RUTLAND BANK MERGER OPPOSED

Minority Stockholders of County National Object to Combine with Baxter National.

BIG FIGHT SEEMS IMMINENT

Clement and Ripley Hold a Little Less Than Half the Stock—Two-Thirds Vote Necessary.

Rutland, Dec. 7.—A move in opposition to the proposition to merge the Rutland County and the Baxter National banks of this city in order that less capital may be tied up in banking in this city developed to-day at the instigation of minority stockholders of the county bank. A circular statement to stockholders telling of the condition of the bank and suggesting reduction of the capital stock without the merger has been prepared for issuance over the signatures of Charles M. Smith, Robert A. Lawrence, L. H. McIntire and Frank J. Quinn of this city.

It has been generally believed up to to-day that the stockholders of the Baxter and County banks would vote unanimously on December 27 to consolidate but the appearance of the circular leads to the belief that there will be a big fight. There are 3,000 shares of stock in the Rutland County bank and in order to effect a consolidation a two-thirds vote is necessary. It is understood that the holdings of the two largest stockholders, the Clement interests and Gen. E. H. Ripley, represent a little less than 1,500 shares and it is doubtful whether enough small stockholders will vote with the Clement and Ripley forces to effect the merger. It is presumed that the two largest shareholders are in favor of the change.

COUNTER PROPOSITION ISSUED.

The statement issued by the minority stockholders sets forth that the assets of the county bank are $415,000 and if the business were wound up and the assets realized upon each share would receive $138 1-3. The proposition of those in favor of the merger is to reduce the capital stock from $200,000 to $100,000. The minority stockholders assert that if this reduction is made by returning to the stockholders $200,000 with surplus and undivided profits of $50,000 there will be a capital stock of $100,000 and $65,000 surplus with which to do business and no change in business relations or location will be necessary. It is pointed out that the mere reduction of the capital stock would enable the county bank to pay a much larger rate of dividend than it has heretofore earned.

It is believed that a new national bank will be organized here if the merger goes through. Who will back it has not yet been made public.

SHE TAUGHT 50 YEARS.

Pownal Woman Probably Held Record for Vermont.

Pownal, Dec. 7.—There was held at the Baptist Church here this afternoon the funeral of a woman who probably had the longest teaching record in the State. She was Miss Eunice Ladd, who had taught in the public schools of this, her native town, for nearly 50 years. She was born in Pownal 75 years ago and during her service of nearly half a century had taught in all of the 13 districts. It is estimated that fully half the population of the town have at one time or another been her pupils. She resigned her position on her 70th birthday, five years ago, the date she had long fixed for her retirement. She is survived by a sister in North Adams, Mass., and two brothers, Sherman Ladd of North Pownal, who is 85 years of age, and John Ladd of Chicago, who is 91.

CLUBBING LIST.

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The Weekly FREE PRESS can be obtained in combination with other leading periodicals at low rates. To prevent unnecessary correspondence we will state that after the subscription has begun notice of a change of address, or anything concerning the receipt of the other periodicals, should be sent directly to the office of that periodical.

The Weekly FREE PRESS and any one of the following periodicals will be sent to any one address in the United States for one year at the prices annexed:

Ainslee's Magazine	$2.50
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Farm and Fireside	1.25
Garden Magazine	2.00
Good Housekeeping	1.85
Harper's Bazar	1.85
Harper's Magazine	4.35
Harper's Weekly	4.40
Harper's Round Table	1.90
Leslie's Weekly	4.35
Metropolitan Magazine	2.50
Ladies' World	1.40
McClure's Magazine	2.25
Mirror and Farmer	1.40
Munsey's Magazine	2.00
National Magazine	2.00
New York Tribune Farmer	1.50
New York World	1.75
New England Farmer	2.00
Review of Reviews	3.00
Rural New Yorker	1.85
Scientific American	3.60
Scribner's	3.85
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Woman's Home Companion	2.25
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Our clubbing list includes all papers and magazines published. Only those most frequently asked for are printed in our list, but others may be had on application.

Subscribers may have more than one paper from this clubbing list. Always send a stamp for reply when asking about this, as we do all this work at no profit in order to accomodate our subscribers.

