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More Funds and Better Moral Support Will Come from Campaign.

OF COMMERCIAL CLUB

More Funds With Which to Work Will Mean More Work Will Be Done

"Why is the commercial club to be enlarged and revitalized?" was the question a Herald reporter put to Mr. N. E. Green, manager of the local Blackwell-Durham branch of the American Tobacco company, in an interview yesterday.

Mr. Green, who is a director of the club and active in the new movement, replied at some length. He said: "The commercial club is handicapped in two ways; first, by lack of funds; second, by lack of proper moral support. The second impediment has been the natural outgrowth of the first. The coming campaign will remedy both faults. There is no question but what the American city bureau will succeed here as elsewhere. Every man who is not a member of the commercial club, yet who should be, will be made a member of the club if it lies within human power. Every present member who is not a live, aggressive worker for the club and for Durham, will be made a worker, and a credit to the organization."

"An organization of this kind," he continued, "becomes the 'trouble department' of every citizen, the clearing house for all suggestions and ideas. The chronic kicker is converted by its mechanism into a really useful citizen, because it directs his energy intelligently."

"Without this commercial club, who will see that the whole city of Durham is not exploited for the selfish interests of a few? Who will keep his finger upon the pulse of the nation and say when it is time for Durham to take advantage of the big opportunity which now and then comes to every city? Outside of the real estate man, who is there to receive and negotiate with a new comer relative to the location of an industry or business of any kind? Who is there to take such a party in hand and give him the truth about the city, present it to him in a favorable but impartial light and devote to him whatever time all of this calls for?"

"The proof of the pudding is always in the eating. A look over the commercial field discloses the fact that every progressive city has an organization of this kind. It may not be called a commercial club, it need not be, but its functions are the same: It is the champion and safeguard of public affairs."

"The old saying that in union there is strength is as true today as it was when the Roman father taught the lesson to his vigorous sons by inviting them to break a bundle of sticks and when they had failed, untied the bundle and broke the sticks singly across his knee."

"The commercial club should be and will be the strong and effective union of the business and professional men and women of Durham, to protect its welfare and to promote its trade. When Durham prospers we all prosper. The commercial club, operating under proper conditions, can make Durham prosper."

THINKS WAR SPIRIT IN AMERICA IS DEAD.

London, Aug. 25.—Writing in the Daily Mail, Sydney Brooks, who has lived a great deal in the United States, says that a friend returning from America tells him the most popular song there now is, "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier." Mr. Brooks quotes the song and continues:

Behind the sentiments expressed in this city there is rallied, in my judgment, a force of American opinion such as has never yet in any country been devoted to the cause of peace—peace at any price, peace regardless of justice and national dignity and rights.

I do not, of course, mean to imply that this instinctive abhorrence of war, of any war and all wars, of war in itself and apart from all questions of right and wrong, is as yet the dominant feeling of the country.

All Americans are pacifists just now, but the minority that sets the preservation of peace above any other consideration whatsoever, while a larger minority than has ever been known in any other land, is still a minority. Most Americans will go far and even very far to avoid war. But they will not go any lengths.

When I first went to the United States, all but twenty years ago, I found a country that for the dropping of a hat would have gone to war with Great Britain over a few hundred square miles on the borders of Venezuela.

I found a country eminently high spirited, rather given to making international mountains out of molehills, not without a decided strain of bellicosity in its composition, apt to detect "enemies" and "crisis" where none existed, swift, as it showed in Cuba, to cut with the sword a tangle that could not otherwise be unraveled, and not in the least afraid to meet and tackle the responsibilities of expansion.

That America is certainly not dead. It may not even be slumbering. But very obviously it is not the America which is now in the ascendant. It is not the America which finds itself today represented in the white house or in congress or in the foreign policy or the preponderant popular opinion of the country.

The United States at this moment is more pacifist than ever before in its history. Nor is its pacifism merely the reaction from the horrors and waste of the European war. It is a movement of thought and sentiment that within the last four or five years has made a sudden and an extraordinary advance. A phenomenon so striking in its contrast to the present state of the old world and so novel in American experience is worth illustrating and worth, if possible, explaining.

For the past four years Mexico has been ground by civil war into anarchy. The United States is Mexico's immediate neighbor. It possesses three rights which hitherto have been held to justify the intervention of one country in the internal affairs of another—the right to suppress contagious chaos, and the right of a strong people to rescue a weak one from being crushed by murderous factions into bankruptcy and starvation. In addition there is imposed upon the United States government by the recognized and peculiar obligations of the Monroe doctrine the duty of safeguarding the lives and property of foreigners.

