

SAVINGS FUNDS INCREASE.

MORE THAN \$50,000 TO BE RELEASED IN CITY IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

Amounts to be Sent out from Various Banks Show That People of City are Taking Much Interest in Savings Funds—Money Comes in Handy at Christmas Time and Merchants Will Feel Influx.

The various banks of the city which have savings fund departments will during the next few days release something like \$53,000 in the city which will come in handy for many persons who have been saving up during the year to have this money for their Christmas shopping.

The savings fund scheme was started in this city a number of years ago among the employees of J. Ryttenberg & Sons store and since then has grown yearly until now practically every bank in town has a savings fund and there are several hundred depositors among the various banks. The outlook for next year, as reported at the various banking institutions in the city is better than ever before for an increase in the savings fund for next year and it is probable that despite the war and reported hard times that many persons, who have never joined any of these savings departments before, will join this year so as to put by a regular weekly sum for a time of need in the future.

This has been the fourth year at the Peoples' Bank that a savings fund has been operated and the officers of the bank find it an excellent scheme for young men and women, children and old folks to save a stated sum each week. It encourages saving and it gives those who save a confidence that they will have something at the end of the year that will repay them for denying themselves a little something each week. This year the savings fund closes with the last payment, Monday, December 14. The bank will on Tuesday or next day send out checks with the savings of each shareholder amounting in all to about \$7,000. This amount will be divided up among probably fifty shareholders, according to the number of shares each has taken, the shares being at one dollar each with half shares for half price. The bank will continue to operate the savings fund another year and has already secured the promise of a large increase in shareholders with nearly a fifty per cent. increase in shares for next year.

At the National Bank of South Carolina the twenty-first of December brings to a close the first year's operation of a savings fund department, a department which the bank has found of especial merit and which has elicited much interest among its patrons and others who have subscribed to shares in the savings department. This bank operates a \$1.50 and 25c savings fund department and the participants number about 180. These will each receive their share in between \$5,000 and \$6,000 which will be distributed after the 21st. The bank expects to continue to operate the department and has the promise of a big increase in participants and a larger number of shares for next year.

The City National Bank, the home of the savings fund department in Sumter, so to speak, for it was the only bank for many years which kept a savings fund department, known as the Young Men's Savings Fund, found out long ago that this department was a good thing for subscribers to the various shares of stock in the fund. Each year since the department was instituted it has grown, and from a few hundred dollars it has grown until this year it will send out in checks to the shareholders somewhere around \$16,000, something like \$3,000 more than was sent out last year. This department is eleven years old in this bank and during the coming year it will have at least a twenty-five per cent. growth over the present year, showing with what success the department has met.

The First National Bank may decide to annex a savings fund department for next year, but up to the present time it has not operated one, doing this class of business in its regular savings department, which is the largest of any bank in the city.

The Commercial and Savings Bank, Sumter's youngest banking institution, instituted a savings fund at the beginning of the present year and has found it eminently successful. This department during the present year continues to operate until January first, when the money will be distributed by check, as elsewhere. Next year the fund will be changed to run fifty weeks, and will send out checks in time for the shareholders to get the money for their Christmas shopping. The bank has 90 shareholders and will distribute among these about \$7,000, an excellent showing for the first year. It was stated at the bank that a specialty will be made of this department for next year and a large increase in this line of its business is already promised and expected. The Bank of Sumter has a special

NO EXTRA SESSION WANTED.

CONGRESS WILL COMPLETE WORK BY MARCH 4.

President Wilson and Leaders of Congress Think That Country Should be Given Rest From Legislation.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Congress will enter the second week of its winter session determined to complete its tasks March 4, so that no extra session will be necessary next summer. Democratic leaders of both houses agree with President Wilson that the country should have a rest from national legislation and will cooperate in early completion of the legislative programme outlined by the senate Democratic caucus yesterday. Right of way will be given appropriation bills with conservation measures, the Philippine bill and the government's purchase bill following.

While no special investigation of military preparedness as proposed by Senator Lodge and Representative Gardner seems in prospect, much attention will centre about investigations before regular house committees. The naval committee will resume consideration of the appropriation bill tomorrow, with Secretary Daniels again on the stand.

