

# THE BRADY SENTINEL

Published Every Thursday by  
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In First Zone - \$1.50 a year  
All Other Zones - \$2.00 a year

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## WHAT IS THE TEXAS ROAD MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION

Some people who have not paid much attention to the highway muddle have been confused as to what is meant by "The Texas Road Maintenance Association."

This organization which had its second semi-annual meeting at San Angelo last week, had its beginning about a year ago, and is supposed to have had, and perhaps did have for its purpose, the improvement of highways in Texas. No doubt, a few of its members have the original aims of the organization (if indeed that was its

aim) in view, as in the case of the judges from Sweetwater and Brownwood who tried to prevent the passage of certain political resolutions, but at this recent meeting, the "Texas Road Maintenance Association" turned out to be nothing more or less than a strictly political organization, just a small unit of the Jim Ferguson political machine, with Joe Burkett the head of the thing.

About all that association at San Angelo did the other day was to pass a resolution indorsing the Ferguson administration, the State Highway department (which was) and Joe Burkett himself. In spite of the pleas of Judge A. S. Mauzy of Sweetwater and Judge E. M. Davis of Brownwood "not to sound the death knell of the organization by injecting politics into it," whose pleas were drowned out by cries of the delegates, the resolution passed almost unanimously, because Burkett had the boys there for that purpose no doubt and told them that "failure to pass the resolution would condemn him."

Now, the big majority of these delegates were employes on the highway on Burkett's division, and about the most outstanding thing that was said aside from the wording of the resolution, to shed light on the meeting and reveal exactly what was its aims and purposes, was Burkett's own state-

ment, "to keep roads and politics separate is impossible."

The "Texas Road Maintenance Association" has, therefore, no connection with the Highway Department. It seems to be nothing but a little political machine, with Joe Burkett as its president, and comparable in magnitude to about the showing he made in the race for governor—a miniature political arrangement after the fashion of Jim Ferguson, but there are not enough men who were in Joe's "division" while he was highway commissioner to do him much good, if he rallies the last one of them to his rescue. He said he was satisfied with the "accomplishments" of the State Highway Commission and his "achievements" while he and Lanham were members of it, but the people are not satisfied.