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CONFERENCE IN COLUMBIA

Men and Women, Interested in Uplift of State, Meet.

DISCUSS IMPORTANT PROBLEMS

Clarence E. Poe, Editor of Progressive Farmer, and Congressman Lever Make Speeches.

Columbia Special to Spartanburg Herald, Aug. 6.—Over 200 persons, representing all classes and conditions in the complex life of the state, gathered in the Columbia theatre this afternoon and tonight at the initial conference of the Conference for the Common Good. No more notable gathering has ever been held in the South than this, when socially sensitive South Carolinians, imbued with a love for their state and inspired by its traditions, have assembled to correlate and coordinate constructive forces and principles making for the future welfare of its citizens. The ideal underlying the conference seemed to inspire the speakers and auditors, and great interest and enthusiasm were manifested in the thoughtful discussion of varying problems.

At the afternoon conference men of wide and prominent distinction spoke on the various lines of efforts making for betterment in rural life, its relation to home ownership and social welfare and the plans for promoting home ownership. The speakers were: Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer; A. F. Lever, congressman from the seventh district; W. H. Mills of Greenville. In the evening a series of ten-minute talks was heard. These discussions, like those of the afternoon session, were characterized by an undertone of serious concern over the rapid drift from farm to city life. Grave consideration was given the problem of tenancy, the cause underlying the depopulation of the rural districts and the controlling factors and causes making for these results. How to make rural life more comfortable and attractive was the purpose of many constructive suggestions. While there was an occasional break into lighter vein, yet the prevailing tone was one of deep earnestness and purpose.

The ten-minute talks were given by S. J. Summers, of Cameron; P. E. A. Hines, secretary of the medical society; Rev. E. O. Watson, president of Horry Industrial school; J. E. Carroll, superintendent of education for York county; S. E. Brown and W. F. Robertson, of Greenville, and B. B. Hare, of the United States department of agriculture. W. W. Long, of the federal department of agriculture, was to have been one of the speakers, but he was unavoidably detained.

Women and men who are interested in the uplift of South Carolina met here this afternoon for a conference, when the vital problems concerning every citizen will be discussed. The meeting was held in the Columbia theatre. Two general meetings will be held tomorrow and there will be several auxiliary conferences, when special lines of work will be pursued.

The exercises this afternoon were presided over by W. K. Tate, state supervisor of rural elementary schools and the originator of the conference. Purposes of the conference were outlined in a simple and direct speech by Mr. Tate. He summed the forces of humanity in South Carolina to help humanity. It was a sympathetic appeal for all South Carolinians to get together and work for the common good.

POE'S ADDRESS SOUND.

Clarence E. Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, of Raleigh, N. C., brought a message to the commonwealth builders. His address was sound and contained good advice. The Rev. W. H. Mills, of Clemson College, discussed the part of the church in rural development.

The principal address of the afternoon session was delivered by Congressman Lever, of this district. He is the chairman of the house committee on agriculture. He outlined a national program for the development of American agriculture and told of what the national house of representatives is trying to do.

Following these set addresses, there was a general discussion of the subjects presented. Those in attendance were requested to give full and free thought to the issues.

Dr. E. A. Hines, of Seneca, discussed home ownership and health. He told of the work of the state board of health and what the plans are for the future. Home ownership and the school was discussed by J. E. Carroll, superintendent of education of York county. William F. Robertson, of Greenville, discussed a plan for helping mill workers to purchase a home.

TO HELP TENANT FARMERS.

A plan for helping tenant farmers acquire land was discussed by B. B. Hare, of the United States department of agriculture.

Tomorrow will be a busy day for the conference and an increased attendance is expected. Among the questions to be discussed will be education and child welfare. At the evening session problems of citizenship will be discussed. "The Majesty of the Law" will be discussed by Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford College.

Thursday afternoon members of

the State Farmers' Union will discuss marketing problems. Opening the conference, W. K. Tate said:

"At the beginning of this conference it falls to my lot as president to state briefly the purpose which has brought us together. Last April perhaps 50 men and women from South Carolina attended the Conference for Education in the South, which convened at Richmond. Those who attended this conference enjoyed the unusual experience of working with other men and women from every profession and every walk of life in an effort to arrive at an understanding of the fundamental problems involved in the life of the South and endeavoring to formulate a plan for the solution of these problems. The lawyer, the banker, the farmer, the manufacturer, the editor, the teacher, the merchant, and the statesman, each with an unselfish motive, having only in mind a possible contribution to the welfare of his fellow man, were all working together for the common good. Perhaps each visitor at this conference brought home with him a desire for a similar convention in South Carolina, in which he could all forget the trifles which have divided our state, producing discord and confusion, and in which we could consider calmly and unselfishly the great fundamental principles and policies upon which we can agree. Almost spontaneously the call was made for the preliminary meeting on June 10, which has resulted in the conference assembled today. The purpose of this conference is to give the best impulses and the most mature thought of South Carolinians an opportunity and a medium of expression.

