

MINUTES *of the* FIRST MEETING *of the*
BOARD OF DIRECTORS *of the* TEXAS
TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE, *held at*
SWEETWATER; TEXAS
MARCH 2, 1923

SWEETWATER, TEXAS, March 2, 1923.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Technological College was held in Sweetwater on March 2, 1923. The occasion was the celebration by the people of Western Texas of the passage by the Legislature of Texas, and the approval by GOVERNOR PAT M. NEFF, of the bill creating the Texas Technological College to be located West of the Ninety-eighth Meridian and North of the Twenty-ninth Parallel. The GOVERNOR himself attended the celebration, and presided at the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

There were present at the meeting the following members of the Board, appointed by the GOVERNOR, and whose appointments had been confirmed by the Senate of Texas:

MRS. C. F. DRANE, of Corsicana,
C. W. MEADOWS, of Waco,
CLIFFORD B. JONES, of Spur,
WILLIAM P. HOBBS, of Beaumont,
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD, of Plainview,
DR. J. E. NUNN, of Amarillo,
AMON G. CARTER, of Fort Worth,
JOHN W. CARPENTER, of Dallas.

MRS. CHARLES B. DE GROFF, of El Paso, was unable to attend the meeting of the Board.

The City of Sweetwater was decorated for the gala event. National colors were floating over the streets of the town. Since the arrival of the first special train early in the morning from Colorado, bands were parading through the business district, and as each delegation arrived the crowd was augmented. GOVERNOR NEFF and members of the official party arrived on a special train from Fort Worth and were greeted at the station by the Plainview and Colorado bands. Special trains came in during the morning from Plainview, Lubbock, Colorado, Big Spring, San Angelo, Snyder, and Fort Worth.

Demonstrations were held during the morning. As each train arrived the delegations representing the various towns paraded through the streets. Banners on which were mottoes reflecting the spirit of the day were displayed. The hotel at which the GOVERNOR and the official party were staying was serenaded by the bands. There was general jollification. Newspapers estimated that there were approximately 10,000 persons visiting Sweetwater during the day.

In the afternoon a crowd of more than 5,000 persons congregated in the county square, in the center of the town, to formally ratify the action of the Legislature in the enactment of the bill, and of GOVERNOR NEFF in signing the bill. M. E. Rosser, of Snyder, presided. Speeches were made by Lewis T. Carpenter, of Dallas, author of the bill, which was first adopted by the House of Representatives; Senator William H. Bledsoe, of Lubbock, author of the Senate bill, which was finally signed; R. M. Chitwood, Chairman of the House Committee on Education; J. D. Sandefer, LL.D., President of Simmons College, of Abilene; Mrs. W. H. Beale, of Sweetwater, and GOVERNOR NEFF. The address of the GOVERNOR congratulated the people of Texas upon the passage of the bill, and he called attention to the fact that the celebration was held on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Fathers of Texas, and he asserted that even as the adoption of the Declaration of Independence at old Washington on the Brazos signaled the eternal freedom of Texas from the rule of the Mexican militarists, so did the enactment into law of the bill creating the Texas Technological College mark the Declaration of Independence of the producers of Texas from Eastern manufacturers, and he hailed the day when Texas mills and spindles would manufacture into the finished product the cotton from Texas fields and the wool from Texas ranches. The Texas Technological College would bring this about, he said, because students from it would be able to master the textile arts.

During the evening a banquet was held at the Hotel Wright. Amon G. Carter was the toastmaster. The GOVERNOR was the

principal speaker. Responses to toasts were made by a number of persons, including members of the Board of Directors, and the authors of the bill. Senator Bledsoe, Representative Carpenter, Representative R. M. Chitwood, and Representative R. A. Baldwin spoke. Representative Burke Mathes, a joint author of the bill, was unable to attend.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held during the afternoon in the parlors of the Hotel Wright. GOVERNOR NEFF presided. In calling the meeting together he remarked that it was a time of particular pride for him, because he considered that members of the Board had before them an opportunity for service that but few men in the State have ever had. He said that he coveted them their duties because the establishment of the Texas Technological College marks a new era in the industrial and economic history of Texas.

