

URGE SIX AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL RESERVE ACT

Report of Reserve Board on First Year's Operations Declares Act Has Been One of Most Beneficial Ever Passed by Congress.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 14.—Six amendments to the federal reserve act were introduced in congress today in a report of the federal reserve board for the first full year of operation of the new banking system. A year's experience in the operation of the federal reserve act "has confirmed the board's profound conviction that the act has been one of the most beneficial pieces of legislation ever adopted by congress. Not only have its fundamental principles been fully vindicated but in most details the working of the measure has been successful." The amendments recommended would permit national banks to subscribe and hold stock in banks organized for the special purpose of doing a banking business in foreign countries; permit, with the approval of the board, the issue of federal reserve notes to Federal Reserve banks either against the deposit of commercial paper or gold, provided that the gold deposited shall count as part of the required reserve bank; extend the acceptance system of the domestic trade so far as it relates to documentary acceptances secured by shipping documents or warehouse receipts covering readily marketable commodities or against the purchase of goods actually sold; permit national banks to establish offices within the city or county in which they are located; permit advances to member banks against the member banks' secured promissory notes or against the deposit of pledge of U. S. government bonds; authorize a wide discretion in the making of farm loans by national banks so that a federal reserve bank might make proper loans of this kind within a radius of one hundred miles of its place of business whether in the district or another district. "It is believed," says the report, "that the enactment of these amendments will, besides enlarging the usefulness of the national banks, result in greatly strengthening the operation of the federal reserve act, and more completely realize the purpose of its framers." The board announces that it does not consider that it can direct the business operations of federal reserve banks in respect to foreign loans, but that its function is to oversee these banks. A plea is made in the report of the entrance into the system of more state banks and trust companies. In speaking of foreign borrowing in the United States the board points out that it has received many inquiries on this subject and has given them careful attention. It has reached the conclusion, it says, supported by legal advice, that the purchase for which goods are sold or exported, or the use to which such goods are ultimately put, does not fall within its province or jurisdiction. "If," the report adds, "the transactions which have given rise to such sales or shipments are of a large commercial nature, if the interest upon which they rest is such as to comply with the requirements of the federal reserve act, and if the maturity of the loan falls within the limitation of the law, then the paper growing out of them, no matter by whom or for what drawn, may as well be discounted by federal reserve banks, and must be regarded as falling within the legitimate sphere of their operations. The Federal Reserve act makes no provision for collateral bond or stock loans or for the purpose of foreign governments' obligations by reserve institutions. Neither such obligations, therefore, nor loans to member banks based thereon, are eligible as investments for Foreign Reserve Banks. "The operation of the reserve system is a matter of business to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the reserve act and the requirements of the board. It is not the province of the board to deal with problems involving international relationship of the United States, except for the purpose of restricting or extending exportations in one direction or another. The eligibility of paper for reserve banks is determined by considerations which are outside of the scope of international relationship as another; the function of passing upon and dealing in such paper under these regulations belongs to the several reserve banks. The board, however, believes that the financing of the country's export trade at the present time one of the most important financial problems with which the nation has to deal; and it is of the opinion that federal reserve banks cannot, even if they would, avoid the responsibility of assisting in this process of financing which legitimately and properly devolves upon them." The board expresses regret that in some states suits have been instituted to test the validity of the provisions of the reserve act by which it may grant certain fiduciary powers to national banks, announces its intention to have its counsel intervene in these cases any says that every effort will be made to have the question settled by the supreme court at an early date. It is pointed out that only 32 state banks have been admitted to the system and 84 others have come in by conversion into national banks. "Requirements Lowered" "It is regrettable," continues the report, "that in not a few states reserve requirements for state banks and trust companies have been materially lowered by legislative enactment since the adoptions of the fe-

UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES IN PARIS

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Feb. 14.—The number of men and women in the city of Paris thrown out of employment by the war has diminished from 257,435 during the battle of the Marne in September, 1914, to 79,447 in December, 1915, according to official figures, scattered from the number of unemployed workingmen and women in the city. The decreasing number of idle workmen is evidence of the revival of the nearly every Parisian industry. The most important of all, the textile and clothing trade, which there were 44,333 unemployed March 1st, has now only 29,963 persons out of work, of whom 28,599 are women. "Unemployed" cards were issued to about 10,000 men and women practicing "liberal professions." The number was reduced only to 3,547 in March and 9,317 in December, showing that the situation of the mechanic, the sewing girl and the common laborer is better in comparison than that of the engraver, artist without customers, etc. House servants are the worst off. Of about 40,000 idle at the beginning of the year, only 15,000 have found places. This is attributed to measures of economy in some Parisian families, the breaking up of others and the fact that many families have left the city for the country homes for the duration of the war. The building trades have come back nearly to normal conditions since there are only about 2,437 men of those trades idle; it is about the normal figure of times of peace. Women are largely employed in luxury industries with the exception of the dressmaking industry. "I am taking the place of my husband who is fighting in the Argonne," said a woman street-car conductor. "Before the war I was seamstress in a big dressmaking establishment." There are now 630 women taking men's places on that line, enabling the company to double the service of the lines in operation last spring. The subways have given places to about 1,500 women. Like the tramway conductors, they wear a jaunty fatigue cap that gives them a military air that everyone accepts as quite appropriate; they are doing their share. The Paris commission houses lost 48,750 men by the mobilization and took on 27,400 women, mostly wives, sisters or cousins of their mobilized employees. Ten thousand women found places in the Paris postoffices which have lost 20,000 men by the mobilization. The six railway companies centering in Paris gave places to about 7,000 women, while 2,500 were taken in the principal plants. The number of women employed in the national tobacco factories has doubled, while no less than 150,000 women are employed in different branches of the military equipment and munitions. In the handling of machine tools they soon become quite as expert as men and on fine work have a lighter and surer hand. Their wages are in most cases about 8 cents an hour, though in some factories, working by the piece, they earn as high as 12 francs (\$2.40) a day.

GRANT AGAINST SUBMARINE DEFENDER

(By Associated Press.) Washington, February 14.—Abandonment of the coast defense type of submarine was recommended by Rear Admiral Grant before the house committee. Limitations of cruising radius, unseaworthiness and other limitations, he said, made it advisable in future to eliminate these classes. "I accordingly take the liberty of sending you the inclosed letter, by which you will be governed."

MARKETS

Table with columns for NEW YORK STOCKS, COTTON FUTURES, and HICKORY MARKETS. Includes data for various stocks like United States Steel, American Steel, and cotton futures prices for different months.

PREPAREDNESS AGAIN BEFORE COMMITTEES

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 14.—Preparedness problems again today held the center in congressional activities. Having concluded hearings on the military question, Chairman Chamberlain and his associates on the senate military committee today were considering a bill they were to incorporate in the federalization of the national guard. As their work progresses, the senate committee proposes to confer with the house military committee. Chairman Hay of the house committee, resumed today work of redrafting the house defense bill to eliminate the continental army feature and to place in its stead the plan to federalize state troops. The house submarine committee today began an exhaustive inquiry into submarine activity and into an investigation of the alleged shortcomings of American submarines. Chairman Padgett of the committee does not believe the naval appropriation bill will be ready to report to the house before the latter part of May. The senate committee will wait on the house.

BUICK GARAGE TO MOVE INTO NEW QUARTERS SOON

The Buick Garage, now located on Trade street, will move to the new building recently completed for Messrs. K. C. Menzies and J. L. Ridle March 1. This is one of the best locations in the city, and the garage will be as well equipped as any in the state. In its new location the Buick Garage people will go after business harder than ever, and are expected to make even a better success of their business.

WILSON BEFORE WINTRY BLASTS COME IN A DAY

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson today formally gave his consent that his name might appear on the official primary ballot of Ohio. In a letter to the secretary of state of Ohio the president stated that he was unwilling to enter a contest for the nomination but was ready to permit the use of his name in the coming primary in order that the Democrats of Ohio might express their choice for president. The president made known his position in order to comply with the Ohio primary law which requires candidates for the party's nomination to make known their position before February twenty-four and also requires the consent of candidates to make use of their names. The president was officially notified of the law last week, and today he wrote the secretary of state of Ohio a letter. The president said: "I am enclosing to you a letter, the object of which, I dare say, will be quite obvious. Friends in Ohio have called my attention to section 4564 of the general code of Ohio as amended in 1914, which regards primary elections, and which also requires the consent of candidates for their names to be placed on the ballot. "I accordingly take the liberty of sending you the inclosed letter, by which you will be governed."

