

THE MISSOURI ALUMNUS

Alumnus Heads Commerce Trust Co.

James Madison Kemper, A.B. '16, Phi Delta Theta, was elected in December to the presidency of the Commerce Trust Co., of Kansas City. He has been associated with this company since 1917, with

James Madison Kemper, A. B. '16, Phi Delta Theta. the exception of 18 months when he was engaged in investment banking with the National City Company in California. He has been successively assistant treasurer, treasurer, and vice-president of the bank, having been elected to the latter office in 1922. Kemper is 32 years of age, and the son of W. T. Kemper, of Kansas City. The Commerce Trust Company ranks among the fifty largest banks in the United States and Mr. Kemper is one of the youngest men in the country holding the presidency of a large bank, He is the brother of R. Crosby Kemper, A.B. '14, president, City Bank of Kansas City, and William T. Kemper, Jr., A.B. '25, commercial agent, Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad, Kansas City. Mr. Kemper married Miss Gladys Woods Grissom in 1917. They have two sons.

In the selection of Mr. Kemper the tradition of the banking institution will be carried along. Mrs. James M. Kemper is the granddaughter of the late Dr. W. S. Woods who founded both institutions. Dr. Woods originally bought the Kansas City Savings Association in 1882 and out of this grew the Bank of Commerce. The founding of the old Commerce Trust Company was in 1906. Mr. Kemper's father, W. T. Kemper, became president of the old Commerce Trust Company in 1908 and chairman of the board of the National Bank of Commerce, which institutions later became the Commerce Trust Company. W. T. Kemper was chairman of the board of the Commerce Trust Company when the Gary interests bought out Mr. Kemper and J. W. Perry, president of the institution in 1922.