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YEAR'S LOANS TOTAL OVER SIX BILLIONS

American Gold Finances Industries and Stabilizes Currencies.

New York.—The flow of American capital into foreign and domestic investments, comprising loans for governments, municipalities and corporate enterprises, reached unprecedented proportions in 1925. While accurate compilations are not yet available, preliminary estimates indicate that the total of capital flotations eclipsed last year's record of slightly more than \$6,000,000,000.

For the second time in history American investors poured more than a billion dollars into foreign loans during the year, equalling, if not surpassing, the 1924 record of approximately \$1,200,000,000. Productive enterprises claimed about \$350,000,000 of the total, the gain in this type of business offsetting a moderate decline in government borrowings.

America's commanding position as lender to the world also was strikingly revealed by the establishment of huge private credits to help in the stabilization of foreign currencies. Fortified by the possession of enormous gold stocks, American bankers set aside \$300,000,000 for the protection of Great Britain's return to the gold standard and advanced many millions additional to insure the stability of the Belgian and Italian currencies preparatory to their re-establishment on a gold basis.

RUBBER DISCUSSION AT GENEVA PROBABLE

Washington, D. C.—Suggestion in press dispatches from Geneva that the British rubber monopoly, which has evoked great concern here; be discussed at the proposed league of nations international economic conference, with America participating, is interesting Washington officials.

The rubber situation, in which congress already has ordered an investigation, would, under the Geneva suggestion, be a phase of the conference's consideration of world supply and distribution of raw materials generally. Whether the Washington administration would agree to the proposal and the added opinion that this country might be asked to sit with the league's council number two, an advisory-political body, or would prefer to pursue an independent course, remains problematical. In addition to the ordered congressional investigation, retaliatory steps against high rubber prices already have been outlined by Secretary Hoover.

STEPHEN S. WISE RESIGNS

Flood of Telegrams Show Interest Aroused Over View on Savior.

New York.—From every corner of the nation came evidence that the storm of controversy provoked by the resignation of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, noted Zionist, from the chairmanship of the United Palestine fund \$5,000,000 drive would be a burning topic in American Jewry for some time to come.

Rabbi Wise resigned because the New York Union of Rabbis, a body of ultra-orthodox Jews, characterized him as heretic and demanded he quit on the grounds that he had said Jews must accept the fact that Jesus as a man actually existed. Sooner than cause the fund any possible embarrassment, he asked the executive body to meet at once to consider his resignation.

French Envoy to Discuss Debt.

Washington, D. C.—Victor Henri Berenger, newly appointed French ambassador to the United States, will come prepared to enter immediately upon negotiations for the settlement of his country's \$4,000,000,000 debt to the American treasury as an integral part of the program of rehabilitating French government finances, according to authoritative information obtained here.

America Observes Wilson Birthday.

Washington, D. C.—America observed Monday the 69th anniversary of the birth of Woodrow Wilson. It was celebrated formally Monday night with dinners in 500 cities and towns, arranged by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. More than 15,000 guests attended the dinners.

OREGON TEACHERS ARE FAVORING INCOME TAX

A state income tax from which fifty per cent of the derived revenue shall be used for education in Oregon, is favored by the Oregon State Teachers' association. A committee will confer with the grange and other state-wide organizations which foster tax revision to draft a bill to be placed on the ballot at the November election.

The income tax was the only one of four initiative measures to increase school funds, drafted by the committee on legislation, to receive the support of the association. The defeated recommendations were for a severance tax, a tax on the destruction of natural resources; an inheritance tax, revenues from which were to be placed in an irreducible school fund and some phase of a luxury tax of which fifty per cent was to be placed in the current school fund.

Dr. Homer Rainey, of the University of Oregon, was one of those opposed to adopting the report of the legislative committee as a program for action.

C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter, told the teachers that an enemy of their program "would only have to take its text and drive through it all the automobiles and chariots he wants to," it is so wide open for criticism.

