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BANK EXAMINERS SEE IMPROVEMENT

BELIEF EXPRESSED THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMAL CONDITIONS WILL BE GRADUAL—OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

Washington, May 6.—General strengthening of the economic machinery of the nation was reported today to Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger by the 12 national bank examiners representing the 12 federal reserve districts at their meeting here.

In the main the examiners said there has been a notable improvement in business conditions throughout the country, together with restored confidence and a favorable outlook for the future. The belief was expressed, however, that progress towards normal conditions would be gradual and not an overnight accomplishment.

In the New York district business generally shows a wholesome trend, although still depressed in all lines, according to L. C. Borden.

"This depressed condition," he said, "is believed to be still due to our Western and Southern agricultural situation, to taxation, to the still too high living costs and to labor costs."

In the New York district, he continued, it is hoped that the Genoa conference will be the first step towards future beneficial conferences which will prove more economical than the professional.

The proposed soldier bonus legislation, he said, "while strongly condemned, is not having much effect because of firm faith in President Harding."

Philadelphia is well on the way to recovery as well as Cleveland and New England, it was reported.

Less favorable reports from the Richmond district were presented by W. J. Schechter.

"Industrially conditions are fair" he said. "There is probably less unemployment than is found in the large cities. The agricultural situation is serious, but the farmer will be able to combat the boll weevil well. The commercial situation in general is fair but nothing to enthuse over. Financially conditions are probably poor but not so much due to cotton as to bad loans in years gone by."

Florida conditions are better than any state in the union, according to J. W. Pole of the Atlanta district. "There is little reason to doubt but that real prosperity in this district as well as the entire country," he said, "depends largely on a restoration of a satisfactory foreign demand, but even under the most favorable conditions several years of thrift and hard work will be necessary before this section can hope for complete recovery."

"Farmers are generally giving attention to diversification of crops and cost of cotton production will be less than last year. The citrus and truck crops in Florida have been splendid with satisfactory prices and therefore the situation in that state is probably the best of any state in the union."

COTTON MARKET

Spot cotton in Abbeville sold at 19 1-8 cents today. Futures closed as follows:

May	19.88
July	19.42
October	19.54
December	19.63
January	19.44

This represented an advance over Saturday's close of from 70 to 75 points.

DR. ABEL HERE

Dr. R. E. Abel of Chester was in Abbeville Saturday having made the trip over to be present at an operation at the hospital.

APPEAL TO PUBLIC FOR FLOOD RELIEF

COMMITTEE ADOPTS RESOLUTION AT VICKSBURG—TWENTY THOUSAND TO BE FED AND FUND AVAILABLE FOUND INADEQUATE.

Vicksburg, Miss., May 7.—The Mississippi flood relief committee at a meeting here today adopted a resolution to request President Harding to issue an appeal for public contributions to the fund for the relief of flood sufferers in the Yazoo basin, where 20,000 men, women and children, marooned or driven from their homes by the Mississippi river flood, were declared to be in absolute need of help.

The call for additional aid was taken after it had been found by the committee that available funds were inadequate to take care of the rapidly increasing number of destitute flood victims.

Reports submitted by a score of field Red Cross secretaries today showed that the number to be provided for this week would be 20,000 compared with 17,000 last week when the issuing of rations was started.

The board of health, basing its estimate for a balanced ration, recommended a per capita ration of \$1.05 a week, but members of the committee said that funds on hand would permit the allowance of but 70 cents per week. The board of health's estimate, it was said, included medical supplies for preventing diseases.

BOARD ACTIVITIES BEFORE CONFERENCE

Memorial Introduced at Methodist Meeting Looking To Program Of Consolidation

Hot Spring, Ark., May 6.—Activities of various boards of the church were discussed today at the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, in session here. Dr. E. L. Morgan of Oklahoma precipitated the discussion by introducing a memorial from the west Oklahoma conference asking that a special committee of 15 members be constituted to devise ways and means of reducing the number of general boards by consolidation.

