The Annual Report of Dr. Paul E. Titsworth

To the Members of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce:

It is pleasant to pause at the close of the third year of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce and look back over the, on the whole, pleasant road of significant achievement which the organization has come during this year, 1929. To be sure some of the grades were pretty steep and one or two attempted were no thoroughfare. Certain it is that the active officers and members have sincerely endeavored to serve the county and have found great satisfaction in every progressive step Kent has made, however small or large the Chamber's participation in the advance has been.

The impartial and thoughtful observer of life in this county is impressed with the number of active, progressive organizations in Kent well calculated to further the economic, the physical, the social and the moral welfare of our citizens. There are the Farm Bureau, the Kent County Public Health Association with its Health Center and its county-wide service, the hospital that is and the large one that is to be, the volunteer fire companies at Rock Hall, Millington and Chestertown, the Kent County ambulance, the several country clubs, the Rotary Club, the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent County and others. Only a careful survey of the county would reveal the full number of such organizations. They command the respect of our citizens and render indispensable service.

With many of these associations the Chamber of Commerce has been privileged to cooperate from time to time. It offers its services to all forces working for county welfare. While it does not pretend that it can bring to a successful issue every commission given it, it knows that cooperative effort is the only sort that ever scores success. It rejoices in the increase of this spirit among the significant citizen of Kent.

In connection with this report it may not be out of place to call attention to the fact that the fundamental work of the Chamber is a long-time job: it can not be accomplished in one year, or two, or even five. The providing of means for a progressive and just economic life to the folks of this fine old county is a gigantic job. The situation can not be handled as a great industrialist might re-organize his factory within a few months to make it more productive. The sources of human well-being are too intimate and often lie too deep to be gotten at except through the necessarily long processes of educating public opinion. No organization like the Chamber could if it would, or should if it could, overturn the life of a county to try to put into force any theory of successful living however perfect that theory might seem.

The Chamber of Commerce is charged with two tasks: first to help put across projects of an immediate or emergency nature which require the concentrated and cooperative support of the citizenship of the county. Necessarily such labors will consume a major part of the time and effort of the organization: second, to take the long view, to look into those hidden sources of common success or failure and to point out some of the possibilities for progress and to warn against some of the blind alleys.

In this connection, the Chamber has asked itself the question—and in so doing it has echoed a never ending discussion in the county—whether it should conceive its main job to be inticing into our towns industries of one sort and another which shall furnish work for the unemployed and quicken business, or the lending of all its strength to furthering the cause of agriculture which has been and likely always will be the chief occupation of Kent county. Upon the answer to this question depends pretty largely the nature of the activities of the Chamber. The organization should definitely decide its attitude in this n for a given year, make up its minc about the tasks to be done in light of that attitude and go to it.

The bases of our economic life are constantly shifting, in this age more than ever. In every day language this means that it is a constant fight, often in the face of conditions over which the individual farmer or business man has no control, to get ahead, yes even to make both ends meet. For instance, a shop keeper successful today may find himself on the rocks tomorrow because, say, of a shift in styles or some other radical change in demand. To meet change—and no man is exempt from its influence, even the last farmer on a no-account farm at the end of a mud road—requires brains and cooperation.

Every individual citizen of the county, to succeed, must supply the brains for his own business venture, but such cooperative helping organizations as the Chamber are organized to fight some of the battles for the economic, social civic and agricultural welfare of the county citizenship for which the citizen alone is unequal.

I am speaking for myself, alone, when I assert that the welfare of the farmer in this county is basic. Since the rest of us are all standing on his shoulder, his success is ours, his failure is reflected in our bank account. The Chamber, it seems to me, should make this fact a fundamental and guiding principle in all its action.

At the same time, I believe the economic life of the county should be seasoned and quickened by the presence of a variety of industries which shall not only offer employment for our surplus of certain kinds of labor but shall increase and make more liquid the assets of the county. Then, too, farming and factories are mutually dependent, they are financially complementary to each other socially and citizenship-wise.

It has been the hope of this County Chamber of Commerce to function as an effective agent in coordinating these two unlike but equally desirable and necessary parts of our common life.

It is precisely at this point that our organization found its justification and greatest satisfaction this past year in cooperating in the planning and putting across of the roads program.

As a result of its progressive effort, Kent has declared vigorous war on mud and driven it out of its brazen respectability into a cowering ignominy, has placed one hundred more miles of road at the year-round disposal of our increasing, exacting traffic, has created a road system which is a challenge to every sister county now mired in a slough of despond, and accordingly attracted the favorable attention and comment of the entire State. The increased mileage will help make country life more satisfying and farms and water-front properties more valuable; it will bring in desirable outsiders as property holders and taxpayers; it will quicken the financial and the social intercourse of the county; it will make every Kent Countian increasingly proud of the strip of land between the Sassafras and the Chester. The building of these roads should stand out for years to come as a milestone in the county's progress.

