

P10323

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

OHIO VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION,

At the Tenth Annual Convention,
held at Huntington, West Virginia,
November 16-18, 1904 :: :: ::

ATTEST:

J. F. ELLISON, Sec'y.

JOHN L. VANCE, Pres't.

[Sep. FROM
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Report of the Committee on Resolutions.

(Adopted by unanimous vote.)

The Committee on Resolutions submits for reaffirmation the cardinal principles of the Association, as declared in the following resolutions adopted by the Convention at Parkersburg, W. Va., November 12, 1902, and at Evansville, Ind., October 14 and 15, 1903, to-wit:

Resolved: That we earnestly petition the Congress of the United States

AS TO THE OHIO RIVER.

First. To so improve the Ohio River as to provide a nine foot stage at low water, from Pittsburg to Cairo.

Second. To make appropriations for that portion of the Ohio River already surveyed, or for which surveys have been authorized, in such amounts as to insure the completion of the improvement within eight years from the passage of the next River and Harbor Bill.

Third. To complete without unnecessary delay the survey of the Ohio River to its mouth, and to appropriate money in such amounts as to insure the completion of the improvement within ten years of the passage of the next River and Harbor Bill.

AS TO TRIBUTARIES.

Fourth. To provide for the same depth of water whenever practicable as that provided in the Ohio River, viz: nine feet in all of its tributaries for which a definite project for improvement now exists or may in the future be adopted by Congress.

AS TO OBSTRUCTIONS TO NAVIGATION.

Fifth. To have removed when shown to be an impediment to safe navigation, all artificial obstructions to the full and free use of the Ohio River and its navigable tributaries.

AS TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF ENGINEERS.

Resolved: That the improvement of the Ohio River be made according to the reports and recommendations of the United States Engineers, and approved by the Secretary of War.

Resolved: That the Association recognizes in the Hon. Theodore E. Burton, Chairman of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House of Representatives, an able and consistent supporter of all meritorious River and Harbor improvements, and especially of the improvement of the Ohio River as a great National Water Highway. The Association regards Mr. Burton as the originator of preliminary legislation favoring a nine-foot stage. This is evidenced by his speeches in Congress, and notably by that delivered on the emergency bill during the last session.

Resolved: That the Association notes with pleasure his recent reelection without opposition to Congress as a fitting and most deserving tribute to his long and valued public service.

Resolved: That this Association expresses obligation to the press of the Ohio Valley for its enthusiastic and intelligent services in advocating and supporting the improvement of the Ohio and its tributaries.

It appearing from the report of a special Board of Officers of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., dated August 10, 1902, composed of Colonel G. J. Lydecker, Major Wm. L. Sibert and Captain W. E. Craighill, that the stage of water formed by Dams Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, now completed or in process of construction, can be increased from a six to a nine foot depth by the expenditure of \$382,000; it is therefore hereby

Resolved: That this Association urges Congress to adopt the recommendations of said report, and to make the necessary appropriation to compass the changes.

Resolved: That the construction of a dam at or near Henderson, Ky., so as to make a depth of six feet of water on the mitre sill of the lower dam on Green River, at Spottsville, Ky., is necessary to make available the improvement of Green River already completed; and as the results would also be to make a pool that would afford safe harbor and adequate water at all seasons for the large population, and great commercial and manufacturing interests of the cities of Evansville and Henderson, we therefore favor the project in advance of a general survey of the lower Ohio.

Whereas: Experience has shown that judicious dredging in time of low water has proved extremely beneficial to low water navigation, therefore, be it

Resolved: That we recommend a liberal and timely use of dredges during the progress of the lock and dam construction.

Resolved: That this Association renews its protest against the maintenance of the narrow channel spans of such bridges across the Ohio River as the Steubenville Bridge of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis R. R. Co., and bridges of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co. at Bellair and Parkersburg.

Resolved: That we petition Congress to enact such laws as will more effectually control the rebuilding of such bridges, to the end that in the reconstructed bridges the obstructive features may be eliminated.

Resolved: That this Association recognizes in Major W. L. Sibert, U. S. Engineer, in charge of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, and the Ohio River to the Pennsylvania State line, an efficient, industrious and incorruptible officer, to whose high character it desires to bear testimony in contravention of certain recent attacks.

The following additional resolutions were presented to the Convention by the Committee on Miscellaneous Business, and adopted by unanimous vote:

We view with alarm, the closing up of valuable wharfage of river towns by railways, mills, etc., and recommend that the river towns be urged to look to it and jealously guard their river approaches.

We recommend that all river towns be made acquainted with their rights and privileges under the law as to the establishing of harbor lines in any locality, as provided in the Acts of Congress of September 19, 1890, March 3, 1899, and other acts, the substance of which is that whenever it is made manifest to the Secretary of War that the establishing of harbor lines is necessary for the protection and preservation of the harbors or other navigable waters of the United States, he shall cause such lines to be established, beyond which it shall not be lawful to make deposits, etc., and under the provisions of these Acts of Congress the humblest citizen may, by petition to the Secretary of War, secure the appointment of a commission to establish such lines in any locality along the river.

