

Best Of Care For Disabled, Keynote Of Service Conventions



Delegates To American Legion And Woman's Auxiliary Convention Assembled On Steps Of Courthouse At Hendersonville

COMMANDER BIRD OUTLINES POLICY

Head of North Carolina Legionnaires Tells of Plans For Organization

TO TEACH RULES OF PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCE

Co-operation of School Superintendents and Others Will Be Invited; Will Identify Legion With Churches; First and Foremost Work Will Be For Disabled Men

A brief general outline of the policy of his administration as head of the American Legion of North Carolina has been prepared by Tom Bird, who was chosen commander of the legionnaires in Hendersonville at the convention which closed recently.

"I intend to appoint an Americanism committee to work in collaboration with civic organizations to put over a campaign to teach the fundamental principles of government and patriotism, such as 'How to honor the flag,' 'What to do when the Star Spangled Banner is played,' 'How to conduct a Military funeral,' and various other matters of equal importance. I will request the committee to select some particular date on which to ask all school superintendents and their assistants to co-operate in the movement. I will also seek the co-operation of farm demonstrators, county welfare agents and will solicit the continued co-operation of the newspapers.

Stands for Religion
"It is my policy to identify the American Legion with the churches in North Carolina. We want it understood that the American legion stands for high morals and religious principles, as well as one hundred per cent Americanism. We believe our government is founded on religious principles. The Vice Commander Hollis of Wilmington will have complete authority in his section of the state and will look over the job completely in his vicinity. We hope to have completed at an early date a list of all men who entered the service from North Carolina, and the district committees will be furnished with lists by counties of all men who saw service. Each district will be called upon to organize and supervise a membership campaign.

Disabled Men First
"The first and foremost work to be done in North Carolina by the American Legion will be in the interest of disabled men and the families of the boys who made the supreme sacrifice. The very excellent work started by Dr. Adama Fisher, in Charlotte, chairman of the hospitalization committee, will be continued; an effort will be made to reach every man in North Carolina, who is in need of benefits of government departments.

"I am surprised at the growth of the American Legion auxiliary and hope for its continuance and assure the organization my most hearty support. We desire the auxiliary and the Red Cross to co-operate hand in hand and not conflict in any way by working in harmony and together to achieve the best results possible. We are sure the auxiliary will also co-operate with the War Mothers, the War Fathers, Knights of Columbus, Jewish Welfare, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Baraca-Philathetas and other organizations.

"We hope to aid the Veterans Bureau in weeding out the 'gold bricks' and rid the government of the expense of paying compensation to men who are not entitled to it."

To Resign as Post Commander
Mr. Bird, who was elected commander of the Kiffin-Rockwell Post of the Legion here in December, 1920, will tender his resignation at the next meeting on September 6. The membership of the post has doubled since he was elected its head.

The State commander was born in Hominy, March 26, 1896, and was left an orphan at the age of two years. He says he was left no heritage except that "he was a poor mountain white." He worked his way through school, and is now in the insurance business in Asheville with Dan W. Hill, acting postmaster. He enlisted in Battery B, 317th field artillery as a private and was discharged as a second lieutenant in the reserve corps.

New Legion Commander



THOMAS W. BIRD.

Mr. Bird, who was the former commander of Kiffin Rockwell Post, at Asheville, has many plans for the promotion of Legion interests in North Carolina the coming year. Among other things he proposes to put on a campaign to teach the rules of patriotic observance. But the needs of the disabled veterans and the families of those who made the supreme sacrifice will have priority of the State Department's concern, Commander Bird announces.

Heads Woman's Auxiliary



MRS. E. W. BURT, OF SALISBURY

Mrs. Burt has been serving as temporary commander of the Women's Auxiliary, North Carolina Department of the American Legion, for the past year and was elected commander at the recent meeting of the Auxiliary at Hendersonville. The Auxiliary is expected to aid the cause of the North Carolina veterans of the World War in many ways under Mrs. Burt's leadership. In accepting the post, Mrs. Burt earnestly requested the co-operation of all the members in carrying out the plans of the organization.

LEGION CONVENTION A DECIDED SUCCESS

Accomplished Mission Effectively Says Department Adjutant Cale K. Burgess

REVEALED ASPIRATIONS OF STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Disabled Veterans To Receive First Consideration; Renewed Enthusiasm Engendered For Meeting This Obligation; Sentiment For a More Robust Americanization

"The Hendersonville convention of the American Legion accomplished its mission quite effectively," declared Cale K. Burgess, Department Adjutant, in talking about the State Department meeting held August 26-27.

"It was the third Annual Assembly of the North Carolina Department of the Legion, the first convention having met in Raleigh on October 20, 1919, and the second in Wilmington on September 24 and 4th, 1920, each assembly making a distinct improvement over the preceding convention.

