

BIG NATIONAL BANK DEPOSITS.

Increase Since October 1914 Is Four Billions. Controller in Report to Congress Says U. S. Indebtedness to Europe Before War of \$450,000,000 Was Wiped Out in Year and \$2,000,000,000 in Foreign Loans Was Absorbed.

A Washington dispatch to the New York Commercial says: The financial growth of the United States in the past year, and the great changes which have taken place in the international position of the country during the European war, are summarized by the Controller of the Currency in his annual report, submitted to Congress to-day.

During the past fiscal year, deposits of the country's national banks increased \$1,126,000,000, while in the two years from October 31, 1914, to November 17, 1916, resources of all the national banks increased \$4,028,000,000, or more than 35 per cent. The increase in the banks' resources in the last two years was about three times as great as the average increase for the preceding ten years.

"It is also worthy of note," the Controller adds, "that the aggregate resources of the national banks of the United States at this time exceeds by about a billion dollars the combined resources of all the great banks of issue of all the principal countries of the world, including the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Bank of Russia, the German Reichsbank, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Spain, the Bank of the Netherlands, the Bank of Denmark, the Swiss National Bank, and the Imperial Bank of Japan, according to the latest reports received from these foreign banks."

As to the reversal in the international financial position of the country since the war began, the report contains the following passage:

"At the outbreak of the European war the current indebtedness of this country to Europe, practically all of which was due and payable prior to January 1, 1915, was estimated at \$450,000,000. The largest item of this indebtedness was represented by the short-term obligations of the city of New York, about \$80,000,000. The remainder was composed of foreign trade balances of merchants and bankers, and short-time loans borrowed by business houses which had taken advantage of the easy money conditions in Europe preceding the war crisis. Besides this current indebtedness, our securities held abroad were estimated at between four and five billion dollars.

"Before twelve months had elapsed, this country had paid in full this floating debt, and had begun to make loans to both belligerent and neutral countries in large sums. The total of foreign loans placed in the United States for belligerent and neutral countries, from August 1, 1914, to November 1, 1916, is estimated at approximately two billion dollars.

Safe Farming, a Balanced Husbandry.

"Whenever the greed for a money crop unbalances the wisdom of husbandry, the money crop is a curse. When it stimulates the general economy of the farm, it is the profit of farming."

The above statements by the late Henry W. Grady are as true to-day as they were when written by him, many years ago, says Mr. C. R. Hudson, State Agent in Farm Demonstration Work. We are face to face with a serious condition in the South. The South has made great progress and enjoyed wonderful prosperity during the past year, because it produced so much of its own living. The danger lies in the fact that the high prices of certain farm products may tempt the farmers to pursue an unwise course and resort to the growing of sale crops to the detriment of food and feed crops.

Are we going to permit the agriculture of the South to become an unbalanced husbandry, or will we push forward the matter of Safe Farming? To better understand the matter, we have but to compare the purchasing power of cotton, tobacco and other so-called money crops in buying food and feed supplies. How much corn, pork, flour, or hay will a pound of cotton or tobacco buy? The answer to this question should set the farmers to thinking seriously. We believe the most serious problem of the nation to-day is the production of food for man and beast. At this time no man can afford to be tempted to reduce the production of these crops. Farmers need fertility of soil, food and feed crops first. After this, money crops are largely profit.

The matter of fertile soil has been given much attention in the past several years. In fact, without a fertile soil, successful and profitable food and feed crops cannot be grown. Now, we want to give attention to the growing of food and feed crops.—Extension Farm News.

Little minds, like weak liquors, are soonest sounded.—Anonymous.

THE GENTLE ART OF SKIPPING.

An Intelligent Reader May Save Himself Much Valuable Time.

(Kansas City Star.)

Not everybody will accept as the best that could be made the list of books which Col. Roosevelt recommended to a busy man who wanted a tabloid library of poetry, fiction, travel and adventure. Literary tastes differ too widely and the field of selection is too vast to make it probable that any such list will ever find universal acceptance.

