

When it was known that a group within the United States Chamber of Commerce would force, under the present abnormal conditions, a vote on the proposals embodied in the Bill, the outcome of the vote was scarcely a matter of question. Business men generally, and especially those engaged in the larger operations known as "big business," have set themselves strongly against two things: (1) further increase in taxation, especially through the levies on incomes and business profits, and (2) further extension of Federal participation in the support of public enterprises that have hitherto been left to the states and the local communities.

With this reactionary attitude so clearly evident, it is gratifying to know that so many of the leading Chambers of Commerce throughout the country voted in favor of the Towner-Sterling Bill after the most thoroughgoing and serious consideration of its proposals and in the face of a majority report against the Bill from the Chamber's committee.

With this action of a strong and influential minority in favor of the Bill, it is only a question of a short time and of the inevitable "reaction against reaction" already setting in, before the Chambers that voted adversely will reverse their decisions.

In the meanwhile the Association and all those who are united with it in the support of the National program will stand four-square against the powerful forces that are attempting to turn the flank of this far-flung forward movement in American education. If anything could be more clearly indicative of the solidarity of sentiment among the public-school workers than the enthusiasm that greeted the resolution at Cleveland re-indorsing the Bill, it is the action of the Department of Superintendence in electing as its president the man who has held the fort so stanchly in the center of the bitterest opposition that has yet been directed against the measure. Those who have prophesied that the professional support of the National program would suffer from the organized efforts to defeat it can now see how sadly they misjudged the integrity of the American teacher. The profession has not been enlisted for a three months' or for a three years' campaign. It has foreseen the battle; it has taken the full measure of its opponents; it will meet every attack with new courage

and with fresh accessions of popular support. When the welfare of the Nation and of the Nation's children is at stake, does any one imagine for a moment that this great movement will halt one inch short of a complete and overwhelming victory?

### A PROGRAM FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACTIVITIES

*An Address by President Samuel P. Duke to the Board of Directors of the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce, March 12, 1923*

#### *Duty of Chamber*

It might be well for us in beginning a new year to ask ourselves the question, "What is the function of a Chamber of Commerce?" Manifestly it has been in the past, primarily, the promotion of the welfare of the commercial interests of our City. It is not too much to assume, however, that our Chamber of Commerce should be, and is now, conscious of a bigger and perhaps more unselfish objective, namely, the making of our city a place where all its people can live more completely, satisfying in a more complete manner all of their worthy aspirations.

In the light of this more comprehensive purpose, therefore, it appears that the Board of Directors should map out for the Chamber of Commerce for the current year a definite and attainable program that will enlist the hearty support of not only the entire membership of this organization but the support also of all right thinking and forward looking citizens of our city.

#### *Public Utilities*

One of the first tests that we may apply to any city as a place in which to live and work is the test of its public utilities—what of its water supply, its lighting and power facilities, its moral and sanitary conditions, the character and effectiveness of its government, and chief of all its public school system, for any city that does not look first to the welfare of its children is a city without a vision or a city which, though it may have eyes—sees not. We have a school situation in Harrisonburg that cannot long continue without serious and permanent injury to many of the children of our City. There are several hundred school chil-



dren here who are receiving only a little more than one half the schooling they are entitled to because we have not sufficient school rooms in which to teach them, and because in many classrooms even through the high school and junior high school such large classes must be organized that they cannot be well taught.

This matter is of serious concern, for the children who are now being taught in half-day shifts and under overcrowded conditions will never pass this way again, for time in its flight never turns back. I want better opportunities for my children and what I want for my children I want for every child in the city. We cannot conscientiously encourage parents with children to educate to come to our city to live until these conditions are improved. Our schools are well taught and well administered and no blame can be placed upon our school authorities for the above mentioned situation, for the City School Board and the Superintendent of Schools have repeatedly and persistently presented to the City Council and the City at large the overcrowded condition of our schools and have presented at the same time a definite and well-advised school building program. Neither should the City Council be criticised for this condition. They have been confronted at one time, with three big problems—schools, water and lights. In their judgement the needs of the water and lights and power problems were more urgent and, in what appears to be a very satisfactory manner, our council has met the water and light situation. Now it is time to speak and act for our public schools. We should have without further delay a large central school building which will include a large auditorium, gymnasium and swimming pool.

#### *Local Taxation*

In order to improve our city in many important ways we must accept a different attitude from the commonly accepted one toward local taxation. We should not think of local taxes as burdens but as a community contribution to certain undertakings that separate individual citizens cannot as well accomplish. A low city tax rate then can be considered a city asset only when the city has adequate public service utilities and, when a city does not have such facilities, assuming that the city's income is wisely and economically spent, a low tax rate becomes an object of reproach.

