

## Southern Railway

### May Build Line Direct to Coast and An Extension into Harlan.

(Bristol Herald Courier)

Extension of the Appalachia Division of the Southern Railway north and west into Harlan, Ky., coal fields and south by way of Bristol to Charleston, S. C., is being agitated with some prospects of success at Appalachia and other points affected. Call for a general mass-meeting at which President Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway, will be invited, probably will be held at Bristol in the very near future.

The proposition took definite form at a recent meeting of the Appalachia Chamber of Commerce when committees were appointed for the preliminary work. It is understood that officials of the Southern Railway have made some investigation of this proposed extension and have made surveys of available coal developments and the facility of a more direct route from the Virginia-Kentucky coal fields to Seaboard.

Charles Steel Davidson, of Washington, D. C., who is understood to represent interests directly connected with Southern Railway operation attended the meeting of the Appalachia Chamber of Commerce, and is said to have given encouragement to the proposition.

Facts were brought out in regard to the immense ten billion tons of coal in Harlan county and that the development of these resources would do for Appalachia and the entire south should it be thrown open to the trade of the whole world by an extension of the Southern Railway line.

"The facts about the coal trade of the world and what is to happen now that the United States has the money of the whole world is very interesting and every red blooded American citizen should be informed on the actual facts in the case," said a prominent citizen. "Here we have the owners of 100 billion tons of coal in some fifteen counties in Kentucky and Virginia, all anxious and willing to do their part in serving the whole world with coal. Wall street has the fifty billion dollars of the world's money and it is criminal to withhold the facts of this immense coal field from Wall street.

"Harlan county is the only county which has made any concerted effort to start some actions to grab the world's coal trade and the effort was not made on a big basis in keeping with the immensity of the opportunity.

**Proposes Conference at Bristol.**

"Appalachia is a town of 3,000 but her smallness in size is not keeping her from spending \$1,000 in an effort to wake Knoxville, Bristol, Big Stone Gap and Harlan leaders up to this opportunity and agitate a big conference of the recognized leaders in the Knoxville trade territory, with Mr. Harrison at Bristol.

"Closely identified with this effort to get the Southern into Harlan is the Knoxville Ironton highway possibility which is being promoted at this time.

"This highway will follow the Lee highway for 100 miles to

## Kingsport, and on to Ironton, Ohio, via Big Sandy river and through Norton, Appalachia and Big Stone.

"At Appalachia the branch to Harlan and Lynch is the one we are all so interested in and scrapping over for the past six months.

"The new \$25,000,000 coal operation at Lynch belonging to the steel trust is just over the mountain from Appalachia.

"The new \$25,000,000 plant at Lynch is the first of three the steel trust has plans for with one big new plant for the Wisconsin Steel Company.

"The main seam which is being mined at Lynch and Benham is the same seam which is used on the Virginia side to make the Stonoga coke which is recognized as the best coke in the U. S. A.

"Appalachia has reason to think if the Southern were extended into Harlan it would insure Appalachia the shops, yards, and offices which the Southern has plans to build in the coal fields. But it is understood the Knoxville terminals are to be constructed first.

"There can be no question that the extension of the Southern into Harlan would be the signal for everybody to get busy and cash in on the biggest opportunity in the history of this coal field.

"It would require immense millions for the Southern to get the Harlan coal to the coast. It would require double tracking and an immense amount of re-grading and electrifying the entire main line from the coal field to Charleston, S. C.

"This initiative is no job for any one town or city. It demands the super-cooperation of the entire trade territory."

### Memorial Service Held at Glencoe Cemetery.

The memorial service held under the auspices of the U. D. C. Chapter and Community League at 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon in Glencoe cemetery, was unusually good and very impressive.

Twenty little boys and girls carried the evergreen wreaths to the cemetery from the school building and placed them on the graves of all the soldiers of the Civil war and the recent war who are buried there which the U. D. C. had marked with a small flag. A large number of people had gathered at the cemetery before the service and had decorated the graves of their loved ones.

Hon. R. T. Irvine had charge of the service. Rev. Dean and Rev. Smith were the ministers present. A number of patriotic songs led by Mrs. Hoff were sung. Major W. A. Stuart made a very good patriotic address filled with splendid thoughts for young and old. He closed his address by reading a poem "The Day of Their Honor" from The American Legion Weekly. Following is the last verse:

"The poppies bloom on the fields of France,  
And the North Sea waves are gray  
The flow turns follow at Gettysburg  
And turrets is years away  
The grass is green where the crosses stand  
And the sky bends smiling o'er,  
But our country baxes it's head today  
To the men who will march no more.

### Successful Revival at Castlewood.

Castlewood, May 26.—Rev. Hudgins, assisted by Rev. Paxton, have just closed a very successful revival at this place. Rev. Hudgins preached very interesting sermons each night to a crowded house. There were over a hundred conversions and a large number received into the church Sunday. The revival was a great blessing to this place.

## Senator Trinkle

### Opposed to Road Bond Issue in Virginia.

Richmond, Va., May 28.—Hon. E. Lee Trinkle, candidate for Governor, today gave out the following statement on the question of the road bond issue in Virginia, and the re-organization of the highway department.