ADDISON COUNTY COURT

Hon. W. H. Taylor of Hardwick the Presiding Judge—Many Cases Settled and Discontinued.

Middlebury, Dec. 7.—The December term of the superior court for Addison county opened here at ten o'clock this forenoon with the following officers: The Hon. W. H. Taylor of Hardwick, chief judge; Frank C. Dyer of Salisbury and Charles S. Dana of New Haven, assistant judges; Rufus Wainwright of Middlebury, clerk; Olin A. Smith of Addison, sheriff, with 14 deputies; Frank W. Tuttle of Vergennes, State's attorney, and Miss Ella M. Ballou of Rutland, reporter. Attorneys present from out of town were H. S. Peck, John J. Enright, M. J. Leary, J. E. Cushman and E. C. Mower of Burlington, Thomas W. Moloney of Rutland, Jasper G. Page, W. W. Rider and Murry Bourne of Bristol, Frank L. Fish and F. W. Tuttle of Vergennes and W. A. Atwell of Brandon.

The opening prayer was made by the Rev. Arthur E. Harriman of Middlebury, after which Sheriff Smith made the customary opening proclamation. The following cases on the jury calendar were set for trial: Edyth Prince vs. Adam Forepaugh & Sells Bros. Show company; James B. Donoway vs. Charles L. Hammond, apt.; Ernest Goss, apt., vs. Edward Burt; Henry Merritt, apt., vs. Edward Burt; Jennie F. Finnerty vs. Mary Ayers; E. T. Barnard & Co. vs. Jennie A. and Fred A. Newton, apts.; Charles L. Hammond vs. The Orwell Creamery company; and the Bristol Manufacturing company vs. E. B. Palmer. Two cases were entered settled and discontinued, Rose and Frank Ubar vs. Joseph Dumas and A. N. Fisher vs. H. C. Potter, apt.

In the case of town of Orwell vs. town of Shoreham a motion to dismiss was filed on behalf of the defendant town. On the chancery docket the cases of William H. Davis et al vs. John A. James et al; and Frank E. Paige, receiver, et al, vs. the town of Hancock the bills were dismissed without costs, and the cases of Mary B. Ella vs. J. H. Bean and Murry Bourne and W. A. Lawrence vs. Will M. Stow, Wealthy G. Stow and W. H. Partch were entered settled and discontinued.

Eight cases were set for trial on the divorce docket and these two cases were marked discontinued. Jennie A. Burroughs vs. Judge S. Burroughs, and Myron H. Reed vs. Lucy Reed.

Most of the cases on the general civil docket were continued but the following were entered settled and discontinued: Alice C. Barnes vs. Moses Vincent; Sarah C. Smith vs. Napoleon and Etta A. Lamorder; L. S. Knight vs. L. R. Brown, apt.; Eliza E. Abbot vs. C. W. Ross and National Bank of Middlebury, trustee; Milo White vs. William White, apt.; H. R. Baldwin, executor, vs. M. Louise and A. K. Carr; Brassau and Lamorder vs. D. G. Long and Middlebury Marble company, the Brandon National bank, trustee; and Sarah C. Smith vs. Napoleon Lamorder.

In the case of Marie Landon vs. H. A. Francisco judgment by default was entered by the plaintiff; in Charles C. Fields, adm., vs. Wilber Field, apt., judgment to account was rendered against the defendant and the case referred. The cases of Ramon Mumley vs. the Rutland Railroad company and Florence Cota, adm., vs. the Rutland Railroad company were discontinued and these were the last railroad cases remaining on the docket.

At this afternoon session the panel of grand jurors was called and Judge Taylor appointed Charles E. Abell of Orwell foreman. The petit jurors were next called and as there was no case ready for trial, a recess was taken until nine o'clock to-morrow morning with the case of James B. Donoway vs. Chas. L. Hammond standing first for trial.

There are only four prisoners in jail whose cases will be taken up at the present term and probably one of them will come before the grand jury.

FEW CASES WERE READY.

Murder Trial Will Begin in Bennington County Court To-day.

Bennington, Dec. 7.—The December term of county court opened here this afternoon, Judge Fred M. Butler of Rutland presiding. The reading of the docket disclosed but few cases ready for trial. The case of the Best Manufacturing company vs. Nicholas Noveck is set for trial tomorrow. The plaintiff sues to collect from the defendant, a Bennington merchant, for a consignment of calanders which the defendant claims were not shipped during specified time.

