

Charlotte Goes Right After The Reserve Bank

Clearing House Association and Other Organizations United in Effort to Win Out in Contest for Regional Bank For This City.

Delegation Will Be Prepared to Argue Charlotte's Advantages Tomorrow Before Committee—Something Of Regional Bank Plan.

Mr. G. Brenner, president of the Commercial National Bank, left for Washington to make arrangements and look after details at the visit of the general assembly representing the Charlotte Clearing House Association and the city of Charlotte, which leaves tonight at 7:30 for the Capital City.

The subject was the sole topic of discussion among bankers and business men and a great degree of interest was displayed in the movement to bring a regional reserve bank to Charlotte, and every man who has entered into the spirit of the work is thoroughly optimistic and believes that Charlotte holds a fair chance of winning this prize.

Large Delegation Going. In addition to Mayor Bland and Mayor Brenner, who left last night there will be a large delegation of representative citizens and bankers who will journey to Washington tonight to swell the number of the committee that will appear before the Reserve Bank Organization Thursday.

Among those who will make the trip tonight will be Messrs. H. M. Victor, W. C. Wilkinson, W. H. Twitty, T. W. Alexander, chairman of the delegation, T. T. Allison, Col. T. L. Whitcomb, W. S. Creighton, A. E. Wingo, U. C. Hook, Chase Brenner, Cameron Harrison, W. J. Chambers, Ward H. Wood and others.

When this list it will be seen that not only will the Clearing House Association and the bankers be well represented, but that the city of Charlotte will also have a large representation, thus making the movement one of general interest and attention, and not confined to the financial interests alone.

Alleged Respond. The board of admirers responded promptly to the call of the movement and last night a large regular meeting was held at the city hall, at which an appropriation of \$100,000 was made to defray expenses of those attending the meeting from this city. The matter was presented to the board by Mr. T. T. Allison who stated the great advantages which a regional bank would mean for Charlotte and the city fathers were quick to respond to the call. Mr. Allison placed the situation clearly before the board and went into some of the details of what the regional bank will mean to Charlotte and the talk was not without effect.

Yesterday's Meeting. Yesterday afternoon a meeting of bankers and citizens was held at the Union National Bank in the directors' room, and the situation up to that hour was thoroughly gone into, and the chance which now offers itself to Charlotte was also plainly indicated. This meeting developed a large amount of enthusiasm on the part of those present and after several brief talks, it was voted that Mayor Brenner and Mayor Bland should go ahead of the regional delegation, leaving last night for Washington, to pave the way for the hearing, while the meeting also brought out fully the large amount of sentiment that has been created and to bring the regional bank to fruition.

The bankers, the Clearing House Association, Greater Charlotte Club, Charlotte Shoppers and Manufacturers Association, Charlotte Merchants' Association and others, have united in this effort with the clearly defined purpose before them of succeeding in their efforts, and it is now more than probable that the regional bank for the southeastern section will come to Charlotte. The whole city, every shop, business, finance and commerce, are bent together on this proposition and the prospects of success are accordingly brightened and brought nearer than they were 24 hours ago.

Mr. Creighton's Map. Among the various arguments to be presented in the Reserve Bank Organization Committee will be a carefully executed map by Mr. W. S. Creighton. This map will show the geographical advantages of Charlotte, and it will appear the various cities of the territory to be served, and the distance of each from Charlotte and the time required for a letter to be carried to the distance between each city. This map, as prepared by Mr. Creighton, will be authoritative and will afford a tangible proof of the advantages of this city as compared with Richmond, in the contest for the regional reserve bank.

The idea of preparing this map was suggested by Mr. C. C. Hook to the committee when it was ascertained that Mr. Creighton had already done work on the same, and today Mr. Creighton devoted much of his time to the finishing of the map.

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8000 ISLANDS HAVE PROSPERED UNDER U. S. ADMINISTRATION

Washington, Jan. 14.—Numerous islands which have come into possession of the United States have greatly prospered under their new administration, according to a report received by the National Geographic Society today. There are 8,000 islands under American rule and they support a population of ten million persons; their commerce exceeds \$200,000,000; American capital invested in them is about \$100,000,000 and their commerce with the United States amounts to about \$200,000,000 with the balance of trade about equal.

Fifteen years ago says the report when Porto Rico came under the American flag there was only one building on the island erected for school purposes. Today there are 1,200 such buildings and 175,000 pupils are enrolled. The island's commerce has been multiplied five times until it amounts to nearly \$100,000,000. The report tells of similar progress in Hawaii.

