CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The New Directory and Officers for the Ensuing Term Elected.

THE STATUS OF THE CHAMBER SATISFACTORY.

Comprehensive Reports By President Simon and Secretary Maloy.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last night Colonel John W. Donnellan was elected president for the coming year to succeed President Fred Simon.

Heber M. Wells was unanimously chosen first vice-president, and S. W. Morrish second vice-president. The following-named directors were unanimously elected: Messrs. W. H. Rowe, W. H. Shearman, N. A. Empey, R. H. Tarbox, J. M. Ricketts, A. C. De Ricqles, C. P. Mason and M. J. Gray.

PRESIDENT SIMON

read his report for the past year. The following is the gist of it:

To the Members of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce:

Gentlemen—The year just passed, whether taken from a financial or commercial point of view, will undoubtedly be remembered by our business community as one of the closest ever experienced in the annals of our commercial history.

It is not natural that the depression in the money market which, having its beginning in European money centers, affecting the money market of the east, would very soon assert itself in our own city and Territory, and that no adverse business failures have taken place than those of which we have a record during the year, is indeed a great cause for congratulation, and speaks well for the stability of our banks, our business houses and our real estate interests.

With such a beginning, the character of commerce found it very hard work to start upon its labors for the year, in order to make that showing which was strongly desired by the board of directors.

Mr. Simon then urges the importance of faithful and detailed committee work, and continues:

Upon the return of the chairman and committee from the east, a plan was formulated which has for its object the consolidation of all the business interests, and after working for about a year upon this matter, a sufficient number of business men were found who resolved to join their forces and pledged themselves by the signing of contracts to stand manfully together until freight rates were reduced to reasonable charges, and passenger rates were made equally favorable with the other points to the North and West. A fair rate on the rates charged on cotton piece goods was made by the Z. C. M. I., and the interstate commerce commission, under the chairmanship of General Veasey, gave the case a hearing in this city, and so anxious did the railway company appear to get this case settled that a compromise was effected almost instantaneously.

GOVERNMENT BOARD.

From January 1 of this year the services of Mr. H. W. Harris, a most able business man, who is also very prominent upon railway and freight boards, has been engaged, and henceforth no new work may be expected from the transportation bureau, but I warn the business men of this city again, that unless they stand united and present a solid front, like the Mormon double phalanx of old, they will continue to pay the same high rates for their incoming freight and suffer with the same difficulties to find an outlet for their goods beyond a limited distance from this city.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

On the 19th of January Messrs. Machmuth and Chalfin presented to the Chamber a very valuable collection of mineral specimens, for which a vote of thanks properly engrossed was tendered to them.

It is to be regretted that the fourth annual report of the work of the Chamber of Commerce, of which two thousand copies were to have been issued by direction of the board, was not published, and I respectfully recommend that the fourth and fifth annual reports be published jointly.

Mr. Simon then refers to the excellent notices of the Deseret Evening and the Herald printed in the *Illustrated American*, and then says:

STOCK YARDS AND PACKING HOUSES.

A project was early in February inaugurated for the purpose of organizing a stock yard and packing house in the vicinity of this city. A company was organized in the course of time, and only those who asked to be directors of the organization are able to tell the difficulties which had to be overcome in bringing this enterprise to a successful issue. It took almost a year to successfully carry out the work, and due credit should be given to the secretary of the company, Mr. A. C. De Ricqles, who, after a number of trips to the East, succeeded in raising the necessary means for carrying out the projected work of the company.

VARIOUS INTERESTS TOUCHED UPON.

The president then recounts the efforts on the part of the chamber to abolish the merchant's license, to induce the Territorial school fund yield some revenue to start a new studies, and to pledge co-producers against the increase of freight rates on ores from Park City to Denver.

On the 12th of March a meeting was called for the purpose of assisting in the organization of a sugar company, using factory, resulting in the forming of a company with $12,000 capital, which has today a plant in full running order, supplying the city with canned and pickled goods of a superior quality.

A communication was addressed to Mr. Duval, general manager Pacific Insurance Union, for the purpose of readjusting the prevailing rates in this city. Unsatisfactory both this and quick prompt action was taken, and the proper adjustments were speedily made.

The most calamities upon the removal of the chamber into the new building, the death of President Hill, the enforcement of the Patterson bankruptcy bill, the meeting of the Mormon congress, and shows what followed in quick succession.

DELINQUENT TAXES.

A committee was appointed to request the city council to make a reduction in the tax assessed, and whilst a reduction of so many per cent was secured upon really, the tax upon personal property, which had been assessed to the highest valuation, was allowed to remain at the figures assessed. This is another grievance for which the merchants and business men must obtain redress. As the matter stands now, they certainly pay the tax upon ready money and about noble, they pay a second tax by being compelled to take out a license as merchants, and they pay a third tax upon their stock of merchandise, and as yet anything about other taxes levied upon them from day to day by the public through small notices and circulars.

I recommend that a special committee be appointed by the incoming administration to take this matter in hand. The tax of this city certainly should not come until the proper readjustments have been made.

OTHER MATTERS.

The report then treats exhaustively upon the part taken by the chamber in matters of the new city charter, the proposed Deep Creek road, on representation at the Trans-Missouri Congress, the meeting of manufacturers, transportation, the increase in the number of jobbers, the Western Fair appropriation, reduced letter postage, the gift of a polytechnic, all of which subjects are mentioned to enlightened upon in the secretary's report following.

STATISTICAL.

The postoffice department of this city, under the efficient management of Mr. L. A. Benton, has increased the number of its employes in carrying on the business of this community. At the request of the chamber a report showing the postoffice receipts of the postoffice for 1890 and 1891 has been submitted, and I take great pleasure in annexing the same to my report. (Inclosure A.)

The Demurrage association is also rendering much valuable aid to our business men by publishing a weekly report, giving the number of cars of coal, ore and merchandise received and shipped from this city.

I have pleasure in the annual report of the association (inclosure exhibit B), as it will undoubtedly prove valuable to our merchants and shippers.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS.

During the past passed this city has lost by death a number of prominent citizens who contributed very materially to the building up of this city.

In the death of John Cannington, the Chamber lost one of its charter members and the city a progressive citizen and a public spirit. In the death of General C. Edward Connor a kind mind has passed away, which was for many years a guiding star to those who sought to subjugate this arid territory into civil accord with the balance of the country. The death of Bishop John Sharp, one of the first settlers of this country, who resided high as a railway builder and financier in this community, will also have a vacuum most difficult to fill. Appropriate resolutions commemorating the loss of these estimable men were passed by the board of directors of the chamber, and copies of the same were forwarded to the members of their bereaved families.

THE WORK OF THE YEAR.

While considerable has been accomplished, much remains to be done. The discovery of natural gas in the vicinity of our city opens up a field for deep speculation, and the advantage may be just this case settled that a compromise was effected almost instantaneously.

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From January 1 of this year the services of Mr. H. W. Harris, a most able business man, who is also very prominent upon railway and freight boards, has been engaged, and henceforth no new work may be expected from the transportation bureau, but I warn the business men of this city again, that unless they stand united and present a solid front, like the Mormon double phalanx of old, they will continue to pay the same high rates for their incoming freight and suffer with the same difficulties to find an outlet for their goods beyond a limited distance from this city.

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