An epidemic of protests followed Mr. Chapman's speech, several stating that teachers should not allow some one from the outside to come in and tell them how to handle their own affairs or to dictate with the stand they were to take on matters in which they were primarily interested. One of those who spoke in favor of the income tax was A. C. Hampton, superintendent of Astoria schools and a member of the legislative committee and the textbook commission.

RADIO PRIZE WON BY MRS. McEWEN OF ATHENA

The benefits of radio are many, some of which prove lucrative if the owners thereof take advantage of the opportunities presented by the various broadcasting stations, in the way of prizes.

Recently Station K. M. M. J., at Clay Center, Nebraska owned and operated by the M. M. Johnson Company, manufacturers of Old Trusty Incubators and Brooders offered a prize to each state in the Union, for the best fifteen word letter on the value of poultry raising.

The following letter composed by Mrs. R. B. McEwen won the first prize for Oregon.

"Prudent poultry producing pays percentage profits; providing practical profession; promoting plump pockets plus pleasant pastime." The prize consists of a sixty egg incubator of the "Old Trusty" variety.

GRANGE ORGANIZED

The Weston Leader reports that Weston Mountain grange came into being Thursday evening, December 17, with a good-sized membership list. Roy Hyatt was elected master, Walter Rayborn overseer, Mrs. Mabel Hodgson lecturer and M. W. Rayborn secretary. Officers and the regular standing committees will be appointed at the next meeting on January 6, 1926, when a number of additional members will be admitted. J. A. Nice of North Powder, master of the Union County Pomona grange, attended as a representative of the Union county granges. W. R. Gekler of La Grande, state organizer, conducted the organization work. Refreshments of coffee and sandwiches were served after the meeting.

JOLLY TWENTY-FIVE

The last meeting of the year for the Jolly Twenty-five club occurred at the home of Mrs. Max Hopper Wednesday afternoon. The rooms were made attractive by seasonal decorations and potted plants. Plans for a dance to be given in the near future were discussed and committees appointed. Dainty ices and cakes were served by Mrs. Verna Smith and Mrs. C. L. McFadden.

DR. SHARP HOME

Dr. Sharp, who was taken to Pendleton last week, and then transferred to the hospital at Walla Walla, for treatment is home. The doctor is reported as being somewhat better.

Happy New Year!



EVANGELIST LAUGHLIN, D. D. AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. G. G. Laughlin D. D., of Portland, Oregon will begin an evangelistic meeting in the Baptist church of Athena on Sunday January 3rd and will hold meetings every night except Saturday, until January 24. Rev. Laughlin is a very pleasing speaker and a true Gospel preacher. He is director of Evangelism for Oregon in the Baptist church. "The object of this meeting," says Pastor Loree, is not to make Baptists only, but is to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Therefore who ever you are if you love Christ come and take part in this meeting. It may result in the salvation of one or more of your own friends or loved ones. Your own church may be built up by your helping us in this way."

MISS PINKERTON ENTERTAINS

Honoring a number of young folks in Athena for the holidays Miss Edna Pinkerton entertained at her home the following: Misses Edra Kintzley, Billy Baker, Frederica Kershaw, Pearl Ramsey, Jeannamae Read, Lois McIntyre, Hilda Dickenson, Savannah Davis, Maurice Banister, Lee Banister, Norman McIntyre, John Pinkerton, Dr. Cowan, Brooks Anderson, Leon Kretzer, George Boreman, Jim Hodgen. Refreshments were served.

B. Y. P. U. ENTERTAINED

The home of Joe Cannon as a scene of much merry making Wednesday evening when nine carloads of jolly B. Y. P. U., members and friends surprised Granville and Miss Francis. Radio, readings and games were enjoyed until midnight when coffee, sandwiches and hot tomatoes were served.

PLAY WHITMAN TONIGHT

The Athena Champs will go to Helix tonight, where in the gym at that place they play Nig Borleske's Whitman Missionaries, and the fans are looking forward to a real basketball contest. Tuesday night at Helix, the Red Devils gave Whitman an awful close rub, losing by only one point, 25 to 24.

OFF TO CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Mary Tompkins and Mr. and Mrs. Don Woodruff left Thursday by motor for Portland where they will visit at the home of Mrs. A. B. McEwen for a short time. They are en route to San Francisco, and will also visit at the William Winship home in Salem on their way.