When the construction shall have been completed and all the shoulder-work done, the Chamber should set aside a day for inviting in the Governor, the Legislature, County Commissioners, and folks from all the State and from outside and thus give every one interested the opportunity to inspect these new roads and to contemplate their effect on county life. If worked out with care, such an occasion can be made of great value to the State at large and to Kent in particular.

Since there can no longer be any satisfying lifewithout the possibilities of rapid and direct transportation, since people move more and more out of places which they can not easily and quickly get in and out of, road, bridges, and air lines, have made up a large part of the Chamber's program during 1929.

The Chamber has kept in constant and stimulating touch, often through the Baltimore Association of Commerce, with the officials of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Company who constantly assure local officials that they are as interested as ever in bridging the Bay.

The Chamber has tried to cooperate with the State Roads Commission in locating the Chester River Bridge, a structure, the right placing of which was of greatest significance to Chestertown, particularly.

The Chamber has been working with air line and governmental officials for the establishment of trans-Chesapeake passenger, package, and mail service. It is a sad comment on the present mail situation, for example, that eighteen hours are required for a letter to go from Chestertown to Baltimore or from Baltimore to Chestertown. Delivery must have been just as rapid back in horse-drawn stage-coach days. Think what it would mean to the county and to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in general, if a letter could be dispatched to Baltimore and its answer received on the same day. Now it usually takes three days to make the exchange.

It was in pursuance of its belief in the necessity for quick and convenient transportation for the people of Kent that the Chamber undertook, with the Rotary Club of Centreville, to stave off the reduction of the train service proposed last spring by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Through our combined efforts the case was brought up before the Public Service Commission of the State who later ruled against the railroad and in favor of maintenance of the present schedule.

Maryland Turkey Growers' Association Of Kent County.

Early last year the Chamber called a meeting of the turkey growers of the county for the purpose of organizing a progressive group to inaugurate modern methods for marketing, to the best advantage, Kent's superior product. At this meeting the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent county was form, which, using the secretary and the facilities of the Chamber, has under the leadership of Mrs. Helen M. Baker, and with the assistance of County Agent McVane and a marketing committee headed by Mr. L. A. Sutton, done an outstanding piece of work this year. There are eighty-seven members of the association. They have marketed nearly 18,000 pounds of turkey this season as contrasted with 7,000 pounds during last year at this time. Under their influence Kent is becoming the turkey capital of the East. Acting as midwife for the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent county may prove one of the most significant achievements of the Chamber of Commerce.

Other Achievements Of The Chamber

Some of the minor but important things which the Chamber has done are as follows:

Added 28 members during the year.

Worked on the flax-growing problem of Kent county.

Gained wider publicity for the county through Wilmington, the magazine of the Wilmington, Delaware Chamber of Commerce; through travel guides published for automobilists; through a variety of miscellaneous printed and written matter sent from office; and through cooperation with Delmarva Eastern Shore Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Staged a successful summer air show, with the generous aid of the Curtiss Flying Service, of Baltimore.

Assisted in inaugurating the Maryland State Chamber of Commerce.

Rendered an ever larger information service to the public through the machinery of our office.

Held a successful semi-annual banquet at Wesley Chapel, Rock Hall.

Through H. Richard Collins, the Chamber representative on the Board of Control of the Kent County, Maryland, Ambulance, and who is chairman of the Board, the Chamber has taken a keen interest in the work done by that body and the Fire Department who operate the machine We are deeply appreciative of the fact that these untrained men render assistance in the most distressing sort of accidents wherever they occur, interrupt their work or their night's rest to carry the sick or injured to hospitals and do a most splendid humanitarian work for their fellow-men.

The Chestertown Mercantile Section

The Chestertown Mercantile Section has been very active this year,

(Continued Next Week)

Locust Spends Years of Life Underground

Do seventeen-year locusts really appear every seventeen years? And, if so, why are some to be found every year?

These are pertinent questions, to say the least. The seventeen-year locust has long been heard of, and some skeptical people are inclined to brand accounts of them as myths. But they are real insects, and they do require (the variety known as cicada septendecim, which is literally Latin for cicada seventeen!) seventeen, or in some cases, thirteen years for full development.

The seventeen-year locust is not a grasshopper. More exactly, it is not a locust but a cicada—the name cicada being pure Latin for the same insect, which has been known for centuries by this name. A commoner cicada is found in many localities every year. But the seventeen-year variety, as Webster's New International dictionary summarizes, spends almost all of its seventeen or thirteen years "under ground in the larval condition. After emerging it quickly changes to the adult condition, in which it lives only a few weeks."

Locust, by the way, is also a nearly pure Latin name. The word "lobster" is a variation or corruption of locust, through the Anglo-Saxon.

Kipling Greatness Not "Outward and Visible"

As an alternative to the autograph album of tradition, Clare Sheridan, the painter-cum-sculptress journalist, planted a "friendship garden" at her home in Sussex, where she had as neighbors the Rudyard Kiplings.

"It seemed to me a living, colorful reminder of one's friends," says Mrs. Sheridan in her reminiscences "Naked Truth."