"Some weeks ago I gave out a statement of my views on the reorganization of the highway department of Virginia, being, so far as I know, the first statement made by any candidate on this subject. I wish now to reiterate the statement then made, that I am an earnest advocate of good roads and that no one could be more sincerely interested in the road development of the commonwealth of Virginia than I am; and thus I have always endeavored to evidence both as a member of the Senate of Virginia and as a private citizen.

"I realize that a comprehensive system of good roads is absolutely essential for a speedy and complete development of our state, and that the demand for increased transportation facilities is upon us and must be met. It is my purpose and desire to devote my very best efforts toward the development of adequate road facilities; but, great as my desire is for speedy road construction, I feel that we should not be forgetful of conditions as they now exist and should keep ourselves well within the limit of the ability of our people to bear the cost without unreasonable burden, and within the capacity of the highway department to economically and efficiently construct and maintain the roads; realizing that the maintenance of our roads after their construction is fully as essential as the construction itself; and that in addition to state taxation for road purposes the people are also called upon for county and city taxes for the construction and maintenance of their local roads and streets.

"I find by investigation that Virginia's funds for road construction and maintenance during the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1921, amount to the sum of \$12,412,721.37, (this sum including the Federal aid). I further find that the auditor conservatively estimates that the income for road construction and maintenance for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1922, will be \$7,650,000.00; and for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1923, the income for the same purposes will be \$7,650,000.00. It is fair to state that the auditor in making up the above estimate has figured on the basis that Federal aid will be continued as it is. In other words, Virginia will have the sum of \$27,712,721.37 to spend for road construction and maintenance during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923.

"It is also true that the reduction which has already come in the cost of road construction and maintenance, with the possibility of still further reduction in the future, will allow a considerable increase in mileage to be constructed with available funds, over and above what was originally anticipated.

"I believe that with these large funds available, and under existing business and financial conditions, it would not be wise for me to recommend to the next General Assembly that

any bill should be passed committing Virginia to a bond issue of \$50,000,000.00, or any other fixed amount.

"Not only have the people of Virginia, in electing their candidates to the House of Delegates this year, the opportunity to indicate their desires as to a bond issue; but I would further remind the people of the state that in the fall of 1923 they will have to elect the entire General Assembly for the session beginning in January 1924, and they can then give a further expression of their wishes as to the road bond issue through the election of the members of both branches of the General Assembly; and in this way a full expression of the people may be had at that time under the conditions as they may then exist.

"I believe that the present burden of county, city, state and federal taxes is as heavy as the people should be called upon to bear, and I am unalterably opposed to any increase in state taxation of any kind for any purpose under present conditions.

"In traveling over the state as I have done for the last few months, facing from one to five audiences a day, I find that the people of Virginia are not satisfied with the laws governing our highway department; and, as I have previously stated, I shall, if elected, recommend to the next General Assembly a reorganization of this department, based on a most careful study of the subject in conjunction with the very best judgment and advice that I can secure; so that no one man shall have entire control of same, and that all money provided for road purposes will be carefully safeguarded and wisely and economically expended.

"I am strongly in favor of a centralized highway department having control of the state highway system, at the same time giving to the local road authorities a reasonable discretion in connection with state aid county roads, to which the counties contribute one-half of the cost."

### TO THE CITIZENS OF BIG STONE GAP

Nature has made our town so beautiful and this year more beautiful than usual—now it is up to us to keep it clean. It is in a fearful condition, not only the streets but the river banks.

There are two dumping grounds, one on the island at old electric light plant and one back of the Woolea mill. Don't let's disgrace the river banks with trash.

Commencing May 30th we will have cleaning up week. Everyone get their places spotless right to the middle of the street. Put all trash in barrels or piles and our good mayor will see that the trash is hauled off and put in the dumping ground. Cinders can be used to fill up holes and help make better streets. But no cinders or trash can be thrown in piles on streets after cleaning up week. They are unsightly and untidy and ruin the looks of our city.

A committee will go over the town June 8th and any houses or business buildings that have not their premises clean the owners will be fined. The law, we know, will not have to be enforced for our people have too much civic pride not to have their places as clean and attractive as their neighbors.

Later we hope to offer prizes for cleanliness and attractive laws. All help the Community League in this work. In doing it you are helping to beautify your town, enhancing the value of your property and teaching your children to be neat and to take more interest in their homes.

Mrs. H. E. Fox, Chairman of Streets for the Community League.

## CLOSING EXERCISES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Norton Hotel Opens With Two Banquets.

Work on Hotel Norton is being pushed along as speedily as possible in order to have the dining room and the auditorium completed and ready for the two big banquets to be given on June 10 and 11, the first by the Norton Kiwanis Club, and the second by the Virginia Coal Operators' Association.

The occasion of these two banquets will also constitute a formal opening of Hotel Norton.

