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PRESS CONVENTION IS FREE AND SANE AT HIGH POINT

Adopts Resolutions for Continuing State Highway Program—To Meet at Blowing Rock For Summer Session.

(By J. A. Parham in Charlotte Observer)

After unanimously adopting a set of resolutions placing itself on record as favoring a continued program of progress for the state, the North Carolina Press association adjourned its mid-winter convention here at 5 o'clock this afternoon to meet next, in its annual summer convention, at Mayview Manor, Blowing Rock, the exact date to be fixed by the executive committee, after consulting with Walter Alexander, who will be the host at the summer meeting.

For State Progress

Resolutions adopted endorse the proposed issue of fifteen millions of dollars in state bonds for highway, in addition to the fifty million already authorized, in order to round out the state highway construction program; express appreciation of the value of a ship line plying between North Carolina ports and the markets of the north Atlantic seaboard, without specific endorsement or mention of the definite plan set forth in Governor Morrison's message to the legislature, and likewise recognize the importance of a direct outlet and rail connections for the west, promising to "give our earnest consideration to the idea of constructing a line of railroad through our western mountains which will connect with the systems of the west and open the 'lost provinces'."

Another resolution recognizes what is termed a growing luxury in respect for law and pledging members to consecrated efforts to stimulate greater respect for the laws and the land and urge firm and impartial administration of the laws. Still another resolution pledges the members of the association to efforts for the further material development of the state and general program of progress, also pledging the press to a program to further diminish illiteracy in the state.

AFTER MORE READERS

At the morning session the convention adopted a plan of campaign for increasing the number of newspaper readers in the state. The extension service of the University of North Carolina is to prepare copy for display advertisements, and as prepared by Charles A. Webb, The Asheville Citizen will prepare matrices for daily papers and the Western Newspaper Union will furnish plates for the weekly papers, all to be published in a campaign of education of the people to the value of reading the newspapers.

Expressing sympathy and condolence for the family of the late Col. J. Bryan Grimes, secretary of state, a message was telegraphed to Raleigh today under instruction of the association which took this action upon motion of J. A. Livingstone, of Raleigh.

The vote to accept the invitation of Walter Alexander to meet in his new hotel at Blowing Rock for the summer convention was unanimous and followed brief discussion of the question. Mr. Alexander was present and renewed and reinforced his invitation extended last summer. Lenoir and Hickory already were lined up ready to co-operate with Blowing Rock in entertaining the publishers and editors at their towns on their way to the mountain resort and helping in conveying them to the "Rock." Mr. Alexander said that he had ample accommodations for from 400 to 500 persons, if they would meet there ahead of the summer rush. It is probable that the convention will be held comparatively early in June.

Resolutions Adopted

While the association did not specifically endorse the plan of Governor Morrison for a state-owned ship line, with a commission and \$2,000,000 to buy ships and terminal facilities, it did endorse the proposal in principle. It resolved "that we appreciate the value of a ship line plying between our ports and the markets of the north Atlantic seaboard and that we give careful consideration to any proposals looking to the establishment of such lines of transportation."

Likewise while the association did not endorse any specific route for a new railroad into or through the northwestern counties, it resolved "that we recognize the importance of a direct outlet and rail connections for the west and that we give our earnest consideration to the idea of construction a line of railroad through our western mountains which will connect with the great systems of the west and open the 'lost provinces.'"

"Be it resolved that we recognize the great value of our good roads and the importance of completing the forward program now under

MOTHERS AID BILL TO BE PROPOSED

Would Provide Aid For Mothers Who Are Unable Financially To Care For Their Children.

Raleigh, Jan. 12.—A bill to provide aid for mothers who are mentally, morally and physically able to care for their children, but who are financially unable to do so will be proposed to the general assembly by various civic and fraternal organizations in the state including the North Carolina legislative council of women with the approval of the state board of charities and public welfare, it was announced here today. Such aid will mean the annual expenditure of \$1,000,000 by the state and several counties. It is planned that the state appropriate \$500,000 a year from which appropriations made by counties which take advantage of the bill will be matched dollar for dollar. It will be permissive with the several counties whether use in made of such provision.

There are now approximately 3,000 in the state who are in need of the benefits of such legislation and for whom there is no room in the orphanages of the state, declared Mrs. Kate Barr Johnson, commissioner of public welfare. The whole idea of mother's aid law is that the home is the most satisfactory place for the rearing of the child and that mother and child should not be separated for reasons of poverty only, it was explained. It is generally admitted, the commissioner stated, that institutional life, however good, can never be as advantageous for the development of the child as normal home life.

