

The Passing of Another Great Builder

Benjamin F. Huntley was one of the comparatively small group of far-sighted and courageous business men who had most to do with building here at the gateway of Northwest North Carolina the largest city in the Commonwealth.

In his untimely passing, Winston-Salem is again called upon to mourn one of its foremost citizens and most outstanding civic leaders. For Benjamin F. Huntley was not a man who lived into himself alone. He wrought mightily for the community in which he lived.

Probably his outstanding achievement as a civic force in this city was his masterful leadership in the building of the Robert E. Lee Hotel, one of the greatest community enterprises in the history of Winston-Salem.

As first president of the Kiwanis Club of Winston-Salem, he took the lead in launching a mighty force for progress and civic righteousness, the value of which cannot be measured.

Mr. Huntley's leadership in the building of the finest and most beautiful Baptist church structure in the South gave him first rank among the Baptist laymen of the Southern States. His death removes from the First Baptist church of Winston-Salem a leader whose place will be hard to fill.

But by no means his least contribution to the progress and happiness of this community was his successful achievement in the building of great manufacturing and mercantile enterprises. Mr. Huntley was the rare type of business man who possessed in marked degree the genius of both merchant and manufacturer. As a merchant he ranked at the top in North Carolina. As a manufacturer he built a furniture business that is known throughout America.

Benjamin F. Huntley did as much as any man that lived during the last quarter of a century to put North Carolina in its present commanding position in the Nation as a furniture manufacturing State.

But aside from his success in business and as a leader in civic enterprises for the progress of his city and State, Mr. Huntley's career as a man is an inspiration to the youth of our time.

Starting life as a country boy in Union county, in that dark period in North Carolina's and the whole South's history, like millions of other boys of the time he was denied the advantages of more than a common school education. He came to Winston-Salem like thousands of others have come with little else than a will to work, indomitable energy and a stern determination to build a business. Starting as a small merchant in an humble way, he drove steadily forward to his "place in the sun" in the realm of industry and business.

But throughout his busy life in the busiest and most rapidly growing city in North Carolina—a life that meant rising early and working late—he never failed to find time for church and Sunday school and his Bible, and for an alert interest in his community's welfare.

Benjamin F. Huntley was first of all a man—a Christian gentleman—who commanded the respect and friendship of his fellow men.

Benjamin Franklin Huntley



Clipped By:
darneke
Sat, Aug 12, 2023