

DEAF ASKS BRANCH IN LABOR BUREAU

Declare it Will Enable Employees to Get Acquainted With Work- men Who Are Deaf

Mrs. H. K. Bush, President of the Virginia Association of the Deaf, urged the establishment of a branch in the Bureau of Labor in the state to care for the interests of the deaf in her annual address to the members of the Association, which closed the first day of its three-day gathering here last night.

The President's address followed the address of welcome by Mayor Sheffey L. Devier and the response by Rev. H. L. Tracy, of Washington.

Mrs. Bush, also proposed the establishment of a department in the Association to provide for sending representatives to all parts of the state to acquaint employers of the capabilities of the deaf.

Tells of Objectives

In telling of the purpose of her organization Mrs. Bush said:

"This Association is composed of a limited number of citizens who have lost the sense of hearing and have a strong fellow-feeling for those similarly afflicted and wish to assist the present and future generations in obtaining all of the pleasures of life—educationally, religiously and industriously. Time is marching on and we deaf people must keep up with the progress of events.

"As is very natural we are following the progress of our Alma Mater in Staunton. We rejoiced when funds were secured for the erection of a fine new primary building. Still there will be many more deaf children in the state who are clamoring for admission.

Difficult to Get Employment

"Of far greater importance than the literary achievements of the pupils is a thorough training in industries. It is becoming more and more important for the deaf to secure employment and more and more difficult for them to do so. We deem it only justice that the course of instruction in schools for the deaf be advanced two or three years to include a course in manual training.

"In certain states there are representative deaf persons who are employed to go over the state and give the deaf the benefit of their knowledge and experience and give proof of the capabilities of the deaf to the employers. In fact such a bureau is a necessity if justice is to be done."

The second day of the convention will convene today with an address by H. M. McManaway, Superintendent of the Virginia School for the Deaf. The delegates will lunch at Endless Caverns and will return here tonight for their annual banquet to be held at Friddles.