

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

Apollo Club Dinner, April 22, 1918.

It is again my pleasure and honor to submit this my report of the 24th Season of the Apollo Club at the close of my 4th year as its President.

Despite the unsettled conditions, due to the war, that have so severely mitigated against the conduct of a chorus of men whose ranks have been periodically depleted by the draft and whose activities for worthy war purposes have frequently interfered with attendance, our 24th season has been one of exceptional success.

From an artistic standpoint I am moved to say, that the past season has rivalled and in many respects surpassed all previous efforts in the quality of tonal expression. The fine and intelligent rendition of our programs reflected capable and conscientious work on the part of our members, and the selections and program make-up were a fair testimonial to the superior musical gifts of our well beloved Director, Mr. Chas. Galloway.

I have found in my 23 years connection with the Club that the Apollo does its best work when apparently confronting insurmountable difficulties, and this season has proved to my satisfaction that its organization can be depended upon in any great stress, for we have met and vanquished some extremely perplexing problems, and to your co-operation is this primarily due.

In the matter of enlisting associate members the season was not so great a financial success. The entrance of our country into the world war, and the urgent need of help in war activities of every nature, caused many subscribers to forego the pleasure of their Apollo membership. Our ranks were also depleted by the enlistment of many of our younger associate members; and it kept you and your officers busy in an endeavor to keep the Apollo Club from encroaching too much upon its reserve fund. But this I am happy to say was successfully accomplished, and our audiences compared favorably with that of previous seasons.

In the past season some distinct changes in the personnel of our officers was made, and it is fitting that I should express my great satisfaction at the complete co-operation manifested by these men.

The club is fortunate that it should have so able a musician for 1st vice-president as Mr. Rohan, and so earnest a worker for 2nd vice-president as Mr. Paine, whose work as chairman of the associate membership committee was untiring; and to whom is largely due the credit for our fine audiences. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon our efficient and painstaking secretary-treasurer, Mr. C. W. Hughes. His work has been multiplied during the war times, but each new duty has been met and handled without regard for the inroads made upon his time and temper.

You elected two very able men to the executive committee last year; both keen workers and dependable in all meetings, not alone to give expression to

their views, but in advancing the best interests of the Club. Mr. Swift holds the Apollo Club next in esteem to his new wife. While Mr. Bronaugh would sacrifice the carpet business for the Apollo at any time. Mr. Nahm, the other member of the committee, is an old wheel horse whose interest never flags.

The examining board, with Mr. Galloway as its chairman and as members Mr. F. L. Baker, Mr. H. H. Aehle, Mr. J. H. Kelly and Mr. E. F. Dunker, have carefully heard all applicants for membership, and by their selections have maintained the Club's usual high standard of efficiency.

During the past season the following members have enlisted in the service of the U. S.: T. L. Creighton, C. P. Dyer, A. A. Gilbert, F. A. Hughes, Stuart Johnson, Harry D. Payne, G. O. Phillips, Horace Ray, E. C. Schmid, S. E. Teubner, A. V. Engle, Dr. F. C. E. Kuhlmann. Knowing the high character and staunch purpose of these men, I feel that our interests will be well protected abroad, and that their record in the war will reflect the keen interest displayed by them in the Apollo Club. We are proud of each star in our service flag—all hail to these Apollo boys; our best wishes go with them that they may serve their country well, and return to us in full health and vigor, after establishing the just purpose for which we entered the war.

There may be further compulsory withdrawals from the Club by men entering the service of the U. S., and to these loyal friends I would say, that your country in entering this war did so only after making every effort to avoid it.

Beginning with the horrible massacre of American lives in the sinking of the Lusitania, followed by similar violations of accepted practices on the high seas, the German autocracy insolently flaunted the red flag of war in the face of the U.S., defying her condemnation of these atrocities until we were perforce dragged into a war with which we had no part, and against our avowed purpose to concern ourselves only with matters that involve the integrity of the Western Hemisphere. President Wilson has rightly said, that our war is not upon the German people, but upon the system in vogue, which actuates its rulers to deeds that involve the rights and lives of neutral countries and non-combatants, men, women and children, in defiance of all laws and of all accepted practices of even the most barbarous of nations.

When you go abroad to fight the battles of your country and those of its associates in this war, the thought that America is setting an example of unselfishness never before recorded in the history of any nation on earth should key you to superhuman effort in your endeavor to liberate the world and the people of Germany from an autocratic rule that has enslaved the minds and actions of its people, and is attempting to compel all the civilized world to bow to its will.

I feel quite sure that I have your full concurrence in digressing upon this subject, that so strongly appeals to American hearts and homes. As our individual interests are affected, so also is our splendid organization affected. We must win this war: and those of us who are privileged to remain at home to pursue our accustomed activities should make every effort to aid

our government to finance those who are making the supreme effort and sacrifice abroad.

I sincerely regret that my boy is too young to serve his country actively, but you may be sure that he is training, so that if this war lasts long enough, he will be prepared to do his bit.

The examining board will have much work to do this year in replacing the twelve members now in the service of Uncle Sam, and to keep our ranks filled in anticipation of further withdrawals. This board is relied upon for this service; and it is suggested that an active canvass be made, and men of high character combined with good voices be sought to enter the Club. Our active membership should be increased to 100, and this can be done with properly organized effort. In this connection it is suggested, that many former members might be prevailed upon to return.

Our entertainments have been in the hands of a very competent committee, headed by chairman Bronaugh, and Messrs. H. R. Davis, C. P. Dyer and H. H. Sievers, to whom full credit is due for the excellence of our last summer's outing; which was at once a musical festival and chicken slaughter that compared favorably with any of the Club's previous performances. The entertainment provided in our after concert gatherings also proved the fitness of our selection of this committee: and to-night's affair will bear further testimony.

Last, and not least, let me bestow fitting praise upon our stage manager and librarian, Mr. Ravold, whose work is so well understood by him and carefully conducted, that your officers are enabled to

dismiss all thought of his important duties, in the full knowledge that they are being accomplished with excellent results.

Your executive committee has big plans in prospect to fittingly celebrate the Apollo Club's twenty-fifth season, which occurs next year.

The successful record of the Apollo Club, which has endured for twenty-four years without at any time begging contributions to defray expenses of its organization, always giving full value to its associate members, thereby enabling it to solicit patronage with a guarantee of satisfactory returns, stands supreme among similar organizations in this country.

It is a fine testimonial to the splendid management of the Club, that a sufficient reserve fund has been set aside and maintained to enable it now to spread itself in the celebration of its Silver Anniversary, by securing the best available talent to assist in its success.

I am accordingly in position to announce the engagement of the following soloists for the next season: Miss Mabel Garrison, soprano of Metropolitan Opera Co.; Emilio De Gogorza, eminent Spanish baritone; Mme. Louise Homer, America's foremost contralto.

In these days of stress and excitement, bitterness and sorrow, much alleviation may be found in good music. It is fitting, therefore, that organizations like the Apollo Club should be encouraged to continue their splendid work. Any interruption would mean disaster; for it cannot be temporarily abandoned and then reorganized. It is well, therefore, that strenuous efforts be made to emphasize its civic necessity. that

the Apollo Club may endure as a great credit to our city.

I hope that the members of the press, the active members, the associate members, and all civic organizations, will be influenced to assist us in making our Twenty-fifth Year a most notable achievement, and aid us in promoting the longevity of this worthy institution.