

Hickory, N. C., Is Good Enough For Me.

The Hickory Spirit Was In Evidence At Annual Banquet.

MR. JOHN A. McRAE'S ADDRESS

Practical Discussion of Commission Form of Government

The Hickory spirit flowed like champagne at the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce held at the Hotel Huffry on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 12. Covers were laid for upwards of 150 members and the scene was a brilliant one.

President W. H. Nicholson of the Chamber presided. At his right was the guest of honor and speaker of the evening, Mr. John A. McRae, of Charlotte. Then came Mayor J. D. Elliott and next Mr. Mason, of the agricultural department of the Southern Railway. At the left of the toastmaster was Mr. W. J. Shuford and next came Secretary A. K. Joy. Then Judge W. B. Council.

After the prayer by Rev. J. D. Harte, Mr. Joy pulled off a talking feature. Every guest was still standing and was asked to open his paper napkin. On this was printed verses composed by Mr. Joy, and which were sung to the tune of Dixie, Dr. J. H. Shuford playing the accompaniment on his violin, while Rev. J. G. Grith, Dr. W. B. Ramsay, Mr. Jesse Warlick and others led in the singing in which all the members joined heartily. The verses were as follows:

HICKORY, N. C., IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

Old Hickory's the best in the Old North State,
There's room for you if you're not too late,
Come along! come along! come along!
Come along!

There's no use talking, we set the pace,
We're sure enough winners in the friendly race,
Come along! come along! come along!
Come along!

(CHORUS)

Then three times three for Hickory,
Hurray! Hurray!
Then three times three for Hickory,
We never say die in Hickory,
Come along, come along, come along
with us to Hickory,
Come along, come along, come along
with us to Hickory.

We point with pride to nineteen ten,
We'll never be classed as a "might-have-been."
Come along! come along! come along!
Come along!

So, we'll all join hands for the years to come,
Resolved to make our old town hum,
Come along! come along! come along!
Come along!

Photographs were taken of the brilliant dining-room as the banquet began.

A Gridiron stunt, the credit for which is due to Mr. W. J. Shuford, was the reading of telegrams from former Hickory boys. These brought down the house especially those from Sheriff J. W. Beckwelder and Mr. Bob Roseborough. A Western Union boy was seen threading his way through the long dining room at intervals and the "wires" he brought in were signed for and read by Mr. Shuford. The best part of the banquet was Mr. A. C. Link's face every time a new telegram was torn open. Anticipation of a coming keen enjoyment was written on every lineament.

Everybody wore the blue but ton, "Hickory, N. C., is Good Enough For Me."

The first telegram read as follows:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12, 1911.
Chamber of Commerce, Hickory, N. C.—Have just received appropriation of ten million dollars to create and deepen Catawba River. Be to drawing ten feet of water should be able to ply between Charlotte and Hickory in two years. Immense possibilities for your entire section.
E. Y. Webb.

The second was from Wilmington, Del., and read:

Please secure 500 feet frontage on Catawba River. Will move Dupont Powder Works to Hickory—employ ten thousand men.
Paul Murrill.

Dr. Nicholson said:
RETROSPECT AND FORECAST.

This has been a very pleasant year's work to me in many respects. To see you people joining hands and pulling for the up-building of our city has been a sight worthy of special mention and enough to do a patriot's heart good. It has been an instructive year. We have learned as never before whom to call on in crises and who are really working for the general uplift of the city and section.

We have on file a list of names that we call the roll of honor, men who have responded to every call, men who have vouched for sums of money subscribed, men who love their town and dare back up their devotion by pledging their all for the general welfare. I would that they could be read here and blazon'd on these walls so that all might see that there are heroes of peace more to be admired than those of war because they have done it on a sober second thought.

Gentlemen, we have met to celebrate the birthday of the Chamber of Commerce, to review the past and forecast the future, to exchange congratulations on a year of substantial progress and to urge each other on to still greater achievements, to seal the union of efforts of the past year with a solemn covenant to get even closer together this year. We have demonstrated anew the fact that in union there is strength. In the beginning of the year many of us had visions of what should be and now we look back upon our dreams realized in a great measure. A year ago we nailed to our mast the banner of progress on which was inscribed HICKORY DOES THINGS. Has Hickory kept her pledge?

