

Rotary History Told On 43rd Anniversary

Early Days Recalled By Dr. J. A. Clark

The observance of Rotary's 43rd anniversary in February was marked by an interesting and historic address by Dr. J. A. Clark, Past District Governor.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Clark's address:
"Let us begin at the beginning. As you all know, the beginning in Rotary means our revered Paul P. Harris, whose picture you see there on the wall. Our late President Emeritus in 1905, just forty-three years ago today, called to three 'four lonesome men,' including himself, and suggested that they meet weekly (not for lunch), but in the office of one of them at night. Successive meetings were held alternately in members' place of business, and from this fact arose the idea of rotation, and the name Rotary."

"His motives were varied, but as he has told us, there were two chief ones: First, his own desire for fellowship; he often described it as 'neighborliness'; and second, his desire for more and better business contacts. The unique feature of the group was that each was selected from a different trade or profession. The first four: a lawyer, a tailor, a coal dealer and a mining operator, talked to one another about their own businesses, and such business talks are still a pleasing feature of Rotary. This simple but distinctive idea proved later to have universal appeal. Three years later, a Rotarian told the story of the Chicago Rotary Club in San Francisco, and Rotary Club No. 2 was formed. The story was told in Canada in 1910, and the Winnipeg Club, No. 35 was organized. In 1911 the story reached London, England, and their club No. 50 was soon followed by the Dublin (Ireland) Club, No. 85 and Belfast, No. 87. The canny Scotchmen evidently had their numbers reserved for them, for the Glasgow Rotary Club was No. 80, and Edinburgh No. 82, but the date of organization was 1912.

First National Convention

"The sixteen Rotary Clubs in the United States met in the first National Rotary Convention in Chicago in 1910 and elected Paul P. Harris as their President and Chesley R. Perry as their Secretary. The Rotary idea spread rapidly, leaping over boundary lines, across oceans, and was eagerly and gratefully received by men different in race, colour, religion, language and social customs. The Convention at Duluth formed the International Association of Rotary Clubs in 1912, and honored Paul P. Harris by electing him President Emeritus. In a short time men in five continents, who previously assumed that they had little in common, were setting down together to lunch and reaching out for a new and larger type of friendship than they had known before, and seeking to bring about social betterment by an association of business and professional men dedicated to the principle of unselfish service to their fellows.

"Rotarian A. F. Sheldon suggested to the 1911 Convention the motto: 'He profits most who serves best.' It was incorporated in the Rotary platform of that year, and has been used generally as our Rotary motto. The form 'Service above Self' is also used. The Rotary Code of Ethics for business men was adopted in 1915. At the Los Angeles Convention in 1922, the name Rotary International, the revised Constitution and By-laws and the standard constitution for each Rotary Club thereafter organized were adopted. Standard by-laws, as recommended for Rotary Clubs, were also prepared.

"The Service principle seems to be the binding link that has held this complex organization, known as Rotary International, together. At first the aims and objects were fellowship and service; the service for others. The members helped each other in every way, and that spirit of fellowship still characterizes the true Rotarian. Rotarians then made a special point of helping each other in a business way; even preparing lists of business favors that each member did for the other.

"There was also a period in the United States of fun, back-slapping and horsingplay; in some clubs this was carried to extremes. There seriously harassed business men liked it, they forgot for the time, their cares; they found they liked to sing, and those who could not sing liked to try; it let off steam. This was the period of the 'Little Prairie Flower' song. The late Judge George Inman gave demonstrations in our club when he returned from the Kansas City Convention in 1918. The calling of Rotarians by their first name, so common in North American clubs, was not generally adopted by the clubs in Great Britain or elsewhere. The Englishman took his Rotary more serious than we did.

The Rotary Ideal

"The second President of Rotary, Glenn Meade, was the one who said at the Buffalo Convention in 1913: 'Rotary can never attain its full perfection so long as a vestige remains of the notion that Rotary Clubs exist primarily for the exchange of business among its members.' The spirit of the ideal, 'Service above Self' found expression in many different kinds of good work; among these were community service and vocational service. The original club (Chi-

ago), as early as 1906 undertook a community service project, having discovered that fellowship alone would not suffice, and that fellowship, to reach its best, had to rise above the plane of mere personal helpfulness and derive, in part at least, its strength from a united effort or sacrifice for an altruistic cause.

"The time this was discovered might be called the day of Rotary's Second Birth, which led to its world-wide development and its service to mankind for Crippled Children's Work, Boy's Work, and others too numerous to mention.