The immigration bill, with its literacy test for aliens, will again be under debate in the senate while that body waits for the appropriation bills to come from the house. Its champions insist that it will be passed, despite the fact that it was not included in the president's outline of legislation for the session.

The conservation measures—the water power site and the mineral leasing bills—probably will be reported from the senate committee on public lands early in January. Hearings begin tomorrow before senate Philippine committee on the house bill to give larger measures of self-government to the Filipinos. Some part of each day in the senate also will be given to executive consideration of the safety at sea treaty.

The ship-purchase bills still are in committee in both houses.

TAKE PRISONERS AND FORCED TO FIGHT TO HOLD THEM.

Conway, Dec. 12.—R. F. Jenkins and R. Q. Merrick, special officers of the United States internal revenue department, and W. J. Johnson and Rollin Johnson have just returned from beyond the Little river section of the county, near the North Carolina line, where they made a raid on an illicit whiskey still yesterday and captured George Beck, Spencer Bozeman, Will Huet, Dave Faulk and Asa Coles, who were in the act of measuring a number of kegs of whiskey when they were surprised by the officers.

When the officers arrested the party a number of friends of the prisoners came to their rescue and demanded of the officers their release. Upon their refusal to do so a fusillade of shots was exchanged. In the melee one of the prisoners was wounded, two others made their escape, both of which were recaptured, and one of these made his escape again the next day and is still at large.

Capt. Jenkins was hit in the breast by one of the shots, but the wound is not serious. Another of the prisoners made such resistance in trying to extricate himself from the officers that Capt. Jenkins had to pound him heavily on the head, which is considerably bruised, though not seriously.

Four of the prisoners were placed in jail here, and the two wounded ones have been examined and their wounds have been pronounced by a physician as not serious.

Warrants have been issued for all the parties. George Beck made good his escape. The prisoners were taken before the United States commissioner here today and two of them, Faulk and Coles, were released on bond for their appearance before the commissioner Monday for the preliminary hearing.

Christmas fund, somewhat different from any other bank in the city. This money is taken in weekly, the amounts varying according to the club the participant joins. This is the second year the bank has operated the department and it has found it a well paying and rapidly growing one. Last year the bank mailed out checks to 431 participants for \$9,800; this year the bank will tonight or Tuesday mail out checks to 999 participants for \$17,151.66, showing that the number of shareholders has more than doubled, while the amount of money has nearly doubled. An effort will be made to double the number of participants and shares for the coming year and the department now has the promise of the fulfillment of this plan.

Altogether the Christmas savings fund and the savings fund schemes have met with remarkably successful results in Sumter and are the means of the saving of much money that otherwise would be wasted and the giving of money to many at Christmas what they otherwise would not have

POSTOFFICE MAKING MONEY.

FOR FIRST TIME DEPARTMENT SUSTAINS ITSELF.

Postmaster General Burleson Tells of Operation of Year and Suggests Action by Congress.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Asserting that for the first time since its organization by Benjamin Franklin, the postoffice department is on a self-sustaining basis, Postmaster General Burleson submitted to President Wilson today his annual report. It records enormous growth in the department's business because of the parcel post and postal savings bank divisions and recommends a programme of postal legislation to increase the scope of the department's activities.

Mr. Burleson features his report with an estimate that a surplus of \$3,569,545, the second of his administration, will be shown for the fiscal year of 1914 when all claims and charges have been met. On that showing he bases his declaration that the department "has been securely placed upon a self-sustaining basis." "It is safe to say," the report adds, "that unless unusual conditions should arise, resulting in abnormal depression of business, there is no danger of recurring deficiencies."

The legislative programme recommended is as follows, as to its most important features:

Early action toward government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines and immediate taking over of these systems in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Transfer of the Alaska cable from war to postoffice department control.

Substitution of contract "star route" system for salaried rural carrier service to eliminate \$40,000,000 annual loss on rural delivery.

Postoffice cooperation with State governments in road building where improvements insure better postal service.

Raising maximum balance acceptable at postal banks from \$500 to \$2,000, interest payments to be limited to \$1,000. Removal of monthly deposit limit restriction.

