

RACKLEY HOME FROM MUSIC CONVENTION

Goldsboro Man Returns From New York With Many Inspirations

Jubilant delegations of music men returned this week to Goldsboro from the annual convention in New York City last week. They came away convinced of a greater mission in life than that of buying and selling—they feel like crusaders of old going forth to bring health and happiness to a great nation, according to S. R. Rackley, who has just returned to Goldsboro, having been away ten days.

"Unlike the average national convention," said Mr. Rackley, "the gathering of music men and women from every quarter of the country, which has just closed at the Hotel Commodore, has been more than a mere discussion of the business problems of a great industry."

"We have left the sessions with inspirations. We have come away convinced that the soul of our country is largely a soul of music. We are convinced that the happiness and peace of the nation is very nearly in the ratio of the music saturation of the land. With every home in America equipped with a musical instrument we believe a whole lot of the worries and anxieties of life will be forgotten. This is the goal to which we have set ourselves and in this objective we want the earnest co-operation of the people of America. Music today has far more than the 'charms to sooth the savage breast.' It is a solace and sedative to a people whose heart strings have been severely pulled and whose souls have been exceedingly tried.

"We have every reason to go forth like the crusaders of old on a mission of health and happiness, for this is the loftier aim of music. America today is the music center of the universe. We not only have the best teachers, and the best students on earth, but we are making the best musical instruments in the world and more than in any other country in the world.

"All over the land the children are tuning themselves to rhythm of the harmony which only music brings. The school bands and the school orchestras are bobbing up everywhere and in the schools the subject of music bids fair to be added to the three R's as an elementary branch of study. The ideal is a musical America with every child skilled and schooled to play some sort of instrument.

"Our industry has gained many vital sessions from the conferences. I do not recall in the history of the industry, which now ranks fourth or fifth in importance in the United States, any gathering of music men and women boasting a larger attendance, a more imposing array of speakers, a more impressive series of topics and a more serious and salutary objective for our country. This convention has eclipsed all previous gatherings of the musical industry. It has exceeded all gatherings in point of the number, beauty and novelty of the exhibits of up-to-the-minute musical instruments. It will mark the first great mile post of the industry, at the start of which is a united industry strongly bound together in a concerted national undertaking to place the music of America in that high place which its achievements of the past few years have earned for it.

"It is not possible within the brief limits of this interview to go over the ground covered or to enumerate the points made during the convention. There has not been a phase of sales or of merchandising, of co-operation or of education, which has been neglected. We have learned and absorbed a great deal from the distinguished guests who have given us their views on a national co-operative 'pull-together' campaign to intensify the love of music, especially among the children of our country. The war developed many lessons. These we have studied and the best of these we have taken into our plans.

"I do not believe that any of the great throngs of men and women who sat through our sessions and loyally attended these meetings fails to understand the path ahead and the rewards which lie at the end of this journey. When music was taken from the luxury list and placed where it rightfully belongs—upon the necessities list—the curtain rang down on the plodding of the past. We face a new responsibility and we welcome the test. No industry in America today has a more solemn obligation to the nation. Let us assume it, and you may be assured that no group of men and women in America devoted to the task of reconstruction will more eagerly set to the work of vindicating the judgment that music is a necessity of the first order.

"In this great work papers like the Music Trades, which have rendered conspicuous service in specializing on music, will continue to render service of unmeasured value to us and to the nation. Let us accept music that lofty place in the nation's progress which the lessons of centuries of nations point, surely is apt necessity. An America teeming with music is an America really unquenchable and an America at peace and happy."

Among the special features of the convention was the delegation of California coming from the Pacific coast. There was in this delegation more than 30 and every one was filled with enthusiasm. To see these fellows every one could feel and very well knew that there was surely music in the air.

Another important feature was the splendid boost which the Chicago Piano club gave to the rising young artist, Joel Lay. This artist is making wonderful strides and deserves everything in the way of boost.

The messages given by Secretary Hoover on standardization and James E. Davis on utilization of music in

industry were very inspiring and elevating. The most important and most interesting to the public as a whole was the relationship of the radio industry and the music industry which was discussed by able leaders in three fields. The world will yet know of radio.

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Leave Goldsboro
6:55 a. m. Beaufort, Oriental

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