

THE NEWS RECORD

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YOUNG MEN'S BUSINESS CLUB.

There is in a state of formation in this city a Young Business Men's Club.

The idea sprang from the circumstance that with the growth of the community and expansion of business, a considerable number of young business men found themselves unable to go home for lunch and had to content themselves with a midday bite at a restaurant. Meeting daily, what more natural than that they should discuss current topics, whether relating to trade, commerce or city affairs?

Meeting on common ground and having no hatchets to bury, they found a general willingness among the frequenters, to use their influence to further the best interests of their fellow citizens.

It was next decided that it would be advisable not only to lunch at the same restaurant but to lunch together and in a room where the discussion of questions relating to the city's affairs could be, openly and freely, done. Steps to this end have been taken.

Casting about for a field which would profit them to till, they found a promising one. It is a field that has to some extent lain fallow since 1914: Community Building.

For reasons, which it is not necessary now to discuss, the former state of unity had been disrupted. These young men believe that they can largely assist to restore it. They consider that since they had not during the last four and a half years shown extreme views nor done anything which would destroy the once

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existing good will, they can interpret the best thought of both sections of opinion and so help restore harmony. From these statements it will be seen that they have their hopes of furthering the city's material welfare upon fair and reasonable methods. Providing they succeed in gaining the confidence of the citizens, they then propose establishing a Chamber of Commerce.

A Chamber of Commerce is, in a sentence, a public body representative of a city's manufacturing, labor, mercantile, educational and philanthropic interests.

It may be said to be a Board of Trade enlarged to embrace all the public activities of a community.

By interesting the leaders and mobilizing the forces of progress in a given city, it is conceivable that better headway can be made. London has already organized a Chamber of Commerce and its citizens voted on Wednesday to set aside \$50,000 for it and with which to seek industrial growth. Brantford and Stratford are expected to follow suit.

It will generally be agreed that the young business men, who will shortly be expected to take charge, should become acquainted with the duties and responsibilities involved in carrying on its industries, its civic affairs and increasing the city's status as a commercial center.

Providing they are sincere, and there is no apparent reason for doubting this, they may be able to avoid the mistakes of the past and subsequently to build better. Before unity can again be fully established, and a safe foundation for a Chamber of Commerce laid, it may be found necessary to remove the entangling undergrowth which has, during the past three years, reared its head.

Difficulties admittedly exist. It is encouraging that while realizing this, they have resolved to tackle the matter and seek a salutary solution.

The opportunity is there. It is theirs to make the most and best of it. They will, providing their plans are sound, receive assistance from many unexpected quarters.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

This city is familiar with the principles of the Commission form of city government. The question has been studied and discussed at intervals for years. The consensus of opinion among those who have taken an interest in the subject is that it would be an improvement over the existing system.

Reforms come slowly. Friends of commission government carried the discussion to that point where it seemed necessary for the provincial authorities to take action. It was several years ago suggested that the legislature ought to appoint a committee to study the new system, ever it has been in use and, if deemed to be a better method than the existing one, to introduce legislation which would give progressive municipalities the option of trying it out.

The reason why our electors did not in 1918 hear more of the matter was that at the last meeting of the Ontario Municipal Association, the provincial government was requested to introduce at the coming session

a measure which would enable cities at least to adopt commission government, after obtaining the approval of the electorate.

Another city which has been supporting commission government is London, Ontario. On New Year's day, they endorsed it by a majority of 791 votes. That municipality will, no doubt, lend its assistance toward obtaining from the legislature an act which will enable cities to take this forward step.

GUELPH'S NEW COUNCIL

Under a Special Act, passed by the legislature in 1918, the city of Guelph has instituted a new form of city government. Broadly speaking, it is a cross between the system in vogue and the Commission government method.

By this, its Board of Water Commissioners, its Board of Light and Heat Commissioners, Parks Board, and Sewerage and Public Works Commissioners and Radial Railway Board are dispensed with and for the most part their duties joined to that of the Council.

A new Board of Light and Heat Commissioners, consisting of three members, succeeds one of whom is to be the mayor, and two others appointed by the Council, but not to be members of it. This Commission will manage the electric power and gas department. Otherwise the Council is to manage the utilities heretofore operated by the several commissions.

A Council of 18 members holds sway. Six of them were elected for three years; six for two and six for one year. No mayor was elected by the ratepayers. He is to be chosen from among the eighteen aldermen. Also the clerk is made ex-officio a member of all committees of the Council.

Other municipalities will watch this experiment in municipal government with interest. The test of the pudding lies in the eating.

A Smile or Two

Musica Mysticism.

"What is that tune you were playing on the Spina?"

"That isn't a tune. That is a sonata."

"What's the difference?"

"Well with a sonata it's hard for the average listener to detect mistakes. With a tune you've got to know pretty well what you are about.—Boston Transcript.

So Terry San Out.

It was the busiest part of the day at the railway station and Terence O'Flannigan the newest porter, rushed up to the incoming train.

"Change here!" he cried. "Change here for Limerick galwayanmayo!"

But the stationmaster descended upon Terry.

"Haven't I been telling you," he cried, "to sing out the name of stations clearly and distinctly? Rimmer, now—sing them out."

"I will, sir," replied the broth of a bboy. And when the next train came in the passengers were considerably astonished to hear Terry sing:

Sweet dreamland faces
Passing to and fro;
Change ere for Limerick,
Galway and Mayo.
—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Luck.
Young Doctor—I haven't lost a patient since I hung up my shingle.

Second Ditto—I wish I had your luck. All mine got well.—Boston Transcript.

They Kept Faith.
Mother—I gave each of you boys an orange. Charles, you said you would n't eat yours till after dinner. And you, Jack, said the same. Have you received me?

Charles—No, mother, we didn't eat our oranges. I ate Jack's and he ate mine!

AFTER HOLIDAY BARGAINS

LADIES' WINTER COATS



Phone 476

100 Ladies', Misses' and Children's Newest Winter Coats at decided reductions to clear during stock taking. These Coats consist of the very nicest and newest garments, warm and comfortable and in good styles. Note these prices beginning to-morrow, Saturday: Ladies' Coats, made in good cloths of Tweeds, Chinchilla and Checked materials, with large warm collars, worth from \$18.00, \$20.00 to \$22.50, \$12.50

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STATES POSITION IN REGARD TO AISIA MINOR

Paris Jan 1.—France plans to assume the guidance of the destinies of Armenia Syria and Lebanon in the new order of world affairs growing out of the war in conformity with treaties signed with Great Britain and Russia in 1915, if the coming peace conference does not rule otherwise according to authoritative information furnished the Associated Press.

Palatinate according to the plan under consideration would, with its complexity of nationalities and religions, be placed under international protection. England would be responsible for the Arabian peninsula with the exception of the Kingdom of Hedjaz, which would be free.

Not "Protectorate". France it is emphatically stated eschews the terms "protectorate" in connection with her proposed supervision of these countries, and it is probable that some such relations with them as exist between England and her dominions would be established under the plan.

These facts were given as an explanation of the declaration of Stephen Pichon foreign minister in the Chamber of Deputies on Sunday. Referring to the manner in which France would deal with Asia Minor and nationalities formerly ruled by Turkey, M. Pichon said:

"We have nothing but friendly feelings for the Turks and we have testified to them in protecting subjugated nations in the Ottoman Empire over which we have century-old rights."

"Our rights are incontestable in Armenia, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. They are based on historic conventions and on more recent contracts. While admitting the entire liberty of the peace conference on deal

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