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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

By C. W. ROBERTS, Secretary

PRESIDENT SEPAK'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

To the Members of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce: Gentlemen:

You have elected me your president for the year 1917 and, in accepting this position, I could not be true to the real feeling of my nature should I not say to you that I deeply appreciate the honor that has come to me unsought. Though I esteem it a privilege of no small moment to be called to the leadership of your organization I beg that you be fully assured that I shall enter upon the duties of the office with a full realization of the hard task that lies before me. It has ever been axiomatic, and is now, that when there are great responsibilities there are also opportunities of corresponding import. That Gastonia is blind indeed who cannot see that there stretches out before us even now great opportunities along the line of community service as such service has to do with city, county and even state.

Having lived among you and having worked with you along many lines of community endeavor for well nigh two decades I feel that you will permit me to say that I have not a doubt that you have both the necessary power and ability to bring to the point of accomplishment whatever measures your board or directors shall, in their judgment, decree that you shall dare to undertake. As I see it there are just three things necessary to a strong, virile, vigorous, productive Chamber of Commerce, namely, organization, loyalty, co-operation, and these may be paraphrased into organized loyal co-operation. We have an organization—an organization that is the fruitage of three years of work and service. Loyalty and co-operation are purely mental processes; therefore, each and every one of us may with ease, be loyal to the organization and may co-operate with her every worthy movement. Out of loyal co-operation naturally is born enthusiasm and, if that enthusiasm is based upon constructive ideas and practical forward movements, it soon becomes irresistible.

Our organization has been builded upon the most constructive lines and its entire machinery is suited to most modern community problems. In our scheme we have provided for president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, secretary and seven distinct departments, namely, departments of organization affairs, industry, commerce, conventions, publicity,

civic affairs, and traffic. It will thus be seen that we have striven to cover and we believe that we have covered every line of possible organization activity and, as soon as these departments have all been fully organized, we shall have an organization that has in itself every detail so far as organization goes. I would recommend that a meeting of the directors be held promptly and each department be completed and organized. To make for the largest degree of efficiency I would recommend that each department elect a vice-chairman, who shall be known as director pro tem, and also a secretary, whose duties it shall be to keep the department's minutes and also to make formal call for meetings of the departments.

I would further recommend that, to facilitate the work of the chamber, the directors be empowered to create out of its membership a committee on details or emergency, consisting of three directors to be known as "steering committee" and that said directors prescribe the duties and responsibilities of said steering committee. To the end that we secure the largest possible degree of co-operation on the part of the directors as well also as on the part of the membership through a perfect understanding of the plans, purposes and commitments of the secretary, I would recommend that the said secretary be required to secure the approval of the directors or, at least, of the steering committee, of each and every proposition, the handling of which would tend to commit the Chamber of Commerce to financial expenditures or community policy.

As aforesaid, the prime requisites of an efficient Chamber of Commerce are organization, loyalty, and co-operation, but it must not for a moment be taken for granted that these are the only requisites. There are two other equally important requisites, namely, strong financial basis and a strong commanding membership. That we can get the necessary financial support, it need not for one moment be doubted. Give us in our directorate a body of loyal, earnest, determined men and the money will be forth-coming, for, when once our community has become mentally satisfied that the directors are untidely determined to put their minds, their time, their energies, and their interests into movements necessary to the development of a larger, better and a more progressive Gastonia, it will not hesitate to give us the strength of its financial support. With the acquisition of such a support we might place upon the membership department the responsibility of enlisting members and I doubt

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not that said department can and will quickly create plans and machinery necessary to the enrollment of the largest possible list of members hailing from each and every calling and vocation among our citizenship.

I think we wish it understood in the very beginning of our year's work that it shall be the burden of our striving to enlist the hearty co-operation of all of our citizens regardless of occupation or avocation. We shall need and we shall appreciate the support and co-operation of merchants, bankers, professional men and manufacturers, but we shall just as greatly need and we shall equally appreciate the support and co-operation of artisans, tradesmen, laborers and employees among all lines. In fact, to make our organization what it should be and what it must be, we shall have to enlist the active co-operation and support of all of our citizens.

I would recommend that we strive with all of our power to beget within the organization strong ties of social fellowship. To this end it will be very much worth while for each member to know personally every other member of the organization, and to encourage in all ways possible the bringing together of our membership for social intercourse. There are certain distinctive lines or community endeavor to which we might give the earnestness of our efforts. I beg to cite a few of these, not in order of their importance, but as among the laudable aims to which I might make reference:

1. Industrial Co-operation.
2. Commercial Co-operation.
3. Educational Extension Work.
4. Sanitary Extension.
5. The beautifying of streets and playgrounds.
6. The establishment of parks and playgrounds.
7. Development of junior affiliations.
8. Judicious and constructive advertising.
9. Intensive and extensive co-operation with county commercial bodies.
10. Establishment of traffic bureau.
11. The creation and extension of statistical bureau.
12. Active co-operation with Woman's Betterment Association.

