

RURAL CREDITS LEGISLATION WILL HELP THE NATION Primary Purpose Is to Strengthen Country's Agricultural Position BETTER MARKETS FOLLOW

By ALBERT N. HOGG Assistant Cashier, Corn Exchange National Bank. The primary purpose of rural credits legislation is to increase the agricultural strength of the nation by decreasing farm tenancy. During the decade 1906 to 1915, tenancy increased at the rate of 16 per cent.—1,112 farms of 81,800 acres had been abandoned, and the abandonment had been preceded by tenancy. The country is waking up to the fact that this is an unhealthy national condition.

In 1912 the platforms of the three great political parties contained rural credit planks. Already more than 100 rural credit bills have been proposed in Congress; through most, if not all of these, rural credit features of Government aid and class legislation.

The last bill, now in the hands of the Banking and Currency Committee of both houses, is intended to take the place of all preceding bills. It provides for the creation of a farm loan board of five members to be appointed by the President; the establishment of 12 regional banks, each with a capital stock of \$250,000, and each to be allowed to issue farm loan bonds to the amount of 20 times their capital.

It is planned to have the deserving borrower who cannot obtain the facilities of the local cooperative system must necessarily be based on local cooperative associations. This feature of the proposed bill is in entire accord with successful methods used abroad.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OBJECTION The chief objection to this measure will arise over the Government control and Government aid features. President Wilson himself has said that the former should expect no special privileges, extending to him the credit of the Government.

New York State has established a land bank, and a large New York trust company has purchased \$50,000 of the first series of the bonds issued by the bank at 4 1/2 per cent. interest. The law creating the bank contemplates the co-ordination of the savings and loan associations of the State with local cooperative associations. But the State advances no aid to the former nor is it controlled, as the Federal measure provides, by the Government board and political appointments.

As much as the New York land bank has been criticised it has some strong features. For instance, the individual borrower must have 25 to 30 per cent of the purchase price of the property, while 10 to 20 per cent must be provided by the local savings and loan association, so that not over 60 per cent of the purchase price will be provided by the issue of bonds.

Helping the farmer contemplates also adequate facilities for personal credit; a credit for current farm needs. More than 25,000 banks are doing this each year, and were the farm mortgage property taken care of by land banks, State or national, it would mean that the present banking system, with the Federal reserve facilities for redigging of current farm paper, should in a great measure take care of current farm needs. With the establishment of local cooperative associations, the legitimate farming demands should be fully covered in the particular locality.

STATES FEELING WAY. Better marketing conditions naturally to hand, it is with any movement of this kind, but this is more of a local question. The organization of farm units will lead to development along these lines. As a matter of fact, many communities have been organized from time to time to improve marketing conditions, and the results have fully justified this method of dealing with the problem.

The States of the country which have never seen any value in the establishment of a United States mercantile marine are how the most ardent champions of measures promising Government aid to the farmer.

STEEL MARKET STRONGER Foreign Inquiries Large—Early Shipment of Wire Desired PITTSBURGH, Jan. 13.—The general tone of the steel market is stronger than at the beginning of the year with foreign inquiries heavy. Inquiries from France and from England for barbed wire now amount to 140,000 tons, while even a larger tonnage is being negotiated for in rounds for shells.

The barbed wire is desired for early shipment, but it is regarded as likely that mills will be unable to oblige in this particular as several months ago requirements covered the period up to the middle of the present year. A large premium is paid for prompt delivery of some commodities. A carload of plates was sold this week for \$1 per 100 pounds, the highest price for this movement.

Dividends Declared Diamond Match Company, regular quarterly dividend (payable March 15 to holders of record February 1, 1916) 2 per cent.

Export Kerosene Advanced NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Standard Oil Company of New York has advanced the price of kerosene for export 4 cent per gallon, all grades.

LESS COTTONSEED CRUSHED Amount to January 1 Was 2,628,610 Tons WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Cottonseed crushed to January 1 totaled 2,628,610 tons, against 2,528,176 tons January 1, 1915, a census report showed today. Linters obtained to January 1 totaled 322,552 bushels, against 462,074 bushels January 1 last year.

RATES FOR MONEY New York Call 1 1/2% 15/16% 1/2% 1/4% 1/8% 1/16% 1/32% 1/64% 1/128% 1/256% 1/512% 1/1024% 1/2048% 1/4096% 1/8192% 1/16384%

RAILROAD EARNINGS GRAND TRUNK SYSTEMS Increase 1915 1914 1913 First week January 2863.732 2820.732 2820.732 From July 1 28,210,236 28,210,236 28,210,236

BAR SILVER LONDON, Jan. 13.—The price of commercial bar silver today was 27 pence.

