

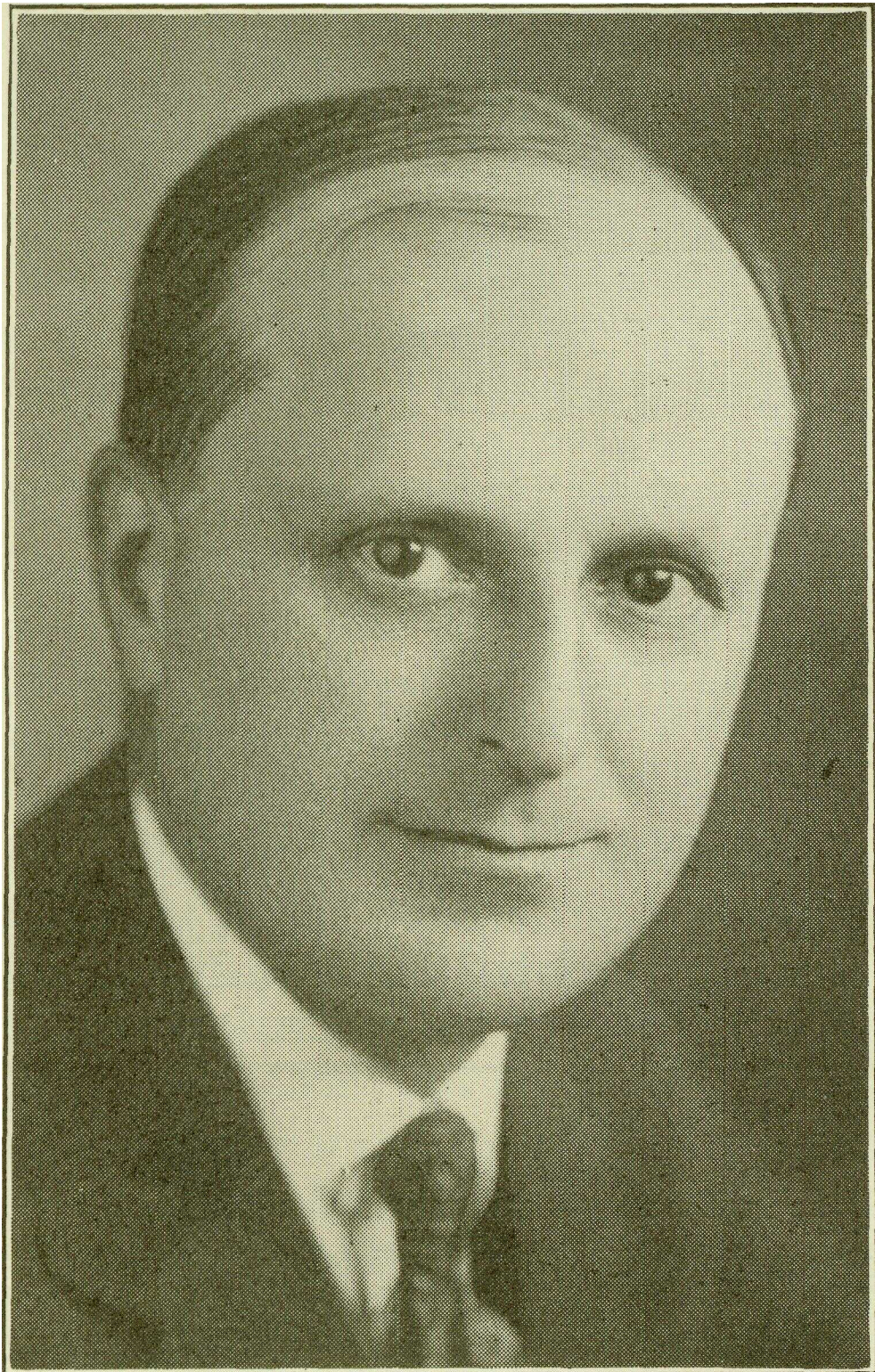
EDITORIAL

COMMENT



Mr. John W. O'Leary

President of Chamber of Commerce of the United States



Mr. O'Leary is a prominent banker and man-of-affairs of Chicago. *He* is a past president of the Chicago Association of Commerce. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Chamber in May 1923. He succeeds Mr. Richard F. Grant of Cleveland as head of the National Chamber. We have known Mr. O'Leary for a good many years and have his promise that he will be one of our Forum speakers this fall.

And speaking of Forum speakers, the Chamber has been confessedly handicapped hitherto for lack of proper facilities for membership meetings. This handicap is now happily wiped out. The magnificent assembly room on the mezzanine floor of the Hotel Walt Whitman, with a dinner seating capacity around four hundred will be used regularly by the Chamber for Forum Suppers. The first will be held evening of Thursday, October 15th and regularly up to and including May, on the third Thursday of each month.

The Membership Forum Committee, Francis B. Wallen, Sr. Chairman, and with the concurrence of the Executive Council, has planned the success of these Forum gatherings, through the medium of the sale of coupon tickets. The member is asked to purchase a coupon book which carries the eight successively dated tickets and which are

good only for the date printed on each coupon ticket. Supper tickets are popularly priced \$1.00. The book of eight coupon tickets can be purchased at the beginning of the Forum Supper season at \$7.00 per book, thus saving \$1.00 to each purchaser.

Speakers of prominence, men of large business affairs and outlook, will be secured for these gatherings. We expect our friend Mr. O'Leary either for the first or the second Forum.

In this issue of CAMDEN FIRST there are many indications given of how Camden is evolving herself into a city of metropolitan proportions. The opening of the Hotel Walt Whitman is admittedly a strong evidence of this. Handsome buildings are going up in the immediate vicinity of the hotel—the new Elks Home, practically adjoining the hotel, (a picture of the construction work is shown elsewhere), is promised to be ready for occupancy in February. Meantime the old building owned by the Elks and located at Broadway and Federal Street, has been vacated and the Lodge is temporarily housed in the Duckworth property recently sold at a handsome price and a little to the west of the hotel site. On Cooper Street, east of the hotel there is being erected a handsome building to cost \$600,000.00 by the R. M. Hollingshead Company, as an administration building. One Square south of the hotel and with a frontage on Market, Sixth and Broadway, there is being built a new theatre to cost around \$1,000,000 by the Stanley Company of America. Up and down Market Street there are fine new buildings going up. The old Chamber of Commerce Building, 531-533 Market, now vacated by the Chamber, the upper stories still tenanted, is on the market for sale or lease. The Directors of the Chamber will very likely at their next meeting, determine the fate of the building.

The opening of the hotel is opportune in the nth degree. It's something that should have happened years ago, but better late than never. Centering about the hotel we see a new era of civic activity—it'll be the hub of the wheel around which everything will revolve. Besides the Chamber of Commerce on the Mezzanine floor there'll be the new South Jersey Automobile Club, Inc.

A great future is in store for the immediate vicinity of the Hotel Walt Whitman. Gazing into the crystal ball, as it were, we see a great new section of fine stores, apartment houses—high class shops—everything which goes to make up a fine busy section. Virtually next door we have the new home of the Elks—a handsome structure now rising skyward—and there'll be others.

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