

## To the Members of the Chautauqua Corporation.

We, the undersigned, trustees and other leaseholders, make appeal to all members of the Chautauqua Corporation (i.e., all owners of leases) to support a bill about to be introduced into the legislature of the state of New York, and designed:

FIRST. To legalize clearly the status of Chautauqua Assembly, and

SECOND. So to define its corporate objects and purposes, and regulate the powers and government of the corporation to include beyond question all the activities which now form, or may be expected to form, its legitimate objects.

THIRD. To change the name of Chautauqua Assembly to "CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION," a title commensurate with its work, and to consolidate with it Chautauqua University and Chautauqua School of Theology, corporations no longer existing as separate institutions.

The pending legislation introduces unequivocally the principle of self-perpetuation in the case of twenty out of the twenty-four trustees. The remaining four, under this proposal, would be elected directly by the lease owners assembled in annual meeting at Chautauqua. These actually in attendance would form a quorum, and a plurality of votes at such a meeting would elect.

We believe that the maintenance and progress of Chautauqua are absolutely dependent upon this proposed legalizing of Chautauqua's form of government. It is merely a perpetuation of past policy, which, on account of a general statute of 1895, may no longer be pursued without this legislation.

We believe this policy to be essential for the following reasons:

First. Chautauqua is primarily an educational institution and must be governed as practically all educational institutions are, by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees.

Second. Men of prominence cannot be secured as trustees if their names must be submitted to a mass meeting for ratification or possible rejection.

Third. Experience has shown that the organizing of a regular political campaign in order to elect trustees, and that in the midst of the Chautauqua season, would be a constant source of distraction, friction, and ill-feeling.

Fourth. The future of Chautauqua depends upon the securing of endowment and gifts of buildings. Money will not be contributed to an institution whose stability depends upon the possibly fluctuating public opinion of a group of five or six hundred people.

While with certain plausibility some of those who live at Chautauqua throughout the year may represent themselves as living under an arbitrary government, it can be replied:

First. That such persons became leaseholders under conditions which practically made the Board of Trustees self-perpetuating, and that there has been no change in either theory or practise on this point.

Second. That concentration of power, essential to effective administration, is not used for personal interests, but for the welfare of Chautauqua as a whole.

Third. That the overwhelming interests of the institution demand the proposed change in which it is believed that, on full consideration, all persons genuinely loyal to the best interests of Chautauqua will intelligently and cheerfully acquiesce.

We therefore urge all leaseholders to sign and return at once the form of petition herewith enclosed. This we believe to be of the utmost importance.

We have reached the parting of the ways. The question is: Shall Chautauqua advance and grow in material prosperity and in educational and moral influence, or shall it revert to a mere summer resort, limited in its possibilities of development.

### Trustees.

John H. Vincent, Chancellor.  
Wilson M. Day, First Vice-President.  
Chester D. Massey, Second Vice-President.  
E. G. Dusenbury, Third Vice-President.  
J. C. Neville, Chairman Executive Board.  
George E. Vincent, Principal of Instruction.  
Warren F. Walworth, Treasurer.  
Ira M. Miller, Secretary.

M. V. Beiger,  
John Brown,  
N. F. Clark,  
William T. Dunn,  
William A. Duncan,  
C. D. Firestone,  
Frank W. Higgins,  
Frederick W. Hyde,

Julius King,  
John C. Martin,  
E. S. Mills,  
F. H. Rockwell,  
W. H. Shortt,  
Clement Studebaker, Jr.,  
William Thomas.

### Leaseholders.

Mrs. Emily M. Bishop, New York City.  
Richard Bowle, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
Calvin C. Boyle, Allegheny, Pa.  
Mrs. Mary E. Christie, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
A. C. Ellis, Erie, Pa.  
S. A. Espey, Allegheny, Pa.  
William Fleming, Oil City, Pa.  
Mrs. E. A. F. Harris, New Orleans, La.  
Mrs. C. E. Hequembourg, Dunkirk, N. Y.

Mrs. George P. Hukill, Oil City, Pa.  
J. F. Hunt, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
Mrs. Caroline G. King, New York.  
Mrs. Walter G. King, New York.  
Miss Mary W. Martin, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
Mrs. M. V. Miller, Akron, Ohio.  
Chas. E. Munson, Columbus, Ohio.  
O. W. Norton, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. E. L. Ploss, Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. T. G. Rockwell, Warren, Pa.  
Mrs. W. H. Sherwood, Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. Ann M. Studebaker, South Bend, Ind.  
Frank K. Sturgis, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
J. M. Thoburn, Allegheny, Pa.  
Isabella M. Tracy, Portsmouth, O.  
Mrs. Emma F. Watkins, Chautauqua, N. Y.  
W. H. Westcott, Holly, N. Y.  
Mrs. Frances H. Wood, Chautauqua, N. Y.