These rights the United States has deliberately refrained from exercising. This duty with equal deliberation it has failed to discharge. And there cannot be much doubt that the passivity of the government has had the support of the great majority of the American people.

They shrink from going into Mexico not merely because of its cost or its difficulties or the aftermath of responsibilities, or its effect upon Spanish-American opinion but because, above all things, they do not regard intervention as morally justified.

The president himself told them, only a few months ago that it was none of his business and none of theirs how long the Mexicans took in settling their domestic affairs or how much blood they spilled in the process.

"So far as my influence goes," he declared, "while I am president, nobody shall interfere with them."

Americans have been killed in Mexico, have been captured and held for ransom, their homes have been looted, their crops destroyed, their cattle and horses stolen, their industries and properties to the value of many hundreds of millions have been ruined.

But to all appeals for protection their government has answered in effect that the interest and responsibility of the United States ceased when they crossed the Rio Grande.

In the same way the treaties between the two countries have been torn to shreds, the remonstrances and the personal emissaries dispatched by the president have been openly insulted.

Still the United States government has held its hand, and the American people answer all criticisms of Mr. Wilson's policy by gratefully reflecting that he has kept the peace.

I do not in the least criticize either his attitude or theirs. I am only trying to set it forth as it is, to make clear the moral principle behind it, and to show how far it is removed from the spirit that governed American policy even as recently as the Rooseveltian era.

For what emerges from a study of Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy is the conviction that the United States approaches international emergencies from a different ethical standpoint, with a different conception of the meaning of national honor and interests, and with a still more widely different estimate of the value and morality of force in human affairs, from those which obtain among the governments of Europe.

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SIK SCENERY.

In Opening Play at Academy "When Dreams Come True."

The last word in scenery has been spoken—by Philip Bartholomae, author of "When Dreams Come True," which came to the

Mr. Bartholomae announces that in the ballroom episode the scene is painted, not on the canvas of commerce, but on silk. He says that thereby he has attained a certain lighting effect of unquestioned beauty and effectiveness.

Mr. Bartholomae, be it known, is equipped with one fortunate advantage carefully kept away from most makers of manuscript. He is rich. He can write checks on silk if he wants to. Let this not be taken to mean that only his wealth makes it possible for him to get in the limelight. He is the author and producer of "Overnight" and "Little Miss Brown," both successes which have increased his bank account, and he is the producer of a number of vaudeville acts equally successful.

However, when one sets out to make scenery the possession of a bank balance is a distinct aid of art and the uplift. In addition to the silk set the play also reveals three other complete scenic offerings—all shown in three acts.

Mrs. Florence Peace and daughter, Miss Gladys Peace, of Creedmoor, passed through yesterday for Elon college where the latter is to enroll in the fall.

Miss Alene Patton spent several hours in this city yesterday with friends while returning to her home at Greensboro from a trip to Seven Springs.

of view uniquely their own.

Twenty years ago the United States would hardly have negotiated over the sinking of the Lusitania and the murder of more than a hundred American citizens. It would have been beside itself with frenzy. Today it manifests a horror and indignation that even in three short months have lost much of their force.

Twenty years ago it would have known how to deal with any European government that ignored most of its demands for reparation and guarantees and rejected the rest. Today, while anxious and perplexed, it resolutely seeks the peaceful way out. The old belligerency is dead and it, in spite of all their efforts, the Americans are drawn into the war, it will be in no spirit of Chauvinism or adventure but steady and solely under the compulsion of a duty that, however distasteful, could not be shirked.

Mrs. R. J. Machen, of Mecklenburg, passed through yesterday for Elon college.

Maker of Munitions.

Should a foreign enemy get a foothold in America, it could accomplish what the insane bomb thrower failed to do—hold J. P. Morgan and his folk hostage. Morgan's house ought to be able to pay a heavier indemnity than all of little Belgium. If it were not that the payment of tribute would finally be taxed on the poor household, it might not be a bad idea for someone with the power to do it, to levy upon the big fortunes of certain Americans. Should Germany decide that war with the United States would be desirable, that decision would come largely because of the fact that our manufacturers have accumulated a huge surplusage of gold through furnishing of arms to the enemy of the Teuton. The manufacturer who stands on his unquestionable right to sell ammunition to any who comes to buy and now ignores the popular desire that we do not become an arsenal for the allies, would be the man to float the huge American loan to equip the men of this country to fight in case of war.

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