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## URGES CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN COMMERCE CHAMBERS

State President Johnston Recommends Collaboration Between Members and City and Town Officials for Upbuilding of Connecticut Communities.

Windsor, Conn., Oct. 22.—Closely co-operation between the chambers of commerce and city and town officials for the upbuilding of the community, a more careful scrutiny of proposed legislation, and constant study of the important problems of state finance, taxation, transportation, sewerage, police, and industrial legislation, with a view to making helpful suggestions, was urged by Frank H. Johnston, of New Britain, in his annual address as president of the state chamber of commerce at the 17th annual convention of that body here yesterday.

He said in reviewing the year's activities that the state body as well as the local organizations had done valuable work in their communities and in favoring beneficial legislation at Hartford, but that greater development along these lines is desirable. Other speakers were Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, former Governor Rollin S. Woodruff of New Haven, Howard R. Hayden, secretary of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and John Humphrey, president of the Connecticut Association of Commercial and Civic Executives.

The year, said President Johnston, has been one of the most radical change of a year ago when it was voted to change the title of the organization from the State Business Men's Association of Connecticut to the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and to so broaden the field as to interest every thoughtful citizen of the state. There was a phenomenal spread of Chamber of Commerce enthusiasm in the state during the year, he said, not so much in the way of new associations, but in the development of the chamber. State Associations into live up-to-date Chambers of Commerce.

"A year ago," he said, "there was represented at the state convention of the chamber 35 associations with a reported membership of 5,043 and today we have 37 Chambers of Commerce and Business Men's associations affiliated with us with a reported membership of 8,285, an increase of nearly 70 per cent."

Danbury, he said, heads the list with 1,100 members, an increase over last year of 400 per cent; Hartford has 1,500 as compared with 700 last year; Putnam 215 as against 110 last year; Meriden 300 as against 167 in 1914; Windsor 256 as against 150 in 1914; Middletown 188 as against 112 in 1914.

These increases have not brought about, he explained, by consolidation of different commercial bodies in some cities, but in most cities by entirely new associations, built on broader and better lines, bringing into their membership a much wider circle of their citizens. He continued:

"Today I believe that the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce stands higher in the opinion of the citizens of the state than ever before and that its influence for good is acknowledged in every part of this state.

"The best men of the state have given their time and thought to the study of state problems, and no action has been taken by the state chamber except after thorough investigation.

"All of our efforts have been directed toward bringing about a more efficient management of our municipalities, and our commonwealth by the

application of common sense, business principles by keeping before our members the necessity of giving of their time for the study of those every day problems, both civic and business.

"Your state officers have given every effort during the year to the building up of a more efficient machinery for the state work—for a closer co-operation of the local association with the state chamber and toward a program of publicity that would interest every member and the public at large."

Referring to the work of the legislative committee Mr. Johnston said it was paid the compliment of being asked in conference by many committees of the last General Assembly and that every bill endorsed by the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce was passed. He recommended that each Chamber of Commerce through its standing committee endeavor to keep in much closer touch with the senator from its district and the representatives than appeared to be the case last winter. Continuing he said:

"Along the line of co-operation I wish to urge an entirely different policy in many of our associations. "It is not my province to criticize, but it has appeared to me yet in my visits throughout the state to help but notice in some cities and in yours the lack of hearty co-operation between organization officers and the local municipal officials."

"Your Chamber of Commerce should work hand in hand with the officials of your city or town for the upbuilding of your community and where this is not the case it would seem to me to be a decided lack of judgment on some one's part.

"I know exactly what the lack of co-operation has meant for the State Chamber. It has been our constant endeavor to reconstruct more efficient organized business relations between the local chamber, the officers of the municipality, the members of the legislature and our Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

"Once thoroughly united these forces of business and civic expressions would carry forward the solution of our problems at a rate never accomplished before."

Great interest had been shown by a number of chambers, he said, in the formation of a "forum of government and a committee had been appointed to look into it and make a report to the State Chamber.

"The increase in the work of the chamber is such," he said, "that the lack of an executive secretary who could give largely of his time to the work is apparent." He also recommended the appointment of standing committees to "study carefully such important problems as our state finances, state taxation, transportation, a state sewerage policy, industrial legislation and be ready to recommend to the official boards and the legislature co-operation."

He also recommended the appointment of a carefully selected committee "who shall endeavor to interest our manufacturers, bankers and business men in a far-seeing policy of co-operation of our splendid agricultural and horticultural possibilities."

In closing he paid a tribute to two former state presidents who died during the year. A. Howard Abbe, of New Britain and Samuel E. Vincent of Bridgeport.

## PEACE DWELLS IN WORLD'S TINIEST REPUBLIC, ANDORRA

Greetings From Its Head to President Wilson Are Pleasantly Worded.

New York, Oct. 19.—Lawrence Grant arrived recently on the French liner Chicago from Bordeaux, with a letter from the president of the smallest republic in the world to the President of the greatest republic. The letter is from Pedro Front, Syndic General of Andorra, to President Wilson.

Andorra is situated on the south slope of the Pyreneas Mountains, between the French department of Ariège and the Spanish province of Lerida, and its independence is said to date from the time of Charlemagne about 790 A. D. Its entire area is about 175 square miles, and its population less than 5,000.

The letter of the Syndic-General, according to Mr. Grant, speaks of his interest in the great republic of the United States, and congratulates President Wilson on the successful way he has handled the European situation. The president says that his republic is ready to lend its feeble voice toward a peace conference. Pedro Front issued a manifesto of neutrality at the outbreak of the war, which was similar to that issued by President Wilson.

"The people of Andorra are the hardest race of people I have ever seen," said Mr. Grant. They are also one of the most contented races. Nobody is poor and nobody is rich. The President's salary is two cheeses, two capons and a ham from each of the six little counties or states each year. He is elected by the house of Representatives for a term of four years.