But something like unanimity of opinion will applaud the colonel's advice to his correspondent to skip most of the parts about the heroines in both Scott and Fenimore Cooper. He might have gone even further than that. He might have laid it down as sound literary law that a good skipper, a judicious, discriminating, intuitive skipper, whether he do his skipping in Scott or Cooper or Thackeray or Dickens, or whether he skips parts about heroines or the descriptive parts that have been called "powerful"—that skipper is more likely to be appreciative of his author and more likely to derive pleasure and profit from his reading than the undeviating plodder who takes hurdle and ditch as they come and makes no intelligent effort to make his journey easy and pleasant.

Skipping, indeed, is a necessity and a duty if we are to keep up with the time card on our literary travels. In this busy age the man who should attempt to read all of Scott would be committing a very serious offense against the principles of conversation. The same indictment does not run so heavily against the thorough-going reader of Dickens, but there are reasons as good why he should let certain pages of that author stick together as he turns them. Don Quixote will stand a lot of skipping, and so will "Les Miserables." Experienced skippers will also find an excellent field of endeavor in "The Cloister and the Hearth." In none of these books, nor in "Westward Ho," in which there are a lot of little by excursions arranged by Kingsley to lure the reader off the main road, does the story suffer by the proper exercise of the skipper's art.

"The Cloister and the Hearth," for instance, is really a series of episodes and can be read backward almost as well as forward. "Westward Ho" is full of homilies which the author is continually begging the reader to stop and listen to, but we are really paying a deserved compliment to the story itself when we feel compelled to say to him that we would rather hurry on and see what happens next. Some of us have had to wave Thackeray aside in the same way, and some of us know how little inclined he is to stay aside when waved, or even pushed. Dickens is less an offender in this particular—that is, in the particular of buttonholing the reader—but he is just as skipable on other grounds. When he invites us to come with him and have a good cry—as at Little Nell's bedside—is a time when most of us like to make the leaves fly until we come to Dick Swiveller and dry land again.

Little Gladys Allen.

On last Monday night, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Allen were made sad when the death angel visited their home and took away their little daughter, Gladys. Convulsions caused her death. She was sick only a short while. All was done for her that father, mother, physician, relatives and friends could do, but nothing could stay the icy hand of death. Death is no respecter of persons. Each and every home must drink from the same bitter cup.

Little Gladys was born July 13, 1913, and died January 29, 1917, making her stay on earth a little over three years. Gladys was a dear, sweet little girl, and was loved by all who knew her. Kind parents, God has a purpose in taking your little darling away, so believe in your dark days of trouble that the Great I Am is with you and if you fit and prepare yourselves you will be with dear little Gladys again. Yes, you'll see her face to face. Then there will be no separation, no more tears of grief, but great rejoicing as you cross over the dark river of death and are welcomed by your little darling.

She was laid to rest at the family burying ground, Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of many relatives and friends.

May God bless and heal the broken hearts of her parents and all relatives.

L. A. M.

Announcement.

There will be a box party at Popular Springs school, on Friday night, February 16, 1917. Girls will bring boxes and boys please bring plenty of money.

There will also be a play given which will be free.

(Misses) LESSIE McLAMB, ELSIE FLOWERS, Teachers.

MONDAY IN LEGISLATURE.

General Assembly Passes Resolution Endorsing the President's Stand on German Question. Absentee Voter's Bill Passed. Prohibition Petition Received.

The following brief account of Monday's legislative proceedings, written by W. J. Martin, were published in Tuesday's Wilmington Star:

The Senate and House passed joint resolutions Monday afternoon declaring that the peace and security of the people and the honor and dignity and rights of the people are menaced by the conduct of the German empire and that President Wilson, in severing diplomatic relations with Germany, has the approval and endorsement of the General Assembly, and the sincere and patriotic support of North Carolina is pledged for every action necessary to protect lives and property of citizens of the Republic and defend and maintain the dignity, honor and rights of the Nation.

