

The Roanoke Beacon.

\$2.00 a Year, in Advance.

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copy 5 Cents.

VOL. XVIII.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1908.

NO. 51.

A GREAT CONFERENCE

Governors of Many States and President Meet in Council

IS A NOTEWORTHY GATHERING

Notable Conference, the First of Its Kind in the History of America, Begun Under Auspicious Circumstances in the White House.

Washington, Special.—Two ideas destined to mark material progress in America's future resulted from the first of the three days' conference at the White House at which President Roosevelt, the Governors of 44 States, Cabinet officers, Supreme Court judges, Senators, Representatives and experts are participating, in efforts to reach conclusions on the best methods of conserving the natural resources of the United States.

The first is that a permanent organization between the States and the nation is necessary and will likely result from the present conference to accomplish the end sought. The second, suggested by Secretary Root, is that there is no limitation by the constitution to the agreements which may be made between two States, subject to the approval of Congress. The two ideas fully developed, it is predicted, would result in the conservation of the energies and resources of the nation through uniform and unconflicting laws, both national and State.

The idea that the conference should be perpetuated developed in the form of resolutions adopted for later consideration by Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, Governor Folk, of Missouri, and many others, but a parliamentary move to save time sent them to a committee for consideration.

Forty-four Governors of sovereign States of the Union sat on gilded chairs in the historic East Room of the White House and chatted from 10 to 11 o'clock. Five hundred other persons taxed the capacity of the room. They were Cabinet officers, Supreme Court Justices, Senators, Representatives and experts in all lines of industry. With a flourish of trumpets the President and vice president entered at 11 o'clock and the conference, the first of its kind in the history of the nation, began.

The reception of the President was the first climax of the day. He entered the East Room at 11 o'clock as the Marine Band rendered the presidential honors. The Governors arose; they clapped their hands, they shouted. The demonstration became tumultuous. Then followed a hush. The venerable Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, read from the Scripture the description of the fertility of the land promised the children of Israel, and followed it with a supplication for guidance in the present undertaking.

President Roosevelt here began his explanation of the reason for the conference. His fifty-minute speech was many times interrupted by applause, and when he finally reached his point of praise to the inland waterways commission, and declared with characteristic vigor that should Congress neglect to perpetuate the commission "I will do it myself," he "captured" the assemblage. The Governors stood up and shouted, Senators and Congressmen added a laugh to their applause, and general assent was given the sentiment.

The President's Address.

The President spoke in part as follows: Governors of Several States and Gentlemen:

I welcome you to this conference at the White House. You have come hither at my request so that we may join together to consider the question of the conservation and use of the great fundamental sources of wealth of this nation. So vital is this question, that for the first time in our history the chief executive officers of the States separately, and of the States together forming the nation, have met to consider it.

With the Governors come men from each State chosen for their special acquaintance with the terms of the problem that is before us. Among them are experts in natural resources and representatives of national organizations concerned in the development and use of these resources; the Senators and Representatives in Congress; the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, and the Inland Waterways Commission have likewise been invited to the conference, which is therefore national in a peculiar sense.

A Weighty Problem.

This conference on the conservation of natural resources is in effect a meeting of the representatives of all the people of the United States called to consider the weightiest problem now before the nation; and the occasion for the meeting lies in the fact that the natural resources of our country are in danger of exhaustion if we permit the old wasteful methods of exploiting them longer to continue.

With the rise of peoples from savagery to civilization and with the consequent growth in the extent and variety of the needs of the average man, there comes a steadily increasing growth of the amount demanded by this average man from the actual resources of the country. Yet, rather curiously, at the same time the average man is apt to lose his realization of this dependence upon nature.

Savages, and very primitive peoples generally, concern themselves only with superficial natural resources; with those which they obtain from the actual surface of the ground. As peoples become a little less primitive their industries, although in a rude manner, are extended to resources below the surface; then, with what we call civilization and the extension of knowledge, more resources come into use, industries are multiplied, and foresight begins to become a necessary and prominent factor in life. Crops are cultivated; animals are domesticated; and metals are mastered.

