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To the Directors and Members of  
The Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Gentlemen:

The report of the Secretary, Mr. Ralston Cargill, covers in detail the activities of this organization for the past year, and to avoid repetition I will confine my remarks to generalities.

When I accepted the presidency last October, it was requested by me at that time, that the Board of Directors change the list of officers recently elected to conform with a program planned. This was not done with any reflection on the vice presidents already elected but with the thought that the officers of the Chamber of Commerce should more nearly represent a group of leaders in other civic bodies, particularly the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association, which would tie them in with the Chamber of Commerce and encourage cooperation. It was explained that this body should be the instrumentality through which all of the other civic groups should work for the advancement of a greater Columbus.

Accordingly, Jack B. Key, J. Dupont Kirven, Theo G. Reeves, J. Wright Brown and Walter Richards were elected by the Board as Vice Presidents and heads of the operating committees. These, together with the President and Secretary, formed the executive committee. I believe that a good deal has been accomplished this last year in the way of closer harmony between the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations.

The secretary's report reveals a great many activities. I am personally disappointed that more has not been accomplished in the way of new industries; however, during the past year this has been very difficult.

Your President and Directors and Secretary have given considerable time to meeting officially and entertaining with dinners, etc., various famous and important people that have come to our city, among whom were the Assistant Secretary of War, Frederick H. Payne, Governor Richard B. Russell, Miss Ameilia Earhardt, Post and Gatty, Sergeant Alvin C. York, Captain Haws and others. The Chamber of Commerce deserves the support of the people for this reason, if for nothing else, for this is a continuous responsibility and no visitor of standing should be overlooked as they come into our city.

During the last few months of our administration we were engaged in an attempt to elect our Secretary to Congress from the Third Congressional District of Georgia. Although this proved unsuccessful, a great many valuable contacts were made, and it is my opinion that the time and effort spent were not lost. A good deal was accomplished in the way of cooperation on roads affecting various parts of the district. This endeavor was culminated by the attendance in Columbus of about one hundred and twenty-five of the Democratic leaders at the official convention where the nominee was formally nominated. All of these delegates were served a luncheon by members of the local delegation.

In closing I want to sincerely thank all of the Vice Presidents, Directors and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary, for their cooperation and efforts during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. K. Park  
President Columbus Chamber of Commerce

COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Report of Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager  
Columbus Georgia, October, 20, 1932

To the President, Directors and Members of the  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit my annual report. Financial statement will be submitted by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

**Railways and bus transportation**

In October of last year, the Seaboard Air Line Ry petitioned the Georgia Public Service Commission for authority to discontinue passenger trains 19 and 22 between Albany and Columbus. Acting under authority of our Board of Directors, your Traffic Manager appeared before the Georgia Public Service Commission in opposition to this petition. We were joined by representatives from Dawson and Brooklyn, Ga. The Commission later granted the petition of the Seaboard Air Line Ry and these trains were removed, thus discontinuing all passenger train service on the Seaboard Air Line Ry between Albany and Columbus. A bus line service was then established.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce joined the City of Columbus, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and representatives of Greenville and Newnan in opposing the discontinuance of fast round trip passenger schedule on Central of Georgia Ry between Columbus and Atlanta. At the hearing before the Georgia Public Service Commission, Mr. Wm De L Worsley spoke on behalf of the City of Columbus, Mr. Nelson Shipp for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and your Sec-Traffic Manager on behalf of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. The Georgia Public Service Commission later denied the petition of the Central of Georgia Ry Co.

Your Sec-Traffic Manager, on behalf of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to suspend freight tariffs proposing an increase in rate on coal by rail lines in the Southeast. The proposed tariff would increase the rate on coal sixteen cents per ton to Columbus. Other cities which were affected also filed petitions and the Commission issued an order of investigation and suspension.

## Waterways

Your Sec-Traffic Manager delivered an address on subject "From the Chattahoochee to the Rio Grande" at annual meeting of the Louisiana-Texas Intracoastal Canal Association in Corpus Christi, Texas. The cooperation and support of that association was pledged to the New Orleans-Columbus waterway project. Enroute to Corpus Christi, your Sec-Traffic Manager attended meeting of the Board of Directors of Mississippi Valley Association which was held as a special session in New Orleans.