No new machinery will be required for the administration of mother's aid in North Carolina, according to the commissioner, as the funds would be administered by the state board of charities and public welfare officers acting under their respective boards of the county commissioners. Recommendations for benefit under this law would be made by judge of the juvenile court and the county board of public welfare subject to the approval of the state board of charities and public welfare after investigation.

MR. G. A. BRYAN RETURNED TO HOSPITAL AT MORGANTON

Mr. George A. Bryan, of Boone, who for some weeks has been very unwell, in fact unable to leave his room, was returned to the Western Hospital at Morganton last Saturday for treatment. Deputy Sheriff Hayes and Dick Hodges accompanying him. This is the third if not the fourth time George has been a patient there, each time for the same cause, bad mental derangement. It is hoped, still that he, naturally one of our brightest business men, will again recover from the cause that has darkened his brilliant mind. He has always returned well, but just as often he has gone back into the old ruts that have caused all his mental troubles. Bad, too bad, for any one with his natural ability to be in this condition.

WANT STATE LIQUOR LAWS TO CONFORM TO DRY ACT

Legislation proposing to make the state liquor laws conform to the Volstead act was approved by the trustees of the North Carolina Anti-Saloon league in session Monday preliminary to the law enforcement convention of the temperance forces of the state. The bill, drawn by a special committee, will be presented to the convention when it meets.

MUST KIDNAP THE THUG TO GET HIM

Greensboro Officer Fail To Get Alleged Yeggman From New York State.

Greensboro.—New York police officers told a couple of Greensboro officials, just back from Gotham, that if they wanted to get Louis Flood, said to be fourth member of a gang of yeggmen, they would have to kidnap him.

The two men returned to Greensboro Monday empty handed. Gangs of all sorts are so well organized and have such financial backing that they were told by an attorney they engaged in New York to help them get Flood, that it is practically impossible to carry a criminal wanted in another state out of New York. The New Yorkers told of the kidnaping of an alleged murderer wanted in Baltimore in New York, but the two Greensboro did not care to take the chance of going to jail themselves.

However they have three men here members of the alleged gang, arrested three weeks ago by them, on the one hand, police here say, of attempt at big burglaries and safe cracking here and in this section. The New York police told the Greensboro men that two of the men, Joe Bruno and Jack Matherson, are well and unfavorably known by them. The other, Harry Mullins, lives here. They will be tried here.

"way," said the highway bonds resolution adopted, "and that we hereby endorse the issuance of bonds for 15 millions of dollars in addition to that already authorized for the purpose of carrying on the road plans." The meeting was pronounced one of the best mid-winter meetings yet held and the attendance was up to standard, about 100 members and wives of members of the association being present.

N. C. PROH. AGENTS MAKE FINE RECORD

State Prohibition Agent, Kobass, Reports Fine Work For Year 1922—Many Still and Much Liquor Destroyed.

Public sentiment in North Carolina, especially in the western part of the state, is overwhelmingly in favor of enforcing the prohibition laws, R. A. Kobass, state prohibition director, declared tonight in making public a report on the activities of his department last year, which showed 132 automobiles, valued at \$43,382 had been seized; 1,025,745 gallons of malt liquors destroyed; \$100,849 in fines and \$17,648 in assessments by the collector of internal revenues had been collected, and 1,918 persons prosecuted.

The report showed 326 persons had been given jail sentences and \$25 fined. Assessments amounted to \$361,579.68 and the total appraised value of property destroyed \$390,206.55. The total appraised value of the property not destroyed was placed at \$45,788.10.

In a letter to Federal Prohibition Commissioner E. A. Haynes, Washington, D. C., Director Kobass called attention to the large number of convictions in the federal courts of the state and asserted the total of 1,951 did not include the cases tried by the state courts. When the report from the federal court at Wilmington and Raleigh received, he continued, the total number of convictions is expected to reach 3,200.

"You will note that our men have destroyed approximately 1,100,000 gallons of mash, beer and pomace. The quantity utilized for making 'moonshine' in this section of the country where a great deal of sugar is used in the mixture and the liquor produced from same is known as 'Sugar Head Moonshine,' would have produced approximately 150,000 gallons of whisky, basing the figures on information acquired by me from those who are familiar with the distillation and who have estimated a great deal above that figure. In addition to this you will note we have destroyed in real made whiskey 13,011 gallons.