The Senate passed the absentee voting bill as it came from the House and ordered it enrolled. An amendment offered by Joyce, Republican, to confine the privilege to soldiers and sailors in the service of the country, thus cutting out the right from traveling men, was voted down.

The House defeated, 34 to 35, the bill to put husband and wife on the same footing as to issues involving morality in suits for divorce, and then refused by a vote of 29 to 35 to put the "clincher" on it that would prevent advocates from moving later to reconsider and fight the issue over again at this session.

The Page bill, to make interstate passes that now have to be marked "Not Good in North Carolina" operative in this State, passed when Mr. Page had explained its effect as not extending the "pass evil."

Another especially notable bill passed prohibits the publication of the name of any woman in case where criminal assault or attempt at criminal assault have been made.

There were sent forward petitions urging Anti-Saloon League legislation by Senators Jones, Little, Joyce, Johnson, Blue, Brenizer, Scales, Long, Gray, Person, Braswell, Ray, Cranmer, Everett, Barnhardt, Davenport, Turner and Justice. There were also petitions for a State home for wayward girls, by Senators Brenizer, Scales, Warren and others.

Death of An Aged Woman.

Mrs. Evaline Creech, the wife of the late J. R. Creech, died on Friday morning, February 2nd, 1917, at seven o'clock. She was about seventy-six years of age and had been in declining health for the last few years. The last two weeks of her life was spent in intense agony. So her death was not unexpected. Still it came as a great shock to us. She professed religion in her younger days, and united with the Primitive Baptist church at Old Union, where she remained a faithful member until her death. She loved her church and filled her place as long as she was able. The sweet memory of her life will ever linger with us and will be an inspiration for all her children, to lead them on to higher and nobler things of life. Oh, how she loved her children! Not only her children, but her grandchildren and neighbors and friends. She was also loved by those who knew her. Home is indeed a lonely place now. Her good advice and counsel meant so much to her children, it seemed almost impossible for us to give her up. We think death came to her as a sweet release, after suffering so. Yet, we cannot understand why we are thus separated. Still we know that God in His infinite wisdom doeth all things well, and we should bow in humble submission to His will, even though sometimes it may seem so hard for us to do so. Some day we will understand.

She leaves behind thirteen broken-hearted children and sixty-six grandchildren, and thirty great-grandchildren, and a host of sorrowing relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

We are separated here for awhile, but we trust some day to be reunited in that beautiful Home not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. J. T. Colyer, from Isaiah 32: 2—"And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in dry places, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," after which the remains were laid to rest in the Creech cemetery by the side of her husband who died nine years ago.

Thou art gone, our precious grandma, Never more canst thou return; Thou shalt sleep a precious slumber Till the Resurrection morn, When we shall meet to part no more, In that home beyond the sky.

Written by MR. AND MRS. W. D. CREECH.

He who wants to do good knocks at the gate; he who loves finds the gate open.—Tagore.

A Letter From A Good Farmer.

To The Smithfield Herald: I want to tell your readers what I am doing to get better land. Much of our land is very thin, sandy land, too poor to be profitable in any crop without improvement. I have been reading for quite awhile the value of the velvet bean as a land builder. Last winter I ordered two kinds—the hundred-day and the Florida-Speckled which makes heavy crops of vines. I see in Wood's Catalogue the Chinese make more vine than the Florida-Speckled. The more vine, the more plant food and vegetable and organic matter there is to go back to the land, which is essential for the up-building of our poor land.

I read where a Florida writer said a crop of velvet beans furnished plant food equal to 1900 pounds of Cotton Seed Meal in addition to the organic matter. We planted the Florida to build up the land. You had to see our crop to realize that such a crop would grow on poor land. My idea was to get the most out of it the crop should be turned in the ground before frost, so with four mules to a large eight-disc harrow and a man riding, we went to work. After going over four times we plowed it poorly with a heavy two-horse plow, then sowed one bushel of rye per acre, putting it in with Acme harrow. I put two hundred pounds of acid per acre for the rye, which is looking well. I intend to disc it in next spring and sow it in cotton.

