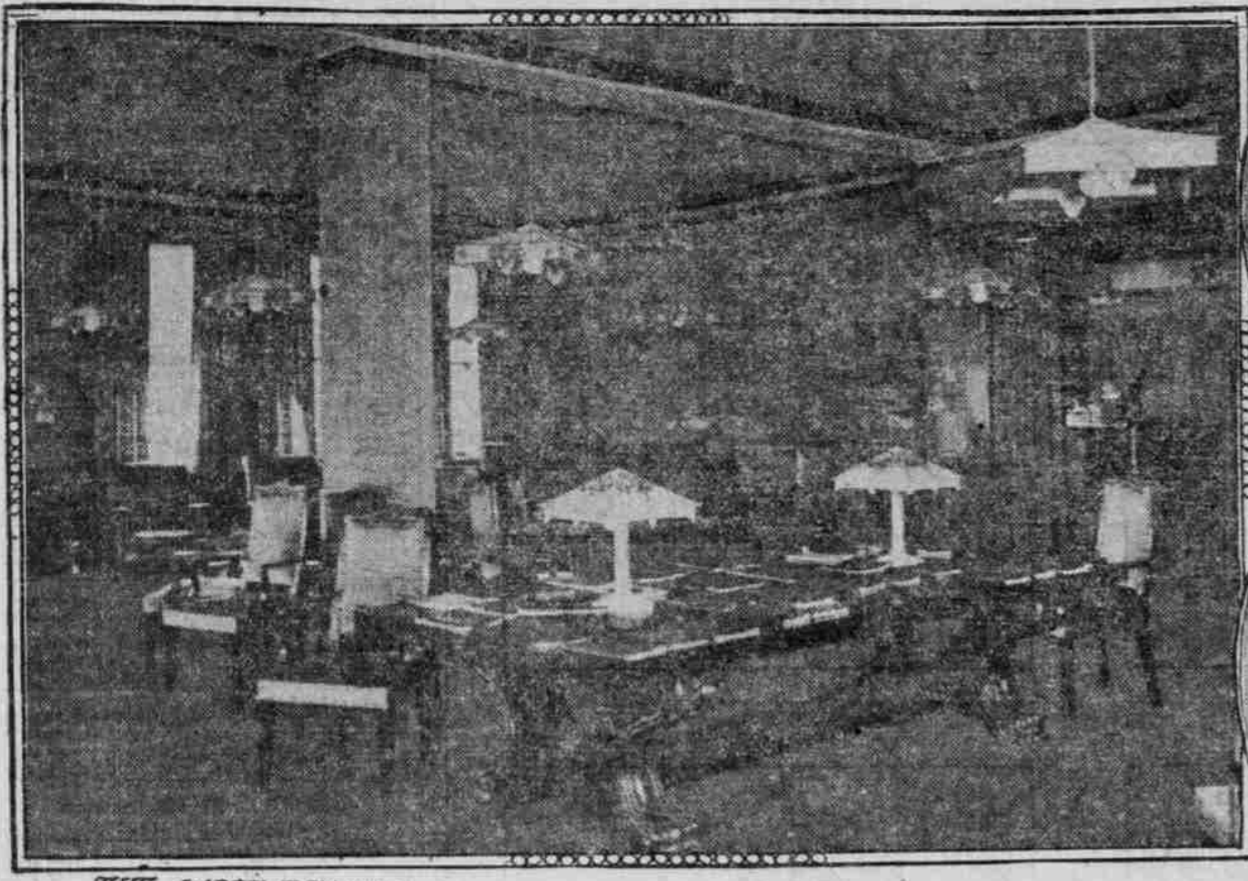


SCENES IN CLUB, AND PORTRAITS OF SOME OF THOSE WHO BUILT IT



THE LARGE READING ROOM



E. L. THOMPSON, SECRETARY. THEODORE B. WILCOX, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. W. B. GLAPKE, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS.



Geo. W. SIMMONS, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. JOHN C. ANSDWORTH, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. B. H. STOUMHALL, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS.



PORTLAND COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIFTH & OAK STS.

History and Growth of Club

E. J. D. Hart Was First President in 1893, and Names of Some of the Charter Members Are Still Prominent on Rosters.

PROBABLY the most effective organization of its kind in the country today, the Commercial Club, is comparatively new. Bound by no traditions or out-of-date methods, it is following new ideas and is making such progress that it is fully abreast of the times. Its mission, along public utility lines, is to create a wider knowledge of Portland and the Pacific Northwest and to build up the commercial interests of this section of the country.