Aerial mail service, where topography warrants and extension of motor truck and automobile service in view of recent successful experiments.

Passage by senate of pending bill providing space basis of compensation for railroads on mail carried instead of weight basis.

Pending change in rural delivery system, computation of carrier's salaries on basis of services performed, dependent on bulk of mail carried, to stimulate business.

Readjustment of postmasters' salaries on basis of changes in business handled due to parcel post development.

Raising of second class rates on publications other than newspapers issued once a week from 1 to 2 cents a pound.

Granting the department legal jurisdiction over selection of sites and designs for postal buildings.

Of the parcel post during the last year the report says:

"Rapid growth of the parcel post vastly increased postal business during the year. The department's field of service has expanded at phenomenal rate; it is still expanding. Notwithstanding the decrease of parcel post rates authorized January 1, 1914, economies of administration have kept expenses within the revenues."

Of the department's financial condition the report says:

"The postal revenues for 1914 amounted to \$287,934,565.67, an increase over the preceding year of slightly less than 8 per cent., as compared with a corresponding increase of slightly more than 8 per cent. for 1913. The audited expenditures for the year amounted to \$283,543,769.16, and the adjusted losses due to fire, burglary, etc., to \$14,333.46. The excess of audited revenue over audited expenses and losses is, therefore, \$4,376,463.05.

"This audited surplus does not, however, represent the actual financial results for the year. It involves comparison of amounts that are not properly comparable. It does not include obligations which were incurred, but not paid within the year, while it does include some payments on account of obligations incurred in prior years."

A statement follows of revenues and expenses based upon the reported revenues and the estimated expenses of the service for that year and the report adds:

"On this basis, the revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, are found to exceed by \$3,569,545 the expenses for maintenance during the same period. While the announcement establishes confidence in the fact that the service is being economically administered, it must be borne in mind that of the convenience and benefit provided the public, which must be secured irrespective of the financial outlay required.

"The surplus for the year just closed, though substantial in amount,

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP PLAN

WILL INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY OF BURLERSON SCHEME.

Would Have Telegraph and Telephones Owned by Federal Authority—Efforts to Extend Civil Service to Third Class Postmasters Failed.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Further investigation of Postmaster General Burleson's recommendations for government ownership of the telegraph and telephone system is proposed in the postoffice appropriation bill, which practically has been completed by a house committee. It is said to carry approximately \$325,000,000.

Efforts to extend the civil service to third class postmasters failed. The office of assistant postmaster would be abolished by the bill. In first class offices all activities will be regrouped and supervisory authority concentrated under a postmaster, superintendent of finance and superintendent of mails.

No provisions are made for the proposed experimental aerial mail service or for extension of automobile service. The proposed increase in second class rates on publications, other than newspapers, issued once a week, from one to two cents a pound was voted on.

Maximum balances acceptable at postal banks from \$500 to \$2,000 would be raised by the bill, the interest to be payable only on deposits up to \$1,000. Rearrangement of salaries of superintendents, their assistants, cashiers and others having supervisory authority is authorized, with provision for an additional \$1,000,000 expenditure. The bill also includes as a rider the pending railway mail pay bill, to change the basis of pay from tonnage to car space. That would give the railroads approximately \$1,000,000 additional compensation annually because of the additional space required for the parcels post.

While rejecting the recommendation that all rural carriers be put on an individual contract basis, the committee adopted a provision authorizing, as an experiment, the putting of rural carriers of one county in each State on a contract basis. Increased pay for the rural carriers also is provided and railway clerks and letter carriers have their pay increased by \$100 annually until the maximum salary is attained.

TEACHERS' MEETING SATURDAY.

There was a good attendance of teachers at the teachers' meeting on Saturday when an instructive and entertaining address was delivered by Supt. E. S. Dreher of the Columbia schools and other matters of interest discussed.

Supt. Dreher talked on the conditions of the schools in this State, as compared with other States, showing that according to reports the same educational advancement had not been made in South Carolina as had been made in other States. He made an interesting and instructive address which was listened to with much attention.

Field Day was discussed and it was decided to have the annual event next spring as usual. A committee consisting of C. B. Epling of Shiloh, Miss Mamie Blackwell of Concord and Miss E. W. McLean of the city schools was elected to draw up a program to be submitted at the next meeting of the association.