"The Alaskan islands and mainland" says the report, "cost us \$7,500,000, an expenditure that many believed to be quite unjustifiable, yet for many years the annual value of the canned salmon sent us from Alaska in a single year is twice as much as the entire possession cost."

HUERTA DECREES SUSPENSION OF INTEREST RATE

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—Provisional President Huerta's decree suspending payment of interest for the next six months on bonds of the internal and external debts of Mexico is as follows:

"In view of the abnormal circumstances in which the country is placed, its ordinary income is not enough to cover the expenses occasioned by the work of pacifying the nation and in view of the fact that it will be necessary to continue these expenses until the result promised by the government has been accomplished, the executive, by virtue of the authorization conceded by congress last December (the authorization to direct the affairs of the departments of war, finance and the interior), decrees the following:

"Article 1.—There is suspended for six months the service of the national debt with the understanding that the sums which during this time shall become due will draw interest at the same rate as the obligation to which they correspond.

"Article 11.—From the date of the promulgation of this decree the custom duties will be paid in cash to the respective federal offices.

"I will Request Return of Mercado. Mexican City, Jan. 14.—Formal request for the return to Mexico of General Salvador Mercado who commanded the federal troops at Ojinaga together with his comrades who crossed into American territory is to be made to the United States by General Aureliano Blanquet, Mexican minister of war, according to an announcement by him today.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The forthcoming request of General Blanquet for the return to Mexico of General Mercado and the Mexican troops who crossed to Texas from Ojinaga is not likely to receive serious consideration.

At a conference between officials of the state and war departments when it was decided to detain the Mexican soldiers at Fort Bliss, Tex., it was pointed out that to permit the army to recoup in the United States and then return to Mexico would constitute a violation of neutrality.

ALASKA RAILWAY BILL MAY PASS SENATE NEXT WEEK

Washington, Jan. 14.—Supporters of the bill providing for the construction of a government railway in Alaska expect it to pass the senate by a non-partisan vote probably early next week.

Debate was continued today by Senator Walsh, who asserted the bill did not in any way involve government ownership of railroads in the ordinary sense, Senator Walsh insisted that the building of a line for the development of a territory where no adequate privately owned lines existed could not be likened to the construction of government railroad in settled communities.

MORE DEVELOPMENTS IN RITUAL MURDER. St. Petersburg, Jan. 14.—M. Chaplinski, public procurator of Kiev, who was prominently associated with the prosecution in the sensational trial of Mendel Beilis for "ritual murder" was created a Knight of the Order of St. Stanislas of the first class and appointed a senator and privy councillor today.

U. S. CONSUMES 482,198 BALES COTTON IN DEC.

By Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 14.—Cotton consumed in the United States during December amounted to 482,198 running bales including 13,206 bales of foreign cotton and 22,114 bales of linters, the census bureau announced today.

Cotton on hand December 31 in manufacturing establishments amounted to 1,801,285 bales including 50,416 bales of foreign cotton and 73,312 bales of linters; in independent warehouses 3,271,363 bales including 2,047 bales of foreign cotton and 31,409 bales of linters.

December imports of cotton were 15,812 bales of 500 pounds each; exports of domestic cotton for December were 1,230,530 running bales. Active spindles during December numbered 31,001,664.

Of the cotton consumed in December that was in cotton growing states was 249,835 bales and in all other states 232,363 bales.

The cotton held in manufacturing establishments December 31 in cotton growing states was 955,914 bales and in all other states 845,371 bales; that held in independent warehouses in cotton growing states was 3,208,195 bales and in all other states 163,168 bales.

Active spindles in cotton growing states during December numbered 12,153,399; in all other states 18,847,765. Exports of domestic cotton included 47,028 bales to the United Kingdom, 328,588 bales to Germany, 19,974 bales to France, 50,621 bales to Italy and 204,169 bales to all other countries.

U. S. ARMY AS CAREER IS TITLE OF PAMPHLET OF WAR DEPARTMENT

By Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 14.—Aiming to attract recruits to the army the war department has published a pamphlet entitled "The United States Army as a Career."

It pictures the American soldier hard at his trade of war or making ready for war. Major General Wood, chief of staff of the army, says that he will be personally responsible for the accuracy of every statement in the pamphlet which was prepared by Captain Thomas F. Ryan, of the cavalry branch.

THREE KILLED AND THREE INJURED IN KANSAS MINE

By Associated Press. Mulberry, Kas., Jan. 14.—Three miners were killed and three were probably fatally hurt when a cage in the mine of the Spence Coal Company was dropped 100 feet by the breaking of a cable today.