NEW ENGLISH LOAN RUMORED Bank of England Refuses to Split French Loan Certificates LONDON, Jan. 13.—Rumors that a new loan is imminent persisted in the city today, notwithstanding the fact that income tax collections are abnormally rapid.

BANK CLEARINGS Bank clearings today compared with corresponding day last two years: 1915 1914 1913 Philadelphia \$10,000,000 \$10,000,000 \$10,000,000 Boston \$10,000,000 \$10,000,000 \$10,000,000

PHILADELPHIA, First Month 1st, 1916. BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY FOR 1915 Premiums and Annuities received during the year \$11,527,399.79 Interest on Life Insurance Fund, less amount applied to reduce book values, etc. 3,694,338.42

THE PROVIDENT Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia FOURTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS The Company publishes the following Statement of its Assets and Liabilities at this date:—

Table with columns ASSETS and LIABILITIES. Assets include Insurance Department, Bonds and Mortgages, Real Estate, Loans on Collateral Security, etc. Liabilities include Insurance Department, Death Claims unpaid, Dividends unpaid, etc.

INSURANCE BONDS Par Value Dollars Market Value at this Date. 149,000 Cleveland Terminal & Valley R. R. Co. 1st Mtge. Gold (Gtd. by Cleveland & Ohio R. R. Co.) 4 1/2, 1915 125,160.00

MISCELLANEOUS BONDS 200,000 Connecticut Rwy. & Lighting Co. 1st & 2nd Rfd. 50-yr. Stamped Gold, 4 1/2, 1911 (Int. Gtd. by the United Gas Impt. Co.) 192,000.00

STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL BONDS 375,000 United States of Mexico, Gold, 4%, 1904 223,800.00 150,000 County of Allegheny, Pa., County Road, Series 4, 4 1/2, 1934 148,300.00

RAILROAD BONDS (Including Street Railway) 25,000 Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Rwy. Co. Consol. Mtge. Gold, 4 1/2, 1923 (Gtd. by The American Rwy. Co.) 20,625.00

STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL BONDS 100,000 City of Chicago, 4%, 1917-1918 100,000.00 100,000 City of Chicago, 4 1/2, 1918 100,000.00

RAILROAD BONDS (Including Street Railway) 4,000 Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co. 1st Consol. Mtge. Gold, 4%, 1923 3,750.00 81,000 Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co. 1st Consol. Mtge. Gold, 4%, 1923 75,750.00

MISCELLANEOUS BONDS 200,000 Connecticut Rwy. & Lighting Co. 1st & 2nd Rfd. 50-yr. Stamped Gold, 4 1/2, 1911 (Int. Gtd. by the United Gas Impt. Co.) 192,000.00

STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL BONDS 100,000 City of Chicago, 4%, 1917-1918 100,000.00 100,000 City of Chicago, 4 1/2, 1918 100,000.00

RAILROAD BONDS (Including Street Railway) 4,000 Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co. 1st Consol. Mtge. Gold, 4%, 1923 3,750.00 81,000 Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co. 1st Consol. Mtge. Gold, 4%, 1923 75,750.00

HEVERLE AND HAY PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS 1034 Real Estate Trust Bldg.

Charles J. Bender & Co. INVESTMENT BONDS Members Philadelphia Stock Exchange 421 CHESTNUT STREET

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND. AJAX RUBBER COMPANY, Inc. 1790-1798 Broadway, New York, January 10th, 1916.

ELECTION NOTICE THE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA January 11th, 1916.

THE SIXTH NATIONAL BANK Philadelphia, January 14th, 1916.

WILLIAM SALTER, Cashier. The Board of Directors held this day, and the following Officers were unanimously re-elected.

BONDS AND STOCKS APART FROM INSURANCE

Table with columns Par Value and Market Value at this Date. 90,000 Columbus Connecting & Terminal R. R. 1st Mtge. 8%, 1922 80,150.00

Table with columns Par Value and Market Value at this Date. 100,000 Southern Rwy. Co. 1st Mtge. 5%, 1919 100,000.00

Table with columns Par Value and Market Value at this Date. 42,000 Continental Coal Co. 1st Mtge. Gold, 5%, 1923 (Gtd. by the Toledo & Ohio Central Rwy. Co. and The Hocking Valley Rwy. Co.) 41,800.00