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THE COMMERCIAL

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SCHOOLBOYS HI-Y BANQUET AT TROY

Meeting Held at the Courthouse Last Friday Night.

The spirit that is taking hold of the high school boys of Troy and instilling into them the makings of good citizens has taken a foothold in the high school at Troy. First and foremost, the two young men, Messrs. Davis and Ferguson, who have charge of the Troy Special High School, have succeeded in giving Troy one of the best high schools in the western section of Tennessee. The enrollment in the early part of the year was unusually large, but the regular attendance at present averages eighty boys and girls, who are making good use of their opportunities, and as an outgrowth of this work the Hi-Y becomes an auxiliary in the shaping of character among the boys of the school.

The banquet tables were placed in the old courthouse on the square. The ladies from the Methodist Church prepared supper and the Brown-Taylor basket ball girls, who won laurels in the Nashville tournament, waited on the tables. Mr. Ralph McDade, president of the Troy Hi-Y, presided. Rev. E. M. Mathis, of Union City, was the first speaker.

The subject of the occasion was "Father and Son," for whom the banquet was given. Rev. Mathis expressed appreciation of the fact that he was invited to be with the fathers and sons of the Hi-Y at Troy. The fact is that the elders do not associate with boys as often as they should. It is indeed enough to make the fathers of Tennessee feel glad that students are organizing the Hi-Y associations. Have we stopped to consider what the organization really means? Clean speech, clean sports and honest work—clean in what they say, clean in what they think. This lays the foundation which will grow every day in work and sport. It will take the bitterness out of our games, create whole-hearted rivalry and inspire the manly character which congratulates the conquering foe.

What, says the speaker, is meant by the Psalmist in referring to the finger prints of God in the creation of the universe. Man was created a little lower than the angels. Therefore the responsibility that rests with mankind to prove that he is worthy of his Maker. Man is great only when he measures up to the principles that have been taught in the creation and for which he is sent into the world.

Room for development must be utilized by our young people who are going to stand for that which is noble and right. The fathers must stand by the sons in the work. Set your ideals high and then do your level best. Take a lesson from the eagle which soars above the danger line. Be on deck when you are called. Rev. Mathis said that he was reminded of the game of ball when one man was at bat and another on deck. The man on deck was preparing for action in the game, and so we say that the boy on deck is waiting for his opportunity in life. The boy that is prompt to answer when he is called is the boy who meets the requirements that lead to greater things in life. Be clean, be honest, be prompt in everything and the future will hold for you the title—this is a man.

The newspaper man had very little to say, having declined to sing. The president didn't seem to understand that he had a place at a meeting of fathers and sons. But a native of the town of Troy is always glad to get home again.

The president, Mr. Ralph McDade, answered for one of the boys who was absent. The young man suggested that the boy is human and not soulless and that he had a very high regard for dad. The right way is more often reached, said the speaker, when there is a mutual understanding between father and son. We are human and we like to feel that dad has an interest in us, so that confidence may be established and a surer and better way may govern the solution of our trials. That is what makes us feel that dad is a real father.

Mr. Dave Burnett, member of the Hi-Y advisory committee, replied to the charge that he held all the important local offices, that he was not guilty, but that he was very proud of the membership on the Hi-Y

board. He approved of what the boys are doing and what they are endeavoring to do. They are banded together to make themselves and others better. This work is attended with many blessings, some of which are better schools and churches, better church attendance and better citizenship. That being so every parent should get behind the movement. Make this work your work and the work of the community and then the politics will disappear and the moral atmosphere will undergo an entire change.

Rev. J. M. Pickens, presiding elder of the Union City circuit, was present and called on for an address. The minister said that he did not expect to be present, but he would endeavor to make a few remarks. There are a great many elements needed to make up a life. Most important among these are the early habits. It is important to acquire the habit of study. Many others, especially those emphasized by the Hi-Y, are very essential to the making of a life. The minister then proceeded to recall an incident of his own life. He is a native of Henderson County and one afternoon in the cotton field he let his angry passions rise and the result was a lesson that he never forgot. His father was a shoemaker, and the strap of leather that pater used in instilling this lesson made it impressive and lasting.