PARTY AT BETTS HOME

About 25 young people went to the Charles Betts home Monday evening and surprised Reeve and Kohler Betts with a party. The evening was spent enjoying music, playing games and making candy. Candy and pop corn balls were served as refreshments.

NEW FARMERS HAPPY IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

The Yule log will burn brightly on the hearthstones of Oregon, but nowhere did the Christmas tide bring more real joy and contentment than in the homes of the new settlers of Clackamas county.

The Land Settlement Department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce reports 57 new settlers for Clackamas county during the past eighteen months, with a capital investment of approximately \$375,000. It is estimated that a total of 1000 acres have been developed and put under cultivation by the new farmers who have come to Oregon within this specified time.

The majority of the new settlers of Clackamas county have gone into the poultry business and are making good. Seven families have located in the Canby district alone during the past six months and each one is a remarkable example of what can be accomplished by the farmer of Oregon.

DOWN FROM POMEROY

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Read, with their daughter and son, Miss Bethene and Delbert drove down from their home at Pomeroy, Washington, Sunday and had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Read. They were former residents of Athena. For several years Mr. Read has been in partnership in business with Charles Bryan, who also used to live here.

THE O. D. O. CLUB

The O. D. O. club met at the home of Mrs. Lee Johnson Tuesday December 22. A gift box full of pretty and useful things was the main entertainment of the afternoon. Lunch was served by Mrs. Jack Cunningham and the hostess. The next meeting will be held Tuesday January 5 at the home of Mrs. Jesse Smith.

HAVE RETURNED HOME

George B. Green has joined his family in Athena, after several months' absence. He has been employed on a stock ranch near Touchet, Washington. His son Heston Green is also home for the winter, having been at work at La Grande for some time.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

C. N. Clark is moving into the Dickenson cottage on Third street, where he will keep house for Frank and Ross Clark, former Athena high school students, who are returning from Salem to again enter the Athena school.

REBEKAH LODGE

The Rebekah lodge will initiate next meeting night which is January 12. The Freewater drill team will put on the initiatory work and all members are especially requested to attend. Four candidates will be taken in.

ATHENA CHAMPIONS WIN HECTIC GAME AT ADAMS

The Adams "Shamrocks" put up the niftiest kind of a nifty game on their own floor against the Athena Champions, Wednesday evening before a big crowd of fans, with the result that Athena won by the narrow margin of one point, 19 to 18.

The game was trimmed with more spectacular thrills than any heretofore given in this season's schedule of league basketball, and the big crowd got its money's worth.

At the end of the first half Athena led, 13 to 8. During the whole of the period the going had been fast and furious. The Shamrocks stiffened in the second half, offered a stinging offensive and marked up 11 points while Athena was making six.

As the game was drawing to a close the score stood 17 and. Jim Hodgen, whom Manager Stephens had called out of the game, and substituted Lawrence Pinkerton, was stuck back in, Stephens calling time with the ball in Adams' possession. This gave Adams a free throw, and begorra, the ball went through the hoop; score, Adams 18, Athena 17.

The Adams supporters simply went wild in their enthusiasm, raised the roof and cracked the window panes in their lusty cheering, figuratively speaking, but with only seconds to go, Athena fans carried the gym away with them when ol' Jim Hodgen neatly dropped one in from "away over there"—score, Athena 19; Adams 18.

Athena will play the Helix Red Devils on the Athena floor one evening next week, the date to be announced.

MOUNTAIN RANCH SOLD

Weston Leader: Charles L. May has disposed of his farm on Weston mountain—which is regarded as among the best in the fertile region—to Harry Eaves, who comes from Sunnyside, Washington. Mr. Eaves will take possession the first of the year, and expects to engage extensively in potato growing. The departure of Mr. May and family will be generally regretted, as he is among the mountain's most progressive and popular farmers. It is reported that he will soon make a trip into southern Oregon to see how he likes that part of the state.