Mankind's Progress.

Every step of the progress of mankind is marked by the discovery and use of natural resources previously unused. Without such progressive knowledge and utilization of natural resources population could not grow, nor industries multiply, nor the hidden wealth of the earth be developed for the benefit of mankind.

From the first beginnings of civilization, on the banks of the Nile and the Euphrates, the industrial progress of the world has gone on slowly, with occasional setbacks, but the whole steadily, through tens of centuries to the present day. But of late the rapidity of the process has increased at such a rate that more space has been actually covered during the century and a quarter occupied by our national life than during the preceding six thousand years that take us back to the earliest monuments of Egypt, to the earliest cities of the Babylonian plain.

A Difference of Degree.

When the founders of this nation met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia the conditions of commerce had not fundamentally changed from what they were when the Phoenician seels first furrowed the lonely waters of the Mediterranean. The differences were those of degree, not of kind, and they were not in all cases even those of degree. Mining was carried on fundamentally as it had been carried on by the Pharaohs in the countries adjacent to the Red Sea.

The wares of the merchants of Boston, of Charleston, like the wares of the merchants of Nineveh and Sidon, if they went by water, were carried by boats propelled by sails or oars; if they went by land were carried in wagons drawn by beasts of draft or in packs on the backs of beasts of burden. The ships that crossed the high seas were better than the ships that had once crossed the Aegean, but they were of the same type, after all—they were wooden ships propelled by sails; and on land, the roads were not as good as the roads of the Roman Empire, while the service of the posts was probably inferior.

In Washington's time anthracite coal was known only as a useless black stone; and the great fields of bituminous coal were undiscovered. As steam was unknown, the use of coal for power production was unknown. Water was practically the only source of power, save the labor of men and animals; and this power was used only in the most primitive fashion. But a few small iron deposits had been found in this country, and the use of iron by our countrymen was very small. Wood was practically the only fuel, and what lumber was sawed was consumed locally, while the forests were regarded chiefly as obstructions to settlement and cultivation.

The mere increase in our consumption of coal during 1907 over 1906 exceeded the total consumption in 1876, the Centennial year. The enormous stores of mineral oil and gas are largely gone. Our natural waterways are not gone, but they have been so injured by neglect, and by the division of responsibility and utter lack of system in dealing with them, that there is less navigation on them now than there was fifty years ago. Finally, we began with soils of unexampled fertility and by injudicious use and by failing to check erosion that their crop producing power is diminishing instead of increasing.

Such was the degree of progress to which civilized mankind had attained when this nation began its career. It is almost impossible for us in this day to realize how little our revolutionary ancestors knew of the great store of natural resources whose discovery and use have been such vital factors in the growth and greatness of this nation, and how little they required to take from this store in order to satisfy their needs.

After speaking upon the various points wherein our natural resources should be conserved the President closed as follows:

Finally, let us remember that the

conservation of our natural resources, though the gravest problem of to-day, is yet but part of another and greater problem to which this nation is not yet awake, but to which it will awake in time, and with which it must hereafter grapple if it is to live—the problem of national efficiency, the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation. When the people of the United States consciously undertake to raise themselves as citizens, and the nation and the States in their several spheres, to the highest pitch of excellence in private, State, and national life, and to do this because it is the first of all the duties of true patriotism, then and not till then the future of this nation, in quality and in time, will be assured.

Governor Glenn's Great Speech.

Governor R. B. Glenn, of North Carolina, covered himself with glory before the President and the Governors. He made a very delightful speech, taking as his subject the Appalachian-White Mountain park project. The Times calls it the one startling feature of the session. Among other things, Governor Glenn said: "When the Civil war closed you of the North told us that we were your brothers. You said that if we wanted anything to come to you and we would get it. The very first time we have come to you to assist us in preserving a great industry we are rebuffed." This statement brought forth round after round of applause from Governors from all parts of the United States.

Governor Glenn's reference to old war times was made during the course of an impromptu address in which he followed the lines of President Roosevelt in condemning Congress for its inactivity.

