

BRIDGE AT ST. ALBANS HELD UP INDEFINITELY

Construction Will be Deferred by State Commission Because of Unfavorable Survey of Traffic; Purchase of Cabin Creek Span Also May Fall Through

The indefinite postponement of the construction of a bridge across the Kanawha river at St. Albans was announced Wednesday by the state bridge commission. Concurrently, A. C. Kimpel, commission secretary, disclosed that the purchase by the state of the bridge across the river at Cabin Creek was contingent upon the erection of the St. Albans bridge and that the former project may fall through.

Several of the stockholders in the Cabin Creek bridge also hold stock in the company from which the commission had purchased the rights and franchise for the St. Albans bridge, Mr. Kimpel said. Sale of the former bridge was contingent upon the construction of the one at St. Albans. The commission now is endeavoring to complete its purchase of the Cabin Creek bridge, he added.

Erection of the St. Albans bridge has been postponed because a traffic survey, made at the request of purchasers of \$1,900,000 of state bridge bonds, has revealed that the project would not pay for itself, Julian G. Hearne, of Wheeling, chairman of the commission, asserted.

He made public a letter sent Wednesday to a committee of four from the St. Albans Business Men's association, the organization which requested the commission to construct the bridge.

Backers Notified

The letter, addressed to W. L. Lynch, E. C. Colcord, J. C. Blackwood, J. V. R. Skinner, all of St. Albans, is:

"With the utmost regret on the part of the state bridge commission, I am writing to advise you that the project for the construction of a bridge at St. Albans, which we have had under consideration, has been indefinitely postponed.

"As you know, we entered into a contingent contract to purchase the property and rights on the owners of the franchise for this bridge, the contingency being that the commission could finance the project. Our efforts to do this financing were, in turn, contingent upon a new traffic survey covering the proposed bridge. This new traffic survey has been made and is such that the bankers bidding on the bonds have declined to do the financing. The commission is, therefore, forced, much to its regret, to defer the construction of the St. Albans bridge.

"It is our hope that the next legislature will so amend the present bridge act as to permit the general pooling of bridges over the entire state and that it may then be possible for us to take up the St. Albans-Nitro bridge project."

Law Forbids "Pooling"

The act creating the bridge commission, as passed by the 1929 legislature, forbids the pooling of toll proceeds from a bridge in one county with those from a bridge in another to retire the bonds of both. The legislature will be asked at its 1930 session to amend the law, Mr. Hearne said, so that this pooling of resources may be affected. Provided this is done by the legislature, the St. Albans bridge may be constructed and the toll proceeds from it and a bridge in another county may be pooled to retire the bridge bonds.

Low bidders on the St. Albans bridge, bids for which were opened September 3, were the Holmes Construction company, of Wooster, O., for the substructure, and the Independent Bridge company, of Pittsburgh, the superstructure. They will be notified that the project has been deferred.

Mr. Hearne said that the contract for the Point Pleasant bridge, bids for which also were opened on September 3, may be let the latter part of this week. It is the only project now before the commission.

CONSTABLE FACES CHARGE OF MURDER

KITTANNING, Pa., Oct. 1 (AP).—Constable William Raper, Leechburg, was charged with murder today for the killing of Joseph Conto, Leechburg soft drink manufacturer, whose body was found in woods near Leechburg last week.

Conto was shot to death. Authorities were unable to find the weapon with which he was killed and a search will be made at the scene in an effort to find it.

DEMOCRATIC DAY IS 4-H FAIR'S FEATURE

Program of Running Races is Opened; Will Continue Daily at Track

The opening of a program of running races which will be held daily, an auction sale of livestock and the presence of Democratic nominees for national, state and county offices attracted large crowds to the Kanawha Exposition and state 4-H fairgrounds near Dunbar Wednesday.

Thousands thronged the fairgrounds before noon Wednesday, which was officially designated "Democratic day" by the Kanawha State Park association which is promoting the fair. A parade of the finest cattle exhibited at the fair was held at 11 o'clock in the morning. The exhibition buildings were filled with visitors who came to inspect displays in farm products, 4-H club and community projects, poultry exhibits and livestock.

Farmers came from all sections of Kanawha county and other counties in southern West Virginia to bid for prize winning steers which were to be offered at public auction at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Grandstand Is "Stump"

The grandstand at the fairgrounds became the "stump" for political speeches when the Democratic nominees were introduced to the crowds by H. B. Davenport, of Charleston. The nominees included Joe L. Smith, of Beckley, for congress; Clyde B. Johnson, of Charleston, for state senator from the eighth district; Miss Elizabeth Goodall, of Charleston, for long term, county superintendent of schools; A. H. Toothman, for short term, county superintendent of schools; Dr. C. A. Ray, of Pocataligo, for county commissioner; Alvin J. Barnhart, John H. Campbell, Carl Calvert, J. Shirley Ross, Samuel E. Bowen and Joseph N. Kenna, all for the house of delegates from Kanawha county.

A band concert preceded the introduction of the Democratic candidates.

The "Race Track Frolics", under the direction of Fred Sporhase, of Deland, Fla., again entertained the grandstand crowds with a horse show of driverless horses.

The program of running races, four of which will be held daily, got underway at 2:15 o'clock with J. P. K. Willis, of Greenup, Ky., as racing secretary. The races include