

# THE PINEHURST OUTLOOK

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## BANKERS' CONVENTION

### OPENED MONDAY

THE LAST WEEK of the Pinehurst season finds the Executive Committee of the American Bankers' Association holding its annual Spring convention at the Carolina Hotel. There are now more than three hundred bankers convened in Pinehurst from every state in the Union; their present meeting combines business and recreation—the mornings are given over to committee meetings and the afternoon to golf, racing, riding, shooting, etc. The weather so far has tended to enforce the strictly business end of the program. Council sessions and headquarters are in charge of General Secretary Guy E. Bowerman, of New York, and detailed arrangements are in the hands of Mr. Fitzwilson, assistant secretary, also of New York.

Among many committee meetings held on Monday and Tuesday the sessions of the Committee on Federal Legislation, the Committee on Commerce and Marine, and the Agricultural Committee aroused the liveliest interest. Mr. Lowrie, who is economist for the American Mining Congress, appeared before the Federal Legislation Committee in behalf of federal legislation known as the McFadden Bill. In his plea for this bill, which proposes to tax gold used in the goldsmith's trade, Mr. Lowrie pointed out that the tax will not only stimulate gold production but will also, as a result, remedy the existing depletion of the gold reserve.

At the meeting of the Agricultural Committee Dr. H. C. Taylor, who as chief of the Department of Farm Management of the U. S. Department of Agriculture represented Mr. E. T. Meredith, Secretary of Agriculture, urged the committee to continue its work in behalf of rural education and the establishment of a larger number of farm-owners to take the place of farm-tenants.

In his address to the members of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, Mr R. S. Hawes, of St. Louis, President of the Association, confirmed his reputation as a public speaker. His remarks were closely followed and at no point in his address were his hearers more attentive than when he said, among other things:

"We are confronted with many difficult problems, such as the somewhat chaotic condition in our industrial world, cost of living and prices out of proportion to income, credits inflated, labor dissatisfied, and our foreign trade decreasing. Careful, judicious and calm judgement must be exercised by the bankers of this country, but care must



Mrs. De Forest Candee and Miss Phyllis Walsh. Both were prominent contenders in the April Tennis Tournament.

be taken not to excite unrest among the people. The present inflation of monies and prices should be gradually reduced and a more normal standard established to relieve the strained credits of our banks.

"Certain classes of our people are demanding that prior to their election, candidates shall pledge themselves to support preferential legislation in behalf of their particular interest. An aggressive minority frequently accomplish results out of all proportion to its numbers, and the present is peculiarly a time when the people as a whole should assert themselves.

"As bankers and citizens we shrink from the idea of directly entering the political arena, but we should demand that the representatives of the people

who are elected be bound by no pledge or promise to any class or kind of citizens, and that honest, clear-headed, intelligent men should represent the citizens as a whole in an unbiased, fair and just manner.

"We should further demand that our country be put on a business basis—that unnecessary employees be discharged that wild extravagancies cease, that the budget system be inaugurated, that taxes be adjusted based on sound economy, and that the expense of the government be administered by efficient men."

Mr. John McHugh, vice-president of the Mechanics and Metals Bank of New York City, submitted on Tuesday, as Chairman of the Commerce and Marine Committee, a report on foreign trade

financing in which he said the committee is very confidently of the opinion that a nationwide organization to finance our foreign trade "can be readily brought into existence by the uniform effort of the bankers, exporters, manufacturers and others of the country who appear to us to await only leadership."

The report, which was concurred in by the Committee related especially to the replies received from bankers in practically every state in the union to whom there had been sent by the Committee a tentative plan, formulated by Mr. McHugh, as Chairman of the Commerce and Marine Committee, for the possible formation of a corporation under the Edge Act by the co-operation on a nation-wide basis of the bankers, exporters, manufacturers and others thru the medium of a committee made up by selection from the committees representing their respective organizations.

Regarding this plan, Mr. McHugh said in the report:

"We fully realize the consequences that would come of bringing such a corporation into existence and have it fail to function satisfactorily. Every possible contingency should be thought out and anticipated. The hope of those (i. e., the European peoples) looking to us for aid should not be encouraged if they are to be doomed to disappointment. Full co-operation on the part of all who should be interested would, we believe, insure its success."

Mr. McHugh stated in the report that he wished "to lay particular emphasis on the fact that neither the Chairman of the Committee, nor any member thereof, has any intention to undertake on his own or the Committee's initiative to organize a corporation to finance our foreign trade, for the reason that we believe it is not within the province or proper scope of the Committee to do so."

The report continued:

"We believe that the bankers of the country with the co-operation of others, if that co-operation can be had, and, if not, without it, have a wonderful opportunity not alone to contribute to the financing of our foreign trade, but through the educational means which would necessarily be employed, to promote production and economy which would have untold beneficial influence upon the social and moral as well as the material future condition of the people of this country. In those vital matters the continuous and effectively directed co-operation of sections of the Association should prove most helpful.

"The plan which was sent out by the Committee was accompanied by a letter

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