

## BRANSON HEADS STATE SOCIAL SERVICE CONF.

At its eighth annual meeting, held this year at Goldsboro, Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University, was elected president of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service for the ensuing year.

Dr. Branson is Kenan professor of rural economics and sociology in the University, and has been very active in work of a social nature for many years. He came to the University in 1912 from Georgia, where he was president of the State Normal School. He is a native of Morehead City.

The conference is concerned primarily with problems of a social nature. Problems which are treated are those pertaining to roads, prison reforms, civic reforms, education, public welfare, and the like.

A most remarkable incident of the week was the action of Secretary Baker in granting Major General Leonard Wood two months' leave of absence from the army, beginning Saturday, so that he can devote all his time to his Presidential campaign in the primary election states. He expects to be on the stump continuously until the period expires.

In granting the leave Secretary Baker said the general is entitled to this much, as he had no vacation during the war or since the armistice was signed.

Secretary Baker said the general may wear civilian clothes during the two months if he desires, although he must make a request for this. It is not regarded as certain that General Wood will take off his uniform.

Some of the Wood managers tried to get the general to resign from the army, so that he could go before the country as a civilian and devote all his time to the campaign. General Wood made it clear that he is "not ashamed" to wear the uniform of his country or to campaign in it. By taking two months' leave of absence he can retain his place in the army, give all his time to speech-making and still not neglect his official duties.

This case is the first of its kind to occur in our country's history, a Democratic Secretary of War granting a leave of absence to a Republican candidate for the Presidency to enable him to conduct his campaign. This is an example of American sportsmanship, cropping out in the tense rivalry of a political race.—*High School Journal.*

## High School Debates Held April Ninth

Secretary E. R. Rankin, of the High School Debating Union, has just announced the plans of the committee in regard to the coming High School Week. The preliminary debates will be held this spring on April 9th. There are two hundred schools enrolled this year that will participate in the triangular debates, although there were two hundred and fifty earlier in the year. On account of the influenza epidemic and the various other agents that have forced many other schools to suspend their sessions for different lengths of time, fifty of the schools were forced to drop out of the contest.

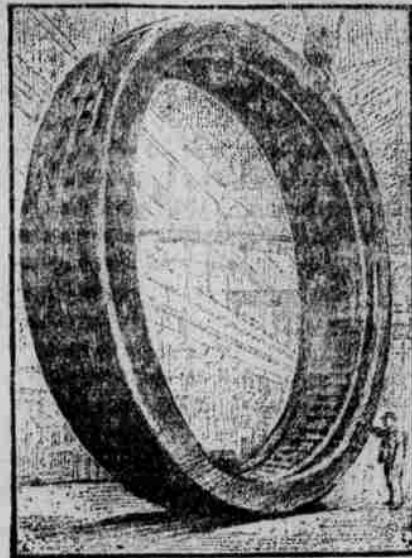
Chapel Hill High School will debate Burlington High School on the ninth of April, and at the same time the other two hundred schools will be debating throughout the state in the preliminaries. The winners of these debates will send their representatives to Chapel Hill where the finals will be held on April 22d and April 23d. The winner of the final contest in Memorial Hall will be awarded the Aycock Memorial Cup, which is now in the possession of the Durham High School, winners of last year's final debate. This is the eighth annual contest that the Debating Union has held and it is expected to be the most successful since the inauguration of the debates.

During the High School Week the eighth annual inter-scholastic track meet of North Carolina will take place on Emerson Field. The entries this year are larger than usual. Among the schools who have already enrolled for the meet are Durham, Charlotte, Greensboro, Burlington, Graham, Chapel Hill, High Point, and Friendship. These schools are all enrolled for the various events, and other schools are expected to enroll before the meet comes off.

"There are 25,000,000 boys and girls going to school in the United States, and it is a 100 to 1 shot the future President of the United States, no matter who he may be, will have gone barefoot to school and worked for \$3 or \$4 a week at his first job," says Secretary Franklin K. Lane. Considering teachers' salaries and the price of shoes, we know of only one group of workers likely to qualify. This is just another way the Secretary of the Interior had of saying the future President will have taught school for a while.—*High School Journal.*



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