Gentlemen, we have done so many things that I got ashamed of calling on you so often to write your names and I am sure you got tired of my visits. So had to call in Mr. Joy and now it becomes indeed the tidings of joy to every one that enjoys the prosperity of our home city.

You ask what has the Chamber of Commerce done? Go out some sunny afternoon and watch the whirling current of the old Catawba as it splashes and eddies around you triple giants of cement and stone awaiting the superstructure of steel. Ask the retiring board of commissioners of Alexander and Catawba counties if Hick-

ory has been doing anything doing anything when he was called upon ever and anon to exhibit his patriotism and patience as well as legal skill by going hither and yon to satisfy the objections of county attorneys. Gentlemen, that great bridge crowns the spasmodic efforts of 15 years. It is not an easy thing to raise \$11,000 to build a bridge and road against the protest of the powers that be.

Did you hear anything of that largest and most enthusiastic good roads meeting ever held in the state? This meeting was suggested by the talented editor of the Democrat and successfully brought to a conclusion by the Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 3rd. No greater forward step has been taken anywhere than the inauguration of the Salisbury to Asheville state highway movement.

Did you ever hear anything about the C. & N. W. shops and how all the towns beat us until it came to a show down and a pay down? If you have not, you will when the collector comes around.

But time fails me to tell of the great Fair in which Hickory and Catawba county outdid themselves, these beautiful streets, the new cotton mill, the knitting mill, the new depot that is to be and the creamery which Mr. W. J. Shuford and others have so wisely steered to success and made you pay 40c. for your butter and glad to get at that, for it is worth it.

Above all the Chamber of Commerce has cultivated the union of feeling and efforts—brought our business men, professional men and others in intimate touch with each other. It has exemplified what united, organized effort can do.

Gentlemen, the past is behind us. What shall the future be? You have done well and it only remains for you to prove worthy of the encomium by doing better this year. Work for the building of an interurban traction line, the Salisbury to Asheville State Highway, a beautiful and sanitary city, and above all and beyond all, the Hickory Spirit that will proclaim, wherever you go, East or west Home is best. "Hickory, N. C., is good enough for me." Dream of Hickory—think of Hickory, talk Hickory—then indeed will be brought to pass the saying, Hickory Does Things.

Now allow me to express my pleasure at seeing you here, and to you visiting gentlemen I wish to extend a most cordial welcome, assuring you that while we boast of Hickory's merits we are not unmindful of the fact that there are other places almost as good.

Another telegram came as follows from Denver, Col.:

Secure option on ten thousand acres of land for largest nursery in the world. Got my start in Hickory and made a great mistake when I left.
Herbert Chase.

And this from Chester, S. C.:

Will build C. and N. W. railroad through the mountains to the coal mines. Should be able to deliver coal to barges on completion of deepening of Catawba River.
L. T. Nichols.

The city of Hickory:

Mayor Elliott said: "We do not like to brag on ourselves but we think we have one of the best towns in the State. We have 4999 inhabitants according to the last census, and a few people outside of town. We have about 2500 just outside of the corporate limits. If a man gets off the train and walks across our streets he thinks he is in a city. We have everything that makes a city water works, sewer system, electric lights, the finest schools, graded school, all kinds of schools. The speech of the President of the Chamber of Commerce shows what our people can do when we get them stirred up and you cannot tell when they are going to stop."

Our Sister City of Newton; May she be soon joined to her big brother by a great Highway. By a gentleman who was to Hickory a friend in need.

Mr. W. C. Feimster said:

This splendid feast of yours makes me feel insignificant, but being a part of Catawba county makes me feel that I am related to Hickory, and what my friends have said for Hickory I can say for Newton. The only difference is that there are not quite as many of us. But it is only in numbers that you are ahead of us, for we, following the spirit of Hickory, organized a little club for Newton, and the first man I had a communication from was the President of your Chamber of Commerce, and he said: "Let us join hands, not only for Hickory but for Catawba county." I pledged him that I was his brother and I am here tonight representing a sister town. I hope he will see further progress with Hickory and Newton joined together by that splendid road which we must have.