"Medical treatment is furnished the citizens of the smallest republic free," said Mr. Grant. Doctors are paid by the State. Drugs cost nothing unless you want something that the druggist has to send out of the country for. That should be of much interest to Americans," he added with a smile. "There is only one road in the country and that does not run its entire length," continued Mr. Grant. "Even where the road has been built it is often blocked by avalanches and almost the only method of travel is on horseback. The country has, however, twenty-five miles of the most perfect trout streams in the world.

"The food is not very good, but if you are not particular about eating and enjoy pleasing liquids you will be offered more varieties than you can think of. The average Malaga wine is not strong enough for the people of Andorra, so they make what they call Malaga cult. Very good—just one drink! More than one is too much."

ands of heads of cattle are raised, milk and butter are almost unknown in the country. The only milk to be obtained is ewe milk and that is used for making cheese. Most of the cattle is sold as veal. The people do not realize the advantages to be gained through the tourist trade, and cannot understand anyone having money enough to come to their country on a pleasure trip.

"They have not the go-ahead spirit—every body being satisfied with their peasant life, the President himself being no exception. The post office and the schools are run by the French government and all prisoners sentenced for a long term are sent to France to serve their sentences. The only way the country can be reached is from France by horseback, and although there is a fairly good road running into the country from Spain it is often blocked by boulders and the traveler has to stop and lift his vehicle over or around them."

According to Mr. Grant some fifty or sixty of the young men of the country are serving in the French army, but Andorra has no standing army of its own. They are content to live as their fathers lived, hundreds of years before them. They are so used to the scenic beauties of their country that they cannot understand its delights for the tourist, and they make absolute little republic.

## UNITED STATES AS PRIZE FOR NATIONS WARRING IN EUROPE!

Paris, Oct. 20.—The subjoined curious communication written on thick official-looking folio paper without any indication of its origin has been delivered by messenger at the office of the Agence Havas, the principal news agency of France:

"The United States as the Prize for Settlement of the Present European Conflict."

"It is stated on high authority that suggestions have been made in the diplomatic circles of European chancelleries declaring that the easiest solution and the most acceptable to all the warring nations would be the partition among them of the United States of America. The United States of America are a most inviting prize as compensation for the sacrifices rendered by these nations, and an arrangement on the basis of the respective relations of the different nations is surprisingly practicable.

"So far from being a visionary scheme for a solution of this great world conflict, the fact is only too apparent that only a small part of the effort expended in the sanguinary struggle now raging, would have sufficed to satisfy all nations in their respective ambitions.

"A noted diplomat declared his surprise that this idea of the partition of the United States had not emerged sooner, because the land is so largely made up of the constituency of all the warring nations.

"The tentative plan to satisfy thus the national ambitions of the Euro-

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## UNIQUE TERM IS THAT OF RETIRING MAYOR OF LONDON

First of 726 Men in That Office Not to Have Made Public Speech.

London, Oct. 20.—Sir Charles Johnston, who retires from office as Lord Mayor of London on Nov. 9 is the first of the 726 men who have held that office who can boast that he has not given or attended a single public dinner during the whole year of his incumbency. "That, of course, is due to the war," he explains. "For the war has changed all our preconceived notions of what a London Mayorship means. We have been a serious people the past year, with no time for ceremonials and an eye single to the grim business before us. Those who know my horror of speech-making tell me with a smile that I could not have had a more congenial mayoralty even if I had selected my own year."

The Lord Mayor quits his chair with at least one regret—that he was unable to carry out his cherished plan to visit America during his term of office. "I have many friends in America," he said, "and I have crossed the Atlantic no fewer than 78 times. But for the war I should have spent my vacation in the United States and Canada and have been the first Lord Mayor to visit America while in office."

In reply to a question as to what particular part of his year's work he was proudest of, Sir Charles said, "Without any hesitation, I would answer the establishment of that splendid body of men, the National Guard of the City of London. I rejoice to have taken a leading part in the inception and organization of that important branch of the system of national defense. Other interesting features of the year's work on its war side were my scheme for providing brass bands for recruiting purposes, and later the raising of the Bankers' Battalion for the front. Under the presidency of the Lord Mayor

the National Committee for Relief in Belgium has raised \$5,000,000, and several other wartime charitable funds have had their headquarters in the mayor's offices. The relief fund for the Lusitania did not take—I do not know why, for the circumstances under which the 1,200 victims lost their lives were of peculiar horror and should, I think, have attracted greater generosity from the public, who had been especially liberal with the two previous disasters to the Titanic and the Empress of Ireland.

"I am not a prophet, and I have no means of knowing or estimating the duration of the war, but I hope that my successor, Sir Charles Wakefield, will see its close, and that he will be able to associate himself with the blessings and rejoicings of victory and peace, while I—if I am remembered at all—will perhaps be spoken of as the Lord Mayor of the War."

The new Lord Mayor will take office at midday on Nov. 9, when he makes the time-honored progress to the Law Courts to greet and receive the congratulations of the judges. In the evening there is the inaugural banquet in the ancient Guildhall, at which the members of the cabinet, the principal judges, the diplomatic corps, and a few other notables are the guests of the Mayor and his two Sheriffs.

## EVENING SCHOOLS TO BE OPENED MONDAY

The Evening schools of this city will be opened Monday evening, with classes at three centers. Whittier school for the West End, the High school for the middle section of the city and Franklin school for the East Side.

Seventeen teachers will have charge of the work in the evening schools. It is expected the enrollment this year will be great because of the added population.

Elihu Root was voted the honorary degree of doctor of laws by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Rioting broke out among striking workers of the knitting mills at Sherburne, N. Y. Two men were injured, one of whom will probably die.

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