The trial of Michele Philleppo, charged with the murder of Luigi Tinelo, a fellow countryman, in this village May 25 last, is set for trial Thursday morning. Sheriff Fred Godfrey left this afternoon for the asylum at Waterbury for Philleppo, who has been at that institution under observation as to his sanity since June.

IMPORTANT CASE SETTLED.

Appeal Had Been Taken from Record Breaking Verdict.

St. Johnsbury, Dec. 7.—The December term of Caledonia county court opened here this morning and it is believed the term will last well into the next month. Judge Zed S. Stanton is presiding and he was cordially greeted by the members of the bar and his friends upon his maiden appearance in this court as its judge.

Among those present at the opening of court, aside from the county bar, were Frank D. Thompson of Barton, George Young of Newport, George L. Hunt of Island Pond and C. H. Hosford of Woodsville.

Announcement was made of the settlement of the case of E. P. & H. K. Ide vs. Boston & Maine railroad, thus disposing of the most important case on the docket. At the June term, 1908, the jury awarded the plaintiffs a verdict of $14,006, the largest verdict ever awarded in Caledonia county court. The case was brought to recover for the loss of the plaintiffs' mill in Lyndon which, it was alleged, was set on fire by sparks from locomotives belonging to the railroad company. The latter appealed their case to the Supreme Court and the verdict of the lower court was set aside and a new trial ordered. A settlement was reached after an agreement had been reached to try the case this term before a struck jury. It is understood the Ides received a sum somewhat less than the verdict of the court.

The first case to be tried and which will occupy about all of Wednesday is a Hardwick case, involving an alleged breach of covenant upon some land in Hardwick village. W. L. Dow and wife are the plaintiffs and Ina M. Bridgman the defendant.

What all-absorbing occupation is preventing you from paying any attention to the want ads. these days.

RED CROSS NEEDS FIVE MILLIONS

President Taft Re-elected Head of Organization, Addresses Its Members.

HE AWARDS THREE MEDALS

Ambassador Griscom Receives Gold Emblem for Aid during the Earthquake in Italy—Two Others, Silver.

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Taft was re-elected president of the American Red Cross late to-day and presided for a time over the fifth annual meeting of the association held in the memorial hall of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mr. Taft presented in person a gold medal voted by the Red Cross to Lloyd C. Griscom, former ambassador to Italy, for aid during the earthquake in Italy, and silver medals to Miss Katherine B. Davis and Samuel L. Parrish, who assisted in the Italian relief work.

Among the other officers re-elected in addition to President Taft were: Robert W. Deforest, vice-president; Beekman Winthrop, treasurer; Henry M. Hoyt, solicitor.

President Taft to-night attended the informal reception to the delegates to the annual meeting at the home of Miss Mabel Boardman.

The hall where the meeting was held this afternoon was but partly filled when President Taft arose to speak.

"These meetings," he said, "do not seem to grow in numbers, and they do not by any means represent the growth and usefulness of this organization and the demonstration that it has made from time to time.

"During the last year the society has shown what it could do in its assistance to Italy after the earthquake, to eastern Turkey after the massacrse, and to Mexico after the floods. It seems to be necessary in some way or other to fill the American eye and to fill the American ear before you can arouse them to contributions, and when you have a disaster such as that in Italy, which appealed to all, we are most generous.

"I am sure somebody is going to be born, and I hope he is born already, who will give us a large endowment. In our imaginations we might as well make it as large as we need. I think we ought to have an endowment of about $5,000,000."

NICARAGUA NEW YORK STATE SIZE

Population, However, Only 600,000—Trade with U. S. Was $1,300,000 in 1908.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Everybody seems to be asking, in view of present developments, what, exactly, is Nicaragua, how large is it, what are its resources, commerce and climate? Some interesting comparisons and facts, prepared by the International Bureau of American Republics, will help to answer these pertinent natural questions.

