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see Q-29

To Revive to Port

THE first official step in a movement which may well prove a determining factor in the destiny of Houston's port was taken Monday by the Houston Foreign Trade association. That step was the unanimous adoption of a resolution to promote the establishment of an export-import corporation to go after two-way trade for the port, and to supply financial assistance where necessary.

J. Virgil Scott, Houston banker, proposed the plan at the last meeting of the Foreign Trade association. His subsequent election as president of the port commission assures its earnest support from that quarter. And at Monday's luncheon of the group Col. J. W. Evans, retiring commission president, reaffirmed his advocacy of such an activity.

After the war there will be a battle royal among the Gulf ports for maritime business. Most of the ports are busily planning and training for it now. The war has upset Houston's port applecart, and New Orleans has managed to cut under Houston for war shipping. If we do not hustle for all we're worth, we may be left behind in the post-bellum race, except for oil and some cotton. And any businessman who may doubt the value of the port to his interests would quickly learn its importance by reverse English if our shipping should not snap back from its present dormancy with the return of peace. A sick port would mean an economically anemic Houston. We need to develop import as well as export business; get some of our port eggs in other baskets than oil and cotton.

A top-notch export and import concern could be the means of achieving a resurgence of shipping through the port of Houston; of building up an unprecedented volume and variety of cargo tonnage. The project merits the support of all businessmen who want Houston to grow.