

INSPIRING TALK GIVEN, PAGE BY FIGHTING PARSON

The building of foundations for the cities of tomorrow, and bridges over which the coming generations are to pass, was the theme on which an elo-

quent address was based by Jake Allen, until recently managing director of the Visalia board of trade who was the principal speaker at the Community Conference held last evening at the Page theatre. That the real task now confronting the people of America in these days of industrial unrest following the reconstruction period following the world war lies in the possibilities offered thru community service, was the declaration of the speaker.

The Community conference, which was a part of the scheduled program of the Medford Chamber of Com-

merce in its expansion and reorganization campaign, attracted a large crowd of the representative men and women of the city. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining and those who braved the elements, disregarding rain and cold, were well repaid for their time and trouble—and incidentally, heard three splendid addresses, and some rousing enthusiastic community singing with orchestral accompaniment. If any came to the meeting with doubt in their minds as to the success of the big membership drive that is to be launched by the Chamber of Commerce next week, that doubt was soon dispelled and gave place to added interest and enthusiasm over prospects of signal success. President Vernon Vawter, of the Chamber of Commerce, acted as master of ceremonies and presented the speakers, Mayor C. E. Gates, Jake Allen and James E. Gheen, in the order named.

Mr. Allen, who was a chaplain during the great war, and known among his men as a two-fisted fighting parson, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extreme valor under fire, and during his boyhood days obtained his early education in the state of Oregon. During the course of his remarks he expressed his gratification at being offered the opportunity to visit here at this time, and indulged in reminiscent remarks during the old school days of the hazy past.

"Think and Do"
"Providence and nature give cities opportunities, but the brain, the effort and the co-operation of men are necessary to make them great," said Mr. Allen. Continuing he remarked: "It depends entirely on what the people think and do as to what they accomplish and the extent and growth of their communities is determined."

He related in a pleasing manner his experience and thrills attending his return to America from overseas together with a number of other casual troops. There were men among them, he said, from all parts of the United States, yet all in bidding him adieu urged that should he ever decide to settle permanently to "come to God's country," each claiming his own particular locality as that favored place. Then he said that as his train slipped over the mountains in to the verdant California valley he felt convinced in his own heart that his home was God's country. This sentiment, he explained, is inspired by the people that inhabit these places, and the spirit that moves upward. The ambitions, dreams and visions of the race all combine in the making of "God's Country."

The speaker asserted that communities must grow better, if civilization is to thrive. Cities must develop and grow and men and women must not stand still in aiding this growth and development, he said. The first function of chambers of commerce is to teach the people to think, and in thinking they bring about these improvements so essential to civilization. This, he said, he considers one of the strongest and most potential doctrines that can be impressed on the American people today.

The Selfish Citizen
Some people, said Mr. Allen, will ask when solicited to cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce, "What am I to get out of it?" Such persons he said should be asked where America would be today if such men as George Washington had stopped to consider his own selfish benefits that might have been realized had he turned traitor to his people and served instead the king. Such persons, he said, should be reminded of the crimson hour of the Civil war and the rally of true Americans to the flag, and they should be cited to the more recent response of the flower of the nation to the call overseas. None of these boys stopped to ask what they were to get out of serving their country when the call came, yet many never returned and sleep today on the poppyfields of France. Those men whose vision is so limited that they cannot comprehend anything excepting their selfish motives should not be tolerated in a community, said Mr. Allen.

The present campaign, the speaker said, offers a splendid opportunity for the public-spirited men and women of Medford to do something for the city of tomorrow, and to build bridges over which the citizens of tomorrow may pass. He concluded his remarks by reciting these verses:

"An old man going a lone highway
Came at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him,
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
'Old Man' said a fellow-pilgrim near,
You are wasting your strength building here;
Your journey ends with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way,
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide—
Why build ye here at evening tide?
The builder raised his old gray head;
'Good friend, in the oath I've come,' he said,
There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way;
The chasm that held no fear for me,
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I'm building this bridge for him."

Mayor Gates made a brief preliminary talk in which he pledged his unqualified support to the campaign, and urged the entire citizenship to co-operate for its success. Medford he said is destined to accomplish great things, and the men and women of

the city now have an unusual opportunity to give practical evidence of their willingness to co-operate in the great community service work that is to be undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce.

Campaign Director Gheen announced that plans are rapidly maturing for the big enrollment drive next

