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Files and Library at Kansas City

Theoretically, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City has a central filing system. Mr. Tow had been firm about this and so has Mr. Leedy. However, Mr. Leedy, being a lawyer, does like to keep in his own office files which have a legal content.

The file clerk in charge is Mrs. Eunice Skinner, a woman of intelligence and conscience who is going to retire next year. She is at the present time trying to get her files in shape so that a successor can take over without too much loss of time.

She says that she is under constant pressure of space, and the effort of younger officers to get rid of old material which they consider no longer important. This includes material of real historic interest. The cashier is John Boysen whom I did not see, and he is in charge of the file department. I have no doubt that he is partly responsible for this pressure, but it does not all come ^{from} ~~to~~ him.

In 1954 all the fiscal agency records in the bank from 1925 to 1952 inclusive were transferred to a government record center in accordance with orders from the Treasury.

The general correspondence file, which is the chief effort of central filing here as in other banks, is transferred yearly from the 5th to the 20th floor. Five years of records are kept on the 5th floor. Presumably the 20th floor should have everything that there is, although there was talk of a warehouse outside the building where things were stored.

As reported in another memorandum on this bank, there was an effort to find out about the progressive discount rate and what Kansas City and Mr. Miller had done about it. In that attempt which acted as kind of a spot check on the records, nothing was found earlier than 1920. Mrs. Skinner disclaimed any responsibility for this and said that she herself had not been there and did not know what has become of the earlier records.

If the 1914 records are missing, this is, of course, a serious loss, that is the 1914 to 1920 records. Whether this would prove to be so in other subjects one does not know, but I think that a letter to perhaps Mr. Koppang on this subject might have some effect.

As far as the library is concerned, that is under the Research Division and is a modern, well-lighted set-up with an intelligent young woman in charge, Miss Mary MacDonald, who unfortunately was not in Kansas City when I was there. Miss MacDonald's assistant got out various materials for me which were interesting but by no means complete.

As in any one of the banks, it is a combination of files and library that one must reach for, and, as in most of the banks, one is in better shape than the other. Here it seems to be the library, although the files are by and large in pretty good condition.

We have sent Miss Mary Jane MacDonald the questionnaire to be filled out. Some of the material was given me when I was there, but it was by no means complete. Speed has been asked for its return.

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