No act of his official life had given him more pleasure than that of giving his sanction, as GOVERNOR, to the bill, and he said that he felt the State was to be congratulated upon the willingness of the members of the Board of Directors to serve. The service called for the highest personal sacrifice and devotion to the interests of Texas, he said. The bill was no dream; he pointed out that the College is a Texas institution, and was to serve all the people of the State.

Short responses were made by members of the Board.

Dr. Nunn thanked the GOVERNOR for having given him the opportunity to serve. He was highly appreciative of the GOVERNOR's approval of the bill, and he said he looked upon the passage of the bill as a forward movement in Texas.

Former Governor Hobby also expressed thanks to the GOVERNOR. During his service as the Chief Executive of Texas, he said, he had seen the development of Texas and the expansion of its commercial, civil, and industrial life. He said he believed he expressed the thought of all of the members of the Board when he said he recognized in the membership of the Board an opportunity for service to his State.

Mr. Carpenter said that he thought the entire State felt grateful to the GOVERNOR and to the Legislature for the establishment of the College. The action is historic, he said.

Mr. Jones, Mrs. Drane, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Meadows, and Mr. Carter expressed similar thoughts. All of these pledged their heartiest efforts to the success of the College.

GOVERNOR NEFF said that the first business before the Board was the election of a Chairman and a Secretary. Amon G. Carter was elected Chairman. Mr. Meadows was elected Secretary.

GOVERNOR NEFF turned the meeting over to Mr. Carter, who thanked the members of the Board for their courtesy and kindness, and declared his earnest devotion to the problems of the institution, and promised the utmost co-operation with other members of the Board.

The GOVERNOR stated that he was due to make an address, and asked to be excused. Before his request was granted, Mr. Jones proposed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, His Excellency, the Honorable PAT M. NEFF, GOVERNOR of Texas, has, by his careful consideration of the educational life of the State and his knowledge of the individual needs of Texas, seen fit to give his official approval to the bill creating the Texas Technological College; and,

“WHEREAS, Since the passage and approval of the bill he has devoted much of his time to the interests of the College, and in his official acts and public utterances, has called the attention of the State to possibilities of the institution; and,

“WHEREAS, The GOVERNOR has laid aside the press of public affairs long enough to attend the Sweetwater celebration of the establishment of the College, and has shown his intimate personal interests in the affairs of this Board by presiding at its first session; therefore,

“BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Texas Technological College, at its first regular meeting at Sweetwater,

March 2, 1923, congratulate the State upon the foresight and the wisdom of His Excellency, the Honorable PAT M. NEFF, GOVERNOR of Texas; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board of Directors thank GOVERNOR NEFF for his courtesies and kindnesses in convening this, the first meeting; and,

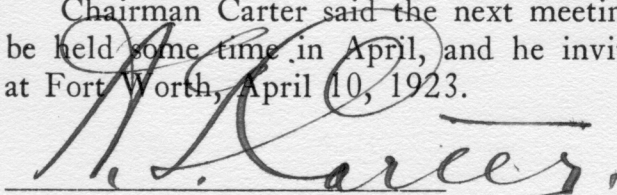
"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting, and that latterly the minutes of this meeting be permanently preserved by this Board, and a specially engrossed copy be presented to GOVERNOR NEFF."

There were several seconds to the motion to adopt the resolution. Chairman Carter put the motion. It was unanimously adopted.

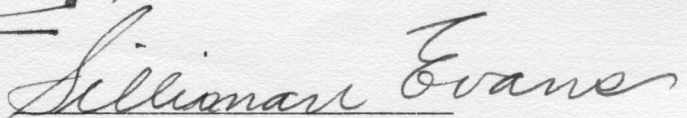
GOVERNOR NEFF thanked the members of the Board. He wished them well in their work, and again recalled the opportunity for service before them. He retired, and routine matters were taken up by the Board.

The question of the selection of a President for the Texas Technological College was mentioned by Dr. Nunn. A diversity of opinion developed, and it was decided that the selection should be deferred to a future time.

Chairman Carter said the next meeting of the Board would be held some time in April, and he invited the Board to meet at Fort Worth, April 10, 1923.



Chairman.



Acting Secretary.