"In preparing the program for the Hendersonville convention, I aimed to give expression to the life and aspirations of the American Legion, particularly as it pertains to North Carolina; and judging from my own observation and the reports from other attending the convention, I am confident that this aim or mission was attained to a marked degree. The two chief ideas and activities of the American Legion were presented so effectively by the Hendersonville convention that they are today the chief topic of discussion among all those who attended the convention.

Disabled One's First Consideration
"The first and foremost consideration of the American Legion is the interests and welfare of disabled ex-service men. Service to those who were disabled in the World War is the chief concern of the Legion; and through its activities in behalf of national legislation for hospitals and other soldier relief, and through its service in rendering moral and material aid to those in the hospitals within this State, significant contribution has been made by the Legionnaires of North Carolina to this chief aim and enterprise of the American Legion. The Hendersonville convention gave expression to what has been accomplished in this direction and filled all those present with greater enthusiasm and determination to fulfill the high obligation and live up to the sacred privilege that devolves upon ex-service men and all patriots, as pertaining to disabled ex-service men.

The report of Dr. Adama Fisher, chairman of our hospitalization committee, evidenced what Legionnaires and their co-workers, the members of the Women's Auxiliary, have done this year in the way of sending gifts, providing loans and giving the personal touch to the boys at Oteen, Kenilworth and other hospitals in this State. The address of Miss Lucy J. Chamberlain, field representative of the American Red Cross, evidenced the co-operation that has been rendered and the further aid that will be given by the Red Cross in its work with the Legion in behalf of ex-service men and their families. The address of B. H. Hinde, contact representative of the Veterans' Bureau in North Carolina, furnished further evidence of the service that is being accomplished through governmental agencies for those who served our country in the World War. But the chief contribution on this subject was the inspiring and instructive address of Col. Charles R. Forbes, of Washington, who, as director of the Veterans' Bureau, heads all governmental agencies provided to serve the men and women who wore the uniform of our country in 1917-18. Through these reports and addresses, everyone became informed as to what has been accomplished and was filled with enthusiasm for greater service to the disabled soldiers, sailors, and marines of this nation.

To Promote Americanism
"Ranking as second in the aims and activities of the American Legion, comes the idea of Americanism, the work of combatting the enemies of the ideals and institutions of our nation and of creating in all of our citizens a greater appreciation of our free institutions and a greater love and respect for our country. This idea and activity of the Legion found expression in the resolutions of scathing condemnation of George Harvey, Eugene V. Debs, Grover Bergdoll, and other individuals conspicuous in the crimes that are being perpetrated against the honor and integrity of our nation, and its sacred ideals and institutions.

"Also the thought of Americanism, Patriotism and Service to God and

Department Adjutant



CALE K. BURGESS.

Mr. Burgess was re-elected department adjutant at Hendersonville. His work was formally commended by retiring Commander Cyrus D. Hogue at the convention. In addition to his duties as finance officer, Mr. Burgess has undertaken to maintain the department in the newspapers started by Capt. A. L. Fletcher and known as the "Forward Observation Post."

Country, was promoted through the brilliant addresses delivered by ex-Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, Governor Cameron Morrison and Col. Alvin M. Owsley of Fort

Worth, Texas, who is National Director of the Americanism Commission of the American Legion. And this second aim of the convention was effected to such a gratifying degree that all those who visited Hendersonville are still singing the praises of Daniels, Morrison, and Owsley, trying to tell their friends at home what wonderful speeches these noble patriots delivered; and still we can hear resounding from the streets and environs of Hendersonville echoes of loud singing, "We'll hang George Harvey on a sour apple tree," the refrain changing only for George Harvey to give place to provide for the hanging of 'Gene Debs and Bergdoll on the same sour apple tree.

Legion Occupies High Place.

"Being actuated and imbued by these two noble sentiments and enterprises, service to the disabled and love for God and Country, the Hendersonville convention could not be other than a brilliant success. Its achievements were gratifying; and the spirit of fellowship and self-sacrificing service that prevailed, both within and without the convention hall, was an inspiration to all those who were fortunate enough to be in such an atmosphere. I am distinctly proud of the success of the Hendersonville convention; it was a credit to both that beautiful city in the Land of the Sky and to the greatest patriotic organization in the world, the American Legion. Having helped in the organization of the first Legion Post in North Carolina, Raleigh Post No. 1, and having labored for the advancement of the Legion and its ideals in this State since that date, July 20, 1919, I am happy, indeed, to observe the high place occupied by the Legion in North Carolina; and I feel like shouting with joy when I witness such evidences of progress as manifested by the Hendersonville convention and by that most

generous two and one-half column editorial in the August 30th issue of the Raleigh News and Observer, penned by Josephus Daniels himself and concluding with the following exhortation: 'The day should not be far distant when every young man who served in the World War should enroll as a member thus giving an impetus for making the organization as powerful an organization for patriotic service in peace as its members were able to save the world by their decisive strength in 1917-18. If I could get the ear of every member of the American Expeditionary Forces and every man who wore Uncle Sam's uniform in those critical days, I would urge him to stick to his comrades and help to make the Legion the greatest power for good in America today and tomorrow and all the tomorrows.'