There is only four square miles difference between the area of Nicaragua and the State of New York. Take Connecticut out of New England, and Nicaragua would have the best of it. It is approximately half the size of the State of Washington. To be exact, it covers 49,200 square miles, which is larger than Holand, Belgium and Denmark combined. It has a remarkable extent of coast line on two oceans. On the Caribbean, it reaches nearly 500 miles due north and south; on the Pacific, it extends 155 miles. Its greatest width is 275 miles, or approximately the distance from Washington to New York. Its least width is 125 miles, or approximately the distance from Chicago to the Mississippi river.

It has the smallest population of any central American country, but is correspondingly capable of great material development. There are only about 600,000 people within its limits. Of these, five-sixths are upon the western or Pacific side. The eastern or caribbean shore lies low and is drained by many rivers. The only industry of this section is the growing of bananas which were shipped in 1908 to the number of 1,500,000 bunches, valued at 50 cents a bunch. The principal town here is Bluefields, a little south of the center, having 5,000 inhabitants. It is 1,186 miles from New Orleans and 310 miles from Colon. The only other important places on this east coast are Greytown, at the southern point, with 2,000 inhabitants, near the mouth of the San Juan river, which was to have been the course of the isthmian canal if built through Nicaragua, and Cape Gracias a Dios, at the northern point, with only 1,500 people. On the populated Pacific slope the chief cities are Leon, the historic and interesting old capital, with 60,000 inhabitants; Managua, the present capital, with 44,000; Matagalpa with 16,000; Granada, with 12,000; and several other towns of from 5,000 to 10,000. The principal port on the Pacific side is Corinto, near the northern end, with only about 2,500 people. At the southern end is the harbor of San Juan del Sur.

HOW TO GET THERE.

There is one railroad in Nicaragua which starts at Corinto and runs to Managua and thence across to Grenada on Lake Nicaragua, which is the largest inland body of water in all Latin America. If one wishes to go to Nicaragua, he can take steamers on the Atlantic side from New York, New Orleans or Mobile. Going by Pacific he will take steamers from San Francisco or from coast points of other countries. Perhaps the quickest way to reach it to-day is either Mexico by rail and by steamer from Salina Cruz to Corinto, or by steamer from New Orleans direct to Bluefields. The latter journey generally takes about four days. If, however, one lands on the east coast it is practically impossible to go to the west coast on account of the lack of railroads and other facilities. A common way to go to the west coast is via Panama and the Pacific side.

The total value of the foreign trade of Nicaragua in 1908 amounted to $7,500,000, of which exports were $4,500,000, and imports $3,000,000. Nicaragua bought from the United States textiles, clothing, machinery, etc., valued at $1,300,000. She sold to the United States, bananas, coffee, rubber, mahogany, cattle, hides, etc., valued at $1,050,000.

Nicaragua has a president, a cabinet with five ministers or secretaries, 13 departments or States, and five divisions like our Territories. Its national assembly consists of only one chamber which is now in session.

Lying between 10 degrees 45 minutes and 14 degrees 35 minutes north latitude, and between 83 degrees 11 minutes and 8 degrees 40 minutes west longitude, it is located all within the tropics, but it has a considerable variety of climate. Although the east coast is low-lying and very warm, the central and western sections are in parts so mountainous and elevated that the temperature never reaches a high point and the climate can be considered salubrious. The western section, in which the greater part of the population is located, has such a varying latitude, and the country is so broken with lakes and so close to the sea, that it is not by any means as hot as it would appear to be on the map.

BRADSTREET'S WEEKLY REVIEW OF TRADE

Reports to Bradstreet's for the week indicate holiday trade has commenced well, but is better in northern part of the State than elsewhere, due to fall of snow. But little snow is reported in southern section. Cool weather, however, has prevailed and has benefited trade generally. Wholesale dealers in holiday goods report buying on part of merchants was not heavy as considerable was carried over from last season. Confectionery firms note a brisk business. Ability on part of buying public is looked upon as much better than a year ago and it is anticipated the showing will be a good one. Further improvement is noted among manufacturing lines. The situation among granite firms remains unchanged. Comparing business done during November of this year with same month in 1908, shows much improvement and outlook for a further gradual gain is generally commented upon. The fall trade was of fair volume but not heavy, warm weather retarded the disposal of heavyweight goods.