The Commercial Club was founded on February 15, 1893. The following board of directors formed the incorporators of the organization: President, E. J. DeHart; vice-president, F. Lovensgard; secretary, F. K. Arnold; treasurer, R. L. Durham; J. McCracken, Charles F. Beebe, A. H. Mallory, Ben Selling, D. D. Oliphant, M. G. Hall, Gus Simon, E. D. McKee, H. E. Battin, Eugene D. White and Whitney L. Boise.

Past presidents of the club are: E. J. DeHart, Gus Simon, Whitney L. Boise, E. T. Williams, Charles F. Beebe, H. M. Calk and F. W. Leadbetter. C. W. Hodson is the present incumbent. The members of the organization fully appreciate the work of these leaders of past years, who kept the club together during the most difficult years, when similar organizations went to pieces, not only on this coast, but in cities of the East as well.

The original name of the organization was the Commercial Club, but with the organization of the executive committee in 1904, supplementary articles of incorporation were filed, with the name changed to the Portland Commercial Club. The executive committee consists of the following prominent business men: Theodore B. Wilcox, William M. Ladd, A. L. Mills, Robert Livingston, T. D. Honeyman, J. C. Ansdworth, J. Frank Watson, Walter F. Burrell and I. N. Fleischer. There have been only two changes in this committee since its organization, Robert Livingston succeeding W. J. Burns and T. D. Honeyman taking the place of Allen Lewis.

The following comprise the Board of Governors: President, C. W. Hodson; vice-president, R. L. Durham; treasurer, Edward Ehrman; secretary, E. L. Thompson, and W. B. Glapke, B. H. Trumbull, J. C. Ansdworth, E. H. McCracken, F. Dresser, Hugh McGuire, John Annand, A. M. Smith, R. D. Inman, R. F. Pruel and Sig Sichel.

The fire, which destroyed the club's comfortable quarters on the top floor of the Chamber of Commerce building on April 6, 1906, brought dismay to the hearts of the members, but it developed that the apparent calamity was a blessing in disguise. Such progress was made in the work of building a new home that would be owned by the club that the corner-stone was laid on June 12, 1907, and the organization moved into the new building May 1, 1908.

It is the belief of those in close touch with the work of the club that it has reached a higher point of effectiveness than any other similar organization in the country. During the life of the club, it has carried on any number of movements, all for the common good of the people of this community and state. To enumerate these undertakings would require more space than is available, but the club has always been active and many benefits to this section of the country are directly traceable to its work.

The daily luncheons of the club are interesting functions, a large number of business men being present every noon. It is said that a larger number of club members attend these luncheons daily than any business organization west of the Rocky Mountains can show, and it may be doubted if any members of any similar club anywhere show the interest in the work of the organization that the members of the local club manifest.