FRANK SMITH WITH BALTIMORE FEDERALS

By Associated Press. Baltimore, Md., Jan. 14.—Frank Smith, a pitcher on the Montreal International league baseball team last season, yesterday signed a three years contract with the Baltimore Federal league, according to advices received here today from Pittsburgh.

CENSUS BUREAU PRESENTS COTTON SUPPLY FIGURES

Washington, Jan. 14.—The supply and distribution of cotton for the four months period ending December 31 announced by the census bureau today shows:

Total supply 14,457,553 bales, made up of stocks at beginning of period, 1,598,438 bales; cotton ginned 1,533,428 bales; lint production to December 31 289,119 bales; and net imports 36,422 bales.

The distribution was: Consumption 1,977,471 bales; exports 5,180,173 bales, and stocks at end of period were held as follows: In manufacturing establishments 1,501,285 bales; in independent warehouses 3,271,363 bales and quantity held elsewhere (amount arrived at by deduction) 2,127,661 bales.

TESTIMONY OF AUDITOR PLANT NOW COMPLETED

Special to The News. Raleigh, Jan. 14.—It required a couple of hours today to complete the testimony of vice president and Auditor Plant of the Southern Railway Company, before special intrastate freight rate commission. He testified today as to methods of keeping accounts of the Southern, as to the valuation of properties, first and supplementary cost of various lines, the records of bonded indebtedness, and profit yielding and non-profit yielding expenditures in maintenance extensions. He declared that there are immediately ahead of Southern non-profit yielding expenditures in this state aggregating \$3,412,000, and on whole system of \$6,240,000 including increased station facilities, new depots and the like. The total expenditures have been \$63,500,000 within the past 5 years, and the Southern Railway Company has sold bonds since re-organization, net bonds amounting 72 to 73 per share on bond market.

AMENDMENT CASES BEFORE COMMITTEE

By Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 14.—The senate committee on privileges and elections heard arguments today on one of the cases that grew out of the constitutional amendment providing for the direct election of senators.

SUSPENDED INTEREST BRINGS DROP IN MEXICAN BONDS

By Associated Press. Berlin, Jan. 14.—Suspension of interest payments on the national debt by the Mexican government caused a heavy drop in Mexican bonds here today.

The newspapers express the opinion that the situation calls for intervention by the European powers.

Nearly all the Mexican bonds are listed in Germany where the holdings are very large, especially in the south, but there has been much unloading since the beginning of the revolution.

WIRELESS CALLS BRING FIRST NEWS OF MISSING SHIPS

By Associated Press. St. John, N. B., Jan. 14.—Paint "S. O. S." calls from the missing steamer Cobequid, picked up in the bay of Fundy at 10 o'clock this morning, revived hope for the safety of the vessel and the 120 people on board.

The wireless was not sufficiently strong to give the Cobequid's location but indicated that she had survived a tempestuous night and that there was still a chance for her passengers and crew. The Canada Northern liner Royal George caught the cry of distress three times and headed the steamer Lady Laurier replying.

German Steamer to Rescue. New York, Jan. 14.—The North German Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie, reported yesterday to be one of the vessels racing to the stranded steamship Cobequid, was passing Nantuxet at 4:30 a. m. today and should reach the place here this afternoon. No word had been received this morning from her commander as to whether he received the Cobequid's wireless calls.

Royal George Catches Signal. St. John, N. B., Jan. 14.—A telephone message from the Canadian Northern steamer Royal George in port here announced that the Royal George had just caught S. O. S. call from the Cobequid.

Efforts to ascertain the stranded steamer's position failed as there was no response to the Royal George's queries.

Lady Laurier Catches Signal. St. John, N. B., Jan. 14.—It was also reported that the steamer Lady Laurier had caught the Cobequid distress call. The Lady Laurier should have been nearer Brier Island, the reported scene of the wreck of the Royal Mail liner when the latter's call was heard.

The Lady Laurier went out from Halifax yesterday to take part in the search and ought to be near the wreck today. "Belief prevails that the Cobequid struck on one of the Grand Manan ledges. Weather conditions were a little more favorable for the search for the Cobequid today. The snow-storm has passed but the temperature remained several degrees below zero and a thirty knot northwest wind whirled the sea. Hope for the vessel rests chiefly on the efforts of the United States revenue cutter Woodbury and the Canadian government steamer Lady Laurier. The Woodbury was thought to be close to Grand Manan. Royal Mail Offices Hear From Agents. New York, Jan. 14.—The local royal mail office received the following message this morning from its agents at Halifax: "Extremely blustering and cold. Anxious as to passengers and crew of Cobequid. Have sent steamers in search."

