

Concerning the Gyro Club

(By President R. Rowe Holland)

The Gyro Club of Vancouver is the youngest organization in the city, as to the age of its members and as to the length of time it has been in existence here.

Along with the "Hundred Per cent Club," and other similar organizations, the Gyro Club is the product of that new spirit of co-operation and service born of the war. Its organization is international, the original Gyro Club being founded in Cleveland in 1912. Between 1912 and 1918 it grew slowly and spread into five or six cities in the United States. After the war the movement found its way into Canada and there are now clubs in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

The Gyro clubs are founded upon the idea of co-operation. They seek to supply to the young business man some of the features of his school and college days, which in the more strenuous and self-centred commercial world we find lacking. Social, athletic and commercial comradeship, coupled with business opportunities, open a new door to success to the young man at the outset of his business or professional career. All these and more the Gyro Club gives him.

The Gyro Club of Vancouver have placed an age limit upon applicants for membership which makes it necessary for them to be over 21 and under 35 years of age. The ideal of Gyro that the Vancouver organization has accentuated is the production of a higher and better type of citizen, the theory being that a number of young men banded together in youth and energy and enthusiasm, discussing and studying the problems of citizenship, civic, provincial and federal, can, by mutual co-operation, fit themselves to better assume the responsibilities of citizenship in the decade to come when the mantle of leadership will perhaps be placed upon their shoulders.

Their membership is drawn from the young men of the business or the professional world, three representatives from each classification adopted by the club are admitted. The Vancouver Gyro Club was installed on October 30, 1920, by Gyro Joe Bannigan, past president of the Toronto Gyro Club, and is the result of the work of the affiliation committee of his club. The four men in Vancouver responsible for gathering the necessary 25 men to receive a charter are Messrs. Harold Leckie, Art Kerr, Phil Whitehead and Tommy Thomas. The Vancouver membership stands at present at 150 and will be gradually increased until the 250 maximum is reached.

A luncheon is held every Thursday in the Barron Hotel when the members listen to addresses on questions of civic and community interest and discuss problems that are arising to confront them as young citizens.

The Gyro Club have interested themselves specifically in the Boy Life Council of Greater Vancouver, and their president, R. Rowe Holland, is the temporary chairman and convener of that organization.

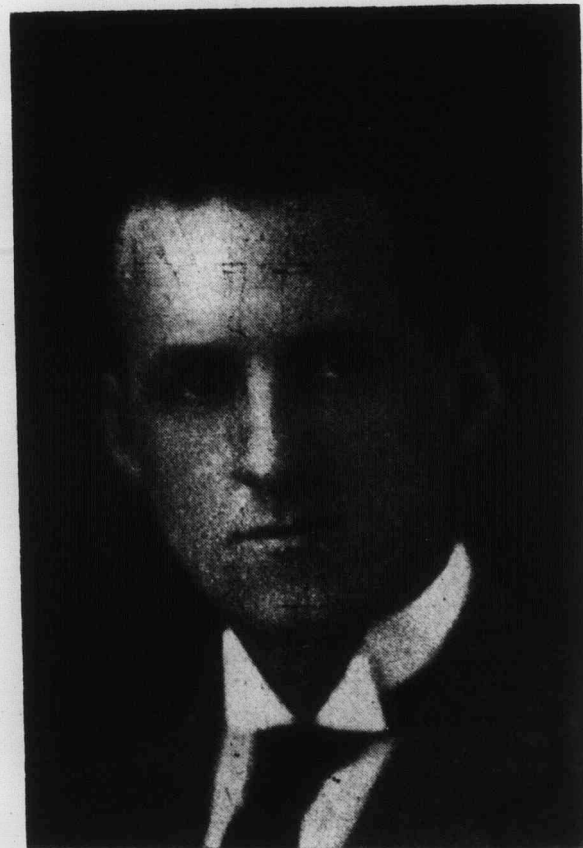
The International publishes monthly a magazine, known as the "Gyroscope," contributed to by all the clubs on the continent. It is delivered free to every member each month. Ernie LeMessurier, the well known cartoonist here, is the Vancouver editor.

The personnel of the executive of the Vancouver club is made up as follows:

President, R. Rowe Holland; Vice-president, Harold Leckie; Secretary, Phil Whitehead; Deputy Secretary, Harold Webster; Treasurer, Harold Bailey; Directors, Doug. Cook, Doug. Christie, Harold Jones, Dr. T. W. Snipes; Chairman of Membership Committee, Colin Ferry; Chairman of Entertain-

ment Committee, Harold Lamb; Chairman of Business Boosters' Committee, Fred Fletcher; Chairman of Civic Affairs Committee, Ed. Jamieson; Chairman of Affiliation Committee, Bob Squires; Chairman of Athletic Committee, Billy Ellis; Editor of the Gyroscope, Ernie LeMessurier; Honorary Editor, Fred Fletcher; Manager, Harry A. Moore; Assistant Manager, Frank Duff-Stuart; Club Greeter, Charlie Garrett.

A foundation has been laid by the affiliation committee of the Vancouver club for new clubs in Victoria and Seattle, and the Gyro movement is progressing all over the continent so quickly and so favorably as to indicate that the day is not far off when Gyro will stand shoulder to shoulder with Rotary and Kiwanis.



Pres. R. Rowe Holland.

Those who knew something of Rowe Holland when he was a student at McGill University College, Vancouver, ten or twelve years ago, will not be surprised to find him at the head of an organization like the Gyro Club, and will be disposed to congratulate that body on the selection of its first president.

As a public speaker, Rowe, early in his college life, literally won "the cake" for an extemporaneous five-minute speech on a subject "drawn from the hat." (That was at a College competition at which the editor of the B. C. M. was present.) That success was followed by Mr. Holland winning the gold medal in a local oratorical contest—with a well-prepared, well-delivered address.

Since those times he has no doubt taken a good deal of ballast on board, and it is not too much to say that, with increasing knowledge and experience of life, President Holland is among the young men who, in the coming years, ought to make their impress on the community of the Canadian West.

For the information of our readers we have gleaned these additional facts: During the war he did his bit with the seafaring forces, seeing service with the R.N.V.R. in the North Sea and the Mediterranean, where he was in command of a submarine chaser.

He was born about thirty years ago in Port Arthur, Ontario and attended school in Winnipeg and Vancouver. After beginning his course at McGill University College, Vancouver, (which was superseded by the establishment of the University of B. C.), he graduated B.A. at McGill University, Montreal in 1912. When he left for overseas he was a law student, and a year after his return he was called to the Bar.

Already interests other than the Gyro club claim his attention. He is temporary chairman of the Boy Life Council of Greater Vancouver, President of the Naval Officers' Association of B. C., and chairman of the Educational Committee of Vancouver Branch of the Navy League.