Proceedings of the 1st New England conference called by the Governors of the New England states, Boston, Nov. 23-24, 1908
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Author: states New England

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIRST NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE,

CALLED BY THE GOVERNORS OF THE
NEW ENGLAND STATES.

BOSTON, Nov. 23, 24, 1908.

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INTRODUCTION.

The suggestion of the conference, under the auspices of the Governors of New England, was first made by Mr. Herbert Myrick of Springfield, editor of the "New England Homestead." At the suggestion of Mr. Myrick, various Massachusetts organizations interested themselves in the matter. In accordance with their suggestion, Governor Guild of Massachusetts issued an invitation to the Governors of the New England States to meet him on September 14 at the Algonquin Club at luncheon. Every Governor was present, with the exception of Governor Cobb and Governor-elect Fernald, of Maine, Governor Guild having accidentally chosen the date of the Maine State election. There were present also Mr. Myrick; President Kenyon L. Butterfield of the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst; President Fred T. Ley of the Springfield Board of Trade, representing also the State Board of Trade; and C. D. Richardson, Esq., Master of the State Grange.

It was agreed at this meeting that such a conference should be held under the auspices of the Governors and Governors-elect. It was further agreed that there should be invited as official delegates the Lieutenants-Governor, the Attorneys-General, the Presidents of the New England Senates, the Speakers of the New England Houses of Representatives, the Members of Congress and United States Senators from New England. To these official delegates it was decided to add prominent citizens, to be named by the Governor of each State, the allotment of each State to be two for each Representative and two for each Senator. Governor Guild was unanimously requested to preside, and Mr. Frank L. Dean of Worcester was designated as secretary. At an adjourned meeting at the Algonquin Club, on October 10, Maine was represented both by her Governor and Governor-elect, and assented to the proceedings of the previous meeting.

The programme and scope of the first meeting, including the speakers to be invited, was there definitely decided. It was also determined that discussion should be confined to the delegates to the conference; that no resolution should be entertained for adop-
tion, but that all the information furnished by the experts, together with the stenographic report of the discussion, should be preserved and submitted to the State officials directly concerned with the character of the legislation suggested; that such department chiefs of the New England States should assemble, and, in the light of the information furnished, report before January 1 such uniform recommendations as they should deem to be proper for adoption by the present incoming Governors of the New England States.

The Governors met on Monday, November 23, at the Executive Chamber of the State House, Boston, proceeding thence to the Hotel Touraine, where they were entertained at an informal luncheon with the speakers of the day by the Governor of Massachusetts. In the evening of the first day of the conference the visiting Governors, speakers and delegates were entertained at dinner at the Algonquin Club by the Governor of Massachusetts.

The badge worn by the Governors and delegates was the historic green pine tree of New England on a white silk ribbon. The decoration at the Tremont Theatre, where the conference was held, consisted of the historic flags of New England. The Stars and Stripes stood at the right of the speaker’s desk, and the New England flag with the cross of St. George and the pine tree on the speaker’s left. The desk was decorated with American flags.

There were present at the conference Governor Cobb and Governor-elect Fernald, of Maine; Governor Floyd and Governor-elect Quinby, of New Hampshire; Governor Prouty, of Vermont; Governor Guild and Governor-elect Draper, of Massachusetts; Acting Governor Watrous and Governor-elect Pothier, of Rhode Island; Governor Woodruff and Governor-elect Lilley, of Connecticut.