I shall not attempt to discuss the importance of these aims, nor yet to discuss methods for their handling, but it must appear to all that they fall within the realm of both the practical and the expedient. I consider also that it is not amiss to call to your attention the fact that we might lend our co-operative efforts towards the carrying out of these recommendations without, in the least, encroaching upon the prerogatives or the jurisdiction of the powers that be. In carrying out many of these recommendations it will be necessary for the Chamber to work in conjunction with other organizations or bodies, but no doubt need be entertained that such bodies will co-operate with us to the fullest extent.

By some it has been supposed that a Chamber of Commerce has as its first, and I might say, chief consideration, the bringing into a community of manufacturing enterprises. Such an idea, however, has long been moved from the prime to the ultimate. The consensus of opinion of

the commercial secretaries of the towns and cities is that the real functions of a live, wide-awake, up-to-date Chamber of Commerce are the following:

1. The indexing of the assets of the city.
2. The co-ordination and conservation of her assets.
3. The intensive and extensive advertising of her assets.
4. The indexing of her needs.
5. Co-operative working to the end that public and private opinion may be created for the purpose of satisfying such needs.

From these functions, to be sure, there spring a hundred and one others, but, however numerous be the logical and inevitable ramifications, they are, I think, all founded upon these five. When a prospector comes into your city, there are a few sure and certain questions he is going to ask. Some ask more than others, but all will ask the following:

What of your schools? your churches? your streets? your water? your climate? your health? other pertinent questions that have to do with railroad connections, electric power, labor conditions, land values, market conditions, taxes, banking facilities. If your secretary can give satisfactory answers to these questions then there remains little to be done to secure the prospector together with his enterprise.

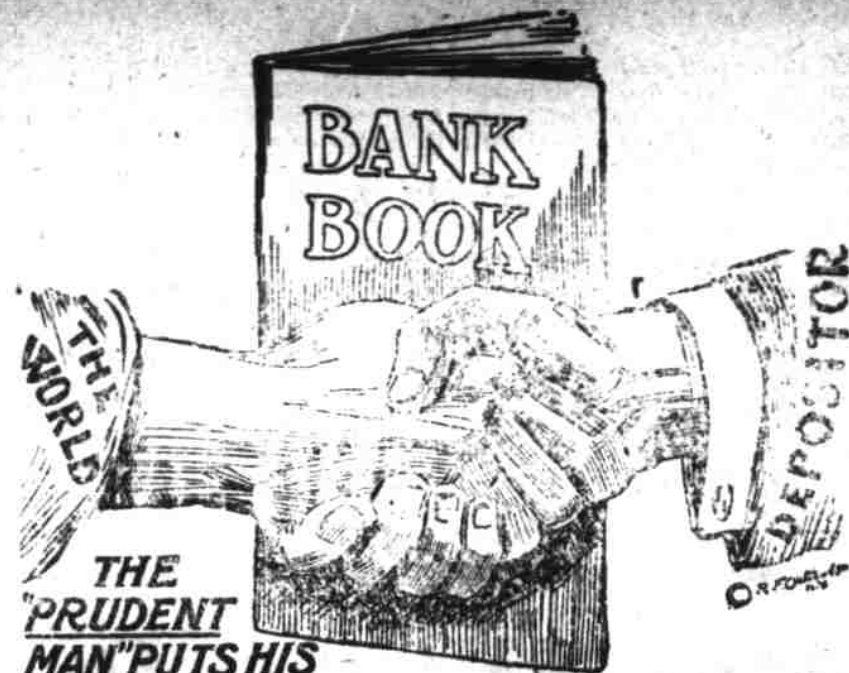
Our population has grown steadily for the past 20 years until we now have upwards of 15,000 people. Our industrial, commercial, civic and educational interests have kept fairly close pace with this wonderful growth of population though I dare to indulge the hope that we are far from satisfied with what we have accomplished. I think that we need to feel that our industries should be somewhat diversified. In textiles and more particularly in the finer lines we are far ahead of any other city of the South and our pre-eminence as a manufacturing city will likely always be based upon textile interests. Though it is equally true that we should now begin to lend our efforts to a little more diversification. In the line of our mercantile interests let me suggest to you that there shall always exist a very large degree of incompleteness until we have arrived at the point of its development when it may be said with a degree of accuracy, "You can get it in Gastonia." In other words, as soon as our merchants can say to our people, "We can furnish what you want," there will be far less of the system of buying away from home.

We have wrought a great development in the past half score years in the development of our educational interests. Our Central city school in construction and equipment is unequalled by any other school in the State. The recent completion of the east and west city schools furnish a chain in the system which could easily be the pride of a city twice our population. What remains to make fully complete our city public school system would be the establishment of a commodious and well-appointed distinctive High School. With this accomplished, we might dare to hope that within the next few years there might be established within our city a college for the doing of distinctive collegiate work. It is beyond the power of the calculator to even estimate the intellectual and moral worth of such an educational system to a community.

Time is not afforded me to discuss the remaining nine of our most logical aims and I shall have to content myself with the suggestion that I am of the firm conviction that through an abiding interest and a full co-operation to the end of bringing to pass developments along these lines we may, at the end of a twelve months, be able to point back, each of us, with an individual pride, and all of us with a community pride to what has been wrought through a spirit of personal disinterested, but loyal co-operative efforts. To do well the work of the year we must have more commodious quarters and a larger financial budget. In a supplementary sheet I am offering suggestions, which if they are adopted, I doubt not will furnish us with ample means for the carrying forward of our work.

To each and all of you for the year 1917 I pledge my loyal and most unselfish efforts and I beg that you in turn pledge to the secretary, the directors and to the organization as a whole your most loyal and unselfish efforts to the end that we bring to pass our laudable aims, at least in part, during the year 1917.

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GASTONIA MAN IS NAMED.

Governor Bickett Selects Col. C. B. Armstrong as Member of New Prison Board.

The following special dispatch from Raleigh to The Greensboro Daily News under date of the 28th, will be of special interest to Gazette readers inasmuch as Mayor C. B. Armstrong, of this city, is named:

Governor Bickett's new prison board will again be headed by Henry B. Varner, assisted by A. E. Smith of Surry; C. B. Armstrong, of Gastonia; W. M. Sanders, of Smithfield, and B. F. Shelton, of Edgecombe. The board may have less of newspaper prominence than some of its predecessors, but it will measure high. Raleigh visitors say Mr. Armstrong is the directing genius of seven cotton mills. Mr. Sanders handles about as many banks in addition to that he wanted to throw McAdoo in the Atlantic ocean last year. Mr. Smith has a fine reputation in Surry and Mr. Varner is a big like in newspaper, farming, road construction and prison circles. He is the single member of the retiring board.

Well Pleased With Local Lodge.

Mr. Harry M. Roberts, of Fletcher, State organizer of the Knights of Pythias Order for North Carolina, spent the first three days of the week in the city looking after the interests of the various subordinate Pythian lodges in Gaston county. While here he visited Bessemer City, Mt. Holly and Dallas. Plans are under way for the instituting of a new lodge at Dallas, there being quite a number at that place who are interested in the proposition. Mr. Roberts visited Gastonia lodge, No. 53, and was favorably impressed with the excellent work that is being done by both the lodge and the Pythian Drum Corps. He left Wednesday for Henrietta to institute a lodge.

Old newspapers for sale at Gazette office, five cents a bundle.



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N. B. Schedule figures shown as information and not guaranteed.

Arrive from	
29, New York, Washington Birmingham	5:15 a. m.
42, Atlanta, Night Express	8:25 a. m.
39, Charlotte (local)	8:00 a. m.
36, New Orleans-Atlanta (U. S. Fast Mail)	8:53 a. m.
37, N. Y., Washington, (N. Y., Atla., N. O., Limited)	10:42 a. m.
11, Richmond (local)	11:30 a. m.
46, Westminster (local)	12:45 p. m.
12, Atlanta (local)	5:00 p. m.
15, Greensboro (local)	5:45 p. m.
38, N. O. Atla. (N. Y., Atla., New Orleans Ltd.)	7:51 p. m.
40, Atlanta (local)	9:38 p. m.
30, Bham-Atla., (B., Spl)	10:25 p. m.
43, Charlotte, Night Express	10:45 p. m.
Depart for	
29, Bham., (Bham., Spl.)	5:15 a. m.
19, Atlanta, (local)	8:00 a. m.
42, Charlotte, night express	8:25 p. m.
36, Washington N. Y. (U. S. Fast Mail)	8:53 a. m.
37, Atla., N. O., (N. Y., Atla., New Orleans, Ltd.)	10:42 a. m.
11, Atlanta (local)	11:30 a. m.
16, Greensboro (local)	12:45 p. m.
12, Richmond (local)	5:00 p. m.
45, Westminster (local)	5:45 p. m.
38, N. O. Atla., (N. Y., Atla., New Orleans Ltd.)	7:51 p. m.
40, Charlotte (local)	9:38 p. m.
30, Wash., N. Y., (Birmingham Special)	10:25 p. m.
43, Atlanta, Night Express	10:45 p. m.
35, Atla., New Orleans (U. S. Fast Mail)	11:05 p. m.

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\$7.75 to Atlanta, Ga., account International Association of Rotary Clubs, June 17-21. Date of sale June 15, 16 and 17, final limit June 25th, 1917.
\$22.55 to New Orleans, La., account Southern Baptist Convention, May 16-23. Date of sale May 11 to 16 inclusive; final limit May 31, 1917.
For further information, reservations, etc., call on any Southern Railway Agent, or address A. A. SUTHER, T. A., Gastonia, N. C. R. H. DeBUTTS, D. P. A., Charlotte, N. C.

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| " Americanitis Elixir |75 cents |
| " Chill Breaker |50 cents |
| " Vegetable Compound |\$1.00 per bottle |
| " Hair Tonic |50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle |
| " Shampoo |25 cents |
| " Straw Hat Dye |25 cents |

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