

(From the Fairhope Courier)

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, MARCH 24, 1922.

GREAT HIGHWAY MEET AT MOBILE

ALABAMA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR STATES, U. S. GOV. OFFICIALS, TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY BOOSTERS, COUNTY BOARDS AND LOCAL CIVIC BODIES JOIN IN SUPPORT OF DELTA BRIDGE.

ALABAMA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION ADOPTS BRIDGE AS PART OF STATE PRIMARY HIGHWAY SYSTEM. SURVEYS ORDERED AT ONCE.

BALDWIN COUNTY ENTERTAINS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

It really looks as if the long cherished hope of a bridge connecting Mobile and Baldwin counties was in the near future to be realized.

In a two day session of the State Highway Commission of Alabama, held at Mobile Monday and Tuesday, such an array of facts bearing upon the importance of the bridge was laid before the commissioners and such a wealth of unanimity of support from Alabama and neighboring states was marshalled in its favor as to make the case for the bridge seem unquestionable and irresistible.

The highest degree of credit is due the Mobile Automobile Club and cooperating civic bodies of Mobile for the manner in which the case was presented. Speaker after speaker participated in the presentation of facts and conditions bearing upon the problem, but by common consent the address of Mr. William McLeod, of Mobile, was the most complete summing up of the matter which was or could have been made.

Differing from all former meetings upon the matter, and the writer has attended several, there was no discussion of routes or methods of construction. All of the technical details were left to them under whose direction and authority the work must be done and to the engineers.

All the progressive forces of Mobile were welded together in one effort to convince the members of the Highway Commission that the bridge could and must be built. Baldwin county ably cooperated through the brilliant Frank S. Stone, of Bay Minette, and approving resolutions of its county commissioners.

Resolutions were also presented from the county commissioners of five other counties in this section of the state, endorsing the bridge as an important feature in their interest.

There were also strong delegations present from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida, joining in the presentation of the proposition as one of interstate, even national importance.

Major Earl North, U. S. engineer in Mobile, stressed the importance of this connection from a military standpoint, and declared it to be practical and one that ought to have special government aid.

Congressman John McDuffie, of the district which includes Mobile, came all the way from Washington and gave his warm endorsement. He also brought and read a letter from the acting secretary of war, declaring the bridge to be a matter which had been given careful consideration by the department and that its importance was fully appreciated. Letters were read from Senators Underwood and Heflin stating their conviction that special aid should be given the project and pledging their fullest support to an effort to secure same.

All of the Mobile speakers referred to Baldwin county at the eastern terminus of the proposed bridge in the most flattering terms.

On Monday night the members of the Highway Commission and visiting delegates were guests of the Mobile Automobile Club, at a dinner at the Cawthon Vineyard, at which more than 450 were seated and at which there was a most enjoyable feast of good speeches as well as a splendid dinner.

THE VISIT TO BALDWIN COUNTY.

Delegations from Daphne, Loxley, Fairhope and Foley were in attendance Monday and Tuesday and on Tuesday joined in an invitation to the members of the Highway Commission and visiting delegates to the conference to visit Baldwin county as their guests. President Holmes of the Daphne Normal School and ex-senator, extended the invitation on behalf of Daphne and Loxley, the editor of the Courier on behalf of Fairhope and Mayor J. T. Dumas, on behalf of Foley. The Daphne-Loxley people

had planned a trip over their road which Director Ayres has designated as the Old Spanish Trail clear to Pensacola, but graciously agreed to a modification of their plan, which would permit them to take the Commissioners as far on their route as Mrs. Banning's wonderful pecan orchard beyond Loxley, and then deliver them to the Foley and Fairhope delegations.

Banker Randall, of Loxley, Mayor J. T. Dumas, of Foley and Editor E. B. Gaston, of Fairhope, were chosen as a committee to carry out the agreed upon program, which was done without a hitch or untoward incident of any kind.

Captain Joe Pose, tendered his fine new craft the New Daphne, for a special trip Wednesday morning to Daphne, where, at the head of the wharf the reception committee with a party of children with flowers and songs, met the distinguished visitors, and they were promptly loaded into twenty-seven automobiles and the trip into the county begun.

THE GREAT NEWS.

The party brought with them the great news that the State Highway Commission at its session the evening before, had voted 10 to 2 to declare the proposed bridge a part of the primary system of highways, and to allot to it South Alabama's equitable share of the state fund. An immediate survey of the proposed routes was ordered.

INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS.

Evidence was at once seen of the great enterprise shown by the people along the Daphne-Loxley-Perdido part of the Old Spanish Trail, who have within the past several months done an immense amount of work, chiefly by subscription of those interested along the route and with small assistance from the county. A couple of considerable new bridges have been built, miles of road graded and dragged