"We have come here year after year," said Governor Glenn, "and asked that something be done to regulate the industry of inter-State forestry. We can regulate intra-State forestry, but we cannot regulate the inter-State industry. And every time we come to our Representatives in Congress they say, 'Wait until next session,' that is the answer we have been getting for years."

Torpedo Flotilla at Savannah.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The torpedo boat flotilla, commanded by Lieutenant W. G. Mitchell and comprising the Porter, flagship, De Long, Thornton, Blakeley and Tingey, reached here by the inside route from Brunswick and tied up at the docks. At sunrise the vessels will sail, taking the inside route for Charleston. They are bound for Northern waters.

A Second Gillette Case.

Kanab, Utah, Special.—Alvin Heaton, aged 18, confessed to the murder of Mary Stevens in the canyon back of Orderville under circumstances resembling Gillette's murder of Grace Brown. Heaton declared that the girl pleaded with him to marry her. Driven to desperation he asked her to meet him in the canyon, and shot her while she begged him to wed her. The body was found two days later where it was hidden under a pile of rocks.

Places Tax on "Near Beer."

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—City council has passed an ordinance placing a license tax of \$200 a year on so-called "near beer," a beverage containing less than 2 per cent. of alcohol, which has been on sale since the prohibition law went into effect. The ordinance also provides that "near beers" shall not be sold on Sunday nor to minors and prohibits the serving of free lunches with it.

Bishop Van Deviver Will Remain.

Richmond, Va., Special.—Rt. Rev. A. Van Deviver will withdraw his resignation already forwarded to Rome, and continue his service as Catholic bishop of the Richmond Diocese. Waited upon by a committee to present resolutions adopted at a mass meeting urging him to reconsider and not leave the bishop deeply affected, consented to do so. It was the bishop's intention to return to Belgium and live with his relatives.

Indicted For Repeating.

New Orleans, La., Special.—Indictments for the acceptance of rebates on cotton shipments were returned against the Illinois Central and the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroads by a Federal grand jury. It was charged that the Illinois Central accepted a fee of two cents a bale for booking cotton for foreign ports from Grand and Jackson, Miss. The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley was alleged to have accepted similar fees on shipments from Natchez and Yazoo City, Miss.

GENEROUS.

Mr. Meane—I have nothing but praise for the new minister.
Mr. Goode—So I noticed when the plate came around.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

GOVERNORS ADJOURN

The Set Programme of the Last Day Swept Aside and the President, With Characteristic Progressiveness, Lets It Be Known That Action is What is Needed and There Will be no Halting for Precedent or Red Tape.

Washington, Special.—The first conference of the Governors of the States of the American Union ended Friday. The final accomplishment of the conference, which has been in progress at the White House for three days cannot be set forth with mathematical precision. That its immediate results are more than ample is the expression of President Roosevelt and of the Governors who participated.

The printed record of the conference, which will later be available to every American home, will be a compilation of facts, startling in their meaning, convincing in their universal conclusion that the States must act, and that the States and the nation must co-operate that to the end the whole people of the nation may secure the lasting benefit of its natural resources.

"Declaration of Co-operation."

Besides the compilation of facts by the experts and the freely expressed opinion of the Governors, the conference leaves as its permanent record a thousand word "declaration of co-operation."

Perhaps greater in importance than all else was the determination of the Governors of the States to perfect a permanent organization whereby a heretofore unknown intimacy may be developed among the Executives of the forty-six sovereign States, made strong by a common purpose and made potent by a pro-announcements which may not lightly be disregarded.

Of the last day the story is one of many features. The set programme was swept aside. The President presided throughout. The prepared papers were not presented, but they will be printed in the permanent record. Their places were taken first by the "declaration" which was adopted after discussion which brought to light no serious objection to its affirmations.

President Roosevelt himself answering the one criticism—that of Governor Folk, of Missouri—to the declaration, aroused the conference to its warmest demonstration of approval. He swept aside the "academic question" of where the line of authority should be drawn between the States and the nation. He wanted action, and what he said received endorsement at each period. It was this:

Roosevelt for Action.

