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RESERVE BANKS CUT DOWN WAR PAPER

1500 Millions Decline to 1141 Millions, Says Federal Report.

Washington.—Holdings by federal reserve banks of paper secured by government war obligations declined from nearly 1500 millions at the opening of the year to 1141 millions on December 31, said the annual review issued by the federal reserve board. At the end of the year, out of a total of 2719.1 millions of discounted bills, about 42 per cent was composed of paper secured by United States war obligations, against 67 per cent of a total of 2231.2 millions held on the first Friday of the year.

The gold reserve, according to the review, shows little change at the end of the year, as compared with the condition 12 months earlier. Although considerable gold was exported to South America and to the orient early in the year, it is explained, gold shipments from England in anticipation of the maturity of the Anglo-French bonds on October 15 were responsible in a measure for a subsequent recovery, so that on December 30 the amount was only 3.3 millions below the total shown on January 2.

Increases in capitalization of existing member banks and accessions of new members were responsible in part for an increase in the paid-up capital of the federal reserve banks during the year from 87.4 to 99.8 millions. This corresponded to an increase of over 411.0 millions in capital and surplus of member banks.

Oregon News Notes

Stockmen of Malheur, Grant and Harney counties are already making preparations for the annual meeting of the Oregon Cattle & Horse Raisers' association, which will be held in Canyon City May 24 and 25.

Approximately \$27,000,000 was disbursed through the Oregon state department during the year 1920, as compared with \$6,000,000 in the year 1918, according to a report prepared by Sam A. Koster, secretary of state.

There will be an unusually large gathering of Oregon newspaper editors, publishers and writers at the annual professional conference, January 14 and 15, at the university of Oregon school of journalism.

Plans and specifications for the proposed Swamp Irrigation district have been received at the offices of the state engineer. The district is located near Enterprise and if created will comprise approximately 2000 acres.

There are 260 empty box cars stored in the Vale yards, about 300 at other points on the eastern Oregon and Bronzan branches, and several thousand at sidings along the main line. There is no movement of grain, lumber or wool.

Twenty-four hours' continual rain on an already water-logged soil caused large slides which blocked both railroad and wagon roads in Lincoln county. Three slides are reported on the railroad between Toledo and Elk City.

Metals valued at approximately \$1,250,000, or about 80 per cent of that of 1919, were produced and sold in Oregon during the year 1920, according to the biennial report of the Oregon bureau of mines and geology commission.

Senator Chamberlain underwent the second operation at Emergency hospital in Washington, D. C. Friday. His attendants were optimistic as to the outcome, expressing the belief that the senator's recovery would be early and complete.

Negotiations have been closed in Portland whereby the Pacific Spruce company takes over a lumber mill site and buildings at Toledo, 24 miles of railroad and 12,500 acres of timber land formerly the property of the United States Spruce Production corporation. The price was given out as \$2,000,000.

McCausland Creditors Meet. The first meeting of creditors of P. C. McCausland will be held tomorrow at Pendleton before Judge Thomas C. Fitzgerald, referee in bankruptcy. Mr. McCausland, who has been farming near Weston for several years, is one of the first Umatilla county farmers to file papers in bankruptcy since the drop in the price of wheat. He gives his liabilities as \$8306.46 and his assets as \$2543. He claims exemption of only \$464.

"OVER THE HILL"

Mrs. E. C. Prestbye returned Tuesday from a visit with relatives at Whitefish, Montana.

Miss Bertha Murdock was down from Twin Falls, Idaho, where she is teaching in the high school, for her vacation.

Mrs. E. H. Caton was taken to Walla the first of the week, for medical treatment.

George Winship has resumed his position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank, beginning his duties Monday. George vacated the place when he enlisted in Troop D, and since his return from the war, he has been living on his homestead in Montana.

Mrs. Charles Betts is ill and under the care of Dr. Sharp, from the effects of a malignant carbuncle.

Miss Blanche Swaggart will begin a three years course as nurse at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton.

Mr. Grant Prestbye assisted in coaching the girls basket ball team at the school gym during the week.

Dr. and Mrs. Horace Belknap of Nampa, Idaho, visited during the holidays at the W. S. Ferguson home on Current street.

Miss Altha Chandler of Sheridan Oregon, has been elected by the school board to take the place in the public school of Mrs. Weaver, resigned.

Richard Wright and family are visiting at the John Wright home in this city. This is Richard's first visit to the old home town for a long time.

Attorney Homer E. Watts returned last night from a visit to Portland.

