

# 8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BORN

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The second committee created at the Mass Meeting of March 30 was appointed “for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of forming” a “permanent organization.” It was to be called a chamber of commerce or board of trade “as the committee thought best.”

Dr. W. E. Bates was appointed chair of this organizing committee.

Technically, the State Farm Promotion Committee was a unit of this “permanent organization,” which did not yet exist. In a strict sense, the Promotion Committee could not act before the parent organization formed. But this did not stop it from starting a campaign.

The “permanent organization” was formed on May 17, 1905 (reported below).

A committee to form a civic association was created at the March 30th mass meeting. Over April, that group decided on a name and drew up a scheme of organization.

To the right, the *Enterprise* reports on the May 10th first meeting of this new organization, the Chamber of Commerce.

The main committee names (signaled with red) tell us what were thought to be major problems.

Note that the first one deals with "immigration," which was the problem of enticing people to move to Davisville.

### Officers Elected.

The Chamber of Commerce held an important meeting Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, at which time officers to serve for the remainder of the fiscal year were elected to supersede the temporary officers; also, the necessary committees were appointed as follows:

Committee on Immigration and Lands—B. B. Tuttle, chairman; J. H. Oesta, Jas. Campbell, J. B. Anderson, J. J. Gallagher.

On Manufacturing—L. A. Harby, chairman; Sam Montgomery, W. H. Scott, W. E. Bates, Eli Sniner.

On Irrigation—G. H. Swingle, chairman; J. A. Harby, W. O. Russell, J. W. Anderson, O. B. Wilbur.

Membership and Grievance—A. J. Plan, chairman; B. C. French, G. W. Sanders, Wm. King, W. D. Chiles.

Ways and Means—F. P. Smith, chairman; R. W. Wiese, J. F. Chiles, A. J. Tufts, W. D. Chiles.

Hotels, Parks and Public Improvements—Sam Montgomery, chairman; Jake Snider, G. K. Swingle, John Henle, A. N. Grieve.

County and Municipal Affairs—W. O. Russell, chairman; C. A. Coveil, G. B. Hoag, I. B. Hughes, H. O. Purington.

Exhibit—G. W. Pierce.

The members of the new organization seem full of energy and enthusiasm and we may expect great things for Davisville in the near future. The beautifying of the railroad Y, installing of a creamery plant, street improvements, sidewalks, grass cutting etc., are some of the matters that will probably receive immediate attention.

The time is now opportune for cutting grass on the sidewalks while the ground is soft.

Following creation on May 10th, an early action was to host the visit of the State Farm Selection Commission on May 20 (described in the next column).

The C of C also outlined six major matters on which it intended to work.

A "Clean Up Day" was set for June 3rd. The list of things to do given to the right suggests that Davisville was rather shabby.

## CHAMBER of COMMERCE DAVISVILLE, CAL.

### DIRECTORS:

W. E. Bates ..... President  
J. E. LaRue ..... Vice-President  
A. J. Tufts ..... Treasurer  
A. J. Plant ..... Secretary  
Chairman of Committee on Membership and Grievances.  
J. A. Harby, Chairman on Manufactures  
B. B. Tuttle, Chairman on Immigration and Lands.  
G. K. Swingle, Chairman on Irrigation  
F. P. Smith, Chairman on Ways-Means  
Sam Mont <sup>(unreadable)</sup> Chairman on Hotels, Parks and Public Improvements.  
W. O. Russell, Chairman on County and Municipal Affairs.  
G. W. Pierce, Chairman on Exhibits.

The above directors held a meeting, organized and outlined a lot of work, among which might be mentioned:

1. A new sewer system for the town.
2. Encouragement in the erection of a planing mill, also an Evaporated cream factory.
3. New sidewalks.
4. Removal of weeds from off walks.
5. Proposition to appoint a pound master to impound all loose stock in town. The present law allows of such.—Laid over.
6. The establishment of a county exhibit at the depot.

Any suggestion regarding improvements required would be gladly received.

To begin with the Davisville Chamber of Commerce has agreed to have a general "clean-up" day. Each citizen is requested to do something that will improve the town's appearance. Clean-up day is set for Saturday, June 3d, and what to do may be found in the following suggestions:

If your store-front, residence or fence is dull or dingy, order it repainted.

If your awning is old, torn or faded get a new one.

If your sidewalk, fence or gate needs repairing, fix it.

Destroy the weeds that are starting on your property and on your neighbor's property.

Resolve never to throw paper on the street.

Cut your lawn and keep it so—weeds spoil the looks of it.

Burn all the rubbish possible—allow no one to throw it on streets, alleys or vacant lots.

Ask your groceryman to have his wagon painted if it looks like it needed it.

Illuminate the front of your store and house. A little white work improves the looks of many things.

Remove all dilapidated fences, out-houses and anything unsightly.

Every effort put forth and dollar spent to improve our town's appearance will be returned two-fold.

Saturday, June 3d—remember the date. Turn out with a will and see what all you can do to beautify your town.

Recall that in March, Scott was guardedly positive about Davisville's future (column 6).

Formation of the Chamber seems to have lifted his spirit. On June 3rd he enthusiastically declares "Davisvile has awakened from its long sleep . . . ."

## CHAMBER of COMMERCE DAVISVILLE, CAL.

Davisville has awakened from its long sleep and the people thereof have awakened to a new life—a new era—and are heartily in accord to improve the town and vicinity in every way possible. It is only by united effort that things in common can be made to move, and the unity is here and is here to stay—not a spasm of sudden growth, but a good, healthy life and a determination to do and do it with a will. Some of our main street merchants are planning to put down cement sidewalks in place of the old wooden ones. The grass from side streets and walks is being cleaned off. Back fences are being whitewashed and it will not be long before Davisville will take on a new garb entirely.

The ladies of Davisville and vicinity are urged to form a Woman's Improvement Club. The trained eye for beauty of the ladies is required to see where and when improvements can be made. Ladies, get into the movement and be a help to your community! We have many broad-minded ladies who would be an honor to any such movement.

**What about our Chamber of Commerce—she seems resting on her oars of late. There's plenty of good work to be done, all manner of street and sidewalk improvement, also some kind of a water system for fire protection.**

The weekly Chamber of Commerce column in the *Enterprise* stopped appearing in July.

The July 29th issue carried miscellaneous editorial notes by Scott, among which we find the chiding barb reproduced above.

And, indeed, we read little of the Chamber over the rest of 1905.

Recall that Scott went from guarded optimism regarding Davisville civic spirit in April to enthusiasm in June 3.

His first reaction was apparently the more accurate one. According to Larkey in *Davisville '68*, the Chamber "became inactive from time to time." and was "reorganized in 1907 and again in 1914" (p. 125).

The rail Superintendent puts off landscaping the depot area until after a new depot is constructed, which will be "before very long now."

By 1905, the topic of a new depot was already a joke because of previous broken promises.

And, in fact, this 1905 "before very long" would be 8 years.

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A communication was sent by the chamber of commerce to W. R. Scott Supt. of The Western Division S. P. R. R. requesting that the Y be planted to grass and trees and that the new depot so long promised be erected in which an exhibit might be installed representing the products typical of Yolo Co. and the great Sacramento Valley. The following reply was received:

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of favor of the 20th relative to the building of our new depot has been postponed so long; but probably we will be able to commence work on the same before very long now. As there will be some rearrangement of tracks and perhaps also change in the location of the building, I would not like to do anything towards improving the park at this time. When our new depot is completed and tracks rearranged, I will be more than pleased to co-operate with your citizens with a view of having an attractive place around the station.

Yours truly,

W. R. Scott,

Superintendent.