

Significant Things in Events of the Day

Banks' Charges Are Blood-Curdling-- Like Darkest Russia

Frankfort Ky., Oct. 6.—Nearly one-seventh of the 7,615 national banks of the United States receive an average rate of 10 per cent per annum, or more, on loans. This statement was made today by John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency, in a speech to the Kentucky Bankers' association. Some banks charge 40 to 60 per cent and one case was reported where a bank loaned a washerwoman \$3.50 for six days and charged her one dollar, a rate of 2,400 per cent per annum.

"Disreputable Extortion."

A majority of the national banks "are now conducting their business on a high and honorable plane, and are charging fair and reasonable rates on loans," Mr. Williams said, but the bankers that charge excessive rates "know, and you and I know, that such rates are disreputable and without excuse, whatever the security for the loans may be. The bank that lends at such rates is destroying its constituency and is at the same time committing slow but sure suicide. Some reports from the South and West, the Northwest and the Southwest, especially in the wheat and cotton sections of the Southwest, are blood-curdling. They are like stories from darkest Russia, of the oppressions inflicted upon the peasantry. The reports received at the comptroller's office show indisputably that in some states and sections, borrowers and especially small borrowers, have been and are being subjected to extortions and exactions which the average man would consider impossible in this enlightened age."

Where the Offending Banks Are.

The list of banks that get rates averaging more than 10 per cent are:

Texas	315
Oklahoma	300
North Dakota	90
Montana	38
Colorado	37
Idaho	33
South Dakota	25
New Mexico	25
Georgia	23
Alabama	21
Nebraska	18
Arkansas	17
Wyoming	14
California	13
Washington	12
Oregon	10
Minnesota	6
Florida	6
Kansas	5
Tennessee	3
Louisiana	2
Illinois	2
Utah	2
Nevada	1

Small Borrowers Hit Hard.

In one Southwestern state, said Mr. Williams, 131 banks reported they charged a maximum rate of interest of from 15 to 24 per cent; sixty-seven banks a maximum between 25 and 60 per cent, twenty-two banks 100 per cent, eighteen between 100 and 200 per cent and eight between 200 and 2,000 per cent.

"Most of these disgraceful rates," said the comptroller, "were for comparatively small loans." The legal rate in the state was 6 per cent and the maximum authorized by special contract, 10 per cent.

Working our backs may raise wheat but it won't get a raise out of the fellows who are getting our wheat.

The fight for our markets is on. This is one war in which no intelligent man will remain neutral.

McAdoo Juggles With Treasury Figures-- Something from Nothing

(By Angus McSween)

Washington, Oct. 20.—Juggling the treasury statement so as to show a fictitious net cash balance in the treasury, Secretary McAdoo's latest achievement, has caused widespread astonishment.

Deceiving the public is a practice resorted to by politicians, but generally the deception is effected in such a manner that it is difficult to prove that the politicians' assertions are untrue. In this instance the attempted deception is so palpable and the attempt so brazen that reliance is placed obviously upon the inability of the public to understand what is being done, or the scheme would not have been resorted to.

By a mere change in the form of the treasury statement just issued the net cash balance in the treasury has been increased by \$85,000,000 although not one additional dollar has been placed in the treasury.

This has been accomplished by removing from the liabilities of the treasury the balances of the disbursing officers and adding these balances to the net cash balance.

Did not Have Courage.

In removing the balances from the liability column, however, Secretary McAdoo did not have the courage to place them in the assets column. Yet the net cash balance in the treasury is a real asset and, therefore, if these disbursing officers' balances are to be included in the net cash balance, they are also presented as assets of the treasury, the balance being the difference between treasury assets and treasury liabilities.

Liabilities of the treasury are created by appropriations made by congress. All expenditures by the government, are made by disbursing officers whether in the payment of bills on account of government contracts or the salaries of many thousands of government employees.

The disbursing officers make statements of the immediate bills that must be settled, and the money is placed to their credit against which they draw their checks. The secretary of treasury himself signs the document which places the money at the disposal of the disbursing officers for immediate expenditure.

Once these documents are signed, the money is as far removed from the control of the treasury as if it had been taken by the secretary from the vaults and handed over to the disbursing officers. In the treasury department these accounts are carried as balances of the disbursing officers. But they are balances of the disbursing officers because the disbursing officers need the money for immediate necessities.

Removed Liabilities

In the accounts of the disbursing officers every dollar placed to their credit is matched by a debt of the government, which these officers are called upon to pay. These debts of the government do not show in the accounts of the treasury department, and therefore the amounts placed to the credit of the disbursing officers have always heretofore been carried as liabilities of the treasury because they represent liabilities which the government is to meet through its disbursing officers.

The manufacturer figures interest on every dollar he has invested and even capitalizes his "good will." Then he charges a good, big additional profit and pays himself a fine salary for supervision. Try doing this with your farm plant. This is the only way to find out how prosperous you are.