George Moore contributed a fuchsia because "when I (Moore) was a child I liked fuchsias better than almost any other flower." Robert Hichens wrote: "I will try to get hold of a carnation. I love carnations." Kipling's contribution was lavender and rosemary. A. E. W. Mason sent a "Virbarnum Placatun" to "spread all over the flower bed and smother all the friends in its vicinity."

Mrs. Sheridan describes Kipling as "a jolly little man with a school boy humor who would not have seemed anything much if his eyebrows had been shaved and one had not known his name . . . When he had a good story to tell Mrs. Kipling always intervened to tell it better. If Rudyard Kipling were called Jones, a very charming, cheery Mr. Jones he would be."

TURKEY BUYER RETURNS

R. B. Givler, of Reading, Pa., who has bought through the Chamber of Commerce last year when they undertook to sell turkeys for the growers and this past season through the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent County returned this week for another load of birds. As Mr. Givler uses very large gobblers his coming was most welcome as some of the other recent buyers refuse Toms that weigh over seventeen pounds. Mr. Givler has a banquet trade that prefers large birds.

The next meeting of the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association will be the annual meeting and will be held on February 19 for the reading of annual reports and the election of officers. Members can help in preparation for that meeting if they will forward their half-cent commission and close their accounts in time for the secretary and treasurer to make up their reports.

Members are also requested to send in word to the secretary as to the number of birds they have for sale and the weights. The county seems quite cleaned out of birds and when orders come it means a great deal of phoning before birds can be located. This could be simplified if the growers will cooperate.

It's a wise stock that knows its own par!

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Thomas F. Healey, Attorney.
ORDER OF PUBLICATION

May (Meekins) McClain
versus
Benjamin McClain

In the Circuit Court for Kent County, In Equity, No. 2601.

The object of the Bill filed in the above entitled case is to procure a Decree for a divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the Plaintiff, a resident of Kent county, Maryland, from the Defendant, a non-resident of the State of Maryland.

The Bill states:

1. That on the 13th day of June, 1923, May (Meekins) McClain was married to her husband, the said Benjamin McClain at Church Hill, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, by Rev. R. M. Wheeler, a duly ordained Minister of the Gospel, a certified copy of said marriage is hereto attached, marked "Exhibit A" and prayed to be made part of this Bill of Complaint.

2. That your Oratrix and the said Defendant, Benjamin McClain, had two children born to them from the said marriage. A. Mary Ellen McClain, aged 5 years, who at the time of the filling of this Bill of Complaint is in the custody of your Oratrix, and is being cared for and supported by your Oratrix, who lives with her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland.

B. Henry McClain, age 3 years, who at the time of filing this Bill of Complaint is in the custody of your Oratrix, and is being cared for and supported by your Oratrix, who lives with her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland.

3. Your Oratrix respecifully prays the Court to award her the guardianship and custody of her two minor children, to wit, Mary Ellen McClain and Henry McClain.

4. That your Oratrix and the Defendant, Benjamin McClain, together with the children of said marriage, were living at New Castle, State of Delaware, until sometime in June, 1925, when the said Defendant, Benjamin McClain, refused to support your Oratrix and the two children of said marriage, and as a result of the same was compelled to return to the home of her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, for food and shelter, and that the said Benjamin McClain, Defendant, has treated her with great cruelty, harshness and brutality, at times striking and beating her, and his conduct became so intolerable that she was obliged to leave his house.

5. That through the conduct of your Oratrix towards her husband, the said Benjamin McClain, has always been kind, affectionate and above reproach, the said Benjamin McClain has without any just cause or reason abandoned her, and has declared his intention to live with her no longer, that such abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for more than three years, and is deliberate and final, and the separation of the parties beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation.

6. That ever since their said marriage your Oratrix has behaved hersef as a faithful, chaste and affectionate wife towards the said Benjamin McClain, defendant.

7. That your Oratrix is a resident of Chestertown, Kent County, State of Maryland, since June 1925, and has resided at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Maryland, since that time.

8. That the Defendant, Benjamin McClain, is a non-resident of the State of Maryland, and at the time of the filing of this Bill of Complaint was residing at 1210 Appe Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

It is thereupon, this 16th day of January 1930, ordered by the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity, that the Plaintiff, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in said Kent County, once in each of four successive weeks before the 17 day of February next, give notice to the said Benjamin McClain, non-resident defendant, warning him to appear in the Court in person, or by Solicitor, on or before the 3rd day of March next, to show cause, if any he has, why a decree ought not to be passed as prayed.

ROBERT A. SHALLCROSS, Clerk.

True Copy—Test:

ROBERT A. SHALLCROSS, Clerk.

j18-4t

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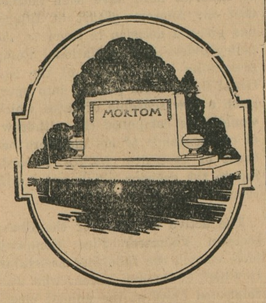

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