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MUCH ACCOMPLISHED IN LAST HALF YEAR

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDS BUSY SEASON.

MEMBERS GIVEN BANQUET

Secretary Makes Report Relating of Good Work of Organization in Six Months' Period—Optimistic of Future.

A complete resume of the work and accomplishments of the South Bend Chamber of Commerce in the last six months was given in the semi-annual report of H. D. C. Van Asmus, secretary of the organization, which was read at a joint meeting of the board of directors and general membership to-day. Mr. Van Asmus placed the organization of a good roads association, the raising of a $25,000 industrial fund, membership campaign that brought in 169 new members and location of the new L. S. Kent cigar factory in the city as the principal accomplishments of the half year. He predicted that even greater success will greet the labors of the body in the next six months.

The board of directors and members met at the Oliver hotel at 12:30 o'clock and Secretary Van Asmus' report, which was the principal item of business coming before the meeting, was read following luncheon. The conference of the board of directors and members until September and the half general membership meeting until fall.

The meeting was attended by 75 members of the chamber a good per cent of the 300 members enrolled recently added to the membership campaign. The meeting was presided over by President William Hepp. Following the report of Secretary Van Asmus, which was read by President Hepp, the municipal affairs committee pulled out briefly, the work already undertaken, which he believes merits further careful consideration, by the chamber, and the committee also mentioned the been content of the State Beautiful City committee, the good roads campaign of the Healthier City committee, and advised the careful consideration of the question of more satisfactory management of the garbage and refuse problem, which has changed the work toward improvement of public playgrounds throughout the city.

Judge Timothy E. Howard responded to a call for the report of the proceed commendation of the work of the chamber. Heilkemed the body to one month in representative of a government, of the people, proclaiming the possibility of the organizations as instruments of government.

Bring up Bridge Matter.

The dispiriment Underwar mills proposition was brought to the attention of the chamber by H.m. Martin Campbell, who stated the position of this concern in the matter of the condemnation proceedings, of the board of public works. Mr. Campbell stated he understood petitions are being circulated by east side residents in the vicinity of Colfax avenue, for the proposed bridge, which condemnation would seriously affect the Studebaker concern, according to its statements. The speaker in relating the history of the Studebaker company, raised the point of the incompetency of land being condemned by the city for bridge purposes, before the county commissioners, upon whom devolves the duty of building the bridge, had signified any intention of building such a bridge.

The chamber has just rounded out the third half-year of its existence and Secretary Van Asmus made a general way summed up the work of the entire 18 months' time. He spoke of the growth of the membership, and of the vast amount of good work done.

Mr. Van Asmus spoke of the part the chamber has taken in the national movement against the advancement of freight rates. He touched on the recent movement for the advancement of the interests of wood-carving and attention of congress was brought to the problem.

Report is Presented.

The complete report was as follows:

"Our great martyr president, Abraham Lincoln, in his immortal speech, declared, once upon a time that if he could find a church that had for its only creed, the golden rule, he would join it. And our late great American philosopher, Mark Twain, in his Joan of Arc Twain, is charged with the assertion: 'It is mighty fine to practice altruism and yet it is somewhat sinful because one always gets more out of it than the other fellow.'

"I often think of these two sayings and I ponder over the present and unprecedented faith in and practice of public spirited enterprise by nearly every department of business, nearly every department of business, nearly every department of business.

"Perhaps the most remarkable as well as most interesting exhibit as to the value of co-operative effort on the part of business men, is the recently furnished by remote relative to railway legislation at Washington.

"With due credit to the gentlemen who represent us and all other American interests, including the National capital, I beg to suggest that in these days belong all the merit for the advances made in behalf both of carriers and shippers.

"Years ago, a decade ago, business organizations throughout the country began to study, to inform themselves, sure in the conviction that however worthy their purpose they might be, they could not, in the nature of the, their imperfect vision as to both attainable and a multitude of ills, presently find themselves in an uncomfortable position, unless they were equipped with adequate knowledge.

Research Is Demanded.

"And so in a decade ago, some of the leading business empire days received two or three or a dozen thorough, conservative, fair-minded and successful business men who, directly or indirectly, represent the business organizations, look up in most complete and careful detail, the sincere study of the problem of transportation in its relation to the general business interests of the country.

"True, the initial motive of this work may have been a personal one and somewhat selfish perhaps, but the students who had undertaken it soon found themselves, as they entered the magnitude of the subject matter and over the tremendous, bitter and fire-shadowed so that in due time the organizations they represented—those in the East, the South, the Middle West, the Northwest, the Southwest, and the eastern slope—were to heartily and operation on a single great topic and to behalf of a single great purpose.