DISCORD AND HARMONY.

"A few years ago it was my pleasure to hear a great concert in the hall in which we are now assembled. I had arrived early and, having occasion to go behind the scenes on the stage, my ears were met by an intolerable din. The musicians, each with music stand before him and utterly oblivious of his neighbors, were rehearsing difficult parts of the score for the evening. The soprano in one wing was practicing parts of a difficult solo. Although these musicians were artists of high rank, the result of these individual rehearsals was anything but music. A quartet of an hour later, with the same instruments, they were in their places on the stage and, under the skillful leadership of the director, were producing a glorious harmony.

"During the past three years it has been my good fortune to become acquainted with men and women of every walk of life in every section of South Carolina. I have talked and worked with the lawyer, the merchant, the farmer, the manufacturer, the cotton mill worker, and with men and women representing every profession and occupation. This experience has convinced me that, taken as a whole, the people of South Carolina are sound at heart. The average man gives forth a pure tone. We need only to harmonize the instruments and play together in order that South Carolina may give forth a harmonious melody rather than discordant noises.

NEED TO GET TOGETHER.

"The people in this state need opportunities for coming together and discussing for themselves matters relating to their common welfare. We need in each community something like the old-fashioned town meeting which prevails in other sections of the United States. Under our present political organization matters of public concern are usually discussed only in connection with campaigns for public office. The very nature of a political campaign is such that it tends to bring about division rather than harmony. The personal success of the candidate for public office frequently depends on his ability to accentuate differences and to divide men into hostile camps in which the personality of the leader and the result of the game obscure the issues and cloud the judgment. In a campaign of this kind the successful playing of the political game frequently makes desirable the aggravation of the unpleasant symptoms rather than the healing of the disease from which the body politic is suffering. Doubtless all of us can call to mind many instances within the last twenty years where remedies have been studiously avoided and the pains and sufferings of the body politic have been carefully treasured as a precious asset for the next political campaign. It is granted that a political campaign is a necessary accompaniment of democracy. It should serve the purpose of bringing to the point of action a people who have all the time been calmly thinking about their fundamental needs. It is, however, equally necessary to healthy civic growth that the people should have an opportunity to come together when no man's personality or political fortunes is concerned in an attempt to determine these fundamental needs of the State and community. It is the purpose of this State Conference for the Common Good to form a clearing house of ideas, where our problems may be discussed calmly and dispassionately, not dominated by personalities, but only by a desire to attain the truth.

COUNTY CONFERENCE.

If the purpose of the organization is to be realized, this conference will be followed in the counties of the

(Continued on Page Eight.)

CO-OPERATION, MARKETING

Theme of Special Conference Held Yesterday Morning.

MEETING HELD IN COLUMBIA.

Marketing is Economic Distribution of the Products of All the Industries.

E. W. Dabbs, president of the State Farmers' Union, presided over the special conference on co-operation and marketing, held yesterday morning in Columbia. Mr. Dabbs, in opening the meeting, said: Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Workers for the Common Good:

This conference is both an inspiration and a prophecy. It was nothing short of an inspiration when Professor Tate returning from the great conference for education at Richmond, Va., conceived the idea and asked several of us to join him in a call for this meeting. Perhaps if I had not attended the Richmond meeting I might not have seen the use of such a meeting as this, for, frankly, it has seemed to me that there is a tendency to multiply conferences and increase machinery at the expense of efficiency. It has been said that "it is the same old crowd, no new blood," but the workers wearing themselves out to get up more enthusiasm in their own ranks. Increase of machinery without increase of power until there is danger of the power being only adequate to run the machinery and none left for the work. There is a great deal of truth in this, but after feeling the electric thrill of elbow touch of the workers in so many lines of human endeavor at Richmond, seeing by actual experience the psychological effect of such a meeting, I heartily joined Professor Tate and the other gentlemen in issuing the call for this meeting.

This is not a multiplication of machinery, but a co-ordination of machinery already at hand—an attempt to prevent duplication of effort and waste of energy by working at cross purposes.

