

"SEE AMERICA FIRST."

Maryland's Prestige Should be Pushed to the Front.

The great interest already being taken by people in the counties throughout Maryland in the "See America First" Convention which will be held in Baltimore, in May, 1912, was strongly evidenced last week at the first meeting of the Committee appointed by Governor Crothers. This Committee is composed of representative citizens from various citizens in the state and will have charge of the arrangements for the display to be made by the State of Maryland at the Convention. The meeting was held in the Governor's office in Baltimore and Mr. N. M. Parrott, Secretary of the GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE and of the Committee in charge of the "See America First" Convention, briefly explained the object of the Convention and the work the State Committee would have to do. Dr. Joshua W. Hering, of Westminster, who is so well known from one end of the State to the other, was elected Chairman and Mr. Mandel Sener, Press Representative of the GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE and who grew up on a farm in Washington county, was elected Secretary. The Governor of Virginia just appointed a Committee and West Virginia Committee will soon be named.

Every member of the Committee present was deeply interested in the movement and promptly indicated his willingness to do everything in his power to have the State most creditably and properly represented in the display. Mr. W. S. Powell, of Ellicott City, President of the Maryland Press Ass'n., Judge B. Harris Camaller, of Leonardtown, Mr. John W. Avirett, of Cumberland, Ex-Congressman Thos. A. Smith, of Ridgely; Mr. J. Clarence Lane, of Hagerstown and Mr. Richard P. Ross, of Frederick, were among those who spoke at the meeting and said they were ready to jump into the work to push Maryland's prestige to the front. Mr. Powell said that he had no doubt it would be easy to pay the expenses involved, as he knew of three men in Howard county, that would each give \$100 toward the display to be made by that county. Judge Camaller spoke of some of the best historic events having originated in Maryland and said that it was right and proper that the initiative in showing America's attractions should be taken in this State.

Mr. John W. Avirett was very enthusiastic and pledged himself that Allegheny and Garrett counties will be represented. Mr. Edward L. Quarles, Director of the GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE was invited to address the Committee in explaining the origin and purpose of the "See America First" movement. He laid much emphasis on the fact that a pictorial and topographical display of the many interesting attractions in these United States will be highly educational. Most of the responsibility for arranging for the State's exhibit, will rest upon the shoulders of an Executive Committee of five which Mr. Hering has been authorized to appoint. The Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman. There is no doubt that this movement will prove of great educational value to everybody, because this country is full of attractions that most people know nothing about. As Mr. Charles H. Dickey, Chairman of the GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE, most enthusiastically over the possibilities of great State and City development, said:—"If you are fond of the rugged mountains with pleasant and refreshing atmosphere and nature's beauty and loveliness in the streams of water that wind their way down the hills and through the valleys to the big rivers, the beauty of the golden grain fields and fruit orchards, they are easily found in the fertile, agricultural valleys and hills-tops of Maryland."

In fact in our colleges, in our academies and even in our public schools, the doctrines should be taught through text books and illustrated lectures that the duty of every American citizen, if he travels at all, is to see America first. In no way can we develop better throughout our country the spirit of national patriotism, of community of interest and progress, than by this co-operative action for the good of all the country. The material benefit will also be enormous in keeping at home millions of dollars that now go abroad and the expenditure of these millions would not only benefit the Americans spending them, but the Americans in the sections visited by these travelers.

John Barrett, Director General of the Bureau of Pan-American Republics said at the Astoria, Oregon, Centennial Celebration, last week:—"As the representative of the President of the United States on this occasion, I can state confidentially, that he himself believes strongly in the National movement for "Seeing America First" and that he desires to aid in every way he can, such a movement." The President expressed himself in the same strong way in a recent letter to Senator John Walter Smith.

It is fully realized how much the farmers of America have done for themselves and how far ahead of other farmers they are in many respects and this is in no way more strongly brought out than by rubbing shoulder to shoulder with the good, practical, progressive farmer of Maryland, Virginia or West Virginia. It has been the practical farmer who has kept well informed through closely reading his home paper and agricultural papers, sent his boys to agricultural colleges, modestly visited the travelling "demonstration car" and learned the lessons of soil fertility, of stock breeding and to somewhat less extent the best methods of marketing. This has made the modern farmer today, and it is this kind of practical education that is expected will make the "See America First" movement most valuable.

Value of Birds. J. P. Gilbert, of the University of Illinois, said in a recent lecture on "Birds of the Farm and City" that hunters do not realize the value of birds to farm products. Mr. Gilbert said it is due to the destruction of quail in Illinois that the potato bug is becoming such a pest; that a partridge on the table is worth a few cents, but partridges on the farm are worth many dollars; that every hawk and owl is worth on an average \$30 to the State; and that one "Hicker" can eat 5000 ants at a single meal; that the kingfisher is the most powerful defender the poultry yard has in the bird kingdom. Yet we kill these birds whenever we get the chance.

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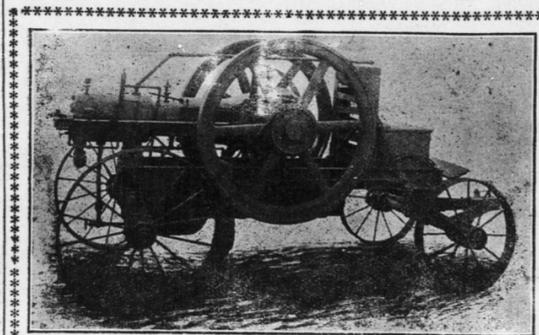
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