Forward Observation Post

LaFayette-Marne Day To Be Observed—Hendersonville Convention a Most Successful One—Newly Elected Officers of Legion Look To Future With Confidence—"On To Kansas City"

By CALE K. BURGESS, Department Adjutant.

LaFayette-Marne Day will be observed throughout the United States on September 6. The significance of the word Marne is universally known, and the name of our noble compatriot, LaFayette, strikes a responsive cord in the heart of all true Americans. The principal exercise of the LaFayette-Marne Day will be held at Mount Vernon, Va., at the home of George Washington. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover and Dr. John H. Finley will be among the speakers at this national celebration. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt is honorary chairman of the committee in charge, with Brig. Gen. George Richards, of the Marine Corps, in active supervision. One hundred and thirty local posts of the American Legion in North Carolina have been urged by State headquarters of the Legion to take proper cognizance of and make fitting observance of September 6 to the end that we might keep alive the spirit of LaFayette and the honor due him from this nation.

Convention Very Successful.

The Hendersonville convention of the Legion, August 26 and 27, was pronounced to be one of the most successful assemblies in North Carolina; about five hundred delegates and other representatives of the American Legion and of the Women's Auxiliary of the Legion traveled from every section of the State to join in this third annual convention of the North Carolina Department of the Legion. The addresses delivered and the other proceedings of the convention were both instructive and inspiring. An unusual spirit of good fellowship and of service to others prevailed both within and without the convention hall. The messages of the Hon. Josephus Daniels, Governor Cameron Morrison, Col. Charles R. Forbes, director of the Veterans' Bureau; Col. Alvin M. Owsley, national director of the Americanism Commission of the Legion, made an invaluable contribution to the cause of the ex-service men in this State and particularly to the work of the Legion in behalf of the disabled ex-service men and the fostering of one hundred per cent Americanism. Many reports have reached State headquarters since the convention giving expression of the revival that has been started throughout this State in support of the ideals and the program of the American Legion in North Carolina.

Greater Work Planned.

The newly elected officers of the American Legion look forward with confidence to a greater work for North Carolina than has been accomplished heretofore. Enthusiasm and a determination to serve unselfishly have been evidenced by the newly elected Legion officers. The new administration can be fairly represented by the message

delivered by W. Curtis McLeod, delivered in nominating the new department commander. McLeod is at the government hospital at Oteen. Incidentally he is commander of the Azalea post of the Legion, composed of disabled men in that hospital. He recounted to the convention the great service that the Legion had rendered the eleven hundred and fifty men at Oteen and stated that when his delegation left their disabled comrades to attend the convention, those who were not able to leave the hospital were asked what message they would send to their comrades assembled in convention, and that the response was, "Tell them how much we appreciate what they have done for us this year and tell them that if they wish to render the greatest possible aid and service to the men in the hospitals they will select as State commander and leader Thomas W. Bird, of Asheville, who has become the personal friend of practically every disabled man in the hospitals in North Carolina." And the beauty of such a tribute to our present commander is that those statements were true. McLeod, of Oteen, was not playing politics. Tom Bird as commander of the Kiffin Rockwell post at Asheville has become the "pal" and real "buddy" of the disabled boys and girls in the hospitals near Asheville. He knows them by their nicknames and, as State commander of the American Legion, he will be in position to arouse and lead the ex-service men and other patriots of North Carolina to a proper realization and discharge of their duty and obligation to those men and women who are lying in the hospitals in this State, still paying with their life blood the price of the freedom of the world.

"On to Kansas City."

"On to Kansas City!" is the slogan for Tar Heel Legionnaires. On October 31, November 1 and 2, the largest assembly of the world's greatest celebrities in the history of this nation will attend the third national convention of the American Legion in Kansas City, Marshals Foch and Haig, Generals Diaz, Jacques, Curry and other leading army and naval commanders of the Allied nations will be present. President Harding and his cabinet, General Pershing and the commanders of America's famous combat divisions will attend the convention. The Governors of twenty-two States have already given assurances of their presence. More than one million delegates and visitors will journey to Kansas City for this world famous assembly; and North Carolina counts on sending a delegation of two hundred men and women to this national convention. "On to Kansas City!"

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