Conservative buying has been the rule, future orders were slow; in this respect conditions resembled those of a year ago; on the other hand there has been a marked improvement among manufacturing interests; a number of plants that were idle and others operating in a limited manner have resumed and are now employed full force. Day and night shifts are employed in knit goods business. Demand upon manufacturers of paper has increased; waxed paper plants in the State also note large volume of business on hand and new business coming in well.

Woolen mills are better employed. Machine manufacturers continue to report an increase in volume of new business; that particular line a year ago was at its low point. Reports from farmers show receipts from sales of produce, poultry, butter, etc., have been large and their position is said to be much better. A fairly good demand from agricultural sections for maple sugar makers' tools, is noted.

Collections continue uneven but a general movement towards improvements is commented upon. The month's failures include two bankruptcies, with large liabilities same being $48,988.20 with assets $21,866.50. Previous month gave one compromise, one involuntary and three voluntary bankruptcies. Liabilities, however, were only a tenth of those of the month just closed. November of 1908, gave on involuntary and three voluntary bankruptcies with liabilities of $15,975 and assets of $14,559.

Reports on fire losses give number affecting mercantile business at eight with total loss of $7,800, while month previous gave nine fires with damage $81,000. November of a year ago gave losses of $20,000 caused by four fires. Domestic corporations chartered during month just closed numbered five with total capitalization of $325,000 as against six of a year ago with aggregate capital of $53,500.

CHILD LABOR IN MILLS

Aldermen Propose to Stop It If It Really Exists.

Mayor Would Shorten the Time Limit for Cleaning Sidewalks after a Fall of Snow—Hackmen Reprimanded by the Board.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of aldermen, an adjourned meeting of the board to take up the matter of charges preferred against Police Commissioner M. C. Powers by Mayor Burke, and a meeting of the board of abatement of taxes, were held Monday evening. At the adjourned meeting it was voted to set a date for the hearing of charges against Mr. Powers at the next regular meeting of the board. This action was taken because many members of the board do not care to leave their places of business during the holiday season. The meeting of the board of abatement of taxes was also adjourned until the January meeting of the board.

Perhaps the most important thing to come up at the regular board meeting was a resolution relating to child labor, introduced by Alderman Cowles and adopted by the board.

The resolution follows:

"City of Burlington, in the year 1909. Resolved by the board of aldermen of the city of Burlington, as follows:

"Whereas, charges from respected sources have come to the attention of this board that children are illegally employed in the mills of this city and

"Whereas, our city charter provides that the mayor shall use his best efforts to see that the laws and the city ordinances are enforced and that the duties of all subordinate officers are faithfully performed, now, therefore, it is

"Resolved, that this matter be and is hereby respectfully called to the attention of the mayor for such action as shall to him seem advisable to the end that such conditions, if they should be found to exist, shall be promptly and effectively remedied."

Alderman Cowles stated that recently at noon he visited the vicinity of the Chace mill near Winooski and saw a group containing four children under the school age leave the mill. He thought that the child labor law was continually violated in the city.

Mayor Burke stated that there were several hundred children under 16 years of age in the city who did not attend school. Some had no clothes to wear and others worked in the mills. He stated that many mothers asked that their children, under the school age, be allowed to work so that they might help support the family and themselves. He stated that conditions were sorrowful, indeed, but that he had no jurisdiction but to enforce the law.

Alderman Cowles also read a letter from the secretary of the National Child Labor committee, in which was stated that the child labor law was being violated in Vermont. The secretary recently visited Burlington and reported that he saw 19 children leave the Chace mill, near Winooski, all apparently under 16. He also saw a lesser number leave the Queen City mill.

SIDEWALKS AND COASTING.

There was also a communication from the mayor relating to the cleaning of sidewalks and the settings aside of certain streets for coasting. The communication was accepted and placed on file. An amendment relating to the cleaning of walks was referred to a committee composed of Aldermen Drew, Coffey and Gosselin and Superintendent of Streets Black and Mayor Burke. There were many objections to the mayor's proposed amendments.

