

**INSPIRED MILLIONAIRES:
A STUDY OF THE MAN
OF GENIUS IN BUSINESS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649287017

Inspired millionaires: a study of the man of genius in business by Gerald Stanley Lee

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GERALD STANLEY LEE

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ID # 5808565

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A Study of the Man of Genius
in Business

By

Gerald Stanley Lee



London
Grant Richards Ltd.
Publishers

HB831
L48

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TO JENNETTE LEE

"I built a temple for my spirit's home ;
I filled it with myself—and it was fair.
From its dream-pavement to its dream-reared dome
No spirit but my own existed there,
About the walls I wrought with dotting care
Huge fancies alien to the world of men,
Vague daubs and vast of youth and light and air
Sublimely isolated in my spirit's den,
I lived and toiled and dreamed and hoped—
And then—and then—
."

Ogden Collection

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PREFACE

THIS book is not merely about millionaires. It is about us all. It is an attempt, so far as it goes, at recovering the self-respect of the world.

Just at the present time when we look about us we find that statesmen and political parties and college presidents and school teachers and churches and bishops, and very often business men themselves, are not quite sure that they believe in the self-respect of the world—that is, they are not sure that they would approve, from a strictly practical point of view, of modern business men's putting their highest and noblest selves into the everyday work of their lives.

We would like to believe, most of us, that business is not second rate, that second-rate motives and second-rate methods and second-rate men are not necessary in it, but we are not quite sure.

And it is very reasonable and plausible, as things are going, not to be quite sure. We know men who succeed by raising the level, at every point, of the business in which they are engaged. We also know men who succeed by dragging down the quality and prestige of their business and by lowering the tone of business around them and throughout the world.

We want to base our convictions on the facts. Everything we do and plan to do, in business and with business men, depends upon our having a sound conception of what modern business really is, and of what it is making for.

But this sound conception is a matter of news, of wide observation of facts, sometimes almost of prophecy, and we cannot get at the facts or, even if we can get at the facts, we cannot put them out in perspective before us where we can use them.

And so, being honest, while we would like to believe that self-respect in business pays, we are not quite sure.

But if we are not quite sure that men in general, most of the men around us, can do their work with self-respect in this world, what is the object of living in it?

This book is the record of the struggle of one man not to hate the world. When I go out into the great streets, and when I see nothing for hours but these miles of the faces of men in business and of women in business trooping past me, I want to be sure.

In the meantime, as long as perhaps nine out of ten of us, if we are stopped in the street to-day and asked if self-respect in business pays, are not quite sure, it has seemed to me to be the present chief business of Boards of Trade and of business men and the present chief business of religion, to make us sure.