"Vocational Service was first called business methods. The first convention adopted as one of its five objects: 'To promote progressive and honourable business methods.' Rotarians, assisting in their trade and professional organizations, influenced the drawing-up and helped to put into effect several hundred codes of fair practice throughout the countries of the world.

"Some think that this has been perhaps, Rotary's most outstanding contribution to social progress. It still offers unsurpassed opportunities everywhere. As you know, the objects of Rotary numbered six when the revised constitution of the Charlottetown Club was adopted in 1928. There had been seven, but these have been condensed to the four, with which you are all familiar.

"The third stage in the development of Rotary could be named 'Rotary World Wide.' We mentioned that very early in its history it spread to the British Commonwealth of Nations. It also reached several of the United States dependencies. Following the close of World War I in 1918, with the formation of the League of Nations, the spirit of Rotary that inspired fellowship and friendship, was contagious.

"Rotary spread to South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the islands of the Pacific. This brings us quite naturally to our fourth object: 'The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace to a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.' It was Rotarian Donald A. MacRae, Charlottetown boy, then a member of the Halifax Rotary Club and Governor of this district, who wrote this object for Rotary, and for others of good will.

District Organization

"From this very brief outline of Rotary International, let us turn to review Rotary in District No. 192. The first club, No. 81, was formed in Halifax in 1913. It was followed by Saint John, No. 128 in 1914, and Charlottetown, No. 333, in 1917. The area assigned to our Rotary District No. 1 was the Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland and that part of Quebec east of the 68th Meridian. Rotarian John Gass was the first Governor (1915-1916). There were at that time only twenty-five Rotary districts. At the Los Angeles Convention, 1922, the Los Angeles districts were re-arranged, and the above area was numbered District No. 32. At that time there was a total of only 39 Rotary districts. A further re-distribution of world-wide Rotary Clubs into 200 districts in 1933, gave us our present Rotary International District No. 192; by adding to the area the counties of Washington and Aroostook in Maine. There are ten Rotary dis-

tricts, with clubs in both the United States and Canada; but ours also includes the ancient colony of Newfoundland, and their club No. 1947 (1921) has made a number of outstanding contributions in the development of Rotary.

"For instance, the St. John's Club formed groups that meet weekly within their club, instead of dividing the city into component parts, each with a Rotary Club of its own. These groups are known as: 'Originals,' 'Bulldozers,' 'Lion Tamers,' 'Killikare Kamp' and the 'Husky Boys.' These groups were formed to study Rotary ideals, and eventually each undertook certain definite community projects. They have made an outstanding success of their group meetings in different parts of the city, but all meet together at the Newfoundland Hotel on each

Local Organization

"What of our own Rotary Club? Its organization and development were so well reviewed by Rotarian Reg. Rogers before this club on November 10, 1942, and the address published in the 'Guardian' of that date, that I shall only refer to a few items. Like the original club in Chicago, there were 'four lonesome men,' Harry Tid-

(Continued On Page 18)

11th District Conference of Rotary International



GREETINGS

To The Visiting

ROTARIANS

A Real Prince Edward Island

WELCOME

Is extended to each and every one of you.

May you long remember with pleasure

your visit to the Capital of the "Garden

of the Gulf."

Rotarian T. B. ROGERS

W. K. ROGERS AGENCIES

LIMITED

GREETINGS

FELLOW

ROTARIANS

May Your Brief Visit

to the

Garden Of The Gulf

be a most memorable one and may

you visit us again soon.

Entertaining You Is Our Pleasure

ROTARIAN G. M. AVARD

ATLANTIC WHOLESALERS (Eastern) LTD.

IN SERVICE CLUBS ROTARY LEADS THE WAY IN ICE CREAM *Perfection* LEADS THE FIELD

WELCOME VISITING ROTARIANS

May your deliberations add further bright pages to the already bright story of Rotary. May your visit be an enjoyable one and the new friendships you make prove ever lasting.

Central Creameries Ltd.

CHARLOTTETOWN—SUMMERSIDE AND SOURIS

The Heartiest of Welcomes

TO THE

Visiting Rotarians

You're On

"The Island" Now

so make yourself at home while here.

And may you be so favorably impressed that you

will visit us often in the future.

Rotarian N. D. McLEAN

RITE-WAY CLEANERS

A Hearty

WELCOME

VISITING ROTARIANS

May your Conference meet with the Success it so richly deserves and may you take back with you many pleasant memories of your stay in the Garden of the Gulf.

It is a Pleasure and a Privilege to add our words of welcome to the representatives of a Service Club whose work has been so outstanding in the years since it came into existence.

HOLMAN'S 2 BIG STORES
SUMMERSIDE & CHARLOTTETOWN