The amendment gives the property owners until noon of the following day to clear away snow which ceased falling during the night, and provides that if the snow storm ceases during the day time, the tenants or property owners shall be notified by the superintendent of streets four hours after the cessation of the storm and given four hours more to clean up the walks. The mayor recommended that the street superintendent be empowered to clean the streets and charge the cost to the property owners without the additional four hours notice, as that would take up almost an entire day and the object of the amendment was to put the walks in good condition as soon as possible. He was also in favor of allowing only until ten o'clock in the forenoon for the cleaning of the walks after a storm the night before.

The mayor recommended that Loomis street, between North Prospect and North Union streets, and Maple street between South Union and Pine streets, be set aside for coasting. The communication in reference to this was accepted and placed on file and a resolution was adopted accordingly.

HACKMEN APPEAR.

Next came three hackmen who had been summoned before the board to show why their licenses should not be revoked. This action as taken in accordance with an amendment to the city ordinance relating to hackmen. The men were Aleck Seymour, Frank Deming and George M. Farrington, Jr.

It appeared that Mr. Seymour had once pleaded guilty to soliciting passengers in the railroad station. It was shown that he was of good character and he was reprimanded and discharged. Mr. Deming, who was convicted of a similar offense, was also reprimanded and discharged. G. M. Farrington, Jr., who was ordered before the board upon recommendation of the police commissioners, received the same treatment as the others. If the men are summoned before the board again to explain violations they will probably lose their licenses.

OFFICER MILES'S BILL.

Policeman Christopher Miles presented a bill for $208 for services as policeman from August 19 to December 1. This bill was referred to a special committee composed of Aldermen O'Neil, Gosselin and McCaffrey and City Attorney Vilas.

Alderman Clark wanted to know if this bill was to be presented to the board at every meeting and if it was a continuous performance.

Alderman Pine wanted to know what was the use of taking action on such bills when the mayor refused to sign them.

The bill was referred to this special committee, on recommendation of Alderman Cowles.

A communication was received from Elizabeth A. Howard, widow of the late Gen. O. O. Howard, thanking the board for the resolutions taken at the time of the death of her husband and for the gift of the burial lot in Lake View cemetery. The communication was accepted and placed on file.

REPORTS AND PETITIONS.

A petition was read asking for a street light on North avenue to be situated between the brow of the hill opposite Lake View cemetery and the Institute road. The petition was referred to the street commissioners, with power to act.

A report from the street commissioners was read in connection with the petition of the New England Telephone & Telegraph company asking permission to erect three poles on Blodgett street. The report recommended that the petition be grantd and it was done.

A petition from the New England Telephone & Telegraph company asking for permission to erect five poles on streets near and about Battery park was referred to the street commissioners and City Attorney Vilas to report upon.

In connection with this petition the mayor stated that an arrangement ought to be made whereby the city might receive its telephone service free in exchange for the street privileges granted the company.

Alderman Cowles made a motion, which was adopted, that the whole matter of the present standing of the telephone company and the city be investigated by the city attorney and that his report be submitted at the same time as the report concerning the erection of the five poles.

A report from the city attorney was read on the claim of William Riley of Hyde street for damages of $1,000 done by the street sewer. The report stated that the city was not legally liable for such damages. The matter was referred to the city engineer to report upon.

A report from the city attorney was read relative to the claim of Rose Asselin for damages of $250 to eight shade trees by gas. This report also stated that there was no cause for action on the part of the city.

A report from the city attorney was also read relative to a bill presented by City Constable Florence for the abatement of 546 poll taxes at ten cents each. The report stated that the constable was entitled to a reasonable sum for his labors and it was voted that the mayor's warrant be drawn for the full amount.

The ordinance relating to the prevention of the smoke and cinder nuisance was passed. The ordinance relating to plumbing was passed, under suspension of regular rules.

A petition for an electric light on Pine street at the foot of Marble avenue was referred to the electric light commissioners, with power to act.

BILLS PAID.

The following department bills were ordered paid: Water department, $2,735.61; electric light department, $5,821.[illegible]; police department, pay roll, $1,491.70; expenses, $154.17; fire department, pay roll, $[illegible]; expenses, $329.62; park department, pay roll, $116.61, expenses, $465.15; library, $346.46; street light, $1,362; pauper department, $1,472.04.

It will be noticed that the expenses of the pauper department are unusually large. A bill of $300 was ordered paid to R. E. Brown for legal services in connection with the purchase of the city wharf.