
MERGERIZED!

The announcement flatly stated,
“No change is anticipated.”
And the *Journal*, on perusal,
Promised, “Business as usual.”

Some saw that as wishful thinking,
Others soaked it up, unblinking—
But no one fully realized
That soon they would be MERGERIZED!

Then employees grew uncertain;
Ambiguity, like a curtain,
Hid the future, made things vague—
Fear gripped some folks like the plague.

Work was really not much fun—
No one trusted anyone.
That was when they first surmised
They were being MERGERIZED!

Top brass stonewalled it at first,
Then said, “Look, we’re past the worst.”
But talk is cheap, and doesn’t sell
When things are going straight to hell.

The casualties began to mount,
And people watched the body count.
With apprehension in their eyes
They talked of being MERGERIZED!

Some bailed out and some were fired,
Others took cash and retired.
Those who stayed were down and out,
Mad as fire, or in a pout.

Low morale and high confusion
Led to problems in profusion.
Now it couldn't be disguised—
They had just been MERGERIZED!

This routine went on for ages,
Through the grief and mourning stages—
Good careers went up in smoke,
And shareholders were going broke.

When faith and hope had run their course,
The marriage ended in divorce.
No one should really be surprised . . .
That's life, when firms get MERGERIZED!

—*Price Pritchett*