A BABY DOOMED

A North Carolina baby will soon die of tuberculosis. Word has just come from an eastern North Carolina town of a mother hopelessly sick from tuberculosis and her three-year-old baby who has just contracted the disease from her. The mother, it seems, contracted the disease from poverty and the child from her. The physician writes: "If the child could be given a better opportunity, he could get well, but the mother's condition, I think, is hopeless." In these two sentences are texts for sermons. The hard cold facts confronting this mother and baby are, first, if their poverty brought them to this condition, they have not funds enough to go to a sanatorium to be cured. Even the minimum cost at the State Sanatorium is a dollar a day. Second, the State Sanatorium is filled to overflowing, and hundreds of consumptives are on the waiting list already. Furthermore, the mother is in no condition to go to a sanatorium, but should go to a tuberculosis hospital. The state has no such hospital, neither has that particular county. The baby should be rescued but there are no provisions for babies or children at the State Sanatorium, not even an open air school. Hands went up in horror when the Bollinger baby was permitted to die and it was "sightless and dumb and unhearing." This, not a "defective" baby, shut in a world of his own, but a conscious child who is hungry, or sleepy, or cold, or alone, a whole, sweet, confident baby, a baby with eyes and ears, who clings like a little soldier to the scanty hope of the years. "And where are they who declare that a baby should be given a chance to live? And they who call a deed done to the Chicago baby a crime?"

MUCH JEWELRY LOCATED AT ASHEVILLE

Chief of Police Lentz yesterday received a letter from Chief of Police L. E. Perry of Asheville informing him that a lot of jewelry, some of it valuable, had been located in Asheville, and suggested that the Hickory chief forward a descriptive list of articles stolen in this city. Mr. Lentz will do, and if anybody can help him or will forward a description to Asheville of articles stolen, it might be the means of discovering some valuable jewelry. The latest big theft in Hickory was last Thanksgiving day when Miss Lillian Wakefield of Lenoir, a teacher at Morganton, was robbed in the station at Hickory. Some handsome articles of jewelry and some clothing were taken from a traveling bag at the depot, and no trace has been found. In the last year several diamond rings, bracelets and other valuables have been reported stolen, and the chief is hopeful that some of the jewelry located in Asheville may be that stolen here.

SECRETARY OF WAR STILL UNSETTLED

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson reached no decision on whom to appoint as secretary of war while he was on his week-end trip down the Potomac, and a successor to Secretary Garrison may not be named for several days. A medicine glass is merely a sanitary measure. It is a waste of money to advertise for lost friendship.

NORTHERN FRANCE SCENE OF MORE HEAVY FIGHTING

Germans Have Advantages in This Section--New British War Loan to Be Issued Soon--

(By Associated Press.) Activity on the major war fronts is confined mainly to northern France, the infantry battling being most pronounced in the Artois district, where the Germans claim substantial successes. In the Balkans the entente forces are reported extending their positions around Saloniki, concentrating troops as far as the Bulgarian frontier. In Albania the situation appears fixed. Bulgarian troops are said to have penetrated sixteen miles from Avlona, while an Austrian column has been reported twenty miles west of Durazzo. The Italians have been in force at Avlona and seem to have also a considerable body of troops opposing the Austrians in the Durazzo sector. Reports from Athens credit the Turkish government with the intention of strongly reinforcing its army on the Tigris, where the British are struggling to force their way to Kut-El-Amara to relieve their forces there. Formidable numbers, it is said, are being sent to Mesopotamia in an effort to forestall a juncture. Recent Turkish official reports have indicated no important change at Kut-El-Amara, but the latest one reports that a force of irregular Arabs were active along the line of British communications. Military observers in Petrograd and elsewhere have pointed out three possibilities of the Russian operations in the Caucasus being linked up with the British along the Tigris. Whether this proposed increase is designed to prevent a juncture between these allies is not known. All single men of military age in Great Britain, who have not been exempted, were called to the colors in an official proclamation today. It is officially stated that the next war credit vote in Great Britain will amount to 250,000,000 pounds, bringing up the total war loan to 1,912,000,000 pounds sterling.

FRENCH CRUISER BRITISH CRUISER LOST WITH CREW STRIKES A MINE

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Feb. 14.—Reports of the loss of the French cruiser Admiral Charner, which was reported to have been sunk by a submarine which was patrolling the Syrian coast were confirmed today. According to the report received at the French marine, a raft bearing one sailor was picked up in the Mediterranean. The rescued man said the cruiser was sunk on the morning of February 8. He declared the cruiser was sunk without warning and that the crew had no chance to escape. The Arthusa was a light cruiser. The vessel was built in 1913-14. She was armed with two six-inch guns fore and aft, and six four-inch guns on the broad side. She was also equipped with four 21-inch torpedo tubes.

What is Required to Make Hickory's Schools Adequate to Needs of Community

If there is a person in Hickory who feels no special concern in the public schools, he should stand some morning on the corner of Fifteenth street and Thirteenth street, or at Eighth and Sixth street, and see the children on their way to school. As he sees this army of boys and girls, their faces bright with eagerness and the joy of living, laughing and skipping and playing pranks on one another, he will catch a conception of what a great work the schools have to do. Or if he will go into the school rooms and see the faithful conscientious teachers at their work, he will get a new idea, perhaps, of the grave responsibility which rests upon the teachers. Let him go into the First grade and see the little tots at their work, all filled with curiosity, interest, and the playful spirit of childhood. Let him go into the Fourth or Fifth grade, each with its fifty or more pupils, and observe the fun-loving mischief-making activities of these boys and girls. Let him go into the Eighth or Ninth grade, each with its fifty or more pupils, and see what a task it is to control and guide properly the activities of these pupils. Will Have Understanding "Any one who will do this will have a clearer understanding of the patience, tact and firmness required of the teacher. He will realize something of the greatness of the work and of the stress and strain on the teacher. And he will be the more willing to provide the things necessary for successful school work. But the fact is that every body in Hickory is deeply interested in the work of the schools. They take pride in the fine record the schools have been making. They are highly pleased with the excellent work which the teachers have been doing. They are proud of the fine attendance, the high standing at the University, at the different colleges, and at professional schools taken by the pupils of the city schools, and of the leading position taken in competitive tests. More Teachers Needed But if this record is to be maintained, more teachers are needed. It is impossible for a teacher with fifty pupils to do as much work and as thorough work as she could do with thirty-five pupils. For the year 1914 the average for all the graded schools in the state was an enrollment of forty pupils to each teacher, and an average daily attendance of thirty-one. The average length of school term was eight and a half months. In the schools of Hickory the average enrollment for each teacher is forty-four, with a daily attendance of thirty-seven, and the school term is eight months. Any one can see how the schools of Hickory are handicapped. High School Imperative There is imperative need for another building for the high school grades. There should be rooms equipped for work in domestic science for the girls, and for work in physics and chemistry for the boys. One boy in the Hickory schools a few years ago became interested in the study of electricity. Since that time he has taken full and complete course in electrical engineering. Who knows what possibilities lie wrapped up in some one of these boys in Hickory? The people of Hickory are able to provide better school facilities if they but make up their minds to do so. And they will make up their minds to this effect just as soon as they realize fully the crowded conditions that exist. Not as Great Here The amount per pupil raised by local taxes for the schools of Hickory is not as great as that raised by other towns and cities. Other towns in the state raise from twenty-five to fifty per cent more for each pupil than Hickory does. While Hickory with a low assessment of property for taxation has a tax levy for all school purposes of 40c, other towns have a school tax levy of more than 40 cents. Some have a school tax of 45 cents, some 60 cents, and some 65 cents. What is Required If serial bonds should be issued, an additional levy of only a few cents would provide for the interest on these bonds and for the payment of one or more bonds each year. A levy of ten cents would be sufficient to pay the interest on a bond issue of \$300,000, and to pay up and retire one of these serial bonds each year. It is necessary that something be done, and that some steps be taken at once. There are 877 children enrolled in the white schools this year, and 253 in the colored school. This enrollment of 1130 pupils will be increased next year to 1200 or more. Unless action is taken at once, the opening of school next fall will find the schools in a worse crowded condition than ever.