to our holding in Corus Entertainment Inc. The stock has declined materially since reporting its quarterly results in January, however we do not believe the market is giving Corus shares any credit for its dividend and believe there is still some value in the stock at current levels. Indeed, this was seen in its dramatic partial recovery in price this week after the company reported better than expected second quarter numbers.

On a more positive note, positions in Premium Brands Holdings Corporation, Superior Plus Corporation and Transcontinental Inc. were the greatest contributors to performance last quarter.

While valuations contracted somewhat in the past quarter for several names, we continue to be disciplined with our valuation approach maintaining a relatively wide spread between our buy and sell prices. With the Canadian economy and equity market demonstrating somewhat sluggish growth we remain active on finding bright spots in the market that we believe will be able to prosper in the current economic environment.

Bloom Investment Counsel, Inc. April 6th, 2018



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