Scott's Mission to Mexico in Interest of Certain Interests

Washington, Oct. 20.—How the government protects some of the American interests in Mexico from lawless depredations, while less influential interests are left to shift for themselves, is the burden of the most recent disclosures of conditions south of the Rio Grande.

It transpires that the real object of the trip of General Hugh M. Scott chief of staff of the army, made to Mexico in August, was to prevail upon Villa to cease alleged persecutions of the rich mining companies in Chihuahua, in which American capitalists are heavily interested. Villa was preparing to exact tribute from the companies, and his soldiers were committing all sorts of depredations on the properties.

General Scott, who is a personal friend of Villa, concluded a treaty of peace between the northern general and the mining companies. His work was so satisfactory to the American interests that he received a message of thanks from the United Mining and Smelting Association.

Policy of Suppression

As a result of the policy of suppression and censorship the origin of the influence that procured administration aid for the big mining companies is enveloped in mystery. The holder of one large American investment in Mexico, who is known as a republican party leader, says he has been unable to induce the administration to protect his property from the Villa raids. The Wilson order to all Americans to leave Mexico compelled thousands of small owners to abandon their properties to the bandit looters.

Immediately after General Scott obtained immunity for the mine owners the administration permitted Villa to resume shipments of dressed meat into the United States, whereupon he reopened his Jaurez packing plant. Villa ships the carcasses to Kansas City at a profit of \$10,000 a day. The products of this plant were barred from this country last May by the department of agriculture because of insanitary conditions of slaughtering. This is General Scott's version of the affair:

"I was sent to the border by the state department to confer with General Villa over the mining conditions in Chihuahua. The mine owners were having difficulties with Villa's troops, and I was sent there to straighten these matters out. I think that I was successful.

Lansing Telegraphs

"I made no trade with him to reopen the Jaurez packing plant. Before I left Washington I was given a marked copy of the United States regulations for killing cattle and I was asked to give it to Villa. When I arrived in El Paso I received a telegram from Secretary Lansing saying that if Villa would issue a decree in accordance with those regulations an arrangement had been made with Secretary Houston whereby the meat from the plant could be imported into the United States.

"I communicated this fact to Villa and I understood that his decree was issued, and that a former United States meat inspector was placed in charge of the plant."

The products of Villa's packing plant are now being shipped into the United States. It is charged that many of the cattle slaughtered are first stolen from ranches in the United States by Villa raiders.

Manifestly, the shipment of meat from Mexico at a time when the Mexican people are starving has its peculiar aspects.

Ten Cents a Vote Was the Market Price in This Election

Indianapolis, Ind.—One of the surprising disclosures at the trial of Mayor Bell is the cheap price of the votes. Men were bribed to vote for ten cents apiece, and even for a drink of whisky.

"Big Chief" O'Leary, an ironworker and political friend of Mayor Bell is one of the men indicted. He has turned state's evidence and testified that he was given a \$10 bill and told to go "after them." He did go after them and got eight men to vote for one drink apiece, three men voted for one supper each, and a cheap meal at that.

Persons who believe that it takes big sums of money to corrupt an election ought to read the testimony of "Big Chief" O'Leary.

He said he worked for the Democratic party in the election. He was sent to a voting place and when he got there four or five men came out of the alley and asked him:

"Are you putting out anything?"
"I told them," testified O'Leary, "that I would give them the price of a drink if they would go in and vote under instructions. Then I went to the polls and said to the clerk that five men would vote under instructions."

"Did you see a man named Callihan there?"

"Yes I saw him there."
"What did the five men do?"
"They went in and voted."
"What was then done?"
"The clerk said 'O. K.'"

"What did you then do?"
"I gave each of them ten cents for a drink."

"What did you then do?"
"Three more men came out of the alley and I voted them."

"What was done then?"
"The clerk looked out of the window and said 'O. K.' Then I gave each of these men ten cents."

CHINESE EGGS FOR BRITAIN.

Hankow, China, Oct. 11.—Prices of eggs, chickens and other poultry are so low in the Yan-tse-Kiang valley that an English company has developed a large business in shipping such produce to Great Britain.

Practically every Chinese family in the remote country districts, as well as in the towns and cities, keep chickens. The price of eggs in the villages accessible to river transportation is about 3 cents gold a dozen. Spring chickens sell for about 6 cents gold each. In remote interior points, where copper coins still are largely in use, the prices are much lower.

PORTLAND HAS DOLLAR WHEAT.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 11.—For the second time this season dollar wheat became a reality in the Pacific Northwest recently. The advance was made in the face of the most determined opposition of both the domestic and foreign trade. Several options of large sized lots of what were taken by Easterners, as well as by export interests on the basis of \$1 a bushel, Portland delivery.

NEW RECORD FOR OATS.

Oats this year will exceed the record crop of 1912 by almost 100,000,000 bushels. Barley will exceed its record by 13,000,000 bushels; sweet potatoes by 5,000,000 bushels; rice by 500,000 bushels, and hay by 8,000,000 tons.

The Leader fight for the markets.