That it is a prophecy of the good things in the near future, this gathering splendidly attests. When men and women leave their homes or forego some of the pleasures of their summer vacations to assemble in common council in midsummer there must be a real purpose in their minds. When men and women of all religious creeds meet as they are doing in this conference to plan a more vigorous campaign against the forces of evil, and in the honor of our common Lord, to work for the coming of His kingdom here in South Carolina—when members of all the organizations, women's clubs, medical bar, bank and mercantile association, federations of labor and farmers' unions meet as we are doing here today—not in the spirit of Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" but humbly assuming this responsible relationship in the spirit of the good Samaritan of whom our Master said it was he who was "neighbor to the man who fell among thieves," rather than the priest and the Levite—when obeying the scriptural injunction that every man must bear his own burden, we accept and act upon the greater command, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ"—we must be impressed with the nearness of the coming of the kingdom.

I wish to congratulate the people of the state of South Carolina upon this great gathering of its working people, the people who do the things absolutely necessary to our every day comfort—the people upon whom rests the burden and heat of the day, and without whose active support no progressive movement can succeed.

In conclusion, fellow citizens, do not for a moment think that this conference is to take the place of your church, your social, labor or business organization. Instead it is to make you more loyal to your own organization and to show you how only by such loyalty can your organization co-operate with the other organizations of your equally patriotic fellow citizens.

We come to discuss at this hour marketing. This great question of our economic life has been pushed to the front by the Farmers' Union. I would be remiss in my duty to the history of this great order, were I, the president of the South Carolina division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, to fail to keep the record straight. At the same time I welcome every other agency that is striving for a right solution of this question. It is bigger by far than the giving of a living wage and a fair profit to the farmers of the land. It means the economic distribution of the products of all the industries of all the people.

Ex-President Diaz of Mexico Won't Leave Paris.

Paris, Aug. 7.—Gen. Porfirio Diaz, former President of Mexico, authorized the publication today that he has no intention of going to Japan. It was reported abroad that he proposed proceeding to Tokyo to meet his nephew, Gen. Felix Diaz, whom it was alleged he would accompany back to Mexico.

The former President appears to be in excellent health. He is well informed as to conditions in Mexico, but declines to express any opinion on the situation.

FOR GOOD OF THE STATE

Vital Subjects Are Discussed at State Conference.

LEADERS MUCH ENCOURAGED.

Resolution Adopted Urging Conference For Common Good Next Year. Also County Conferences.

Columbia Special to Charleston News and Courier, Aug. 7.—At the closing session here tonight of the first Conference for the Common Good a resolution was adopted urging a Conference for the Common Good next year and that county conferences be held as soon as possible. The resolution follows:

"Therefore, be it resolved, That this Conference for the Common Good places itself on record that it most emphatically believes the most pressing need in the state today is the improvement of the conditions of our rural communities. That it may be attained:

(1) "By wise co-operative methods.

(2) "By devising plans to assist our people to acquire their own homes and land.

(3) "By making our educational system efficient and adaptable to all needs of the people, by securing the attendance of all the children; by creating a higher standard of the child's general welfare as to health and morals and freedom from labor during its tender years of preparation.

(4) "By improved agriculture and stock raising.

(5) "By better and wiser marketing of farm crops.

(6) "By building up a self-respecting, aspiring and law-abiding citizenship."

This resolution tells of the purpose of the Conference for the Common Good. The resolution was adopted late tonight.

THE CLOSING ADDRESS.

The address on "The Majesty of the Law," by President H. N. Snyder, of Wofford College, tonight brought the Conference for the Common Good to a close. Dr. Snyder thrilled the conference by his masterly handling of the subject. "The stand of the ages," said the speaker, "is on the majesty of law and it is the cornerstone of all of our liberties. It is impaired if, too much special legislation, by too much delay in executing the laws, mandates, and the apparent slowness of the courts in dealing out justice, an apparent feeling that some can get more of the resources of the law than others." He pleaded for everyone to rededicate themselves anew to upholding the majesty of the law.

Col. Alfred Aldrich precipitated a flutter in the convention, when he offered as an amendment a motion to return the thanks of the conference to United States Senator E. D. Smith for his share in inducing the government to offer \$50,000,000 to assist the South in moving its crops. President Tate said he was certain the convention had no desire to vote down the resolution, but the gathering was absolutely devoid of politics, and if they got to passing resolutions of thanks to all the public men it would mean bulky and burdensome work. He explained that it was against the policy of the conference.