"Just a word on what has been called the twilight land between the powers of the Federal and State governments. My primary aim in the legislation that I have advocated for the regulation of the great corporations has been to provide some effective popular sovereignty for each corporation. I do not wish to keep this twilight land one of large and vague boundaries, by judicial decision that in a given case the State cannot act, and then a few years later by other decisions that in practically similar cases the nation cannot act either. I am trying to find out where one or the other can act, so there shall always be some sovereign power that on behalf of the people can hold every big corporation, every big individual, to an accountability so that its or his acts shall be beneficial to the people as a whole. In matters that relate only to the people within the State of course the State is to be sovereign and it should have the power to act. If the matter is such that the State itself cannot act then I wish on behalf of all the States that the national government should act."

The declaration, upon which the President's remarks were predicated, was presented to the conference by Governor Blanchard, of Louisiana, at the opening of the session. The declaration begins:

"We, the Governors of the States and Territories of the United States of America, in conference assembled, do hereby declare the conviction that the great prosperity of our country rests upon the abundant resources of the land chosen by our forefathers for their homes and where they laid the foundation of this great nation."

The declaration states that the natural resources of the country are the common heritage of all the people, and that the duty of the government is to conserve the same for future generations.

Reclamation work is advised and the streams and watercourses should be protected and improved. Forestry ought to be encouraged by the States and the general government. The final work of the conference was to make it a permanency.

BAPTISTS ADJOURN

Great Meeting of the Southern Convention Closes

FAVORS PROGRESSIVE ACTION

Southern Baptist Convention Comes to a Final Adjournment After a Night Session Devoted to Addresses From Members of Indian Tribes and From Mexicans of the Texas Frontier.

Hot Springs, Ark., Special.—After a night session devoted to addresses from members of the Osage and Pawnee Indian tribes and from Mexicans of the Texas frontier, interpreted through field workers of the organization, the fifty-third annual session of the Southern Baptist convention came to a final adjournment Monday. The session passes into history as the greatest in the progress of the denomination's move in this country. Reports from home and foreign mission departments from the Sunday school board, from the Baptist Young People's Union and from the Woman's Home Missionary Union, made in this body all evidenced the great growth of this organization and pledges for even greater extensions of these departments were made.

The last work of the convention was the naming of a standing prohibition committee, to carry out the declarations iterated in the resolution passed at the morning session. This committee is composed of A. J. Barton, J. A. Johnson, S. P. Brooks, J. B. Gambrell, J. B. Cranfill, J. A. Maples, R. W. Daniels and P. E. Burroughs, of Texas; W. T. Amis, of Arkansas; H. A. Summerville and C. V. Edwards, of Louisiana; S. C. Wolf of Oklahoma; W. T. Lowry, of Mississippi; E. E. Folk, of Tennessee, and W. D. Ushaw, of Georgia.

Liquor Traffic Denounced.

The reception tendered Secretary Taft on his arrival at Shanghai means more than our people appreciate. The greatest people of the nation came to do him honor and the streets and fields were filled with hundreds of thousands who took an interest in the public reception.

The convention adopted ringing resolutions condemning the liquor traffic in all its phases. Officers of the national government are requested not to issue privilege taxes in States where the sale of liquor is prohibited by the State law.

Congress is urged to inhibit the shipment of liquor into dry territory and people everywhere are urged not to vote for candidates who are in sympathy with the saloon interests. Upon motion of Dr. A. J. Barton, of Texas, an amendment was adopted providing for the appointment of a standing committee on temperance to consist of 15 members who shall keep up the fight. The sum of \$825,000 has been apportioned for collection for home and foreign missions next year by the Southern Baptist convention. Chairman J. B. Granbrell, of Texas, of the committee on estimates and appointments made his report of the convention at the afternoon session, which was adopted.

Serious Affray at Murphy.