At the present time the general activities of the church are carried on under the direction of boards of missions, Sunday schools, Epworth leagues, education, church extension and finance. The Morgan memorial seeks to reduce this number to four.

It was claimed by those opposed to the memorial that consolidation could not be accomplished because of legal difficulties involving charters and the control of trust funds. The memorial was adopted, however, and the college of bishops was asked to appoint the committee.

The bishops today appointed as a committee on introductions and fraternal relations, J. M. Rogers of Savannah, Ga., and Plato Durham of Atlanta.

FOR HOSPITAL WORK

Washington, May 7.—Through passage by the senate, congressional action was completed today on the bill making immediately available \$12,000,000 for construction of hospitals for former service men as a part of a program calling eventually for the expenditure which was passed yesterday by the house was put through without a record vote and without debate within a few hours after it had been reported out by the appropriation committee.

NEW HOTEL CLERK

Roy McComb of the Cold Spring section came to Abbeville Saturday to take the position as desk clerk at the Eureka Hotel.

WEEK OF ADVANCE MADE BY COTTON

HEAVY REALIZING DOES NOT BRING DECLINE—WEEK'S TAKING FAR ABOVE LAST YEAR AND GENERAL TRADE IS IMPROVED.

New Orleans, May 7.—Throughout the week just ended the cotton market stood at the advance, rising to its highest levels at about the middle of the week and holding its gain fairly well thereafter in the face of considerable realizing from the long side. At its best the active positions were 141 to 161 points higher than the close of the preceding week with July up to 18.70. The close was at net gains of 98 to 126 points with July at 18.23. In the spot department middling gained 112 points, closing at 18.12 cents a pound against 11.88 on the close of the same week last year.

The demand was encouraged mainly by the unfavorable weather conditions over the greater part of the belt during the early days of the week, the heavy rains in Texas being regarded as the most important weather developments, although low temperatures and consequent failure of germination of seed were also features that made an unfavorable impression regarding the crop outlook. Some sections of Oklahoma wired local cotton concerns that cotton seed was rotting in the ground as the result of the combination of too much moisture and too cool weather.

Toward the end of the week the weather took a turn for the better and this stimulated considerable realizing on the long side. More or less liquidation of long contracts was inevitable at the close but this sort of selling was hardly as much as generally expected would be the case after the bull markets of the early part of the week. One reason for this was the better tone of trade reports, signs for better demand for the actual cotton and the large mill takings for the week, 180,000 bales against 149,000 this week last year and 155,000 this week two years ago. Reports from some sections of the Carolinas was that some mills were running full time with a few mills even working nights. Liverpool messages to local brokers noted more inquiry for cloth and claimed trading was being done in a moderate way by Manchester with all parts of the world, which was accepted as meaning that confidence gradually was being restored.

DAIRY MEETING

Held in Court House Saturday Was Well Attended.

The dairy meeting held in the Court House Saturday afternoon was well attended and a representative meeting, about seventy-five being present. The object of the meeting was to secure a cream station for Abbeville. Mr. Duckett, representing the Greenwood Station made an interesting talk. After a general discussion, it was decided to defer action and call another meeting in about two weeks, in the hope of securing the promise of more support.

MAYOR'S COURT

The following cases were before the Mayor this morning and disposed of as follows:

Marion Jones, transporting whiskey, fined \$100.
Charley Norman, larceny, fined \$5.00.

MRS. JAMES DARRACOTT

Mrs. James Darracott was taken to the Memorial Hospital this morning for treatment. She has been sick for several days at her home on Nickles street, and it is hoped she will recover at once at the hospital.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM TO STAND TOGETHER

LOYD GEORGE DECLARES THAT NEW FORMULA AT THIS STAGE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, LEAVING FINAL SOLUTION MUCH IN DOUBT

Genoa, May 6.—France will stand with Belgium in opposing that part of the allies' memorandum to Russia dealing with the property in Russia of foreign owners. In consequence of this decision, which was communicated to Premier Lloyd George by M. Barthou, head of the French delegation, this evening, another crisis has arisen which endangers the conference and may or may not be settled before the British prime minister returns to London.