"Gradually, the work of a few, a comparatively small number of men, for the greatest good to the greatest number and was performed gratuitously and in the true spirit of civic patriotism.

"I am convinced that my statement cannot be successfully assailed when I assert that had it not been for the earnest enthusiastic and most intelligent work of the transportation committees of the various organizations of the country, the conditions at Washington could not, even in the past 10 years, have been brought about so to the fair and just course of transportation in this country, that have already been approved and enacted into law.

Value of Co-operation.

"The points I wish to develop by this comparison to may seem somewhat (again) new.

"1. All history shows that harmonious co-operation among men of business is not only possible, but is indispensable to the best, the most rapid gain there in as well as to those who may be indirectly affected thereby.

"2. Business is such activity, generally as a general thing and yet when it is organized, when it is well and is being developed in the matter of fair administration of transportation enterprises, fair to both carriers and shippers, is taken into consideration and the proper adjustment is made necessary for its development, seems instantaneous.

"3. These results come slowly because men, with very rare exceptions do not and cannot, at first, see and do not and cannot, at first, see and appreciate in their knowledge and variable. Solutions are seldom, and at when some important and specific matter is in controversy, or, in consequence of social conditions, in nonsocial behavior, is presented for their consideration, they cannot, if they hope, for a worthy or as useful outcome of their work, have a good, fair, and, in the end, most study, deserving, sane and sane-into where they stand and why.

"4. Co-operative effort succeeds best when it is based on facts, as, for example, by reference to the 10 year campaign in behalf of a more just and adequate handling of our country's transportation facilities—at some cost of time and money.

"And now, at the close of the first half year of my administration as your secretary, I desire to say that in all the 25 years that I have given to the work of the Chamber of Commerce, no more effort, never have I reached better or more reliable support than that which you have given, for our purpose, I make this declaration not in the spirit of self-praise, but that you as with a view to informing the general public as to the spirit of business harmony that exists in South Bend.

Believe in Golden Rule.

"I know as perhaps no other man in this city, that the golden rule as well as Lincoln, is not by any means a dead letter in South Bend and I know beyond any question, as many of you know, that there are men in the city of South Bend are there who will not abandon the practice of altruistic efforts because, as Mark Twain suggested, they get more out of it than they put into it.

"Do not they do? Gleefully responded a prominent citizen, a humane gentleman to whom I had quoted Mark Twain's philosophy. But I convertion him almost instantly by remarking that I was sorry to hear that he was not one of those, and of splendid benefactors who have built, equipped and endowed the magnificent christian association edifices, institutions in South Bend, and, finalized, I asked him if he, as a man of business, as all-seers would, for an instant, consider the possibility of surrendering all that they have gained, all that they have enjoyed through their association with the Y. M. C. A. and what they have put into those institutions? And our discussion was at an end.

"What are the results that have accrued to the Chamber of Commerce of South Bend during the past six months, the first half of the second year of our co-operative association?

"1. Have been the direct and initial influence which has created a permanent general welfare organization, the Healthier Indiana State Association, of vital importance. Delegates from 50 cities were present and represented 25 cities, were not present on May 13 and the result is that a steady, national and effective campaign is under way across the northern portion of the state, which promises to be of great value to every township in that territory and especially to the city of South Bend.

Train Service Improved.

"Our organization has been a very useful factor in the national campaign for a re-adjustment of freight rate matters—freight rates, classification, etc. Our work has been of appeals, and we have been the prime move in securing additional and improved train service between South Bend, Indianapolis and intermediate points. We have been instrumental in full knowledge as to the ordinances we adopted and enforced in other cities relative to the abatement of the smoke nuisance and the preservation of the health of our city, and have been active in co-operation in a considerable number of cleanliness and healthfulness.

"We have been instrumental, studying, co-operating all along the lines of the Federal Government, and we are to-day years in advance of where we were six months ago in our clear comprehension of the additional work in this direction, that is ahead of us.

"We have been instrumental in the Federal government of Washington, from commercial bodies elsewhere, from other municipalities and co-operations as well as from individuals, in the matter of securing the right of legislation and co-operation, and opinions upon matters of national importance.

"We have developed a cordial and harmonious relation with other commercial bodies and other local organizations and have given of our resources, effort and influence, in behalf of various public enterprises and interests.

"Our municipal affairs committee has been of large influence in securing the enforcement of the ordinance as to spitting on the sidewalks; as to the fire limits, and, as to the fire regulation in which the same city officials has succeeded in creating a strong movement in behalf of public playgrounds and in developing a fair and reasonable system of the disposal of a sewerage and drainage, thus, in a letter means that South Bend is going to utilize to the full, as beautiful and natural an opportunity for a picturesque and healthful city as any city in the country. As a natural sequence to such efforts by the chamber, and on the cleanliness, healthfulness, attractiveness and beauty of our city, the Chamber of Commerce of South Bend is now the recipient and municipal control of building and loan, in behalf of well-heads and toward the protection of our city, and, in the last, necessary to appeal to Indianapolis for necessary legislation.