A group of army engineers visited Columbus for an inspection of the Chattahoochee river from Columbus northward in connection with proposed improvement of the river for deep draft navigation from Columbus to the Gulf, including features of power development and flood control which might be affected thereby. Members of the party were as follows: Colonel Warren T. Hannum, U. S. Division Engineer, New Orleans, La, Major Robert A Sharrer, U.S. District Engineer, and Captain D. C. Trevarthen, Engineer, Montgomery, Ala.

This group was met in Columbus by members of the Inland Waterway Committee of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and officials of the organization, together with representatives of the Georgia Power Company from Columbus and Atlanta, the Alabama Power Company from Birmingham, and Hardaway Contracting Company of Columbus. The visiting engineers inspected power dams at North Highlands and Bartlett's Ferry, dam sites near West Point and Franklin, Ga., and then proceeded from West Point to make an inspection of the Chattahoochee just above Atlanta. This concluded the tour.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce was represented at annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Association in St. Louis. Your Sec-Traffic Manager succeeded in having the New Orleans-Columbus waterway project re-endorsed by the Mississippi Valley Association, and was re-elected a Director of that organization.

Your Sec-Traffic Manager attended annual meeting of National Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington; served as member of Committee on Resolutions and was re-elected as Director.

A hearing called by Army engineers was held in the auditorium of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of discussing with interested parties the matter of minimum clearances to be stipulated for bridges which may be built over the Chattahoochee river in the future.

Colonel Clarence B. Douglas, special representative of the U.S. Inland Waterway Corp'n, visited Columbus upon invitation of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and addressed a number of business men at Rotary and Kiwanis Club luncheons in advocacy of river transportation.

The Chief of Engineers and Board of Engineers, U.S. Army, approved waterway project from Choctawhatchee Bay to West Bay (Panama City) Fla.

The Rivers and Harbors Committee in Congress adopted \$1,770,000 project for eastward extension of the intracoastal waterway from New Orleans to the Apalachicola river by a channel

one hundred feet wide and nine feet deep from Choctawhatchee Bay to West Bay (Panama City) Fla. This project is still to be authorized by Congress and appropriation made to carry it out.

Authorization of this project will remove the last barrier to a complete waterway connection between the Mississippi river and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee river system. Canalization of the Chattahoochee is sure to follow as day follows night. Then will be completed the project originated by your Sec-Treas Traffic Manager in 1924 for a deep waterway from New Orleans to Columbus for the economical operation of self-propelled barges. This project has since that time been actively sponsored by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and its Inland Waterway Committee under the able Chairmanship of Mr. H. H. Swift.

It is very probable that a decision will be reached on this important project during the next session of Congress, and it behooves the people of Columbus and of the Chattahoochee Valley and Gulf region to impress upon those in authority in Washington that we earnestly desire its completion.

### **Highways**

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce arranged for a meeting in Phenix City to urge Alabama's participation in program for the completion and use of Florida Short Route and Dixie Overland Highway. This meeting was attended by Mr. R. E. Dismukes and your Sec-Traffic Manager representing the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

The William Howard Taft Highway, extending from Mackinaw City, Michigan, to Fort Myers, Florida, via Columbus, was endorsed at a meeting of officials and representatives of the City, County, Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club, and Columbus Chamber of Commerce. A special Chamber of Commerce committee was appointed to cooperate with the Wm Howard Taft Highway Association in an endeavor to obtain Federal appropriation for completion of unfinished links and for straightening, widening and surfacing this memorial highway as a purely Federal highway project. Executive Vice President Frank Holder attended the meeting as representative of the Wm Howard Taft Highway Association.

A meeting of the Wm Howard Taft Highway Association was held at Carrollton in January. Delegates to this meeting enroute from Valdosta, Moultrie, Albany, Dawson and Richland were luncheon guests of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Your Sec-Traffic Manager, with representatives of the Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club accompanied the party to the Carrollton meeting.

