

Splendid Growth of Kiwanis Club in British Columbia

By George Hansuld, J.P. First Vice-Governor, Pacific North-West District of Kiwanis.

It is just two years since the Kiwanis movement entered the Pacific Coast Province, and wonderful progress has been made in the meantime. During the close of 1918 the Vancouver Club was organized in quite a unique manner. In keeping with the spirit displayed by the City of Vancouver in its War record and Victory Loan efforts, was the spirit of a number of Vancouver business and professional men in grasping the great Kiwanis idea, and proceeding to form a unit of the great International Body of Kiwanis.

One hundred members were secured without the assistance or guidance of a sister club, or field representative, which is the usual custom. The club was duly incorporated under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, and was immediately admitted into the International Body, being presented with its International Charter early in 1919.

At the beginning of 1921 the Vancouver Kiwanis Club is a powerful force for good in the community with over two hundred and fifty active and enthusiastic members. Early in its history the Vancouver Club, in keeping with the Kiwanis motto, "We build," commenced organization work to spread Kiwanis in British Columbia. The New Westminster club received its charter in November 1919, and is today a really splendid organization with slightly less than one hundred members and may be termed the "balance wheel" of the Royal City community. Then, in quick succession came Victoria, which received the charter about a year ago, and is now considered as one of the real quality Kiwanis clubs, with a membership of about 130. Vancouver is now sponsoring a new club at North Vancouver, the organization work being in direct charge of Secretary Harry Nobbs.

The reason for this rapid growth is directly attributable to the great underlying principles of the Kiwanis movement. It is a movement to lift men out of the sordidness of conceiving their vocations only as a means of accumulating dollars. It is a movement to convince men that real success comes only to the man who conceives of his business or profession as providing for him the opportunity through which to serve his fellow men.

The ramifications of the expression of this great ideal—the ideal of fair-play and unselfish service—are limitless. It finds expression through avenues unnumbered through the lives of those who truly grasp its concept. It is a successful attempt to transfer the ideal into the practical, but cannot be adequately expressed in words or symbolized in picture or music. This great ideal is attained only through good works, and can be expressed in no other way except through the lives of men. It seeks to propagate, through those who are so fortunate to be included in its membership, a solvent for many of the most perplexing problems of the present day.

The doctrine of human selfishness has fallen by the wayside as a dismal failure during the past few years, and all thinking men are agreed that a new doctrine to which a disorganized world can pin its faith must be evolved. Article "12" of the Kiwanis creed offers a new plan. "To realize that I live not only for myself but for others." This mighty corner-stone in the Kiwanis foundation will stand as long as winds blow and rivers flow, and the years to come will reveal the fact that the founders of Kiwanis "built better than they knew."

The great ideal of Kiwanis speaks its message through three voices—Service, Fellowship and Co-operation.

The voice of Service preaches the doctrine—that service brings its own reward—the sublime doctrine that the rewards of life are commensurate with man's contributions to human society. It demands a complete surrender of self-in-



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terest to the common welfare. It urges on business and professional men, the putting into practice of the big principles of the Sermon on Mount—that the Golden Rule is not an empty theory but a work-a-day code of ethics in which it is a delight to give one's first-best to all, and one's second-best to none.

The voice of Fellowship proclaims the benefits or harmony and charity among men. It teaches that the great

dynamic force among men and nations is understanding and consideration. It soothes the fallen spirit of failure. It proclaims the Republic of Good Will among men.

The voice of co-operation decrees that worthy ideals, inspirations, opinions and knowledge do not belong to the possessor alone, and urges their dissemination among men of every class and creed. It looms on the horizon as a messenger of peace in an industrial world war, and offers a new era of contentment and prosperity.

A Kiwanis Club is an association of men banded together in a unique way to work out this great ideal, being moved by the spirit of service, and a desire to put it into concrete form as a building force. They are organized primarily for the purpose of doing as much good as possible to their fellow creatures. Kiwanis does not exist to promote any special interests—the interest of a class, a religion, of a profession, of a business organization or society. Its motive is not self-interest, but its plans are solely for the general good. It has pulsating through its arteries unselfishness, goodfellowship, noble resolutions, civic pride and love of country. Its past history is replete with patriotic service and loyalty, and the great opportunities of the period of readjustment will direct its efforts into channels of still greater achievement.

It is truly cosmopolitan and representative; and British Columbia, with its enormous natural wealth, wonderful climate, advantageous geographical position, its splendid type of young business and professional men, offers Kiwanis a fertile field for the realization of those ideals which make it great.

THE OUTLOOK FOR KIWANIS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

(By President Archie Teetzel, Vancouver)

From a very small and rather insignificant beginning, Kiwanis in seven years has grown to be an organization of some 330 clubs scattered over Canada and the United States with a total membership of more than 30,000.

The Vancouver club, the first to be formed in British Columbia, has just celebrated its second birthday, being organized during the winter of 1918-19. Since that time clubs have been established in Victoria and New Westminster and one is at present being organized in North Vancouver.