Father is not pleased with us until we do our best. He wants us to have strong bodies and that is the reason why athletics are encouraged. Strength of body will contribute to strength of mind if we but give the proper attention to each of these elements. But a great scholar may be ignorant of the Bible and the most essential element in the making of a man is lacking. The future citizenship depends on Christian homes and the principles instilled by this body of young men will be a large factor in the work. Henry W. Grady passing thru the city of Washington looked up at the majestic capitol and said this is the home of the greatest nation in the world. Passing thru another section of country he came to a lonely farmhouse and around the fireside he beheld the small family group at evening worship. This, he said after reflecting upon his words in Washington, is the real home of the greatest nation of the world.

Mr. Clyde Williams, vice president of the Troy organization, said the Troy Hi-Y had its origin in a meeting of the Hi-Y at Rock Island, Tenn. A few of the young men were there and attended the conference, and thereupon determined to have a club of their own at Troy. The organization was effected on the 4th of October, resulting from the efforts made by Messrs. Ralph McDade and others. The boys then entertained with a club song and Rev. T. P. Pressly, Troy's beloved Presbyterian minister, pronounced the benediction.

The banquet served by the ladies was a combination of chicken and salads, vegetables, brick cream and cake, coffee, and it was indeed a most excellent treat.

The Troy Hi-Y is organized as follows: Ralph McDade, president; Clyde Williams, vice president; Crockett Moss, secretary. Advisory committee: D. H. Burnett, Jas. W. Pressly, H. B. Clark, W. S. Ferguson, C. E. Davis.

BURGLARS EFFECTIVE IN A WHOLESALE RAID AT RIVES

Burglars Made a General Haul Saturday Morning at Rives.

Burglars made a general raid on the business houses at Rives last Saturday morning at 3 o'clock. They broke into three stores and the postoffice. An alarm was given and citizens were aroused and rushed to the place of action in time to see one or more of the fleeing burglars, firing a few shots at them. But the bandit car made its escape.

The Shore & Phebus Company's safe was opened and notes to the value of \$2,500 and \$150 in cash were taken. The safe at Harper & Shore's was opened and \$40 taken. Nothing is missing either from Bonner & Son's or T. A. Cummings' safe and nothing of value seems to have been taken from the postoffice. Bloodhounds from Dyersburg were ordered but the trail was lost. This is one of the most daring robberies we have had in some time.

UNION CITY PLANS BUILDING AND LOAN

Organization Discussed at Length by Mr. Benjamin, of Mayfield.

The Lions had a very interesting meeting last Tuesday, with Mr. Benjamin, of Mayfield, and Mr. Cushman, of Hopkinsville, as guests of the club. Mr. Cushman is here in the interest of the Union City Laundry. He came down to Union City with Mr. Tom Metcalfe, who owns the laundry plant. Mr. Cushman is a business man and it is his purpose to make a canvass of the territory for increased patronage. The plant is running with only about one-fourth capacity business, and in order to make it a practical investment Mr. Cushman is here to build up and stabilize the business with both first-class laundry work and enlarged patronage. He expects to create new laundry standards in Union City and territory and to establish a reputation for the Union City Laundry equal to that of any first-class laundry to be found. Mr. Cushman said that he was pleased with his reception here and that the signs of progress in his work are already in sight. The club voted favoring Mr. Cushman's enterprise and co-operation with him in the work.

Mr. Benjamin, of Mayfield, a guest of Mr. Quinn, was here by invitation of the club to explain the operation of the Building and Loan Association at Mayfield. Mr. Benjamin began with the statement that, like Mayfield, a building and loan association would prove a great benefit to Union City. The Mayfield association was organized twenty-nine years ago, and from a cash capital of \$72 (paid up) it is now taking in over fourteen thousand dollars in monthly payments. The bankers first refused to serve in the capacity of treasurer, and the organizers found no confidence in their enterprise. But American grit in the persistence of these young men was the potential factor that put it over and to-day they are able to report \$179,000 invested for buildings and homes as war emergency measures. Nearly everybody in Mayfield owns his or her own home and the Mayfield Building and Loan Association is one of the largest institutions in Mayfield. It takes nine years to pay for a home. Home owners make better citizens. The organization is making loans every day. The really substantial real estate men are a great help to the organization, Mr. Benjamin explained the operation in detail. When he had closed the club voted for a committee of five to confer with Mr. Benjamin as follows: A. F. Titsworth, J. S. O'Sullivan, J. C. Burdick, Sr., J. W. Woosley, Reagor Motlow, H. A. Bransford.

Resolutions of respect were offered by the committee of the death of Mrs. W. C. Kelly, which were adopted and ordered spread on the minutes and furnished to the press for publication.

