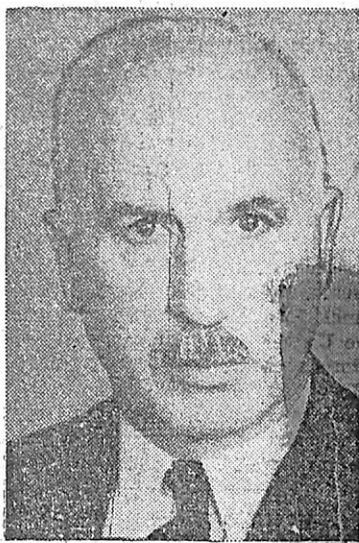


ATTENDED SILVER SHIRT MEET



Dr. Charles Drake
Member, Minneapolis Public School Board.

George K. Belden
President, Associated Industries, Minneapolis.

'Just Didn't Know What It Was All About'—Belden and Drake

They went there "out of curiosity," but they didn't know exactly where they were going or what they were going to. They didn't even know what the Silver Shirts are, what they stand for, and their un-American program. . . . Had hardly even heard of the organization.

These were the explanations given the Leader by George K. Belden, president, Associated Industries, Minneapolis, and Dr. Charles Drake, member of the Minneapolis school board, as to their reasons for attending a Silver Shirt meeting Friday night of last week.

Belden still was in ignorance of the purposes of the Silver Shirts when he went to the meeting, although he admitted having gone to Silver Shirt meetings previously.

In order that neither Belden or Dr. Drake be quoted incorrectly, the interview with these gentlemen was taken down by a shorthand reporter.

Belden Interview

The following is the verbatim report of the Leader interview with Mr. Belden.

Q. Were you at the Silver Shirt meeting last Friday night?

A. Yes, I was out there. I went out to see what was going on. I have been to a couple of them.

Q. Did you get an invitation—a form letter?

A. I don't remember a letter. I don't think I got any.

Q. How did the meeting strike you?

A. Well, (he laughed there) it was one of those things—it strikes me this way. It was something that you can't go out—well you can't go out and holler and yell about everything. I don't know, it is a funny situation. You get a lot of people out who are against everything and everybody. I go to a lot of those things to see what is going on. I would hate to indorse everything that is going on out there.

Q. Are you in sympathy with what they are doing?

A. No, I am not in sympathy. I would not join. They have some ideas that are good. I am in sympathy with getting rid of the racketeers, employers and employees, whatever they are. If we could cut out racketeers in everything it would be much better. It isn't all on one side. I left as soon as the meeting was over.

Q. Was the first meeting you attended last year?

A. No, it was about three months ago. Somebody sent me the ticket and asked me to go. Then they had this other meeting and I thought I

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would go. It is a good thing to know what is going on.

I have some Jewish friends. You can't condemn all the people just because somebody does certain things.

Q. As president of the Associated Industries do you think you should go to such meetings?

A. I think I should attend all meetings so I know what is going on. I wish labor people would invite me to meetings so I would know what is going on.

Q. When you appear at meetings sometimes, is it not taken as an indorsement?

A. I don't agree with you. I go to find out what is going on. This Silver Legion or Silver Shirts, I didn't know what they were about. I never heard of them until this meeting—I don't think I ever did anyway. Somebody I knew asked me to go to the meeting. I didn't know who was going to talk or anything. I certainly wouldn't join any such organization. There are some good things about it. I was there, but I go to a lot of places where I wouldn't always indorse what is going on.

The Leader presents the following verbatim interview held by a member of its staff with Dr. Drake:

Q. Did you, Doctor, attend the meeting of the Silver Shirts last Friday?

A. Yes. I had a letter from somebody asking me to go. I went out of curiosity. I don't know anything about them at all. I didn't stay for the whole meeting.

Q. How did the meeting appear to you?

A. A darn foolish thing, I should say. I have no interest in it at all or anything of that kind. The letter stated that it was some sort of an organization in exposing Communism. The minute I got there I thought that this was a funny kind of an outfit.

Q. Did you know that your picture was taken?

A. No. I didn't know the picture was taken.

In evaluating the economic ne-
sity and wisdom of close co-oper-
ation between farmers and industrial wo-
rkers, both groups should realize that
neither has ever experienced pros-
perity while the other was in a state
of economic depression.
This is especially true with resp-
ect to the farmer and railroad labor,
to the farmer and railroad labor,
the depression for each of them
crash of 1929 was only a slump
of the farmers
railroad workers. Substantially more
than a million men have been c-
off railroad payrolls since 1920.
Ask any farmer if this sev-
"economy" in railroad payrolls
solved, or even assisted, the farm-
If these million railroad workers
two billion dollar annual payroll
since 1920, could be restored.

8/6/1938

8/6/38