E. P. COX CHOSEN SPEAKER VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

By Associated Press. Richmond, Va., Jan. 14.—Edwin P. Cox, of Richmond, unanimous choice of last night's democratic caucus, was elected speaker of the House of Delegates without opposition when the legislature convened today for its biennial sixty day session. Lieutenant Governor Elyson called the senate to order.

Governor Mann's message was read after the appointment of clerks and other officials. It deals chiefly with finance and tax reform. He recommends action to avoid the necessity for a special session of the legislature to discuss tax aggregation, equalization and taxation.

Senator James Cannon, of Richmond, offered a joint resolution to send a legislative delegation to Washington to ask that a regional bank reservoir be located in Richmond and also to endorse John Skelton Williams of this city, for comptroller of the currency.

JAPANESE FLEET ADMIRAL DIES IN 71ST YEAR

By Associated Press. Tokyo, Jan. 14.—Count Yukyo Ito, fleet admiral of the Japanese navy, died this morning in his 71st year. Count Ito had more to do with the development of the Japanese navy than any other man. He entered the service in 1868 and studied for a considerable time in the United States in the war between China and Japan. In 1894 he commanded the combined squadrons of the Japanese fleet which fought the battle of the Yellow sea, afterward destroying the Chinese fleet. He was then appointed chief of the naval general staff.

During the Russo-Japanese war he was chief of the naval general staff and contributed greatly by his strategy to Japan's victories.

REFUSES APPROPRIATION; PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED.

By Associated Press. Sofia, Bulgaria, Jan. 14.—The Bulgarian parliament was dissolved today by the premier, Dr. V. Radoslavoff, because it refused to pass a provisional appropriation bill. A new chamber must be elected within two months according to the constitution.

Unprecedented Cold Wave Sweeps American And European States

Cold Wave Reaches New England. Boston, Jan. 14.—The crest of the cold wave passed over New England shortly before midnight when the winter's lowest records were reached. The coldest point was Northfield, Vt., where 28 below zero was registered at 10 p. m. Nantuxet was the warmest place with a minimum of 2 below.

\$75,000 Damages. Honolulu, Jan. 14.—A terrific north-west gale at daybreak had caused damage to piers and buildings on the shore of this island estimated at \$75,000.

The tug Helen with a crew of six men was reported in distress near the island of Maui.

ALL DEPOSITORS OF PENSACOLA BANK WILL GET REFUND

By Associated Press. Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 14.—Every cent of the \$1,600,000 due depositors of the First National Bank here, which closed its doors a week ago, will be paid back according to a statement today by National Bank Examiner Goodhart, in charge of the bank. Mr. Goodhart declared the bank's financial condition is good with the exception of the half million foreign loan and that the latter is partially secured. He expects to exhibit all resources of the First National bank to effect a consolidation with one of the other local national banks in order to protect stockholders of the closed institution. In the event that this is impossible, Mr. Goodhart said he would liquidate the bank's business to pay the depositors.

REFUGEES FROM SAKURA POUR INTO MYAZAKI

By Associated Press. Myazaki Japan, Jan. 14.—Refugees from the stricken island of Sakura arrived here today. They reported that the inhabitants of 300 houses comprising the village of Seto lost their way in trying to reach the seashore and probably all perished. The refugees declare that hundreds were drowned in trying to swim across the gulf of Kagoshima. They add that the volcano of Sakura-Jima has completely changed its form, several new craters having opened.

The h 1 of ashes ceased here today after lasting 36 hours.

The postoffice was one of the first buildings to collapse in Kagoshima at the start of the earthquake. The staff escaped, erected a hut in a field and are now repairing the telegraph department.

Kagoshima is protected from looters by patrols of police and troops. All Americans who were in the vicinity are safe. Several American missionaries were stationed at Kagoshima.

Sakura-Jima, at the height of its eruption is pictured as a terrifying mountain of fire. The air for miles around is thick with ashes and smoke. The police and soldiers of Kagoshima soon after the disturbance began made many rescues from the island of Sakura.

The people at first did not seem to realize the danger and were slow in trying to escape. It is feared that many were killed before reaching the seashore. Thousands, pursued by a rain of fiery stones, knelt on the beach, half submerged in water, and gesticulated wildly to the steamers and fishing boats for aid. One small steamer saved 300 persons while the other boats also did noble rescue work.