The death of Mr. R. R. Rose's mother was announced and the club arranged to forward a floral design to Springfield.

Mr. Edward Ranck appeared in the interest of the Hi-Y, announcing the \$10,000 campaign and Union City's allotment, \$250, for educational and other branches of the work. He called attention to the work of the local Hi-Y boys and asked the recognition of the club, which was heartily accorded and co-operation pledged by unanimous vote.

Dr. Ira Park requested the co-operation of the club for an art studio at the Carnegie Library, to be conducted by Miss Jessie Whitesell, a philanthropic move for the benefit of some of the local aspirants and budding talent. It was granted heartily.

Dr. John Royal Harris.

Dr. John Royal Harris, representing the National Reform Society, addressed a small audience here last Sunday afternoon at Jimmie's Playhouse, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor. The constant rainfall last Sunday prevented a general attendance. There was also some hitch in the advertising campaign, which operated against the work. Dr. Harris' friends in Union City have never been able to make his appointments and favorable weather conditions

come to anything like a mutual understanding.

Dr. Harris spoke on the subject, "Is Sunday an American Mistake?" He opened with the remark that this would not be a fact afternoon, notwithstanding the blue that the sky is blue and the American flag is streaked with blue. But the American Reform Society is not advocating blue laws. There is no inquisition in this work. Tracing his lines back to the Puritans, Dr. Harris said that, notwithstanding the fact that our antecedents were people of primitive faith and simple habits, they never promulgated the idea that a man could not kiss his wife on Sunday. This was attributed to the Puritans, but was never found to be a fact and never confirmed. No descendant of the Mayflower colony is ashamed of his ancestry. These people kept the Sabbath three hundred years before the Liberty Bell rang for the independence of the colonies.

The American Sunday is an institution that has been sanctioned by the Supreme Court of the United States. It is considered by that body as a day of civic rest. The court did not treat of the subject in a religious sense. They left that to the choice of the churches. But, said Dr. Harris, it is a matter of scientific knowledge that every work day reduces the sources of energy, so that at the end of the week man is only ninety per cent normal physically and mentally, and God, the creator of the universe, very wisely ordained a day of rest to take up and restore the lost energy. Men ignore this law of nature and pay the penalty of the violation in loss of health and strength. God also calls us to give an account of our stewardship and appoints a day of rest for the observance and recognition of the Holy Spirit.

Proceeding to the modern Sunday, Dr. Harris said no attempt is being made by the National Reform Society to impose restrictions in the shape of blue laws upon our people. No effort is being made by the organization to interfere with necessary transportation and traffic. We are only asked to refrain from those avocations, sports and amusements on Sunday which are not altogether necessary, and the only change provided by the Bryant-Bratton bill in the last Legislature was the suspension of Sunday movies and Sunday baseball. Our Mr. Bratton was one of the framers of the bill.

No nation on earth can live and thrive and refuse to observe the weekly Sabbath day of rest. It is God's plan, a religious as well as a scientific principle, and it is after all an American national institution and should be respected by every American citizen.

GOMPERS DECLARES RAIL-STEEL COMBINE IS FORCING STRIKE

Coal Mines Largely Owned by Two Interests, Says Union Leader.

Washington, March 26.—That owners of coal mining properties, both anthracite and bituminous, are forcing a general strike in union mines by their autocratic attitude, and that the reason for their attitude can be found in domination of the coal industry by financial interests, were charges made in a statement issued to-day by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. He supplemented these charges with statistics which he declared showed that real ownership of many bituminous coal properties is in the hands of the steel industry, while anthracite mines were asserted to be "largely adjuncts of railroad operation."

Mr. Gompers asserted that control of the mines was thus taken to an effective degree from the hands of

actual operating men and placed in the hands of financial interests. Coal mines have merely become wheels in a great profit-making machine, he said, operated by men for whom "things must give way to profits."

"ROADS RUIN MINES.

As to the anthracite fields, Mr. Gompers said that Congressional investigation and federal proceedings had disclosed seven railroads controlling 96 per cent of the output."

A result, he asserted, was that profits from coal operations are not found in the coal mine reports, but in dividend reports of the railroads, where they are manipulated so as to appear moderate, or at a loss, in order that miners' wages may be retained at the lowest conceivable level."

"In the bituminous fields, he said, the United States Steel Corporation controls vast interests, and in southern territory other steel interests control vast deposits making it impossible for any practical coal management to have any effective voice in the making of policies.

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