While there is a great deal of moonshine liquor being made in the state, yet, from my observations and information gathered through out the state, has led me to believe that the traffic in whiskey has been greatly reduced and that many cases of drunkenness occasionally visible in the state are caused by the promiscuous selling of denatured alcohol by garages, paint shops, and occasionally drug stores, where act 17, national prohibition law, and act 7 regulation 60 and article 108, regulation 61 are violated.

"I am endeavoring to procure the names of all automobile dealers in the state to whom I intend to issue a circular letter calling attention that dealers who are selling this denatured alcohol are required to label same as poison, and refrain from selling to anyone except when alcohol is to be utilized for automobile purposes. I wish to say, however, in behalf of drug stores that they are very strict in the distribution of denatured alcohol, but find that the garages are the places where the laws are violated, while perhaps unintentionally on the part of many of them, yet often people purchase the stuff from them in pint and quart quantities and put it in the pockets and carry it away to be consumed for beverage purposes.

"I beg to suggest that some provision be made requiring garages not to sell any of this alcohol only when same is placed in radiators of automobiles. I also find that some garages have notices in their windows, 'Alcohol for Sale' so much per gallon, failing to specify the kind of alcohol that they are selling. Such signs attract the attention to those who are looking for intoxicating beverages.

"I am glad to state that public sentiment in this state, especially in the western part of the state, is overwhelmingly in favor of enforcing the prohibition law. I base my assertion upon observing the attitude of jurors throughout the state in the state and federal courts, where invariable, if there is reasonable and sufficient evidence against the violator of the prohibition law, the jury brings in a verdict of 'Guilty.'"

"Taking conditions as a whole I think we should be gratified at the results produced during the year 1922. I wish to say in behalf of the officers connected with this organization that they have displayed a great deal of ability, energy and alertness in coping with the situation, and this combined with the hearty co-operation from your department and your personal inspiration and those of the department of justice of the state, and some of the state and county officers, have made it possible for me to submit to you this splendid report," he said.

MAY LOCATE IN BOONE SOON

Mr. T. M. Greer, formerly of Watauga, now of Bloomfield, Nebraska, in sending check to Democrat says, "Your present paper is surely an improvement. We are always so glad to get it. It is a great pleasure to us to hear of the improvements being made in Boone. We hope that in the near future, we will be able to locate there." We are of the opinion that the location of Mr. Greer in Boone (although we have not been so advised) means a creamery here, at least the straw point that way.

STATESVILLE HAS LARGE FIRE WED.

Beginning at One O'clock Yesterday Morning Fire Rages Over Three Blocks—Powell Tobacco Factory Other Business Houses Destroyed.

Statesville, N. C., Jan. 17.—A fire which began at 1:30 o'clock this morning was raging over an area of three blocks here, and effort of the firemen was nullified by a strong south wind. The sections which are burning included south Center, Steele and Meeting Streets up to the railroad tracks. Buildings in this area consist of residences and business houses, the Powell Tobacco Factory being among the burning buildings.

At 2:45 A. M. the fire was under control after one block between Center and Meeting Streets had been completely destroyed. Other sections were protected by firemen and a strong wind made the task a hard one.

Seven negro and three white residences as well as several negro business establishments have been destroyed. A local hostelry the Henry House, has been destroyed and the Wallace Brothers, formerly a tobacco-warehouse. The fire originated in a negro pressing club.

GOVERNOR MORRISON'S PROGRAM IN BRIEF

Two constitutional amendments—one limiting the state's indebtedness to a per cent of the value of its property and another prohibiting future Legislatures from diverting sinking funds.

Provision for creation of sinking funds for payment of the State bonds issued for highways and permanent improvements at the State's institutions.

Additional fifteen million dollar bond issue to complete the state's highway system.

Duplication of the program of the last legislature for permanent improvements at the state's educational and charitable institutions.

Creation of a ship and port commission, with \$2,000,000 to establish state port terminals and to purchase a fleet of ships.

Creation of a state department of commerce and industry and a state department of banking, the latter to have supervision of all state banks.

Appropriation of \$500,000 and comprehensive and adequate legislation to conserve and promote state fish and oyster and other seafood industries.

Provision of adequate funds to promote and carry forward the present programs of progress and extension of the health, educational, social welfare and agricultural department.

Mrs. Edmond Greene is seriously ill at the home of her son, Mr. John Greene, of Hodges Gap.

SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTED

W. N. Everett of Richmond County will Fill Vacancy Caused by Death of Grimes.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 15.—Facing his colleagues in the House of Representatives here tonight, W. N. Everett, of Richmond county, tendered his resignation from that body and announced his acceptance, of the appointment to the secretary of state to succeed the late J. Bryan Grimes. The announcement came as the climax to a short but interesting session at which several new bills were introduced, others passed third reading and the Neal resolution for an investigation of state printing came up for discussion.

On the other side of the corridor the Senate received two bills fostered by the North Carolina Municipal Association and adjourned until tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock. The resignation of Mr. Everett, which was announced earlier in the evening, did not come as a surprise. He expressed his desire that the educational program be carried on to its fullest extent and stated that "the people everywhere point to us with confidence and pride," in view of the policies which the last legislature had shaped and which it was his hope this body would carry on.

In recognition of the services of Mr. Everett, Representative Everett, of Durham, moved a rising vote which was duly recorded.

WANTS INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES MADE BY UPSHAW

WASHINGTON.—Discussing the Upshaw charges as to liquor drinking by members of Congress and high government officials, Representative Hill, republican, Maryland, declared in the house that they ought to be investigated and not be broadcast over the country unchallenged.

J BRYAN GRIMES DIES IN RALEIGH

Secretary of State Since 1901 Succumbs to Attack of Pneumonia—An Able Official.

J. Bryan Grimes secretary of state since January 1901, died at 8:30 o'clock at his home on East Lane street after an illness of two weeks pneumonia and in influenza.

The disease that left him a mark for complications had run its course without giving special alarm. But failure to show any improvement for days and particularly today left no doubt that his reserve had all gone. He passed the crisis in both diseases without ability to rally.

The news of his death struck the city a staggering blow. He had never relinquished his Pitt county residence, but he held all but his farming interests and his voting vote. Since taking the oath of office he had held the distinction of being the strong man in the state's cabinet. It will be written of him that an able secretary of state has not served the state.

Colonel Grimes was the son of Gen. Bryan Grimes, Confederate fame and was born in Pitt county 64 years ago. He was graduated from the University in the class of 1888 and among the trustees he was regarded one of the greatest lovers of his alma mater. The political revolution of the east sent him into office with the adoption of the constitutional amendment of 1900 and every candidate seeking to dislodge him had found in him a political foe with only a service record as his machine in politics. Six terms he was chosen secretary of state on that record alone. Universally he was regarded invincible.

Colonel Grimes was twice married first in 1891 to Miss Mary Laughinghouse and in 1904 to Miss Elizabeth Forrest Laughinghouse, daughters of Capt. Joe J. Laughinghouse, of Greenville. Four children come of the two unions. He is survived also by a brother, William Dempsey Grimes, and a sister, Mrs. W. Croom Rodman, of Washington, N. C.

CHEAPER COAL IS SEEN FOR THE FUTURE

In the strengthening of the railroad credits, and the maintenance of peaceful industrial relations a way can be found to provide a more adequate and more reasonable priced coal supply for the nation, according to the report of the special committee of the American Railway Association.

If regulative bodies and committees will adopt "such an attitude towards the railroads and will convince the public that money invested in railroads will receive a fair return," the report said, "carriers will be able to increase facilities to insure transportation of the supply, while preventing of strikes would allow regular production without congestion such as that which now develops when consumers endeavor to take in all of a winter's supply during a comparatively few weeks.

The report pointed out that since 1910 the number of bituminous coal mines has not more than doubled, while the output of coal per mine, figured on an annual basis, had decreased. This, it was stated, demonstrated "inflation" in the industry, and put a strain upon the railroads, in that they were required to attempt to distribute cars among all the new mines and like were kept available an increasing reserve of cars and locomotives for serving mines that operated only a part time basis.

FROM BARREN DESERT TO SENATE INDIANS COME TO PLEAD

Twelve delegates representing twenty Indian Pueblos of New Mexico are expected to arrive here tomorrow to appear before a subcommittee of the senate public lands committee in opposition to the Bursum bill dealing with land and water rights on the lands granted them in 1680 by the Spanish king and confirmed by congress in 1858 after the territory had become part of the United States.

The Indians, said to be the first all-Pueblo division to visit Washington since the days of Lincoln and bearing silver-headed canes given to them by their governor, also will oppose the Jones-Leatherwood bill, it was stated January 15th and will urge the government to appropriate money for irrigation projects on and near their lands and evict certain alleged white squatters from their property. The Pueblos, it was announced, also will ask that the government afford them efficient medical and health service and education, and that they be given a voice in naming legal council to represent their interests.