

What Makes A City Grow?

By Samuel Rosinger

In a conversation I had recently with my friend, John Citizen, the painful subject of our city's standstill, or rather stagnation, was on the tapis. John, with the cocksureness of an expert diagnostician, told me he could put his finger upon the exact sore spot. "The Chamber of Commerce," he ejaculated with an elation which Archimedes must have felt when he uttered his famous Eureka. And he roasted the Chamber of Commerce over the hot coals of his criticism crisp and brown to his heart's content.

After John had blown off his steam, I looked straight in his face and could not help but notice the ugly mole that marred his otherwise clear and ruddy complexion. I picked up a paper-weight mirror from my desk and holding it close to his eyes, I told him, "You might as well blame this mirror for the mole on your face as you blame the Chamber of Commerce for the vegetation of our city." And casting my philosophical composure to the wind, I commenced to berate John and his kind with the vehemence of an erupting volcano.

"I am fed up to the top of my gullet with people who instead of pointing the accusing finger at themselves, are chasing for scapegoats upon which to unload their sins. Every indolent or incompetent fellow blames somebody else for his failure: the government, hard times, lack of breaks and other ingenious alibis. The Chamber of Commerce is merely a clearing house and a publicity bureau, but not the power station that supplies energy for the growth of a city.

"The source of a city's strength and vitality lies not in the Chamber of Commerce, but in the chambers of the hearts of its citizens. What makes a city grow, is the love and loyalty of its inhabitants, expressed not in unctuous professions of pride and endearment, but in unremitting labor and self-sacrificing devotion. What makes a city progress, is the vision of its merchants and men of means, who will cast their bread upon the waters and invest in the city's future even if the returns only be reaped by the third and fourth generation. What makes a city thrive is the united will of its inhabitants to make it so attractive externally and so worthy intrinsically, that it will draw people from far and wide by the opportunities and advantages it offers.

"What makes a city prosper"—At this point I looked around and noticed that I had been holding forth to an empty room. For John Citizen, flinching under the lash of truth, took advantage of my utter absorption in the subject and quietly slipped away.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. X Beaumont, Texas, Jan. 20, 1937 No. 27

Slants at the Meeting

The wife of one of our best Jewish members recently advanced the idea to her husband that the critic of the Rotarygram should direct his barbs against the chairman of the program rather than against the participants, when the offering lacked class, brevity, worthiness, etc.

We believe the estimable lady is correct in her observation and we hasten to confess guilt in this direction and by some quirk of fate the appropriateness of the time is pre-eminent NOW.

So while we commend the young men in their laudable efforts last week we condemn the chairman in his disregard for that great virtue BREVITY. However, in justification of Lawrence we will say this is the only debacle we have ever known him to 'pull'.

We are not callous to the benefits that might accrue to the members from a recital of the advantages socially, economically and civilly offered by Beaumont to the prospective citizen but at the same time they were commonplace facts known to at least 95 percent of the audience.

To be abrupt the program was too d— long. Tedium set in before the fourth man ended and boredom was rampant before the fifth man began his assault on the ether. At least 25 men left the room ere the closing gong released the 'respectable' element that endures.

Despite the forty minutes of program (that seemed an hour and forty) we got out on time, but then Time is relative as Sam Solinsky's uncle Mr. Einstein declares. We know that 3 minutes is a long time in a hanging bee or a horse race and forty minutes is longer in a sophomoric recital of trite facts.

Of course, we know some of the junior leaguers of the club are going to present a bellicose attitude to us for these comments but the business man now has got to hasten back to his office and

you have Copies

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read some excerpt from the Social Security act, declare a dividend that he hasn't earned and borrow some money to pay taxes with.

A 20 minutes program of 'chatter' is about all the cranial capacity of man, these trying times, will endure or absorb because his addled-brain is so full of statistics trying to compound a felony against the government in eluding the tax-collector. Check.

—R—

A Convention **On the Riviera**

Nice, France, June 6-11, 1937, will be the host city for the 28th Annual Convention of Rotary International. The bare, factual announcement so arouses the imagination of every Rotarian that he is tempted to express himself in exclamations.

Nice! Cannes! Mentone! Monte Carlo! The Riviera! The Azure Coast! What unbelievable colors of sea and sky and mountains!

A Convention of Rotary International in Nice! An inspiring adventure in international understanding and goodwill, as colorful as the atmosphere of Nice itself!

What Rotarian does not wish to be one of the 8,500 Rotarians from 83 countries who will assemble in Nice, June 6, 1937?

Men of world-wide distinction will attend and speak on current international topics and the Convention program will be a liberal education in world history and international affairs; the entertainment will add carnival and pageantry; and, informally, you will make those quick, impulsive, but lasting friendships, which are possible only in Rotary, with men from all over the world. Between times, you will visit romantic Monte Carlo and travel the famous Corniche roads with a haze of mountains above you and a sea of indescribable

colors below.

Before and after the Convention, you can travel as little or as much as you please; but wherever you go, there will be Rotary Clubs and Rotarians to show you the places you visit. Special steamship rates, reduced railroad fares for Rotarians in many European countries, and sympathetic customs officers will make your travel both comfortable and relatively cheap.

For the Rotarians from North and South America, from Africa, from Australia and New Zealand, from the Orient and from the Islands of the Seas, the Convention will really begin when they go aboard ship. Each of the official Rotary ships will actually be a glorified Rotary Club, where you will form friendships which will linger as happy memories for all time. Every passenger will be a Rotarian or a relative of a Rotarian, making one great Rotary family imbued with the Rotary spirit. Games, athletic events, dancing, music, stunts, and serious Rotary conferences will occupy every minute.

In Nice itself, you will find a metropolitan city of 200,000 people, balmy days and cool evenings, splendid hotels suited to any purse, wonderful French cuisine, and that charming Old World courtesy which is the grace of France. Along the Promenade des Anglais, lined with palms, you will mingle with a cosmopolitan throng of Rotarians.

Rotary's great adventure in international understanding and goodwill will be no longer just an ideal but, for the week of the Convention, for you will become a reality; and Rotarians, at group Vocational Service meetings, will make lasting friends of men from all over the world, who are in the same kind of business.

Accordingly, it is my very great pleasure, as well as my official duty, to issue this, the Official Call for the 28th annual Convention of Rotary International, to be held June 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, 1937, in Nice, France.

According to its membership, each Rotary Club is entitled to one or more official voting delegates; and just as a Rotarian is expected to attend Club meetings regularly, so Clubs are expected to be represented at annual Conventions. Article VI of the by-laws of Rotary International gives full information as to the rights and responsibilities of a Club with reference to the annual Convention, delegates, alternates, proxies, credentials, registration fee, etc.; and Article VIII gives information regarding hotel arrangements.

Most cordially, I join with the City of Nice and the Rotary Clubs of France in urging the attendance at the Nice Convention, not only of official delegates, but of all Rotarians and their ladies.

WILL R. MANIER, JR.

Pres. Rotary International.