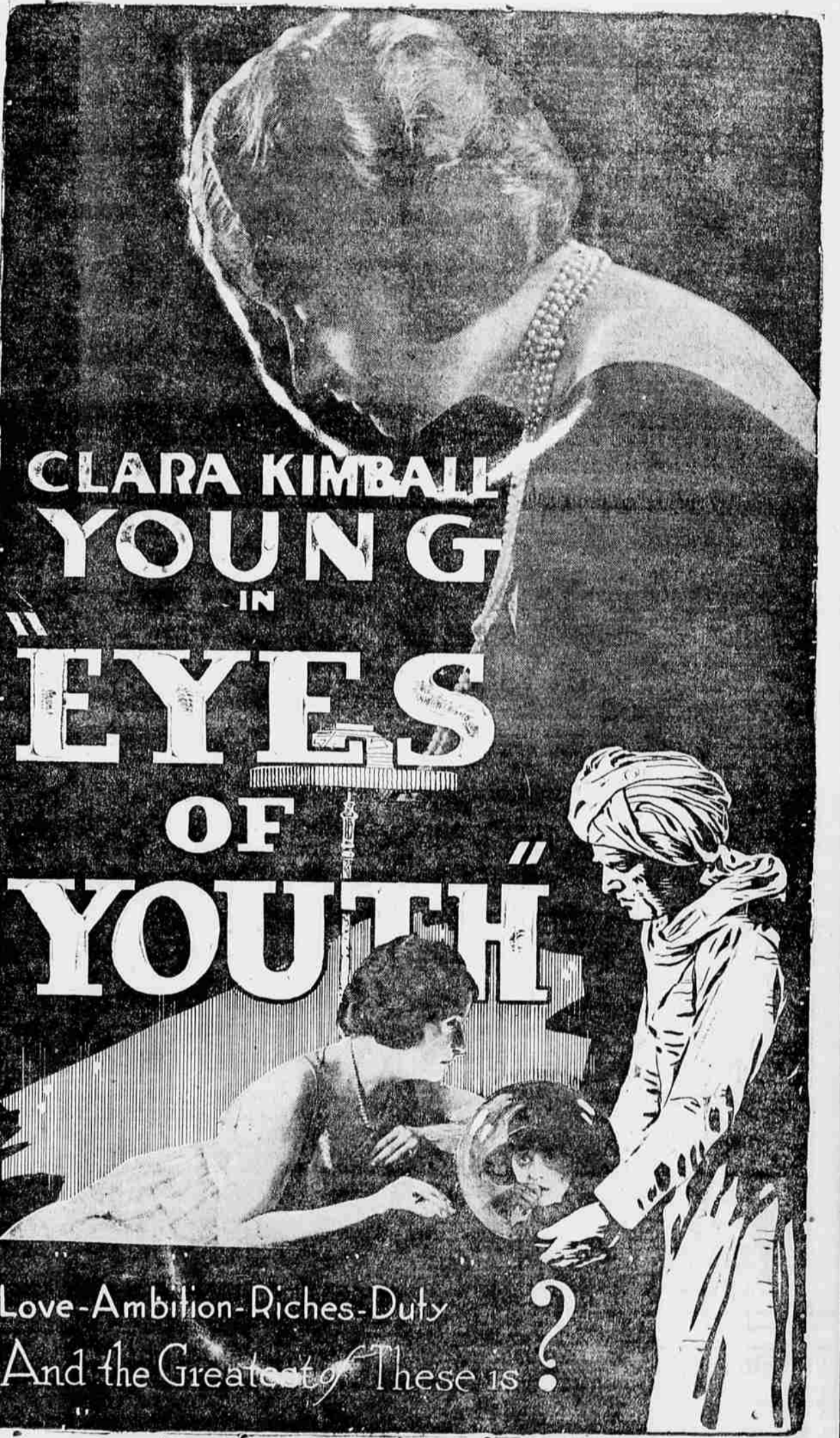
week, and in response to his call for volunteer workers a number signed cards pledging themselves to assist in the work. He also announced that the Civic Dinner is to be held next Monday evening at the Hotel Medford and urged all who desired to attend to make reservations early as the number of guests that can be ac-

commodated will be limited, and will be made in the order they are received. Mr. Gheen also delivered a thirty-minute talk on the five fundamental principles that are to be combined in the forming of the new modern Chamber of Commerce for Medford.

Mr. Allen was the principal speaker at the luncheon at the Hotel Medford today at which the directors and members of the various campaign committees were present.

Mr. Gheen addressed the women of the city at a meeting held at the public library at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon on the woman's part in community service work.

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EVENING—7:15—9 P. M.

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Adults, 3c5—Kiddies, 10c—Loges, 50c—Includes War Tax.

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Russian Violinist
and
IRENE HAMPTON ISAACS
At the Piano

held over for the remainder of the week

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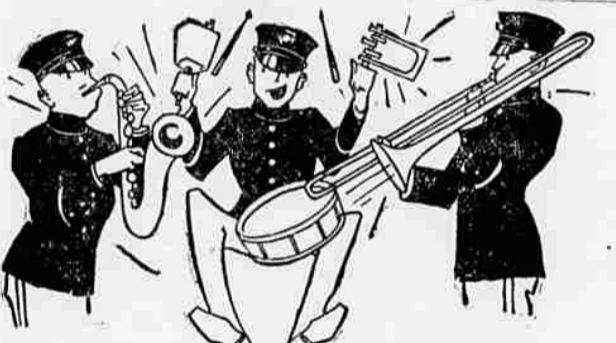
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It's a stag party. Everybody come! Especially ex-Marines!

Admission Free. Clean Vaudeville. Ladies are Welcome.

The Roving Marines

PAGE THEATRE
THURSDAY, MARCH 18
at 8 p. m.
Street Parade, 2 p. m. Band concert 3 p. m., south of Commercial Club.

LIBERTY

Another of Big Hits Playing Today and Tomorrow, for the same Little Old TWO BITS.

ROMANY

'Where Love Runs Wild'

Those that have reveled in the charms of "Buntz Pulls the Strings," "Kitty MacKay" and other Scotch plays will find the same delight in this film entertainment.

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"BECKONING ROADS"

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