We are going to show you what Newton can do, because we have just as good water and sewerage, and the same lights that you have. We are going to be led on by the light by which Hickory, Newton and Catawba county have gone forward.

Mr. McRae was introduced by Judge W. B. Council, who said:

I esteem it a source of great honor to make my first public utterance as a private citizen before the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Hickory, and an additional honor was conferred upon me in having been chosen to present to you tonight a gentleman who is here for the purpose of enlightening us upon the question of city government, who perhaps has given the subject as much thought, and I believe is capacitated to tell us as much about how to run a city government as any man in North Carolina.

We have with us a Scotch-Irishman, a long, lean, lank, rugged—and I think a very good looking young man. You can judge for yourself when he gets up. He has been city attorney of Charlotte, but I think he hails from old Robeson county: Mr. Jno. A. McRae, of Charlotte, Mecklenburg county.

Spit, Quit, Fit

Hines, Ala.—In a letter from this place Mrs. Eula Mac Bradley says: "I used to spit up all I ate. I was tired and sleazy all the time. My head ached, and I could hardly drag around. Since taking Cardui, this has entirely quit, and now I feel quite fit" Mrs. Bradley suffered from nervous indigestion. Cardui builds up the nervous system, and strengthens the weak constitution. That's why Cardui helped Mrs. Bradley and why it will help you. Try it.

Change of Heart

Sevierville, Tenn.—"I never did believe in patent medicines," writes Mrs. Martha Hown, of this place, "until I took Cardui, and it cured me. For six months, I could not do anything. Now I do all my housework, and it don't tire me. Doctors failed, but Cardui saved my life." The benefit from taking Cardui is not confined to one part of the body. Cardui improves the whole womanly system. It helps headache, backache, falling feelings, and female weakness. Try it. It will help you. Price \$1. 18 C.

Solves Big Mystery

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart," wrote C. B. Rader, of Lewisburg, W. Va., "for the wonderful double benefit I got from Electric Bitters, in curing me of both a severe case of stomach trouble and of rheumatism, from which I had been an almost helpless sufferer for ten years. It suited my case as though made just for me." For dyspepsia, indigestion, jaundice and to rid the system of kidney poisons that cause rheumatism, Electric Bitters has no equal. Try them. Every bottle is guaranteed to satisfy. Only 50c at C. M. Shuford, Moser & Lutz, Grimes Drug Co.

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For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*

measure which the city is about to adopt; and the initiative, which, upon petition, allows the people to pass a law which the governing body did not favor. It tends to keep a mayor from being arbitrary.

Mayor Rice, of Houston, Tex., who spoke in Charlotte, told Mr. McRae he did not believe in these. He said it made the people tremulous about doing their duty, and handicapped the commission in putting its best judgment into effect.

On the other hand Mayor Gibbs, of Columbia, S. C., told Mr. McRae that he firmly believed in these safeguards. Though they were seldom required to be used, yet they were there and if a few men who had the absolute governing of the city should form a ring or clique for personal benefit, then these safeguards would enable the people to put a stop to their authority. That is one of the questions you will have to thresh out. At first I was opposed to these safeguards, but I believe now that they are a wise thing, certainly to begin with.

Mr. McRae also spoke of the recall, whereby upon petition of say 25 per cent of the registered vote, an unsatisfactory officer must stand for re-election, and give the people a chance to say whether he shall continue in office. The time that commissioners would devote to the city, is a problem the people must work out.

I remember that in Columbia, one commissioner is a hardware man, one a lawyer, one a jeweler and another an insurance man. Mr. McRae spoke of Charlotte's municipal troubles. Our Aldermen, he said meet once every month; they have no committee meetings almost every week; nearly every day some body is in electioneering with them trying to get them to push for a certain thing; every few weeks a special session is held. They are not paid one penny. The Mayor does get a good salary, and he is the first mayor that has ever been able to run to run the city on its income, and it is due to the fact that he is right there all the time. All through the week the alderman are thinking about their daily work.

