

# Make The Albany City Hall A Singing Tower As Soldiers' Memorial.

The Albany Kiwanis Club yesterday went on record as favoring the institution of carillons in the City Hall Tower as a memorial to the soldiers of the World War. If the members of this enterprising and popular club got their wish, Albany will have a "singing tower" second to none in the country and it will be singing the praises of the heroic youths who offered their lives for their native country and their native city.

Col. William Gorham Rice, internationally famous authority on carillons, was the speaker at yesterday's Kiwanis luncheon and he described in detail what had been done in other cities of the world. He said that if Albany adopted the Kiwanis idea it would have the only municipally-owned carillon tower in America. The carillon, it was explained, is not merely a set of chimes, but a set of thirty-six to fifty-three bells, each perfectly attuned, giving all of the notes from three to four and a half octaves, on which practically any music may be played. It is played like an organ, having a keyboard and a pedal-board.

Mr. Rice said:

"Albany might have been first to have a soldiers' memorial; it can still be first in America to have a municipal singing tower, for we have ready for the octaves of bells a tower unsurpassed by any in our land.

"Let me impress upon you as business men that the carillon lasts forever; its bells are of bronze and neither summer nor winter, sun nor rain can corrode them. It is the only musical instrument that, once in tune, remains always in tune."

The finest carillons in the world are at Antwerp and all through Belgium there are carillons as a part of the city or village equipment. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., some time ago, presented the Park Avenue Baptist Church in New York with a set of fifty-two carillon bells, one of the most complete in the world, and every Sunday evening these bells are heard over the radio and many Albany fans have heard their sweet music and have appreciated the beauty of sound and the exquisiteness of tone of these bronze bells of melody.

The Kiwanis Club has started a splendid campaign. Other clubs may follow their example. The City Hall Tower, as Mr. Rice says, is peculiarly well adapted for the installation of carillons and the location of the hall, with its surrounding parks and side streets, make it ideal for attracting an audience, offering ample parking space for autos and plenty of room for pedestrians.

*By all means let us have this carillon memorial.*