A route wide meeting celebrating the completion of state groups of Wm Howard Taft Highway Association was held in Albany, Ga. Delegates attending were from six states through which the highway passes. Sergeant Alvin York of Tennessee, world war hero, represented his home county in the motorcade which passed through Columbus. The City of Columbus, Fort Benning, the Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce were represented at the Albany meeting.

Meeting of the Henry Grady Highway Association was held in Cuthbert. Officials of the Association, representatives of the City of Columbus, Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club and Columbus Chamber of Commerce attended. It was noted that the next meeting be held in Columbus.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce joined with Muscogee County, Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club and representatives of cities north of Columbus in appearing before the State Highway Board in Atlanta to hasten completion of paving on state No. 1. T. C. Crawford, H. O. Davidson, George Singer and Jno M. Murrah represented the Chattahoochee Valley Motor Club; C. L. Rhodes, Muscogee County, and your Sec-Traffic Manager, -the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

A meeting was held in Talbotton in interest of completing Highway No. 22, Columbus to Macon. At this meeting, Ed. S. Wohlwender represented Muscogee County, Columbus Roberts, Leland J. Henderson, and J. J. Yarbrough, -the Georgia Auto Club, and your Sec-Traffic Manager, -the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce was represented by your Sec-Traffic Manager at the annual meeting of the Henry Grady Highway Association held at Havana, Fla., to celebrate completion of Florida road No. 58 to the Georgia line, connecting with Georgia highway No. 1.

In addition to the work which has been carried on by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce in the interest of highways including the Florida Short Route, the Henry Grady Highway and the Wm Howard Taft Highway, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce has renewed its efforts and plans looking toward the completion of U.S. No. 80, which is the Dixie Overland Highway, State No. 96 via Butler and Reynolds, State No. 26 to Savannah via Buena Vista, Montezuma and Hawkinsville, No. 28 and No. 30 via Americus, Cordele, Abbeville and McRae. Columbus will not fully come into its own until these important highways are completed.

### **Aviation and Airport**

The Columbus Municipal Airport was dedicated on October 1, 1931 under the auspices of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Captain Frank Hawks, noted aviator, flew to Columbus to take part in the exercises.

Upon the request of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, and through the assistance of Senator Walter F. George, the navy dirigible, Los Angeles, on trip through the southeast on Navy Day was routed over Columbus.

Upon our invitation, Miss Amelia Earhart flew to Columbus in an autogiro and was welcomed by a reception committee of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Miss Earhart gave an autogiro demonstration at the Municipal Airport and was entertained at luncheon at the Columbus Country Club by a special committee of ladies as honor guest of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Miss Earhart had attained fame by an airplane flight across the Atlantic as passenger, being the first woman to fly across, and just recently flew her plane across the ocean, landing in Ireland.

In my last annual report, it was pointed out that the Columbus Municipal Airport is not sufficiently equipped to attract aviators or to obtain satisfactory rating by the U. S. Department of Commerce. Since that time, a privately owned and operated hangar has been constructed adjacent to the Municipal Airport. Drain pipe has been laid by the City, and other improvements made but not such as to meet the requirements of U.S. Department of Commerce classification C-3 X.

Post and Gatty, around-the-world flyers, visited Columbus in December on invitation of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. They were met at Columbus Municipal Airport by a Committee of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and welcomed by Mayor Dimon and your Traffic Manager.

### Authorized Trips

During the past year, your Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager has made the following authorized trips:

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| TO ATLANTA             | to attend hearing before Georgia Public Service Commission on petition of Seaboard Air Line Ry to discontinue passenger trains 19 and 22 between Columbus and Albany.         |
| TO NEW ORLEANS         | to attend meeting of Directors, Mississippi Valley Association.   |
| TO CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex | to deliver address at annual meeting of Louisiana-Texas Intracoastal Canal Association.   |
| TO ST. LOUIS           | to attend annual meeting Mississippi Valley Association.  |
| TO WASHINGTON          | to attend annual meeting of National Rivers and Harbors Congress.   |
| TO NEW YORK CITY       | in an endeavor to secure new industries for Columbus.   |
| TO ATLANTA             | to deliver address at "Forward Georgia" meeting.  |
| TO CARROLLTON, Ga      | to attend meeting of Wm Howard Taft Highway Association.  |
| TO ALBANY              | to attend meeting of Wm Howard Taft Highway Association   |
| TO CUTHBERT            | to attend meeting of Henry Grady Highway Association.   |
| TO FRANKLIN, Ga        | to attend meeting of Henry Grady Highway Association.   |
| TO ATLANTA             | to attend meeting with other Georgia Commissioners appointed by Governor Russell and make plans for Georgia's participation in Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933. |

TO ATLANTA to appear before State Highway Board to urge completion of State Highway No. 1.