CIVIC CLUB DANCE

As the first step in starting a fund for the purpose of building a community house the Civic club of Athena sponsored a holiday dance at Legion Hall Wednesday night. The Jolly Jax orchestra furnished splendid music for the congenial crowd which attended. H. I. Watts F. S. MacGraw and Bert Ramsey dispensed punch. A number of out of town guests were present but the attendance was not sufficient to make the affair so successful financially as had been hoped, the small sum of five dollars above expenses being realized.

STANDARD PICTURES

New Years Night, the Standard Theatre will present a big double show, when "The Sea Hawk" and the Amundsen-Ellsworth polar flight will be shown in one exhibition, only, at 10c, 25c and 50c admission prices. Saturday night, Bebe Daniels appears in the fine Paramount picture, "Dangerous Money," and Buster Keaton comes Sunday in his gorgeous laugh vehicle, "The Seven Chances."

ROSES AND MUSHROOMS

Mrs. Froom of the Athena Hotel, picked a bouquet of rosebuds from her garden, Christmas day, and the editor found a couple of mushrooms Wednesday of this week. Such is the advantages afforded by our climate.

A VALUABLE COW

Landlord Froom of the Athena Hotel, recently parted with \$175 for the purchase of a Holstein cow, and said cow is delivering six gallons of milk per milking.

WA-HI HERE SOON

Athena High school has scheduled a basketball game with Walla Walla High school, to be played on the local floor in the near future.

Ed Leonard president of the First National bank was a business visitor here Monday, motoring down from Waitsburg for the day.

WHEN JIM HILL CAUSED BEAUTIFUL ENGINE WRECK

The late "Jim" Hill, empire builder and master mind of the "Northern" lines once spent the holiday season in Walla Walla but not because he wanted to. The Oregonian recounts this as follows:

"Forty-one years ago yesterday a dinner party in Portland waited in vain for the arrival of the late "Jim" Hill, empire builder and master mind of the "Northern lines," who was to have been the guest of honor.

The incident was recalled by Charles Borders, veteran railroad man of eastern Oregon.

In 1884, Mr. Borders said, the Columbia river line of the "O-W" had been completed little more than a year, and was not equipped to fight the snow that had piled up and drifted as deep as eight feet along the roadbed by Christmas week.

"Two passenger trains had plowed west as far as Lindsley creek and were stalled. They couldn't proceed or back up. Other westbound trains were being held at The Dalles. Passengers on the stalled trains were fed by rescue parties traveling on snowshoes from Hood River and Cascade Locks. A barge load of wood, frozen in the Columbia nearby, furnished them with fuel.

"Delay in moving the trains and clearing the tracks," said Mr. Borders, "irked Mr. Hill beyond words. He wanted to be in Portland on Christmas day. So he massed 12 locomotives at Walla Walla, started them in a string for The Dalles and telegraphed his Portland friends that he was on his way.

"The engines by united effort finally reached the trains stalled at Lindsley creek. Drifts there were impenetrable.

"Back up and take a run and jump at them," ordered Hill.

"When smoke and steam and swirling snow had cleared away, six of Hill's locomotives were piled in the ditch. They had little more than dented the snowdrifts.

"Wrecking crews finally righted the mess and the engines chugged back to Walla Walla. Mr. Hill went with them.

UNUSUAL CELEBRATION IS HELD AT LOWDEN

The Walla Walla Union gives the details of an unusual celebration held at Lowden on Christmas eve in which was depicted pioneer events of interest.

A cast of fifty boys and girls presented in six scenes the dramatic incidents in the life of Mrs. M. E. Lowden locally known as Grandmother Lowden. Costumes laid aside fifty or a hundred years ago, at the death of their owners, were worn by members of the cast. Extreme measures were necessary to enclose the girl of the present in clothes of other days.

Old songs long forgotten were resurrected and sung by a children's chorus. Mrs. L. A. Cornell painted for the occasion a stage setting representing a boat on the Columbia sixty years ago. Near the close of the play Santa Claus appeared with flowers and a box of candy for each of the pioneers present, and when the last scene closed they assembled on the stage to discuss old times.