Manager J. Arch Sterne is leaving nothing undone to make this hotel the best between Lynchburg and Lexington, Ky. Already two floors have been completed and furnished. The rooms are fitted out most artistically, with rarest simplicity in color matching, the blinds, curtains and all the drapery being of colors harmoniously blended. The rooms are arranged in suites of three and each opens on a private bath. A desk telephone is in each room. Ventilation, light and heat are the best that can be had in any hotel in the largest cities. And guests are delighted with the splendid beds, which are made of the finest ticking and bed materials obtainable. It is a treat to the eye to look into these inviting rooms.

The halls are spacious, well ventilated and carpeted with a noiseless linoleum tile, of varied colors. Elevator and fire escape are easily accessible.

An expensive and thoroughly up-to-date kitchen equipment is being installed, and a luxurious dining room, surpassing anything of its kind in our neighboring cities, will be open about June 5th.

Other highly desirable features of this hotel will be a writing and reading room, parlor for ladies, and a beauty parlor for manicurist and hair-dresser. Back of the lobby a first-class barbershop is being equipped, and at the right hand, upon entering the lobby, will be a drug store. The lobby itself will be exceptionally attractive.—Crawford's Weekly.

### Engagement Announced.

In a number of the leading newspapers of the state on the society page last week was the announcement of the engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Cassie Louise Duvall to Prof. Owen R. Easley. The wedding to take place June 21st in Parkersburg, W. Va., at the home of Miss Duvall's brother. Both are well known in the Gap, where Miss Duvall taught and Prof. Easley was principal of the public school. On leaving the Gap Prof. Easley accepted the principalship of the Martinsville public school while Miss Duvall has been teaching in North Carolina.

### Ice Plant for Appalachia.

The Ice Company is dismantling its old plant adjoining the Central Supply building, preparatory to rebuilding. The new building will be brick and reinforced concrete, 60x110 feet. The ice plant will be modern in every particular and of ample capacity to supply all demands.

There will also be installed and operated in this building a modern ice cream plant with a daily capacity of about 1000 gallons.

Berks Construction Company have secured the contract for the building.

A representative of the Ice Company states that both the ice plant and ice cream plant will be in operation about October 1st.—Appalachia Independent.

### NOTICE!

The regular monthly meeting of the Big Stone Gap Police Guard will be held in the town hall on Tuesday night, June 7. All members are urged to be present at this meeting, as some very important business will be brought up at this time. The guard is doing a good work and should receive the support of the entire community.

### Baccalaureate Sermon by Rev. Dean.

Rev. C. W. Dean, local pastor of the M. E. Church, South, preached the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of the Big Stone Gap High School Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock in the school auditorium.

Just before the opening song, "Onward Christian Soldiers," by the congregation, the eleven graduates marched into the auditorium wearing the conventional graduating caps and gowns. The song was followed by a prayer by Rev. E. F. Kahle, of Abingdon. The song, "He Comes," was then sung by Mrs. Margaret Hoff supported by an excellent choir representing the churches in the town. Mrs. J. H. Matthews presided at the piano. The sermon followed.

The text of the sermon was "The wages of Sin is Death, but the Gift of God is eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The sermon was of a purely gospel nature which is typical of Rev. Dean. In it he clearly brought out that "wrong is wrong and right is right" and that "there is no sliding scale in the tariff of God's law and every violation of God's law calls for a penalty. During the discourse of the latter part of the text, Rev. Dean emphasized the fact that the higher law of God counter balances the lower law of sin and lifts one above the seething pools of sin giving in the end "Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The entire attention of the graduates and large congregation was held through the thirty minutes' discourse and the expressions heard later indicates it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After a number of announcements by Prof. Sulfridge another song, "Crown Him," the congregation was dismissed by the benediction by Rev. Dean.

### Graduating Exercises Monday Night.

On Monday night in the school auditorium the graduating class of the Big Stone Gap High School held the commencement exercises.

The graduates had selected the beautiful white rose for their class flower and white and green for their class colors. The class motto was "Dien Sans Travail," the French translation for "Nothing Without Labor."

The stage of the auditorium was tastefully decorated for the occasion. A semi-circle back ground had been framed by evergreens, thickly studded with white roses. A number of white pedestals were placed around the stage holding vases of white roses. Potted ferns were also used in decorating. The class motto made of white was on a green background over the stage.

Following is the program of the evening which was well rendered:

Chorus	.....	Hey Ho Hey
Invocation	.....	Rev. Burnz
Salutatory	.....	James Gilly
Motto	.....	Temps Rhea
History	.....	Henrietta Skeen
Duet—Eating Our Graduation	.....	Faick
.....	.....	Louise Cox and May Slomp
Gibberian	.....	Trula Kennedy
Flower Oration	.....	Louise Cox
Prophecy	.....	Clara Dowell
Solo—La Lisonjera	.....	Chaminade
.....	.....	Henrietta Skeen
Last Will and Testament	.....	Mary Johnson
Valedictory	.....	May Slomp
Presentation of Gifts	.....	K. Lane

In the presentation of gifts K. Lane presented from the graduating class to the school a handsome mahogany piano bench which Prof. Sulfridge accepted for the school. Mr. Lane then presented Prof. Sulfridge a pair of gold cuff links as a token of the appreciation and love of the class for him.

Following the presentation of gifts, Rev. Edgar C. Burnz, in a very pleasing and complimentary manner, presented the two