TO MACON AND ALBANY to attend meetings of Southern Commercial Secretaries Association.

TO ATLANTA to attend hearing before Georgia Public Service Commission and oppose petition of Central of Georgia Ry to discontinue fast round trip passenger service between Columbus and Atlanta.

### **New Industries**

Your Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager went to New York and conferred with executives of several manufacturing corporations having under consideration a change of location or construction of branch plants.

Facts and figures in the interest of Columbus were submitted by your representative and promise was obtained in each case that Columbus would be carefully considered before a final decision was reached.

### **Miscellaneous**

Your Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager represented Columbus Chamber of Commerce at "Forward Georgia" meeting in Atlanta and made an address on that occasion.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce acted as host at dinner in honor of Governor Richard B. Russell on Washington's birthday. Governor Russell pledged his support to Fort Benning and the project of canalization of the Chattahoochee.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce joined in welcoming the delegates to the 34<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Georgia Federation of Labor, and through the courtesy of Fort Benning officials, a review and demonstration was arranged in honor of the visitors.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the City of Columbus gave a dinner at the Country Club in honor of the Assistant Secretary of War, Frederick H. Payne.

Through the courtesy of Fort Benning officials, a review at Fort Benning was arranged for delegates to the W.C.T.U. Convention, and at the expense of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, refreshments were provided for the reception at the Officers Club.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce established contacts for Dr. F. H. Thurber of the U.S. Bureau of Chemistry with representatives of farming and textile manufacturing groups in connection with the Bureau's investigation into the manufacture and use of the sweet potato for starch making.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce arranged with the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, to act jointly with our organization as hosts at a luncheon in

honor of visiting members of the Georgia Federation of Womens Clubs. This luncheon, under the auspices of the mens organizations named, was held at the Country Club of Columbus and was attended by over two hundred officials and delegates to the annual convention of the Georgia Federation of Womens Clubs.

The building owned and occupied by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce was repainted and repaired about a year ago. Our organization permits and encourages the use of its auditorium by other associations and groups without charge. A nominal charge is made for rental of other offices in this building, these being occupied by the County Farm Demonstrator and Chattahoochee Valley Fair Association. The ground floor of our building, previously rented by the Columbus Enquirer-Sun, is now being used, without charge, by the Columbus Opportunity School, a part of the Public School System of Columbus.

Authorized by the Directors, your Sec-Traffic Manager traveled for several weeks this summer in the interest of the campaign for Congress, keeping in touch with the office by phone and week-end trips home. Regardless of the outcome of that campaign, it is my belief that friendly relationships have been established throughout the new Third District which will be of value to Columbus.

Your Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager was appointed by Governor Russell as a member of the Board of Commissioners to make plans for Georgia's participation in the Century of Progress Exposition to be held in Chicago for five months, beginning June 1933. At the first meeting of the Board in office of Governor Russell, your Sec-Traffic Manager was elected as member of the Executive Committee. This exposition will afford Columbus an excellent opportunity to present its advantages as a strategic location for new industries and as a desirable place for a winter home.

The year nineteen thirty three will mark the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of Georgia and this Bi-centennial will be observed in an appropriate manner throughout the state for a period of approximately nine months beginning February 12. Thousands of former Georgians will visit their old homes in the State and thousands of tourists attracted by historic celebrations will pass through Georgia during the coming year. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce will undoubtedly be on the alert to see that Columbus shares in the benefits to be gained from this influx of visitors.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to President Park and the Directors for their cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Ralston Cargill  
Sec-Treas & Traffic Manager  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce.