

THE HIGHWAY MEET HAS BIG SUCCESS

T. ED. BRYAN RE-ELECTED
PRESIDENT.

Important Report of the Legislative Committee Heard.

L. P. Dickie and W. G. Brorein returned this morning from Kissimmee, where they attended the annual meeting of the Central Florida Highway association. They report the meeting interesting and most successful in every way. T. Ed. Bryan of Tampa was re-elected president for the coming year; F. W. Perry, of Fort Myers, second vice-president; L. A. Whitney of Pinellas Park, first vice-president, and C. H. Stanford of Kissimmee, third vice-president. L. P. Dickie was named to succeed himself as secretary as well as J. H. Scales as treasurer.

Reports of officers, including the report of Secretary Dickie, were heard and approved at the meeting. The report of the secretary was published in Thursday's issue of The Times. The report of the legislative committee, an important one, is as follows:

"Your legislative committee, believing that it will be both interesting and profitable to all members of the Central Florida Highway association at this time to submit a brief synopsis of legislation pertaining to improved road bills enacted at the recent session of the legislature, the committee submits the following report:

"Senate bill No. 12, which was enacted into law, amended the act creating the state road department by increasing its powers in several respects. The law as amended authorizes the state road department to enter into contracts and makes rules and regulations for the construction and maintenance of such highways and bridges as may be placed under its supervision, either by law or resolution of any board of county commissioners.

"It further gives the state road department the authority to name certain roads as state roads, which are to be constructed and maintained from funds derived from state and federal sources and certain other roads to be designated state aid roads to be constructed and maintained from funds derived from federal, state and county sources, but with the proviso that the county must contribute not less than 50 per cent. of the total cost of construction and guarantee to provide not less than 50 per cent. of the future maintenance cost.

"Senate bill No. 14, which was enacted into law, provides for the formal acceptance of the federal aid fund, as provided for in the federal act. The funds provided by the federal government are pro-rated as follows: One-third on a basis of population, one-third on a basis of area of the state, and one-third on a basis of mileage of R. F. D. Federal funds available for 1916 are \$56,000; 1917, \$112,000; 1918, \$168,000; 1919, \$224,000; and 1920, \$280,000, making in all approximately \$840,000 during these years.

"This law also provides for a one-half mill levy for the ensuing two years to meet the federal aid appropriation for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918. This one-half mill levy will net approximately \$140,000 per annum, which will fall short of meeting the federal aid fund by approximately \$25,000 per annum. This deficit will be made up partly by working state prisoners.

"Senate bill No. 267, which was enacted into law, provides that 400 state prisoners shall be used by the state road department and maintained from funds already appropriated for the use of this department. This bill provided originally for the use of 1,000 prisoners by the state road department and for a levy of one-half mill for their maintenance, but owing to the financial situation with the state the legislature could not see its way clear to make the levy or to make provision for the employment of a greater number of prisoners by the state road department.

"Senate bill No. 266, which was enacted into law, provides for a single state license on automobiles, which will be paid into the office of the comptroller at Tallahassee. The rate on all cars carrying not more than five passengers is \$5; cars carrying more than five passengers and having a horsepower of more than twenty-five, pay according to a sliding scale, which reaches a maximum of \$20.

"This license tax becomes due and is payable January 1 of each year, beginning with January 1, 1918. The three months from October to the end of the current year will be collected by the counties, the same as heretofore.

"Eighty-five per cent. of the funds derived from the automobile license is pro-rated among the counties according to the total state tax paid by each county and is expended under the state road department in the maintenance of state and state aid roads. It is provided, however, that where no state or state aid roads exist, this fund may be used for construction purposes until a maintenance fund has been provided. The remaining 15 per cent. is

set aside for the overhead expenses of the state road department.

"This law also provides for certain traffic regulation, among which is a provision relative to the use of dimmers, which must be applied before vehicles travelling in the opposite direction approach each other within 200 feet. This law also provides that instead of dimmers the car may be provided with a form of light shining more than four feet above the ground at a distance of 400 feet from the car.

"Senate bill No. 265, which was enacted into law, provides for certain traffic regulation and weight of loads on roads hard-surfaced with brick, asphalt or concrete.

"This law prohibits vehicles from carrying more than 400 pounds to each

inch of face or width of tire considering each of the wheels separately. This law also prohibits the use of tires with roughened surface other than rubber or vehicles carrying a load, any part of which is permitted to drag.

"From the foregoing it is apparent that all the more substantial recommendations made by the Central Florida Highway association regarding legislation were favorably acted upon. Your committee now recommends that the Central Florida Highway association continue its efforts to bring about the enactment of laws by the next legislature covering the recommendations heretofore made by this association, that have not been provided for. The legislative committee, to be appointed for the ensuing year, will doubtless make specific recommendations relative to additional legislation that should be enacted from time to time.

"Respectfully submitted, W. G. Brorein, F. W. Perry, H. C. Stanford, legislative committee."