Mr. R. Beverly Herbert joined Mr. Tate in opposing any such resolutions. Colonel Aldrich finally withdrew his motion and the resolutions as presented by the committee were then adopted.

A resolution by President Dabbs, of the State Farmers' Union, was seriously objected to by Secretary Snell, of the Charleston chamber of commerce, because of its implied criticism of a certain feature of the federal department of agriculture in this state, and it was not until this feature was eliminated that Secretary Snell withdrew his motion to table the resolution and let it pass. The discussion between President Dabbs and Secretary Snell grew heated, but it was ended by President Tate's suggestion that the resolution be changed to eliminate the objectionable section.

LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED.

Justifying all the hopes of the men and women responsible for its launching the Welfare Conference for the Common Good came to a close tonight, after two days of successful career. That a new era has been inaugurated by this conference is the firm conviction of the unselfish leaders, who have the good of the commonwealth at heart, and that this is only the beginning of many such gatherings is the confidence expressed by men and women from all parts of South Carolina, who have been in attendance.

Featured and emphasized by the presence of citizens from every walk and vocation of the commonwealth, the initial Conference for the Common Good will undoubtedly, it is believed, be productive of great good for all South Carolina. "The greatest good for all the people" is a motto expressive of the purposes of those who see ahead the dawn of a new and better day, a day of better understanding and a step in the direction that ideal goal toward which all Republics and states are working, the brotherhood of man.

President W. K. Tate and the ladies and gentlemen who have worked with him were inspired by a high and worthy motive and they

feel wonderfully encouraged over the auspicious beginning of the conference. A start has been made, lines have been laid down, and laudatory purposes launched from the Spring of Common Good, which will go flowing down the stream of years, bringing all the people to a better understanding of each other and a better knowledge of the problems and difficulties of their fellowman as he journeys on through life. It was the general opinion here tonight that South Carolina will reap harvests of good from this first general comingling of her people, and that many of the problems and rough places will be smoothed over as a result.

AMERICA MAKES GREAT TRADE GAINS

Monetary Total of Four Billion and a Quarter—Exports Exceeded Those of 1912 by \$261,500,000

Washington, Aug. 7.—The trade of the United States in the past fiscal year was greater than in any previous year. Figures just completed show that it reached a monetary total of \$4,275,000,000, which is \$421,000,000 greater than last year's record of exports and imports. The balance in favor of the total this year was \$6,453,000,000. The exports exceeded those of 1912 by \$261,500,000, while the imports increased by only \$159,700,000.

The greatest gain in exports was in manufactures ready for consumption in which class there was an increase of \$105,000,000 over 1912. The increase in foodstuffs was only a little more than \$1,500,000.

Most of the imports were from the United Kingdom, which furnished \$296,000,000. Germany came next with \$189,000,000 worth of goods, then France with \$137,000,000, Cuba with \$126,000,000, Canada with \$121,000,000, and Japan with \$192,000,000.

Most of the exports went to the United Kingdom which took \$192,000,000, Canada \$191,000,000, Germany \$332,000,000, France \$146,000,000, the Netherlands \$123,000,000, and Italy \$76,000,000.

FATAL FIGHT NEAR BLANEY.

Quarrel Over Location of Land Line Has Fatal Result.

Blaney, Aug. 7.—Henry Sessions was shot and instantly killed by Joe Simpson in a fight which occurred late yesterday afternoon in the county six miles from this place. Both of the parties are prominent men of this section. A quarrel concerning the location of a land line led up to the firing of the fatal shot. Mr. Simpson was immediately arrested and lodged in jail pending the holding of the inquest which will take place during the afternoon.

Owing to the remoteness of the scene of the shooting, few of the details have reached here. Mr. Sessions is survived by a wife and one child. News of the shooting came as a shock to the neighborhood, since both Mr. Simpson and Mr. Sessions are well connected in the county and are prominent in the life of the community.

ARRIVED AT THE LEGATION.

Minister Gonzales Reached Port at Havana Wednesday.

The following is taken from Thursday's Columbia Record: Capt. William E. Gonzales of this city, the new American minister to Cuba, reached his post at Havana Wednesday morning, and was greeted by many Cuban officials and the staff at the legation. Mr. Gonzales will in all probability present his credentials to President Menocal tomorrow.

Early in June President Wilson nominated Captain Gonzales for minister to Cuba, and his appointment was shortly afterwards confirmed by the senate. He took the oath of office in Washington a few days later.

Captain Gonzales left Columbia for New York Thursday, July 31, but stopped in Washington for a conference at the state department, en route to the metropolis. From New York he sailed Saturday, August 2, on the steamship Havana of the Ward line, reaching the capital of Cuba Wednesday.