The hundred-day bean does not make so much vine, but matures a good crop of beans, which are profitable for feed for hogs and cows, the analysis showing them equal to ship stuff in food value. They can be planted with corn, making a good crop of vines and beans and by the use of a pea and bean thrasher may be thrashed out. I will fertilize my cotton with 16 per cent acid and nitrate of soda. I will conduct and experiment to see if nitrogen will pay on this land. I will use some 8-2-2 to see the effect of potash. I would use potash freely if I could get it at reasonable prices.

I began to grow cotton in 1867, which I fertilized with Peruvian guano, and raised about 100 pounds of lint per acre, and sold it at about 23 cents per pound. This was one of the poorest crop years I have ever seen. I planted cotton again in 1869 without fertilizer and made a pretty good crop for that time. In 1871 I used 200 pounds of fertilizer per acre. The crop averaged about 160 pounds of lint per acre. The date 1890 was a good year for cotton, and my crop averaged about 200 pounds of lint per acre. The most of this time cotton sold from 7 to 9 cents per pound.

I stuck to raising provisions and kept my head above water with these small yields and low prices. Many lost their lands by growing cotton and buying provisions. The most of the farmers remember the low prices in the nineties. About 15 years ago I bought a No. 3 Oliver Chilled Plow and plowed my land pretty deep. I have been mixing my fertilizers for quite awhile. I finally took 16 per cent acid, muriate of potash and cottonseed meal and mixed a fertilizer to analyze 8-4-4, and used 400 pounds per acre with 100 pounds nitrate of soda, and except the poorest crop years, I have averaged 400 pounds lint cotton per acre for several years. I have increased my yield about 2 1/2 times and by using improved implements and raising all provisions for laborers and stock I have been able to lay up a surplus for several years.

I labored freely until I was about sixty-five years old. For the last fifteen years I have used hired labor in a small way. I have worked this same land fifty-nine years, hoping something would turn up to make farming profitable, and now I am sure we have it in the velvet bean for our thin, poor land, and the legumes generally for the better lands, with proper rotation of crops. So let's help our fellow man to enrich our poor lands. If the average farmer will, he can begin where I necessarily have to quit off.

H. M. JOHNSON, Bentonville, N. C., Route No. 2.



Bring Your Dollar to Dollar Day February 23rd, '17 Smithfield, N. C.

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Round trip tickets will be sold from Smithfield at the fares shown above by the

ATLANTIC COAST LINE The Standard Railroad of the South

for all trains from February 12 To 19, Inclusive

Limited, returning, until midnight of March 2nd, But Limit May be Extended Until March 19th, by depositing tickets with Special Agent by March 2nd, and upon payment of \$1.00 at time of deposit.

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We have just received a new lot of Bibles and Testaments. Bibles from 35 cents up to \$3.00. Testaments from 10 cents up to \$1.00.

Large Type Edition Testament and Psalms for 50 and 75 cents.

The Herald Office Smithfield, N. C.

INAUGURATION

President Woodrow Wilson Washington, D. C.

Monday, March 5th, 1917

\$10.05 Round Trip

VIA

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

From Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Burlington, and all intermediate points to Greensboro.

\$10.65 from Goldsboro; \$10.70 from Selma

Round trip tickets for this occasion will be on sale March 1, 2, 3, 4, and for trains scheduled to arrive Washington by noon March 5th. Tickets will be limited returning to reach original starting point by midnight of March 10th, 1917, or by depositing ticket in Washington and paying a fee of \$1.00 final limit will be extended to April 10th, 1917.

Special Pullman Sleeping Cars will be operated from Raleigh and Durham, and from all points for special parties of twenty-five or more.

For sleeping car reservations, and complete information, ask Southern Railway Agents, or address,

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