

Memo - Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest organizations in the country. It admits women and at present there are some <sup>3</sup>800 members of all classes of women represented. The leaders of all of the philanthropic enterprises, both Christian and Hebrew are included. There are women active in politics and in Civic betterment. The president of the section presided at the dinner last night - a Mrs. McCurraok. She evidently is active in all sorts of enterprises and is head of a business which they tell me is large. Her firm manufactures men's neckties and she has the trade of all the most exclusive shops in New York. Much weaving is done on the premises though I do not know that all is done there. She also has a curtain department for which I take it she does weaving. She is one of the large class of women owners and managers that took over a husband's business.- He had failing health - although she had never been in business. After his death a few years ago she carried on. They tell me that she is highly successful. Look up her rating in Dun's.

I was presented to an energetic looking woman of perhaps 40, the owner and manager of a Earnish Co. I did not find what route

she come in. The most interesting person, from a business point of view, is / Miss Dillon, a most attractive, clear eyed, competent, yet feminine woman, of possibly 45, though she does not look it. Here is a woman who began at the bottom in the Clerical Department and has become the manager of a Public Utility - The Brooklyn Gas Co. a ten or twelve million dollar Gas Company. She told me that she worked up from the bottom and she was advanced by steps, probably as they found that she was more competent than anybody else they had. She said there was reluctance at various points to advance her, but that they finally come to it. She was actually managing the concern for six years before the Board of Directors got up the courage, or whatever it required, to give her the title. She made a pertinent remark which is in line with my theory that where a woman is advanced in business to managerial positions in the way that she has, it is always because she has some man as a backer. This requires looking into. They tell me she is married, although in business and in the Chamber of Commerce she keeps the name of Miss Dillon. I hear this criticized by Mrs. *Zabriskie* Brieske, who was at my side at dinner. She has asked me to come to her plant and I shall arrange this as soon as

possible. The women say with some pride that the Brooklyn organization is broader minded than many. It is the only one in the country that has

women directors so they claim. There are three women, Mable C. McCurrack, *Zabriskie* Briahee, Dillon.

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