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SEMI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD
AT THE WALDO HOTEL, CLARKSBURG, SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 1911.

Hon. HENRY G. DAVIS, *Chairman*,
Elkins.

Col. JOHN E. DAY, *Secretary*,
Wheeling.

Hon. S. F. REED, *Vice-Chairman*,
Secretary of State, Charleston.

Hon. B. W. PETERSON, *Treasurer*,
Wheeling.

State Archivist VIRGIL A. LEWIS, *Historian*,
Charleston.

COMMISSIONERS.

Hon. HENRY G. DAVIS,
Elkins.

Hon. W. E. CHILTON,
Charleston.

Hon. JOHN W. MASON,
Fairmont.

Hon. FRANK P. MOATS,
Parkersburg.

Dr. THOMAS E. HODGES,
Morgantown.

Hon. AMOS BRIGHT,
Sutton.

Hon. S. F. REED,
Secretary of State, Charleston.

Hon. E. A. BRANNON,
Weston.

Hon. C. J. FAULKNER,
Martinsburg.

Hon. HUGH I. SHOTT,
Bluefield.

Hon. V. L. HIGHLAND,
Clarksburg.

Hon. J. B. WILKINSON,
Logan.

Hon. B. W. PETERSON,
Wheeling.

Hon. EDW. THORNBURG,
Huntington.

Col. JOHN E. DAY,
Wheeling.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION.

The Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia, appointed by Governor Glasscock, to provide for a proper commemoration and celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of the State into the Union, met in the assembly room of the Waldo Hotel, Clarksburg,

Saturday, November 4, 1911, at 2.00 o'clock P. M., pursuant to the call issued by the Acting Chairman, the Hon. Henry G. Davis, of Elkins, supplemented by the personal letter of Governor William E. Glasscock, addressed to each member of the Commission, earnestly urging their attendance upon this meeting. Five other meetings of the Commission had been called, at only one of which a quorum was present—that held in Parkersburg December 3, 1909, at the Chancellor Hotel, on which occasion a temporary organization of the Commission was effected by the selection of the Hon. Henry G. Davis, Acting Chairman, and Mr. John E. Day, temporary secretary. The Commissioners then present were: Henry G. Davis, Charles J. Faulkner, B. W. Peterson, John W. Mason, Frank P. Moats, Hugh I. Shott and John E. Day. The first session of the present meeting of the Commission was open to the public, and it was called to order by Acting Chairman, Henry G. Davis, who asked the Governor to preside over the present deliberations of the Commission.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT.

At the suggestion of Governor Glasscock (presiding), the Secretary called the roll of the Commission, the following members answering to their names: John E. Day of Wheeling; V. L. Highland of Clarksburg; John W. Mason of Fairmont; Frank P. Moats of Parkersburg; Hugh I. Shott of Bluefield; B. W. Peterson of Wheeling; H. G. Davis of Elkins; S. F. Reed of Clarksburg; E. A. Brannon of Weston. A quorum being present, the Commission was then declared competent to proceed to business. Recently, three members were added by appointment of Governor Glasscock, namely: Secretary of State Stuart F. Reed; Hon. E. A. Brannon, of Weston, and Dr. Thomas E. Hodges, of Morgantown, which makes the total membership of the Commission fourteen (14).

PERMANENT CHAIRMAN.

Governor Glasscock stated that the first duty of the Commission was the election of a permanent Chairman, and recognized Judge John W. Mason, who, after paying an eloquent tribute to Mr. Davis' personal worth, his high qualifications, the prestige his name would give and the confidence it would inspire, nominated that gentleman for the office. The motion was seconded by Secretary of State Stuart F. Reed, who spoke in appreciative terms of the eminent fitness of Senator Davis for the post of honor. Senator Davis demurred to accepting the office on account of his many exacting business duties, but was overruled by the Commission casting an unanimous vote for his election. On motion of Senator Davis, Mr. John E. Day was chosen Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF TRADE REPRESENTED.

Governor Glasscock invited the members of the Semi-Centennial Committee of the West Virginia Board of Trade to sit with the Commission. This Committee was appointed by the State Board of Trade to co-operate with the Commission in an advisory and helpful capacity upon the motion of Hon. Henry G. Davis, a former president and present active and influential member of that organization. The members of that Committee present were: Mr. George W. Lutz, Wheeling, Chairman; Hon. A. B. White, Parkersburg; Hon. G. A. Northcott, Huntington; Hon. E. M. Showalter, Fairmont.

PLEAS FOR PLACE OF CELEBRATION.