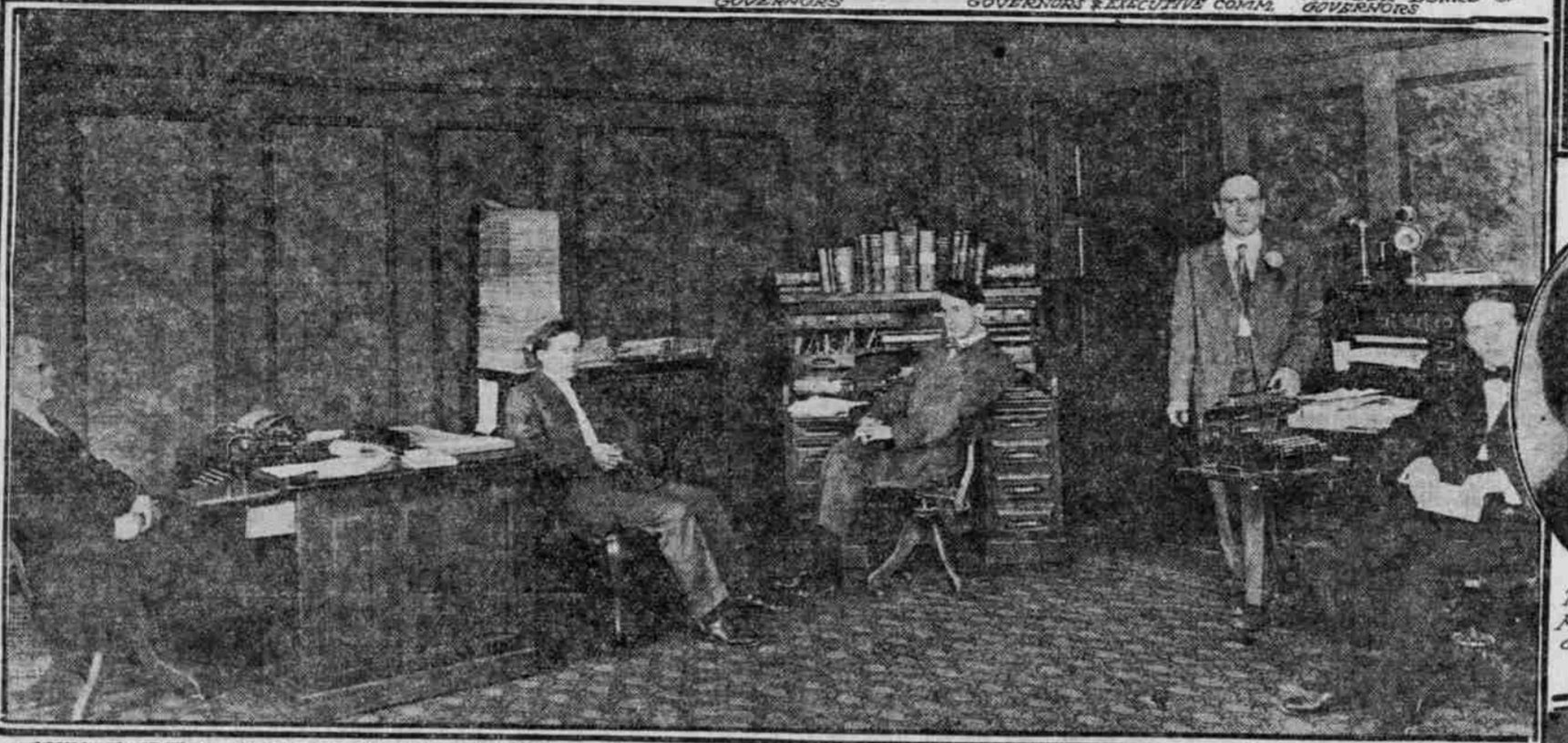
At the laying of the corner-stone of the new building, on June 12, 1907, speakers made predictions of the coming growth and usefulness of the club. These predictions, glowing though they were, are already being realized in the work of the organization.

CLUB OPENS ITS NEW HOME

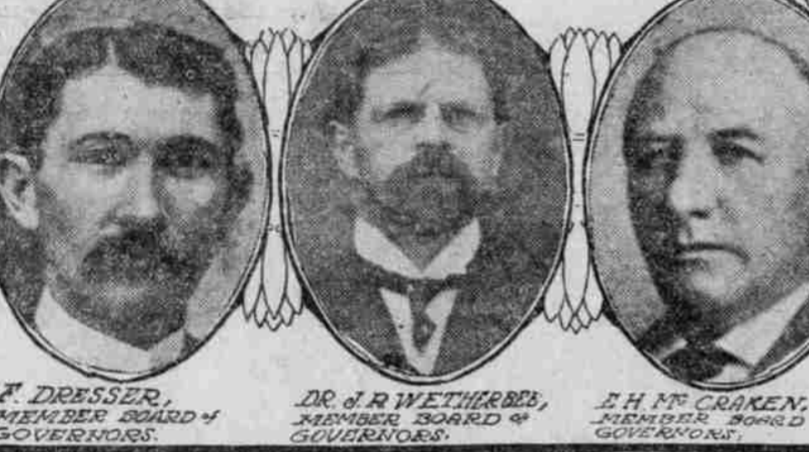
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Club is generally believed to have the largest daily attendance of any popular commercial body in the United States.

Rapid Growth of Club. The hospitable and informal character of the management of the Club makes the people of the smaller cities of the state feel sure of a welcome as it is the commercial clearing-house for all such bodies in the state. During the past six months, the membership has increased more than 50 per cent and the nonresident list includes prominent Oregonians from all parts of the state. Among guests of the Club are men prominent in every



OFFICE OF TOM RICHARDSON, MANAGER OF THE CLUB'S IMPORTANT PUBLICITY WORK.



F. DRESSER, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. DR. R. WETHERBEE, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. J. H. MCCRAKEN, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS.



ONE OF THE LOUNGING ROOMS

walk of life who visit the Pacific Coast.

So widespread is the publicity work carried on by the Club that inquiries have come from every country on the globe and in every language. Two and three tons of mail are frequently received in a single day and the members are always advertising in this city and the state. The executive committee of the Club represents the heaviest business interests of the city and the members are always in attendance at the meetings. The chief object of the Club is, of course, the rebuilding of Portland and the Pacific Northwest and the Club has always been anxious to use its influence on behalf of any community in this part of the United States.