Important characters in the cast of the play were: Lowden Johnson, who played the part of his great grandfather; Anita Bergevin, who played the part of Mother Lowden's mother; Henry Fehrenbacher, acted the part of Frank Lowden, Senior. Rosalie Fehrenbacher interpreted the later life of Mother Lowden. Others who played the part of Mother Lowden at different ages were: Emma Lou Talbot, and Margaret Fehrenbacher. The lines of the play were written by H. G. Alway.

A MILTON JURY FINDS STOCKSTILL NOT GUILTY

Elmer Stockstill was acquitted of the charge of liquor possession in the justice court at Milton, Tuesday, the jury returning a verdict of acquittal after five minutes deliberation. Homer I. Watts, counsel for Mr. Stockstill, succeeded in having the case changed from the justice court at Freewater, where the charge was made, to the Milton court.

Friends of Stockstill are importuning him to bring action against Hoskins for alleged brutal assault made upon him when he was arrested at the State Line dance hall.

FARM RELIEF BILL TO FOSTER EXPORT

Conservative Legislation to Aid in Surplus Crop Disposal Agreed Upon.

Washington, D. C.—The administration's farm relief program will be broadened to provide for some machinery for handling surplus crops.

Just what form this new aid will take has not been determined but both President Coolidge and Secretary Jardine have reached the conclusion that surplus crops present one of the dominating problems of agriculture and that some governmental step must be taken to afford relief.

Tremendous pressure has been brought to bear recently on the administration by the congressional farm bloc and western agricultural leaders to create a federal commission with powers to direct the disposition of surplus farm crops in a way which would enable the producers to at least get the cost of production.

Heretofore the White House has been silent on the subject, but after the president had conferred with Secretary Jardine, it was disclosed that the administration was prepared to in-dorse conservative legislation fostering the sale of surplus crops in the export trade with a government commission as a directing agency.

The issue was brought to a head a few hours before the departure for Des Moines of the Iowa congressional delegation, members of which were invited to attend a meeting there of farmers and bankers to discuss means of marketing the surplus corn crop.

DRY APPROPRIATIONS PASSED BY HOUSE

Washington, D. C.—Dry members of the house successfully defended all appropriations carried in the annual treasury-post office supply bill for prohibition enforcement for the next fiscal year.

On the first prohibition showdown of the session, an amendment to prohibit employment of "fraud, deceit and falsehood" in the use of funds appropriated for the purchase of liquor as evidence was defeated by a vote of 139 to 17.

The remainder of the enforcement funds, slightly more than appropriated last year, were approved without serious opposition as reported by the appropriations committee.

In addition to the \$250,000 item for purchase of evidence, appropriations in the bill having to do with prohibition enforcement included \$24,213,000 for the coast guard, an increase of \$3,615,000 over current funds to provide for the addition to 1550 men to the enlisted personnel and to maintain the present fleet engaged in operations against liquor smugglers; a direct appropriation of \$9,396,000 for the enforcement machinery in the treasury, and \$50,000 for prohibition posters.

GIANT OIL CONCERNS UNITE

Standard and Pacific Oil Companies to Merge Interests.

New York, N. Y.—Formation of a new giant among the oil companies of the Pacific coast, with total assets of approximately \$450,000,000 is forecast in the announcement that the merger of the Standard Oil company of California with the Pacific Oil company awaits only formal ratification by the stockholders.

Henry W. De Forest, chairman of the board of directors of the Pacific Oil company, announced that an agreement had been reached to issue one share of the stock in the consolidated company for each share of stock of each of the merging companies.

The consolidated company will be directed by the management of the present Standard Oil company of California. The Pacific Oil is purely a producing company, with the largest undeveloped land holdings in California, and the Standard, with limited holdings, has an extensive distributing system.

Kelso Petition Signers Liable.

Kelso, Wash.—Forteen signers of the recall charges filed against J. E. Stone, Kelso city attorney, early in 1925, are not exempt from prosecution for criminal libel, the Washington supreme court decided in an opinion announced reversing the decision of Judge Campbell of Grays Harbor county.