As large delegations were present from Wheeling and Charleston, representing those cities as contestants for the place of holding the celebration commemorating the Semi-Centennial of the State, the Commission decided to at once hear the advocates of each city. On motion of Mr. B. W. Peterson, each city was allowed thirty minutes to present its claims. Those who spoke on behalf of Wheeling were: Mayor C. C. Schmidt; Mr. Cecil A. Robinson, President of the Wheeling Board of Trade; Mr. J. J. P. O'Brien; Mr. R. B. Naylor, Secretary of the Wheeling Board of Trade, and Mr. Ignatius Brennan. Those who advocated the claims of Charleston were: Mr. F. M. Staunton, Chairman of the Board of Affairs Committee of that city; Hon. Fred Paul Grosscup, representing the directors of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Philip G. Walker.

CLOSED SESSION OF COMMISSION.

At the conclusion of the addresses the Governor asked all not connected with the Commission to retire from the room, so that the Commission might enter upon the transaction of its private business.

On motion of Chairman Davis, the members of the Semi-Centennial Committee of the West Virginia Board of Trade were requested to remain and advise with the Commission.

ACTION ON SENATOR CHILTON'S PROXY.

Senator Davis presented the following document, which was read by the Secretary:

To HON. HENRY G. DAVIS, *Chairman,*

Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia:

I hereby delegate and appoint Philip G. Walker, of Charleston, West Virginia, my proxy to represent me at the meeting of the Semi-Centennial Commission to be held at Clarksburg, on November the fourth and to vote for me in my place and stead on all matters and questions that may come before this Commission at this meeting.

W. E. CHILTON.

Mr. B. W. Peterson moved to admit Mr. Walker as the proxy of Mr. Chilton to the deliberations of the Commission, and it was so ordered with the understanding that the action of the Commission would not establish a precedent for future meetings, and that Mr. Walker would act for Mr. Chilton for this occasion only. Mr. Walker was then admitted to the session of the Commission.

Chairman Davis also submitted a letter addressed to him by the Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, which was read by the Secretary, in which that gentleman presented his excuses for failing to attend the meeting of the Commission, which were accepted. The letter is on file with the archives of the Secretary,

OFFICERS OF COMMISSION ELECTED.

After some discussion as to the proper officers of the Commission, the resolution offered by Mr. Moats, that said officers shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officials as may be deemed necessary, was adopted. As the Hon. Henry G. Davis had already been unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission, the matter of the selection of a Vice-Chairman was before the meeting. For that office, Mr. Moats nominated the Hon. Stuart F. Reed. Mr. E. A. Brannon seconded the nomination. Mr. Reed was chosen without a dissenting vote. In the election of the Hon. Stuart F. Reed, Vice-Chairman, it was understood that he was to assist the Chairman in the discharge of his duties, which the Vice-Chairman readily and courteously consented to do. Chairman Davis named Mr. John E. Day for Permanent Secretary. Mr. Hugh I. Shott seconded the nomination and Mr. Day was elected without a dissenting vote. For treasurer, Mr. Highland nominated Mr. B. W. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Shott, and Mr. Peterson was elected by an unanimous vote. On the motion of Mr. Peterson, State Archivist Virgil A. Lewis was chosen historian of the Commission.

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY SENATOR DAVIS.

The Hon. Henry G. Davis submitted a schedule which he had prepared and which included a program for the celebration of the Semi-Centennial, together with estimates of cost and various committees. After being considered, item by item, it was adopted by the Commission, with but few immaterial changes as follows:

1. Governor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be members of all committees.
2. Appoint a secretary of the Commission, also a clerk, who shall be a stenographer, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary to employ such clerical help as necessary.

3. At all meetings of Commission, five (5) members constitute a quorum, and may do all that a full Commission is empowered to do.

4. By act of Legislature add to State flag State motto.

5. Celebration June 20, 1913, at city to be hereafter selected, and also observed throughout the State, especially by schools, colleges, universities, organized orders, county seats, boards of trade, etc.

6. Governor to issue a proclamation making the day of celebration a holiday if provided by law.

7. A procession or march, consisting of music, militia, organized orders, citizens, school children, etc.

8. A suitable arch or arches to be erected on line of march, illumination and fireworks at night by city in which general celebration is held.

9. Governor to make short address to the people of the State, to be sent out by the State Superintendent of Schools, with flags of State and United States and poem or song to all colleges, universities, schools, organized orders, county seats, etc. All to be requested to join in the celebration.