Brought Coast Cities Nearer.

No other club has given so many business men's excursions into the surrounding country as has the local organization. During the past two years, special trains have carried Commercial Club members to other Coast business centers and these trips have had a decidedly beneficial effect in creating a better Coast spirit among the cities and their people. The new assembly-room at the Club is the meeting place for all kinds of commercial gatherings of state and Coast organizations. Five conventions have already been held in the hall during the first two weeks of the Club's occupancy of the new building.

In his address last night, President Hod-

son reviewed briefly the history of the Portland Commercial Club and told of its work in the past and its plans for the future. He said:

Speech of President Hodson.

We have met this evening to celebrate in a formal manner the completion and opening of our palatial new home. I deem it fitting in this connection briefly to review the history of our club, to the end that those who have joined with us recently may know somewhat of the efforts made to produce the results you see before you. The initial move looking toward the organization of this club was made by David M. Dunne, now United States Collector of Internal Revenue, after a trip to the East, where he was entertained by the Commercial Club of St. Paul. Primarily the business feature was predominant. Other clubs afforded social facilities sufficient for the needs of the city at that time, hence the name "Commercial," which was selected by the founders of our institution, and it is intended to convey to every one the central idea sought to be carried out.

A meeting was held in the office of W. S. Mason, who was then Mayor of the city, at the corner of Second and Ash streets, where the city officers were located in those quarters. Those attending, besides Mr. Dunne, were E. J. De Hart, W. S. Mason, A. H. Mallory, Gus Simon, Phil Lovensgard and M. G. Hall. The question was discussed in all its details, and the conclusion finally reached that the club should be formed. The necessary preliminary steps were taken, and active work began. Spacious quarters were provided on the

top floor of the Chamber of Commerce building, which were sumptuously furnished, ample provision being made for the entertainment of the members and the club was successful from the start.

Takes Up Larger Work.

It was during the incumbency of Mr. Calk as president that the larger work of the publicity department was taken up. This feature has made a lasting name in the history of the state for the Portland Commercial Club. In conjunction with leagues formed in the principal cities and towns, Oregon's fame has been heralded throughout the civilized world. The beneficial effects of this effort have been strongly reflected in our large increase in population during the past five years, and has demonstrated conclusively that the club has a field of usefulness peculiarly its own, aside from catering to the personal comfort of its members.

On April 6, 1906, fire consumed practically every vestige of the club's possessions, and caused the death of Homer H. Halleck, one of its most active members. At the height of its prosperity and usefulness, its governors suddenly found it without a home, and with no suitable quarters available in which to begin the work of reorganization. However, before the fire was wholly extinguished, a hastily called meeting of the board was convened and arrangements for temporary domicile were made with the owners of the building on the northwest corner of Sixth and Alder streets. It was at this period that the splendid judgment and energy of the executive officers was shown. Knowing the utter futility of an attempt to continue the work of the club in such quarters as it then occupied, F. W. Leadbetter, president, called a meet-

ing of the members, at which he proposed the purchase of property and erection of the club of a suitable building for a permanent home. As an earnest of his convictions as to the advisability of the move, he announced his willingness to head a subscription to the proposed bond issue with a substantial amount. Backed up by the further advocacy of this move by Theodore B. Wilcox, then whom no more loyal friend the club ever had, the plan at once took shape, with the result that a building association was incorporated, stock subscribed, bonds issued, land purchased, and within a year and a half from the time the move was first inaugurated this splendid structure was completed and furnished for your entertainment and enjoyment.

How Building Was Erected.

To Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Leadbetter is due most of the credit for this proud achievement, though to those loyal faithful believers in the club and its future, who furnished the bulk of the funds and the inspiration for the completion of the work, full acknowledgment must be made. As the enterprise stands today it represents an outlay of over \$400,000, all financed within the club's membership, an achievement not equaled by any other similar organization in the world.

Gentlemen, this is your club home. The building association, and members of your board of governors, who have labored faithfully in your behalf, bid you welcome. May it be a joy to you throughout the years to come, and may the club fulfill the noble mission, the goal of our beloved state, upon which it has embarked.

Music was furnished last night at the house-warming by Bailey's orchestra. The flowers used in decorating the rooms were donated by F. Vanduy, C. C. Smith and L. Samuels.

President Hodson read a telegram of congratulation and best wishes from Rufus P. Jennings, San Francisco, chairman of the California Promotion Committee. A letter was also read from E. J. DeHart, first president of the club, who regretted he could not be present.

Early Struggles of Club.