During the exercises music by Mrs. Jas. D. Graham was much enjoyed.

Runaway on West Liberty Street.

From The Daily Item, Dec. 12. About three o'clock this afternoon a mule belonging to Thomas McMillan ran away on West Liberty street, but outside of the fact that a great deal of excitement was created, no very great damage was done, excepting to a road cart belonging, strange to say, to the same man who owned the mule. The runaway animal was hitched to a wagon, being driven down West Liberty Street, towards Main by Luther McMillan, a colored boy 16 years old. The bit broke in the mule's mouth, and he started running, overturning the wagon and throwing the boy out but not injuring him. As stated above, in his trot down West Liberty street the overturned wagon lurched into the road cart in which the older McMillan was sitting, tearing one wheel up pretty badly.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The navy anti-aircraft gun has been shown by tests to be amply competent to deal with aircraft, according to a report to the house naval committee by Rear Admiral Straus, chief of the Bureau of ordnance.

necessarily represents an approximate adjustment of revenues and disbursements, made possible by economies, in administration; compared with the volume of transactions; it is believed, therefore, that a recommendation for the reduction of postage rates or fees is not warranted at this time."

TOBACCO MEN WANT ACTION.

WOULD SEE LEGISLATURE PASS NEEDED LAW.

Crop Should Be Tied and Graded for Sale on Warehouse Floor—Is Opinion at Mullins Meeting.

Mullins, Dec. 12.—A representative gathering of Marion county citizens was held in Mullins this morning, the purpose of meeting as advertised being to discuss the advisability of memorializing the legislature to make it unlawful to sell tobacco on a warehouse floor unless it be graded and tied.

Several men of prominence from other counties were on hand. The bankers, the merchants, the editors, the farmers, the laborers, warehousemen and tobacco buyers all were well represented. All were of one mind, that something should be done by the legislature to remedy present conditions and prohibit tobacco being sold ungraded.

Experts claimed that at least 20 per cent. increase in price would be obtained if the proper legislation was effected. The meeting was addressed by N. A. McMillan, James R. Williams, W. A. Gray, J. Dock Provatt, John C. Sellers, A. D. Jackson of Horry and others.

Some concerted action will be taken to get the matter in proper shape. Proper committees were appointed and it is understood that the tobacco growers all over the State are in sympathy with the movement.

The proposed plan will give a money season and will give employment to thousands of white people, men, women and children who if the cotton acreage is reduced will have nothing else to do.

The legislature will also be asked to reduce the charges for selling leaf tobacco in the State of South Carolina. The low price of the season just closed has thoroughly aroused the people to action.

Politeness. Politeness appears to have been invented to enable people who would naturally fall out to live together in peace.

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Tax Return Notice.

I will attend in person or by deputy at the following places and on the dates given for the purpose of receiving tax returns, on all personal property, road, polls and dogs:

- Tindals, Jan. 5.
 - Privateer, Jan. 6.
 - Levi Siding, Jan. 7.
 - Wedgefield, Jan. 8.
 - Claremont, Jan. 11.
 - Hagood, Jan. 12.
 - Rembert, Jan. 13.
 - Dalzell, Jan. 14.
 - Brogdon, Jan. 15.
 - Oswego, Jan. 18.
 - Maysville, Jan. 19.
 - Pleasant Grove, Jan. 20.
 - Shiloh, Jan. 21.
 - Norwood Cross Roads, Jan. 22.
- R. E. WILDER,
County Auditor.

Meets Rattler Under Auto. While crawling under his automobile at the Serfass Motor Car company's garage, here, to make repairs to his machine, Nevin Schlauss was startled by a sound like peas shaken in a bag. A moment later he saw directly in front of him, on the cement floor of the pit, a big rattlesnake, which he promptly killed, and which had 11 rattles. The reptile measured five feet in length.—Mauch Chunk (Pa.) Dispatch Philadelphia Record.

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Holiday Excursion Rates

Tickets on sale December 16th to 25th inclusive, and December 31st, 1914 and January 1st 1915, with final limit January 6th 1915.

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