James Henderson is down from Nanton, Alberta, to spend the winter.

Wilbur Gerking and Elmer Gerking of Arbon, Idaho, visited during the holidays with their cousins, Miss Wilma Harbour and Mrs. Otto V. Purcell.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Crabill of Holdman, came up yesterday to visit at the W. J. Crabill home. They will also visit at the homes of Olin McFeron and Ray O'Hara, in Weston.

A couple of photographers from Victoria, B. C., were at the school last Wednesday and took pictures of the various classes, the boys and girls basket ball teams, the football squad and the faculty.

Miss Ada DeFreece will resume charge of the local telephone exchange on January 12. Mrs. McPherson, who has been the efficient and courteous manager, during Miss DeFreece's absence will take a much needed rest.

George Payne purchased the house formerly occupied by D. C. Baker on Main street, and has moved it to his property on the west side. The house moving was made easy by Del Stanton, who skidded 'er right along with his "yellow peril" tractor.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hodgen and family have returned from Umapine, where on New Years eve the annual reunion of the Hodgen family was held in the community hall. Sixty-six members of the family were present, with about seventy guests. One hundred and thirty were seated at the feast. The reunion was held during the afternoon and evening, and dancing and games were enjoyed. Fletcher's orchestra of Pendleton, furnished music for the occasion.

During the past few months, Landlord Froome has made extensive improvements to his St. Nichols hotel property, involving an expenditure of approximately \$3,500.

The dance and card party given on New Years eve by the Civic club, was much of a success in ever particular. The opera house was decorated in evergreens, and a space roped off for card tables left ample room for the dancers who tripped to inspiring music by the Athena orchestra. From a cozy corner, ladies of the club dispensed toothsome sandwiches and coffee to their guests during the evening.

Chopped Hand With Ax. While splitting fire wood at the ranch Monday morning, Floyd Pinkerton had the misfortune to chop the back of his left hand with the ax he was wielding. While the injury is serious, no bad results are anticipated by Dr. Sharp, who dressed the wound.

Return to College Work. Athena young people, attending college and universities have all returned to their work, after spending the Christmas vacation at their homes here. Misses Kathren Froome and Hazel Sanders to O. A. C.; Belle Pambrun to Whitman; Martha Hutt to Willamette University; Doris Thompson to St. Helens Hall; Areta Little-

john to U. of O.; Pauline Myrick to Portland Business College; Gladys and Anabel McLeod to U. of W. and Messrs Roland Andre, Vern Dudley to U. of O.; Worth Watts to W. S. C. and Ned Ahrens to U. of W. Miss Thelma Kretzer who was taking a course in social service at Eugene, will remain at home for the remainder of the term.

Clay Jackson Married. Clay Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jackson, was united in marriage Thursday last week, to Miss Stella York of Weston. The marriage took place at Walla Walla. The young couple will reside on the Jackson place, west of Athena. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John York of Weston.

Cites Claimants to Appear. The East Oregonian reports that the city of Pendleton has filed suit against all persons claiming a share in the reward offered by the city for the capture of Neil Hart, Jim Owens and Jack Rathie, citing them to appear in the circuit court to thresh out their claims. The city offered \$500 for the capture of Hart and \$250 each for the capture of Owens and Rathie. The claimants for the reward number nearly a score. The county's share of the reward is also involved but no suit has been filed.

Sunnyside Crop Production. Crops raised on the Sunnyside, Washington, project last year, according to J. L. Lytel, project manager, are worth \$8,330,394. With that valuation the returns per acre are \$105, which may set the record for acreage yield on government irrigation projects. During the year 78,936 acres were cropped.

Large Wheat Sale. The largest individual sale of wheat in the Inland Empire took place recently at Walla Walla when George Drumheller disposed of 150,025 bushels to Kerr-Gifford at \$1.45 per bushel, or approximately \$215,000.