If the views of Belgium with respect to this article can be met, and it is considered possible that the Belgians may modify their demands to some degree. France will place no obstacle in the way of a settlement. The Russians, however, are still to be heard from. Their reply will probably be delivered within two or three days, and it is known definitely that they will present numerous objections to the conditions set forth by the allied powers.

M. Barthou first saw the Italian foreign minister, Signor Schanzer, and found him busy trying to frame a formula on the question of property rights in Russia which would satisfy everybody and avoid a rupture of the conference.

"Even if a break comes," Schanzer is quoted by the French as saying, "there will be no reason for relaxing the bonds of friendship which have already bound and must bind the allies together."

M. Barthou then saw Premier Lloyd George and gave him a detailed account of the circumstances which forced France to adopt her present position side by side with Belgium.

"Public opinion in France," said M. Barthou, "was deeply moved by the announcement of a separate Russo-German treaty and had even gone so far as to consider it possible that a new war with Germany and it might be, also with Russia, was imminent. This excitement was calmed down, but the incident made Frenchmen remember with all the more gratitude the help extended to France by Belgium during the war. It made France less willing than ever to part company with Belgium."

VETERANS MET SATURDAY

Elect Officers for Year Also Delegates to State Reunion

Camp No. 1857 held its annual meeting in the Court House Saturday afternoon. The following veterans were elected officers for the coming year: J. M. Gambrell, Commander of the Camp, and J. L. Hill, Adjutant.

I. A. Keller and T. C. Seal were elected delegates to attend the reunion at Darlington which will meet on May the 17th and 18th. S. T. Eakin and H. W. Gordon were elected alternates.

J. M. Gambrell will attend the annual meeting at Darlington as ex-officio member of the State reunion.

MISS CAROLINE MILFORD

Mrs. A. M. Milford and daughter, Caroline, of the Bethlehem section were in Abbeville shopping Saturday. Miss Caroline is a bright young lady of three or four summers and expects to put this notice away to show her grandchildren.

DUE WEST VISITORS

Prof. J. C. Reid, Miss Bertha Ashworth, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson of York, and party spent several hours in Abbeville Friday.

ORPHAN INMATES ARE SPIRITED AWAY

TURKS AT THEIR OLD TRICKS IN ARMENIA—BOYS DISAPPEAR AND GIRLS ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG MOHAMMED FAMILIES.

Boston, May 6.—Armenian orphanages both those supported by native charity and by the Near East Relief, are being broken up, their inmates of both sexes spirited away and their directors exiled by the Turkish nationalist government at Angora, it was declared in a letter from Aleppo, Syria, to the Armenian National Union of America, made public today by the union's secretary G. H. Papazian.

The letter mentioned a specific case at Harpoot, where the Turkish nationalists ordered the Near East workers to close their orphanage. Miss Hurley, the head worker, and Dr. Parmalee, the physician, protested. Thereupon, said the letter, these two American women were ordered exiled but they were hurried out on Sunday afternoon despite protestations. The superintendent, Mr. Curd and his assistant, Mr. Yaoul, were exiled shortly thereafter.

Girls and boys of 15 years of age, the letter declared, are being taken out of orphanages supposedly "for service of the government." Boys disappear on the road and the girls are distributed among Mohammedan families. "It is the declared policy of the government," the letter asserted, "to break up these orphanages, the only refuge of the Armenian children whose parents have been murdered or tortured to death. An actual persecution has been inaugurated against these American benefactors."

