

Close to Thousand Guests Enjoy Dinner and Dance in New Hotel

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In the presence of one of the most distinguished groups of representative Trentonians ever brought together, the Stacy-Trent Hotel was formally opened last night, with a dinner and dance. The event, marking as it did the consummation of planning and labor covering a period of many months and overcoming of difficulties, which at times seemed almost unsurmountable, was naturally an occasion for enthusiasm. More than 1,000 persons attended the reception. Manager Charles F. Wicks states that 985 were served dinner.

Much admiration was occasioned by the profusion of blooms, expressive of the wishes for success by hotel managements in several other cities, which converted the lobby and ballroom floor into a veritable flower land. Their rich coloring and artistic arrangement formed a pleasing and contrasting background for the many beautiful gowns worn by the ladies present.

When the final note of the last dance had died away and the guests were departing, Mr. Wicks, aglow with satisfaction, expressed himself as well pleased with the success attendant upon the opening.

"Our beginning has been auspicious," he declared. "It remains only for the public to maintain the same enthusiasm and interest to assure the success of our undertaking," he added.

The ceremonies began at 8 o'clock, a program of speechmaking in the lower lounge room preceding the dinner. William T. White, vice president of the Hotel Realty Company, who since the illness of W. J. B. Stokes, president of the organization, presided and introduced the speakers.

The Rev. George W. Dugan, of the Third Pres-

byterian Church, spoke as the official representative of the Chamber of Commerce. He drew attention to the new era upon which Trenton enters coincident with the opening of the hotel and commented briefly upon the part that the Stacy-Trent is destined to play in the business and social life of the city.

"No longer is it necessary that Trentonians seek elsewhere for the best," he stated, his voice ringing with sincerity. "The best is here. This hotel is the finest I know."

STOKES PRAISES HOSTELRY

Former Governor Edward C. Stokes delivered an address of characteristic humor and eloquence. Declaring that New Jersey, wet or dry, was the greatest State in the Union; Trenton, the best city in the world and the Stacy-Trent the finest hotel anywhere, Mr. Stokes urged hearty cooperation on the part of all that the project be a complete and unqualified success.

"A hotel is more than a place to eat and sleep," he asserted. "It is the meeting place of conventions, politicians, bankers, business men and captains of industry. Much of the world's history has been written and no small part of the world's progress planned within hotel walls.

"Realize the benefits and pleasures now offered to you by this hotel and avail yourself to the fullest extent of the advantages and facilities gathered under this roof. You have created it. Maintain it with all your effort and enthusiasm. Let not Trenton suffer humiliation by the failure of so worthy a project."

In conclusion Mr. Stokes drew attention to the untiring labor of Mr. White in the creation of the structure and warmly congratulated him upon his vision and determination in the face of discouraging obstacles. Credit also was bestowed upon the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of

New York, which Mr. Stokes said, advanced a loan of \$600,000 at a time when money was needed.

LAUDS ABSENT WORKERS

Mr. White confined his remarks to comment upon the part played in the hotel's financing and erection by the two absent members of the Hotel Realty Company, W. J. B. Stokes and L. L. Woodward. Mr. Woodward, who is former president of the Chamber of Commerce, was unable to attend by reason of absence from the city. Mr. Stokes was prevented by illness. Both were accorded great credit in bringing the Stacy-Trent to so successful a completion.

At the conclusion of his talk Mr. White formally presented the hotel lease to Frank Dudley, president of the United Hotels Company. Mr. Dudley in turn presented the lease to Thomas F. Wicks, general manager.

Expressing the hope that the Stacy-Trent would be the recognized business and social center of the city, Mr. Dudley stated the intention of the company which he heads to maintain as near perfection of appointments and service as was possible. He spoke of the long and successful experience of the United Hotels Company in its managements elsewhere and said that every effort would be made to attain an even higher degree of proficiency here.

The hope was voiced that educational, religious, industrial and all other organizations will make use of the hotel and assurance given that warm hospitality awaited all.

"We shall forever solicit your advice and cooperation to make more perfect the operation of the Stacy-Trent, which always will be yours as well as our own," he declared in closing his talk.

The Mayor spoke as the representative of the city. He stated that Trenton's greatness and betterment had been advanced no more step by the completion of the hotel and urged that the next project considered be the erection of a

suitable memorial to the service men, suggesting that it take the form of a convention hall with pipe organ installed and provision for assemblies of all kinds as well as concerts, recitals and the presentation of high-class dramatics.

Following the program of speeches, Miss Miriam Steelman sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Many of the guests joined in the singing of the chorus, waving small American flags, which previously had been distributed.

During the dinner a musical program was rendered by two orchestras, one in the lower lobby and the other on the ballroom floor. Favors in the form of fantastic headwear and dozens of toy balloons were distributed during the evening and lent a colorful aspect to the dance which followed the dinner.

While the assembly for the most part comprised Trentonians, a number of prominent hotel managers and owners from other cities were present. Among those noted were Edward N. Tierney, Ansonia Hotel, New York, president of the National Hotel Men's Association; Charles E. Gehring, editor of the Hotel Review, New York; Howard A. Hulick, Lock Arbour Hotel, Alenhurst, NJ; Victor Jacoby, Hotel Lenox, Newark, corresponding secretary of the New Jersey State Hotel Association; John T. Benson, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City; Charles A. Carrigan, Robert Treat, Newark; Harold W. Sexton, Hotel Marlborough, Asbury Park; Harry A. Latz, Alamac, Lake Hopatcong; James A. Levie, Hotel Berwick, Newark; Sherman Dennis, Monterey, Asbury Park; Frank T. Moore, Hotel Monmouth, Spring Lake; George H. O'Neil, Royal Connaught, Toronto, Canada and several Trenton hotel managers.