City Has Made Mistakes.

Like all American cities, South Bend has made mistakes and the most of such cities, that of the street by their errors. For years the Grand Trunk Railway System has been allowed to occupy a right of way and to put to utility, was obtained surreptitiously. And now, with no attention as to separation of grades a very dangerous, and, in the end, costly to the Grand Trunk opposition to such is an additional track alone, that right of way. The Chamber of Commerce has vigorously opposed this move. The city has taken the matter to the courts. The state has sustained the city in its contention and now the United States supreme court is asked to overture the will of our citizens.

"As an organization the Chamber of Commerce will use its best influence in Washington and as a municipality South Bend will bestow its strongest and most effective aid. Frequently, Boards municipal authorities in this more or less exhibition of grades and against a perpetual and complete cutting in the matter of the work of the Chamber.

"Reaching fairly given hard work and sincere thought toward a considerable adoption of some measure and toward a cleaner city, the Chamber of Commerce, in consequence of the effort toward securing a more rational and less dangerous observance of the Fourth of July. Things are whose property may be destroyed by fire are parents, little children may be maimed for life, or blinded and deaf, or worse, the use of firecrackers and pyrotechnic accessories which should be prohibited—are it to themselves, their children and to the general welfare, to stand back of the Chamber of Commerce in its effort to secure the approval and support of all citizens in the effort to improve in a comprehensive and practical way, the Fourth of July.

"There is no single movement of our city which impresses both the visitor and permanent resident with favor equal to that which is seen in the work of our Chamber of Commerce and which is an artistic addition to such a picture, that is superior to any other in the world. Justifies all of these things will prove to be good statesmanship.

Baseball Boost Credit.

"While I do not claim to be good investment, I cannot refrain from mentioning the work done made by the Chamber of Commerce base-ball boosters. And South Bend won on that day. As a municipal method of publicity advertising—meeting the competition of other cities, and, in consequence, before the great, general public, a high grade baseball league club is created and it pays a city to have citizens who will give liberally of time and money, and who will bring such citizens together frequently on a purely recreation basis, developing a community of enthusiasm. The Boosters' demonstration on June 13 was a fine, a good, and, I believe, a credit to the Chamber of Commerce.

"Not the least of our achievements is the development of a largely increased sentiment of interest in our municipal affairs, and, in the direction of a healthier and better South Bend. This has, we believe, been brought about by the result of the recent municipal contest when two sets of five speaks each, in a well planned and specially executed campaign, secured the support of members for our organization.

"Considered in relation to the usual histories of bodies such as ours, this latter extending over years of time, the work done by our Chamber is, in the almost national, standing exercise so to speak, so that the present question is not so much as to what we have accomplished as it is relative to what we have to talk and hope to do, in the future.

"This is what we have in process of development.

"1. The new general chairman of the municipal affairs committee, Hon. C. E. Crabill, is to issue a call for a meeting of the chairmen of the several sub-committees to consider a partial reorganization and strengthening of these committees.

Work of Industrial Committee.

"2. The industrial committee, having completed the raising of the Industrial fund of $25,000 is prepared to make effective the purpose of the committee, namely, a more active and aggressive policy of publicity. It was no small thing for our industrial committee to participate in the negotiations which resulted in the purchase of the Kent cigar factory, bringing to L. S. Kent of Jacksonville, Ill., who is to move his cigar factory to our new home where 150 men (not women) will earn good wages. It was no small thing for South Bend was the purchase of the plant and machinery of the South Bend Baking company last week, thus saving to the city an industrial institution, under new management, is certain to prove a winner.

"3. The location, general character and specific resources of South Bend as a manufacturing center and the 'World-Famed' standing of her product, are, we believe, now being thoroughly studied, patiently and well, and which has the most serious and as a most valuable problem to solve, is rapidly approaching an practical and effective.

"4. Our industrial and assistant campaign for trade extension that cannot fail to reveal large values to the retail dealers in South Bend.

"5. It is believed that much can be accomplished in aid of the policy and purpose of our industrial committee, by a simple, inexpensive, yet a comprehensive, which shall present in concrete form, the respective activities of the several committees and so, in a general way, acquaint our members and citizens in general with our aims and our proceedings, but they are current and important, and, in consequence, are sought for from abroad, which, may be provided by members who receive requests for such information.

"6. Another much desired condition is a more and more complete co-ordination of inter-ests and efforts between the entire membership of the Chamber of Commerce and the committees, and, in consequence, a more complete co-ordination of inter