HARTSVILLE MAN DROWNS IN LAKE

Sam DeWitt Loses Life By Falling In Water While Fishing From Boat

Hartsville, May 6.—This afternoon about 6 o'clock Sam B. DeWitt a young man between 35 and 40 years of age, fell from a boat on Black Crook lake near Prestwood Country Club and was drowned. He was very fond of fishing and frequently went on these expeditions. The lake adjoins the town limits and is very popular with the business men for this sport. He often had a companion but this afternoon went alone. The only eyewitness, it appears, was a negro fisherman, who was a little distance from DeWitt's boat. A crowd of people were at the club and the divers were assisted by the electric lights, but the body has not yet been recovered. He leaves a wife, who before marriage was Miss Lizzie Rhodes, and four children.

Man Wore Armor Plate

Los Angeles, May 6.—A man wearing 32 pounds of armor plate a quarter of an inch beneath his shirt was arrested here today. He also had typewritten instructions from a "burglars correspondence school" and was armed. The armor was found when a policeman tapped the man inadvertently and heard the ring of metal.

NORTH CAROLINA VISITOR.

Mr. Brantley Wamble of Raleigh, N. C., spent Saturday and Sunday in Abbeville looking up old friends and making new ones. Mr. Wamble is a member of the North Carolina legal fraternity.

MOVE TO ANDERSON.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. LaBoone and William LaBoone are leaving today for Anderson where Mr. LaBoone has been transferred by the Sandard Oil Company. They will make their home in Anderson for the present.

BONUS PROPOSAL BEFORE HARDING

PRESIDENT TAKES MODIFIED PLAN UNDER ADVISEMENT. UTAH SENATOR WILL PRESENT HIS CASE AT WHITE HOUSE THIS WEEK

Washington, May 6.—President Harding took under advisement today the modified house soldiers' bonus plan presented to him by a committee of senate Republican leaders. He told the senators he would study the proposal and the one to be presented early next week by Senator Smoot of Utah, ranking Republican on the senate finance committee, and would renew the discussion with them later.

Those calling at the White House were Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, Republican leader; Chairman McCumber and Senators Curtis of Kansas and Watson of Indiana, members of the finance committee. The senators said the president had given no intimation as to his opinion of the amended house bill, but asked many questions concerning its provisions.

The president was told, senators said, that it was the desire of congressional leaders that no additional taxes be enacted in connection with the bonus and that it would be impossible to put a sales tax through congress.

While no specific plan of financing the bonus was presented to the executive it is thought by bonus advocates that the legislation can be financed out of the refunded British bonds.

Neither the commonly known McCumber plan nor the Smoot plan called for any considerable outlay of money within the next few years and some senators said that whatever cost would be entailed could be taken care of out of the \$200,000,000 annual interest on the debt owed by Great Britain which that country is expected to begin paying this year.

The McCumber plan, like the house bill, would call for no loans to veterans by the government for a period of three years, but banks would be authorized to advance to the soldiers sums equivalent to one-half of the adjusted service credit of the veterans. At the expiration of the three years the treasury would make loans direct to the men.

The Smoot plan contemplates the issuing of 20 year life insurance endowment policies to the veterans in lieu of all other options heretofore proposed, including the vocational training, home and farm aid and land settlement and it would make no specific provision for loans on the policies.

The policies would have a face value equivalent to slightly more than three times the amount of the adjusted compensation, and the face value would be paid at the end of the 20 years, or sooner, upon the death of the veteran.

ACRES IN MELONS

Reports Show Increase Over Last Year.

Washington, May 7.—The acreage planted to watermelons in early producing states this year totals 161,000 acres in nine states as compared with 109,800 harvested acres in 1921, according to estimates made public by the United States department of agriculture. This is an increase of 47 per cent.

Georgia has 57,800 acres this year, a gain of 52 per cent over the harvested acreage last year. Texas has 37,400 acres, or 29 per cent more than in 1921. Florida has 35,400 acres a gain of 89 per cent. Acreages have also increased in South Carolina, Alabama, New Mexico, Arizona and southern California. A small decrease was shown in North Carolina.