A measure is brought up; they do not know anything about it or what they should do. I have seen them pass an ordinance at one meeting and repeal it at the next; pass an ordinance and repeal it within the next month—not because they were not honest and sincere, but simply because those men were over-worked and had not time to consider what was best. Now instead of that suppose we had one man who could give all his time, or say three or four men give part of their time to it; suppose we would have them meet round the table in the counsel chamber, they would have more time to consider a matter; they'd consider it better; there would not be as much confusion, and the city and the people would get the benefit of it. Some time ago a man had personal property in McDowell county and he was taxed for it in Charlotte. I took the position that the personal property was taxable only in McDowell. He had paid his taxes there, but it took me about five months before I could get the matter straight. I went a dozen times before the board; he went a dozen times, I called them up over the phone a dozen times. A few commissioners would dispose of this at once.

HEALTH.

The health of a community suffers under the old system. The speaker related a striking instance in which Harvard University, when physicians were non-plussed, employed a scientific expert in New York city to try to locate the cause of a deadly epidemic of typhoid fever. He sent his agents to the campus. He never appeared himself. He discovered that every single man that had drunk milk that was produced at a certain dairy had typhoid fever. No one else had it. He analysed the milk and found that it was contaminated with typhoid germs.

I think in this modern age that one of the duties of the mayor is to look after the health of the town. A mayor cannot do that if he is not paid a salary. It might cost \$2,500 \$3,000, \$1500 1000, yet it may save human lives and thousands of dollars to the people of the city.

Mr. McRae was about to remark that the same applied to malarial fever when he was told we never had any of that here.

Mr. McRae estimated that in Charlotte \$25,000 worth of time a year is lost in aimless running after the aldermen, trying to get them to do something.

He favored an industrial department in city schools and an agricultural branch in county schools. He closed with a beautiful description of the vision from his own home at sunset time of Elizabeth college campus and Independence Park, and urged the beautifying of city parks.

Mr. Howard A. Banks spoke on what the press could do for town and county. It is the voice of the community, telling of opportunity, needs, and being the outlet for a city's anger. It helps to get railroad shops for Hickory and oil mills for Newton. He was about to say that there was a vice versa to this, and there was something the community could do for the press, when the bell rang.

This wire from Philadelphia:

Secure option on lot 400 feet front, 600 feet deep, 200 feet high. Have just persuaded John Wannamaker to build immense department store for Hickory. Am anxious to get home again.
Gordon H. Cilley.

HICKORY 30 YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY.

Mr. A. A. Shuford failed to respond to his name, but this is his speech:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—I will ask you to pardon me for making reference to myself. If Mrs. Shuford was here I wouldn't dare say what I am going to say. 31 years ago I lived in a three-room house; but we added a room for every baby that came. Now we live in a 14-room house. This is typical of the towns growth. 30 years ago the population was less than 1000; the census report will soon tell us what our population was in 1910. The doctors tell us it is much larger now than a year ago for natural reasons. 31 years ago the old Presbyterian church was the best church building in town. You all know what we have today.

At that time there wasn't a brick building in town. Neither were there any street lights nor electric lights for the homes. 31 years ago we hadn't heard of a telephone. The manager of our exchange here tells me they give between 3000 and 4000 connections a day.

31 years ago the pay-roll for labor here was about \$4000.00 per month. Now it is about \$500,000.00 per year.

Now we have two strong banking institutions doing a big banking business. Then you may say there was no banking done. What little was done was done in Charlotte.

30 years ago there wasn't a manufacturing enterprise here worth mentioning. I will not cite to you tonight what we now have, as you all are doubtless familiar.

CATAWBA.

The next toast: Catawba Co., by one of the manner born:

Mr. A. A. Whitener said: It is rather mysterious to me, why a subject of this character should be assigned to any one.

I have been undertaking to solve, if possible, the reason why. You know every man is desirous to fathom and undertake to delve into that which is hidden or mysterious. I believe that it was the ancient and philosophic Pythagoras, who was imbued with almost insatiable ambition to learn

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