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FRIDAY, DEC. 13, 1912

CONFERENCE ASKS MERCHANT MARINE

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 12.—Legislation designed to accomplish the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine will be sought from Congress by the Southern Panama canal conference, which was formally organized here yesterday.

In the face of spirited opposition from Frank P. Glass, editor of the Birmingham News, the conference adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, the Panama canal, built by American enterprise and capital, will fall immeasurably short of its possible benefits to American commerce unless American ships exist to use it, therefore be it

"Resolved, by the Southern Panama Canal conference, in session in Atlanta, December 10-11, that we respectfully urge that the Congress of the United States formulate into effect the earliest possible moment definite and practical legislation which will give all necessary and reasonable encouragement to the American merchant marine and American commerce with foreign countries and be it further

"Resolved, That the executive committee of the Southern Panama Canal conference be and are hereby instructed to transmit this resolution to the president of the United States and the members of Congress and use all other necessary methods to see that the intent of this resolution is carried into effect by the Congress of the United States."

Mr. Glass objected to the resolution on the ground that it would put the conference on record as advocating a ship subsidy, a proposition founded on the fundamental principle of protection, which he said the people of the United States had rejected. Samuel G. Douglas, of Nashville, who offered the resolution, denied that it carried an endorsement of ship subsidy.

"Say that in the resolution and I will withdraw my objection," said Mr. Glass.

Mr. Douglas retorted that he did not object to ship subsidy if Congress determined such legislation was necessary to bring about the desired end. What he wanted, he said, was some action by Congress to encourage the building of American merchant ships.

He agreed, however, to modify the original resolution which read: "We demand and insist" legislation, so as to read "we respectfully urge."

Earnest speeches in support of the resolution were made by M. B. Trevaunt, secretary of the New Orleans Progressive Union; D. M. Stewart, of the Chattanooga Manufacturers' association; Leland Hume, of Nashville, and J. G. Weatherly, secretary of the Brunswick, Ga., chamber of commerce. President W. W. Finley, of the Southern Railway, told the conference that he thought it unwise to make any demands of a new administration before it had assumed control of the government. He wanted it understood, however, that he was not opposed to any movement looking to the upbuilding of the merchant marine.

Discussion of the "Iron and Steel Industry and the Panama Canal" was led by John W. Sibley, of the Birmingham chamber of commerce. E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture for South Carolina, addressed the conference on the benefits to be derived by agriculture in the South from the opening of the canal.

The conference adjourned to meet again on the call of the president.

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One saw mill and engine outfit (new, never used). Several head of horses, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs and other stock; wagons, carts, bugies, harness, farming implements and machinery, including some of the latest improved implements.

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