Loan Sharks Prevalent in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., Special to The Columbia Record, Aug. 7.—The issue of Frost's Magazine, "The Call of the South," calls the attention of the Georgia, to the prevalence of the loan shark evil in Georgia and the crying need of some legislative relief for the poor and unfortunate from this species of oppression.

The editorial in question calls attention to the authentic case of a clerk who showed in the Fulton superior court that he had paid the loan sharks over \$1,600 of usurious interest on an original loan of \$280, and that he still owed the principal.

Governor on Vacation For the First Time.

Indianapolis, Aug. 6.—Governor Ralston started yesterday on the first vacation he has ever had and the governor is 56 years old. He will spend two weeks in Massachusetts at the summer home of Thomas Taggart, Democratic national committeeman from Indiana.

MEXICO GREATLY AROUSED

Reports of Lind's Mission Received With Indignation.

COULD EXPECT NO IMMUNITY.

Firm in Assertion That Suggestion of Mediation or Huerta's Resignation is Not Acceptable.

Mexico City, Aug. 6.—Increased antagonism has been aroused among Mexicans toward President Wilson's plan for the pacification of the republic, by the latest news from Washington that the object of John Lind's visit here as the personal representative of President Wilson, is to consult with prominent Mexicans and advise them that the only basis on which Mexico will be recognized by the United States is the elimination of President Huerta.

Earlier reports that Mr. Lind purposed to deal with Huerta, perhaps by making the direct suggestion that he resign, were received with indignation by Mexican officials and the new angle of his visit makes it not improbable that he will be treated with even less consideration than otherwise would have been accorded him.

TREAT AS FOREIGNER.

It was pointed out by a prominent Mexican today that in the former case the government might not consider itself obliged to act until the suggestion was actually put forward by Mr. Lind, but that in the second case the government would be justified in characterizing him as one who was inciting Mexicans along lines of sedition and in applying the pernicious foreign expulsion clause of the constitution. This, Mexicans also indicated that since Mr. Lind was coming to Mexico in an unofficial capacity and with no credentials, he could not expect more consideration or immunity than an ordinary foreigner would receive.

Mexicans familiar with international law are unwilling to believe that Mr. Lind's instructions are for him to deal with others than the authorized officials of the de facto government.

These officials are still firm in their assertion that no suggestions whatever, involving mediation or the resignation of Huerta, will be acceptable and say that the best that Mr. Lind can hope for in this respect is to be ignored. However, the anti-Huerta element, which is not prominently in evidence in the capital, is skeptical regarding the firm stand by the administration.

Clark Attacks Lind Visit.

Washington, Aug. 6.—President Wilson's action in sending former Gov. John Lind to Mexico as a special emissary in the present situation was attacked in the senate today by Senator Clark of Wyoming, who declared "something else must be done by the administration" to guarantee adequate protection to Americans. Senator Clark presented a resolution for an immediate investigation by the senate foreign relations committee of the condition of American citizens and American property in Mexico.

Senator Shepard of Texas presented a summary of the strength of the Constitutionalist forces in Mexico. The report showed the Constitutionalist numbers numbered between 60,000 and 80,000 and that they were in possession of far more than half of Mexico.

"We are unable to get exact and definite information," continued Senator Clark, "about conditions in Mexico. Evidence still continues, however, to show that American property is being destroyed every day, that American citizenship is being dishonored there and even officers of the American government are being shot down."

Senator Clark said it was the purpose of his resolution to obtain information. He did not ask for a vote on the resolution today.

On Mission of Peace.

Mexico City, Aug. 6.—Secretary of State Bryan sent the following telegram to the American legation tonight:

"You may say to the minister of foreign affairs that Governor Lind comes to Mexico on a mission of peace and that the President feels sure his presence there will contribute toward a settlement of the difficulties. The Mexican government should await the President's communication and should not give weight to misrepresentations printed in sensational newspapers." The message was delivered to the foreign minister.

Suffragists Try to Storm Convention.

London, Aug. 7.—The International Mediation Congress was opened by Prince Arthur Connaught as the representative of King George in the great Albert hall yesterday in the presence of an audience of 10,000.

The credentials of every person in the audience were rigorously scrutinized before entry could be obtained to the hall. This precaution was taken to keep out suffragettes, several of whom attempted to enter.

A large force of police guarded the building while women carrying billboards bearing the words, "What do the doctors think of women torture?" paraded outside.