CANNOT BURN OR ROT AWAY



HIGH rents are compelling thousands of men to build, but with labor and materials costing what they do today, a man cannot afford to build a house that will burn down or rot away. In sheer self defense, he must build to last. He must have a house that resists fire and weather, depreciates very slowly, costs little for upkeep and insurance, and never goes out of style. This house meets these exacting specifications. Fire may damage, but cannot destroy it. The walls are of burned clay, face brick on the outside, common brick or hollow tile for backing; and burned clay is the most fireproof material known. The inside plaster is of gypsum, laid on metal lath; a combination that by actual test will hold a hot fire for one solid hour before letting it get through to the studding. The roof is of asphalt shingles, another barrier to the flames instead of an invitation to them. Nothing remains to burn but the floors and large timbers—and did you ever hear of a fire that started with these? As for style, some building materials come and some go, but brick goes on forever; and face brick is the richest, most varied wall making stuff in the world. The plans are worthy of the construction. In front is a generous porch, going clear across the house. From that, you enter a vestibule and then a hall, flanked by coat closets and containing the stairs. On the right is the living room, 12 feet by 19. The fireplace is on the inner wall, where no heat is wasted, and one can sit by it without being in a draft. Back of the living room is the dining room, a little more than 12 feet square, with a fine window group overlooking the garden. The two rooms are virtually one. The kitchen, 7 feet by 13, is reached by a cornerwise route across a large pantry. The service entrance is at the side, with a vestibule containing the ice box. A short passage from the kitchen leads to the front door. There are three bedrooms on the upper floor, two of them lighted from two sides and one from three, besides a bathroom and a big linen closet. This house can be built at a cost not more than 10 per cent greater than that of a similar house made of wood. In five years, owing to the difference in maintenance and insurance charges, the face brick house is the cheaper of the two, and has not depreciated at all, while the frame house is materially lowered in value. If you want proof of these statements or suggestions on building, write to the Permanent Building Bureau, in the Chamber of Commerce, Chicago.

WESTON "DADS" COST OR MARKET INVENTORY BASIS

NEW COUNCIL MEETS AND MAYOR NAMES COMMITTEES

The city council held its first meeting under the new administration, Wednesday evening. Nelson H. Jones, Weston's new mayor, presided. Considerable business was transacted and plans relating to various civic enterprises were discussed. Mayor Jones announced the appointment of committees as follows:

Water—H. Goodwin, J. W. Price and W. H. Gould.
Street—J. Wurzer, Marvin Price and L. B. Davis.
Ordinance—L. B. Davis, E. M. Smith and W. H. Gould.
Fire and Police—Marvin Price, L. B. Davis and W. H. Gould.
Finance and Property—E. M. Smith, H. Goodwin and Marvin Price.
Health—H. Goodwin, E. M. Smith and J. Wurzer.
Civic Pride—W. H. Gould, E. M. Smith and H. Goodwin.
Dr. W. H. McKinney was named again as health officer. Mrs. Marvin Price and Mrs. S. J. Culley were appointed on the library board.

SOLDIERS' BONUS BILL VALID

The Washington State Supreme Court Upholds Measure. Olympia, Wash.—By unanimous decision the supreme court sustained the validity of the soldiers' bonus bill passed as a referendum measure at the special session of the legislature in March, 1920, and adopted by vote of the people at the November election.

As a result of the favorable decision in the test case brought by the state board of finance to compel the state auditor to issue warrants drawn on the permanent school fund to purchase the \$11,000,000 bond issue authorized by the measure, the board will be called together at once to complete details preliminary to actual payments of amounts due to former service men from this state as provided by the law.

Movies of "Crooks" Banned. Chicago, Ill.—Motion pictures portraying criminals at work have been barred in Chicago. Chief of Police Fitzmorris announced that he had issued orders to the city movie censors not to issue permits for any photoplay that showed commission of a crime.

TELEPHONE RATES AND THE DECLINE IN PRICES

The Telephone Company has asked its patrons in Oregon to pay more for their telephone service. It has placed the facts and figures of the situation before the Public Service Commission for their investigation and verification. The increases will not amount to much to individual subscribers, but the aggregate will permit the Company to properly maintain and develop its service.

We have shown the Commission that we are operating at a loss. Our expenses are greater than our earnings. The owners of the property are receiving nothing from their Oregon investment and the interest due on debts which should properly be borne by the Oregon properties is not being paid from Oregon receipts.

At the hearing before the Public Service Commission not a fact or figure presented by the Company was disputed or disproved. The only material contention made was that increases were perhaps inopportune in view of the apparent decline in general commodity prices.

Salaries and wages make up 72 percent of our current expenses. We hope they will not be reduced and do not think they should be.

In the five years 1916-1920 inclusive, we have increased the wages of our plant people \$307,000.00; our traffic (operating) employees, \$681,000.00; commercial employees, \$98,000.00—a total of \$1,086,000.00 per annum.

Efficient and contented employees mean good service. It is their due and our desire that their compensation be equal to that paid in other lines of business activity.

Adequate service is dependent upon adequate rates.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.