A city like any other living organization must either grow or decay and I hope that I shall always wish Harrisonburg to be not a quiet, moss covered fig tree under whose shade I can spend in peace and quiet my declining years, but a vigorous, pulsating, beautiful and lovable city in which our sons and daughters can work out for themselves honorable and successful careers.

Following this idea, I believe we should continue to inquire, and to inquire to some effect, whether we have put in the hands of those whom we have selected to administer the affairs of our City the most effective machinery of local government, or whether we have handicapped these men with an antiquated, ineffective and irresponsible machinery of government. Certainly the city manager form of local government should demand a more thorough and a more conclusive study on our part.

#### *Need Rest Room*

Returning to the more practical affairs of our organization we should attend at once to the strangers within our gates. Our city should provide some rest room for the women of our neighboring communities who come to our city to shop and we should also provide a public camping site for the many tourists who pass through our city. The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Harrisonburg are due the hearty thanks of the Chamber of Commerce for the liberal manner in which they entertain at their weekly luncheons visitors from near-by towns and rural districts.

#### *Advertising Policies*

What of our advertising policies? Generally speaking, we are good advertisers orally, but we do not advertise sufficiently visually. Most people are eye-minded and are more impressed by what they see than by what they hear. Let us think of these possibilities.

1. Our booklet. We have now in process of being printed an excellent advertising booklet of our city and county that will be a credit to our organization.

2. We should issue from the office of the Chamber of Commerce a news letter at least every two months informing our members of what our association is accomplishing. This we propose to do.

3. A regular news service should emanate from our publicity committee to local, state



and nearby "big city" papers, especially those of Baltimore and Washington. This news should be concerned with the constructive activities of our city and not with the crimes of murderers and bootleggers.

4. We should work, now that we have an excellent hotel and restaurant in our city, to bring to Harrisonburg a large number of small state conventions.

5. The merchants of our city should co-operate in the promotion occasionally of special sales days—such as the dollar sales which prove very attractive to consumers.

#### *Co-Operative Advertising*

6. We should not be content to advertise simply our own city and country but we should co-operate in the advertising of this wonderful valley in which we live—its beauty, its climate, its schools, its caverns, hotels, places of historical interest, its public highways and especially its agricultural and industrial possibilities. With co-operative advertising coupled with the development of effective slogans there is no reason why we should not make the apples grown in the Valley just as popular in the markets of America as the fruit of California or Oregon. There is no reason why we should not, by co-operative advertising, make the millions of white eggs produced in the Valley just as popular in the East and Middle West as the eggs from Petaluma. Other poultry and dairy products would profit from a similar species of advertising. Freight and passenger service and rates, together with many other problems, might be much more effectively handled with some form of co-operation from all the cities and towns of the Valley.

The most effective agency for the accomplishment of such purposes appears to be the organization of a Chamber of Commerce of the Valley of Virginia. Our secretary has already written to other organizations in the Valley in regard to this proposal and is receiving a splendid response. With your approval, the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce will take the initiative in launching this enterprise.

Returning to more purely local problems our freight and passenger service needs our constant attention. Undoubtedly big improvements can be made to both without unreason-

able demands upon the railroads. We might do something also to secure a saner, more stable, and a safer automobile bus service on the Valley Pike. Together with these efforts we should endeavor to secure without delay the incorporation of the Pendleton road to the West Virginia line into the State Highway System. The possibilities of doing this seem to be especially promising.

#### *Need Aggressive Policy*

The time for an aggressive policy in regard to securing new industries for our city seems to be almost at hand. We need only additional school facilities; and the city of Harrisonburg will provide these as soon as our people voice in unmistakable terms that they wish it to be done.

In order to succeed in such a program as this, we must have the backing, through membership in this body, of practically all the business and professional men and women of our city. I believe we have in Harrisonburg sufficient civic pride and enterprise to secure such support, and having gotten this backing let us keep faith with our membership in putting over a program of achievement that will bring a new era of growth and prosperity to our city.

## CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

### HOME ECONOMICS TEACHING

*By Grace Brinton*

It has been said of the biologist that he has the double satisfaction of searching for truth itself and of advancing the health and welfare of mankind. Dr. Katherine Blunt, of the University of Chicago, says:

"Most emphatically home economics workers can also have this double satisfaction. They can have the rewards that come from the highest intellectual labor, imaginative constructive thinking of the highest order. Yet at the same time, on the same piece of work, they may be making a direct contribution to wholesome living."

The present day field of home economics offers three most interesting lines of special-

HOME ECONOMICS IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, by Agnes K. Hanna. Boston: Whitcomb and Barrows. 1922. Pp. 327. \$2.50.