Murphy, N. C., Special.—Will Meroney and Garland Posey got into a dispute here Monday evening. Meroney struck Posey with a rock and Posey cut Meroney four times with a knife near the heart. Meroney's condition is not considered serious. Posey is under bond. Both are of prominent families. The trouble came from the effects of too much whiskey.

Monster Whale Captured.

Beaufort, N. C., Special.—A large whale was captured at Cape Lookout on Sunday and was towed to Beaufort, where it will be pulled out of water by the shipyard railways. The monster is about fifty feet long and twenty-five feet around the body. It will be on exhibition at the shipyards for two or three days. The estimated value of the bone and oil is \$600.

Telegraphic Briefs.

The Southern Baptist Convention adjourned on Monday after one of the most largely attended sessions in its history.

On Monday congress passed the deficiency bill, carrying nearly \$18,000,000.

Stockholders of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio railroad met Monday and sanctioned the issue of \$15,000,000 bonds.

Hearing in the notorious Platt divorce suit was resumed.

The Atlantic fleet has sailed to Puget Sound.

BIG BANK DEFUNCT

Pittsburg Institution Unable to Recover From Big Steal

WILL NOT HURT OTHER BANKS

Allegheny National Will Not Re-open Its Doors—Institution Cannot Weather the Storm—Will Have No Effect on Business.

Pittsburg, Pa., Special.—It is officially announced that the Allegheny National Bank, whose former cashier, William Montgomery, is in jail, specifically charged with the misappropriation of \$594,000 while officers of the bank and of the Treasury Department are trying to fathom still larger apparent discrepancies in the bank's funds, will not re-open for business Monday. Instead a notice on the door will announce that the Comptroller of the Currency has taken charge and will close up the affairs of the bank.

Until late Sunday it had been expected that the institution would weather the storm and be able to continue business. To this end a number of strong financial institutions and prominent capitalists of the city offered assistance and provided \$250,000 cash while the directors provided a like amount to meet immediate needs or provide for possible emergencies. At the same time a complete re-organization was decided upon. A hitch occurred in these plans and all of the day was spent in conferences attended by Examiner Folds, representing the Treasury Department, the bank's directors and financiers who had proffered aid. After a careful review of the situation suspension of the bank was decided upon as the only logical course, but this decision was scarcely announced until a new ray of hope appeared.

The announcement was withdrawn and the conference reconvened to discuss the new suggestion for continuing business. Finally, however, it was agreed to stand by the earlier decision and to liquidate.

The suspension of the bank, it is believed, will have practically no effect upon commercial or financial institutions of the city.

President to Methodists.

Washington, Special.—"Good citizenship" was the subject of an address by President Roosevelt in which he paid a notable tribute to motherhood before a large gathering of Methodists at the American University, in course of construction, just outside of the city limits. The assemblage was composed principally of the delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, now in session in Baltimore. What was to have been a feature of the occasion—a reception of the delegates by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt in the college of history—was abandoned owing to an engagement which the President previously had made. Perhaps no feature of the exercises occasioned the President more real delight than the singing by the German members of the General Conference of "Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott" ("A Mighty Fortress is Our God"), a hymn sung by the adherents of Martin Luther during the period of reformation. "That's fine," exclaimed President Roosevelt when the singing of this old hymn began. He added that it was his favorite song. The President then repeated a portion of the first verse of the song in German—to the evident delight of the assemblage.

Work on Panama Canal.

Charleston, S. C., Special.—The Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary of War, arrived in Charleston harbor at noon Sunday on board the cruiser Prairie and after spending a few hours in the city, during which time he was met and greeted by a number of officials and friends, left the city for Washington at 5:15 p. m. via the Atlantic Coast Line. The Secretary expressed himself as exceedingly well pleased with the progress of the canal work.

Telegraphic Briefs.

After a lively debate the Senate reported Senator Rayner's Stewart inquiry resolution to the Military Committee.

Hundreds of visitors saw a Virginia couple married in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Governor Fort, of New Jersey, is being boomed as the Republican nominee for Vice-President.