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BANKS POOL INTERESTS.

The announcement that the First National Bank and the Lake County Savings &amp; Trust Co., two of Hammond's oldest and strongest financial institutions, had pooled interests for an equalization of ownership, allowing the stockholders in each bank to become pro rata shareholders in both, was an item of immense importance to Hammond's business, financial and manufacturing circles. The pooled resources foot up the huge total of seven million dollars. The First National of Hammond was the first bank in the county to talk in millions and the new combination also leads in county banking figures. The progress made by both banks in the past few years has been phenomenal, as indicated by the financial strength of the new combination. The success of both banks has been due to the assiduous care devoted to the interests of the small depositor and investor and it is a service efficiency record to which both institutions can point with pride. The officials of both banks have been receiving congratulations of patrons and friends ever since the announcement was made public. The financial union means much to the future of Hammond and it will be as well one of the county's banking bulwarks.

DEPORT MARTENS WITHOUT DELAY.

There should be no turning point in the road which lies straight ahead for Ludwig Martens. That road is pointed toward deportation and the action should be speedy. The investigation being conducted by the subcommittee of the senate foreign relations committee shows Martens to be a German revolutionist and an agent of Lenin and Trotsky. That he has directed secret moves with the object of destroying the American government and establishing the same system now prevailing in Russia has been proved by these investigations. He has been caught in dozens of lies in which he attempts to keep in the good graces of the Lenin-Trotsky crowd and at the same time try to show that he is not advocating violence. The fact that the committee had in its possession secret papers unknown to Martens destroyed all his attempts to cover up the true facts in the case.

Martens, when compelled to show his true colors, done by the marines.

THE TURKS want the stories of their atrocities instigated by Americans. We are in favor of having it

admitted that he advocates violence if necessary to destroy this government. He is a dangerous man. He is in the true sense of the word an enemy alien. Deportation seems to be one of the only two weapons with which to fight him and it should be used without delay. The deportation should lead to Germany. If this is not done the man should at least be interned and placed where he can no longer carry on his poisonous work. There is no use trying to discredit the fact that Bolshevik propaganda is abroad in the land. New York is a hotbed of its vile teachings. The sooner every advocate of the soviet rule is wiped from the shores of America the sooner will America be able to get back to its pre-war basis.

## PERMITS TO MARRY.

The Federal Reserve bank of Chicago is credited with a new rule notifying employees that none earning less than \$125 a month will be permitted to marry without first taking the matter up with the chief clerk.

The vice-governor of the bank is quoted as saying the rule is imperative and that this is the lowest sum upon which two can exist in Chicago at present prices.

The institution is perhaps less moved by a paternal anxiety to save the financially ineligible from matrimonial for their own sake than from consideration that trying to live beyond one's means has always been regarded as a fiduciary task.

Although it may be doing the governor and his associates an injustice to assume this, for does not the rule say that before embarking on the enterprise the daring youth is told to talk it over with the chief clerk.

Who knows but that the chief clerk may have secret instructions to give the deserving the necessary raise to put them in the matrimonial class? For matrimony is credited with being a steady influence and anything that stabilizes those in positions of trust would be desirable.

Yet a doubt again arises whether a young couple trying to live up to a position in a Federal Reserve bank in Chicago on \$125 a month might be anything but stabilized after a few months' trial.

On the other hand, if it was learned that bachelors might get a raise by marrying, the rule might soon have nobody to warn. Besides love laughs not only at locksmiths but at permits.

## THE "SADNESS" OF BERNSTORFF.

Not since Bertha Krupp's appeal to the world in the name of humanity for the "little children" of Germany have we been so touched as by the sights of that other tender-hearted Teuton, Count Bernstorff, over the signs he sees of a continuing age of intrigue and cruelty. Just as during the war all the Prussian militarists could get the humane Bertha to do was to manufacture the long-range guns to murder worshippers in the churches and shatter hospitals filled with the wounded, so all that the mild-natured and ethical Bernstorff could be persuaded to do was to try to stab a friendly nation in the back and defend drowning of women and children without warning. Not one step would he go beyond that. This is what gives especial value to his walls now that holding the Germans to the dictated terms of peace suggests a cruel disposition on the part of the victors.

Coming from any other German but Bernstorff these years might attract but little attention. Knowing him as they do, however, as so soft-hearted that he could approve nothing worse on the part of his countrymen than the bombing of civilians and dragging of young girls into slavery, Americans naturally are "impressed." So impressed are they that if they should meet up with him they would be sorely tempted to tell it to him with a brick.

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