10. Speech by Governor and others after march, also poem or song.

11. Banquet at night with speeches, also poem or song.

12. Invite President of the United States, and Cabinet; also Governors, Secretaries of State and other officials.

13. Invite and offer premium of \$500 for best poem or song relating to State.

Estimated cost of celebration:

History and Resources of State, with chapter on agriculture, timber, coal, oil, gas, schools, churches, health, climate, fruit, water, commerce, manufactures, railways and public highways.....	\$2,500.00
Poem or song.....	500.00
Secretary of Commission and a clerk who shall be a stenographer.....	3,000.00
Printing, including history and resources of State, etc.....	4,000.00
State and United States flags.....	3,000.00
Postage and express charges.....	1,500.00
General expense.....	1,500.00
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	\$16,000.00

14. Committees:

- Executive committee, consisting of Governor, permanent Chairman of Commission and Secretary of State, to act on all subjects not otherwise specially provided for. Chairman of Commission delegated to appoint members of all committees.
- Finance and Legislation..... 3 members.
- Celebration, arch and march..... 5 members.
- Program and flags..... 3 members.
- Governor's address and poem or song..... 3 members.
- Entertainment, music and speeches..... 3 members.
- History and Resources of State..... 5 members.
- Transportation..... 3 members.
- On celebration at schools, county seats, etc..... 5 members.
- Printing..... 3 members.

It was understood by the Commission that the estimated cost of the celebration contained in Senator Davis' schedule was tentative and not conclusive. The Commission was put in a happy mood by the formal declaration of Chairman Davis that he would make good any deficiency in the cost of the celebration, *provided*, the legislature failed to appropriate a sufficient sum. This characteristically generous action on the part of Senator Davis was heartily appreciated by the Commission.

PLACE OF CELEBRATION.

The next business before the Commission was the selection of a place for holding the celebration of the Semi-Centennial and a secret ballot was ordered. Before the ballot was taken, the written agreements of the Cities of Wheeling and Charleston, the only applicants for the honor, submitted by their authorized representatives, were read by the Secretary, which were as follows:

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

The City of Wheeling agrees to furnish the following, if the celebration is held in our city, during the month of June, 1913:

First. To furnish all electric light being required.

Second. To furnish all arches lighted with electric light being required, one special arch to be constructed as suggested by the Commission.

Third. To furnish whatever office room may be required.

Fourth. To furnish all assistant clerks and stenographers being required.

Fifth. To meet all expense that may be incurred the day before and after the celebration, namely: such as the exhibits of State resources, or manufactures; products, agricultural and otherwise.

Sixth. To take such steps as are necessary toward a nation-wide advertisement of the celebration.

Seventh. To bear the expense of a Five Hundred Dollar prize for a poem and a similar sum for music in honor of the celebration.

Eighth. To furnish the New Auditorium, seating 4,000 people for any public meetings or exercises, and, if necessary, the Court Theatre, seating 1,400 people and the Virginia Theatre, seating 2,800.

Ninth. To furnish the Wheeling Park for any out-door exercises that may be planned.

Tenth. Lastly, to co-operate heartily with the Commission in any manner possible to make the event a grand success, promoting the best interests of our State and setting forth our magnificent resources and opportunities.

CHAS. C. SCHMIDT,
Mayor of the City of Wheeling.

To the Honorable Semi-Centennial Commission of the State of West Virginia:

GENTLEMEN: In the event of the selection of Charleston by your honorable body as the site for the Semi-Centennial celebration in 1913 of West Virginia's statehood, the special committee appointed by the City's Board of Affairs and the special committee appointed by the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, pledges to the

Commission that any and all requirements of the Commission to make the celebration a success will be met by the city and the citizens of Charleston, amenable to the approval of your body.

BOARD OF AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,

F. M. STAUNTON,

Chairman.

CHARLESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

FRED PAUL GROSSCUP,

Representing the Directors.

WHEELING SELECTED.

At the conclusion of the reading of these agreements, Mr. F. P. Moats was appointed teller, and the Secretary was instructed to collect the ballots. The result of the balloting was that Wheeling was selected to be the place for holding the celebration for the Semi-Centennial of the State, June 20, 1913. The Secretary was instructed to mail a copy of the minutes of this meeting to each member of the Commission, and to the Governor.

Upon the motion of Judge John W. Mason, the following was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary of the Semi-Centennial Commission be authorized to draw upon the proper appropriation for the expenses heretofore incurred, and hereafter to be incurred, by this Commission."

The Commission then stood adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

Poem or Song:

B. W. PETERSON, *Chairman.*

THOMAS E. HODGES.

H. G. DAVIS.

States Resources:

JOHN W. MASON, *Chairman.*

STUART F. REED.

WM. E. CHILTON.

F. P. MOATS.

HUGH I. SHOTT.