General C. F. Beebe, president of the club during two different periods, extended his greetings to the organization for its splendid accomplishments and told

of the early struggles of the club. He said it seemed scarcely conceivable 15 years ago that the club would have such a splendid home of its own. I congratulate you," said General Beebe, "on the results accomplished and I wish you God speed in the work."

F. W. Leadbetter, who was president of the club at the time of the fire that destroyed the quarters in the Chamber of Commerce building, spoke briefly of what the club has accomplished, and what it may do in the future. "The success of this organization has been entirely natural," he said. "The membership has been such that it is bound to succeed. I do not know how it is possible for such a club not to succeed, with its splendid membership and such a strong board of governors. We have now an organization of over 1200 members. There is hardly anything this club could not undertake. It could build a railroad from Portland to Salt Lake City. It could put a line of steamers on the Upper River. I am certain of this, for the members have shown what they can do. All that is needed is a definite object."

Theodore B. Wilcox, chairman of the executive committee, told of the financing of the club's building and expressed his gratitude to the architect, Lon Lewis, for his work. He characterized the club building as a monument to the business men who form the club. "When Mr. Leadbetter promotes that railroad to Salt Lake City," he said, "I want to have the privilege of subscribing to it. I predict that within ten years the club will own this property free from debt, and by that time it ought to be a \$1,000,000 property."

Great Growth Is Predicted.

Whitney L. Boise, also an ex-president of the club, spoke of the work of the organization in the past and of what the organization is bound to accomplish in the future. He paid a tribute to Gus Simon, one of the early presidents, who, he said, worked like a beaver for the success of the club, and without Mr. Si-

mon's efforts the club would hardly have maintained its existence. He predicted that the time will come when the country tributary to Portland will have a population of 65,000,000 people.

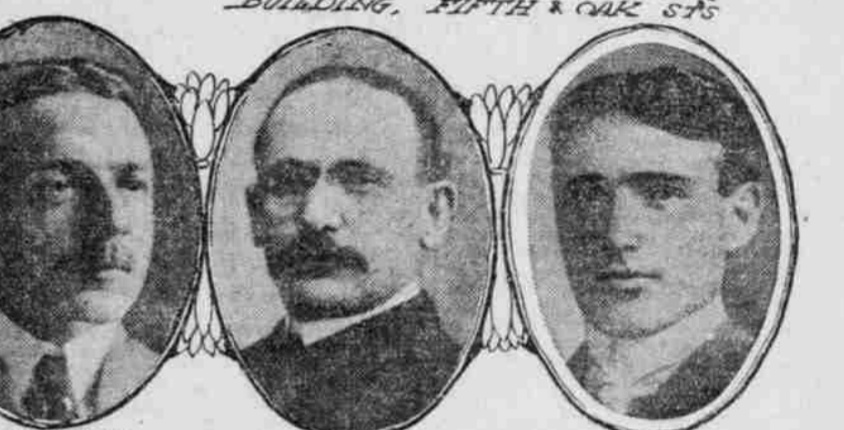
Colonel James Jackson, one of the earlier club members, was introduced by President Hodson, and spoke briefly of the accomplishments of the organization and the development of this section of the country within his own lifetime. "If the city of Portland," he said, "showed the spirit that built this club, it would be far ahead of what it is today."

Upon the conclusion of the speech-making President Hodson invited the company to visit the main dining-room on the top floor, where punch was served throughout the evening and where a handsome spread had been served on a long table reaching the whole length of the room. Steward Eugene May, assisted by his chief, Henry Bendele, formerly of Rector's, New York City, had done their best work for the occasion, and the sight called forth exclamations of delight from the members of the club.

A tempting array of edibles had been arranged, consisting of Oregon turkeys roasted, stuffed with chestnuts, boars' heads, saddles of fat Oregon muttons, hams cooked in champagne, huge sirloins of beef, innumerable gelatine forms of vegetables and minced chicken, while the center of the table was graced by a 60-pound royal Chinook salmon, baked whole and handsomely decorated with pastry trimmings. In addition there were all kinds of relishes, sandwiches, salads and fruits.

Light Bill Cut Again.

The city executive board, at its meeting yesterday afternoon, again cut the monthly bill of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, for May electric lighting, from \$587 to \$540. This is being done regularly now, owing to the fact that the board alleges the corporation is not furnishing the candle-power called for in its contract with the city.



T. W. B. LONDON, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. PHOTO BY AINE. SIG SICHEL, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS. LLOYD J. WENTWORTH, MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS.



THE MAIN RECEPTION ROOM OF THE CLUB - ALL THE FURNISHINGS MADE IN OREGON