The cruiser Tone reported yesterday that Sakura-Jima had been entirely evacuated.

Thick atmosphere for the moment interferes with wireless reports. Official advices from Kumamoto, dated yesterday, reported that place shrouded with ashes from the eruption of Sakura-Jima. Energies there are directed toward the repair of the railroad so that the hungry refugees near Kagoshima.

President Wilson Sends Message. Washington, Jan. 14.—An exchange of cablegrams between President Wilson and the Emperor of Japan over the Sakura-Jima disaster was made public today. President Wilson's message stated: "To His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan: "Having learned of the unprecedented disaster that has visited your country through earthquake and tidal wave, I beg to assure your majesty and the Japanese people of my deep sympathy and that of the American people."

Temperature in New York Drops to Five Degrees Below Zero at 2 A. M.—This is the Lowest Felt in Fifteen Years.—Later Rose Gradually.

Similar Wave of Below Zero Weather Sweeps Over Europe—Drift Ice in Danube And Parisian Business is at Standstill.

New York, Jan. 14.—From 5 below zero at 2 a. m., the lowest temperature recorded here in 15 years, the mercury climbed slowly upward in New York today, reaching six above at 11 o'clock. The backbone of the cold spell appeared to be broken. The death list in the greater city due to the cold was seven.

New York, Jan. 14.—While temperatures hovered about zero or below in the eastern and New England states, this morning, yet relief from the two days' siege of cold weather is promised tonight or tomorrow.

Reports from the West indicated that the rising temperatures which brought relief there yesterday would reach the lake regions today and weather forecasters say they are extending eastward.

While the cold wave has been sweeping this country Europe too has suffered. Vienna, Berlin and many other German cities report unprecedented drops in temperature. Drift ice is running in the Danube river and in Paris business for the past 24 hours has been at a standstill. In London recent harsh weather conditions are held responsible for a serious rise in the death rate and an epidemic of influenza.

Cabled dispatches last night from Milan stated that heavy snows were falling in the Alps and that the intense cold had driven wolves to prey on cattle.

In New York state the lowest temperature reported—43 degrees below zero—was at Harrisville. Few towns in the northern and western sections of the state reported temperatures higher than 20 degrees below zero early today. The reading in New York city touched a record mark at midnight at four degrees below. The number of dead officially recorded last night was nine but police and health officials believe the total will greatly exceed that figure. Hundreds have received treatment at hospitals and thousands of homeless men and women have been sheltered in mission and municipal lodging houses. A six-mile gale blew all of yesterday, not abating until late last night. Because of the needs of poor for coal 400 coal teamsters who have been on strike yesterday, returned to work, agreeing to leave their demands to arbitration.

From Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod reports of disasters to vessels reached here during the day. The gale was said to be strewn the beaches with wrecks and taking many lives. Several schooners were said to have been lost with their crews. A wireless call for help at dawn yesterday stated that the steamship Cobequid was fast on the ledges of Grand Manan. It is feared the vessel and 120 persons on board are lost as a gale in the bay of Fundy prevents rescue vessels reaching her.

New England yesterday and last night was swept by a sixty mile gale. Suffering was reported in Boston and other cities. Schools and factories are closed and several cities are without electric light and power.

Three deaths due to cold were reported from Philadelphia where four degrees above zero was registered late last night. Other points in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland reported zero weather and intense suffering.

Among the fatalities reported was that of Charles Earl, 16 years old, who was frozen to death in an oyster boat on Delaware bay. His father, unconscious from exposure, lay beside the lad's body when rescuers picked up the boat.

Fifteen teachers of the high school at Towanda, Pa., yesterday spent several hours restoring 120 pupils who rode several hours as usual to attend classes. The children were numb with cold, several fainting when they entered warm rooms.

New England Shipping Still Endangered. Boston, Jan. 14.—Although the northwest gale had abated somewhat today terrific seas continued to lash the New England coast and shipping was endangered. Nothing had been learned early today as to what became of the crew of six men who abandoned the schooner John Paul in Nantuxet Sound.

The revenue cutter Acushnet spent a busy day yesterday assisting distressed vessels. It stood by the schooner G. M. Porter, New York for Calais, through the night. The Porter was ashore on KILLS Pond bar at Bass River.

The British steamer Greta which disappeared after she had raised signals of distress near Half Moon shoal Monday night was still missing today as was the Nantuxet fishing schooner Two Brothers, caught in the storm Monday off Sankaty light.