

TEN THOUSAND ROTARIANS IN LOS ANGELES

They're There from All Over
the World

Canadian President—What
Rotary is and How it Came
Into Being—No Inactive
Members—A Wonderful
Growth.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 7.—Consideration of the draft of a new constitution and by-laws for International Rotary that give national groups of clubs authority to organize national associations and make other radical departures in the form of government of the organization are the most important feature of the thirteenth annual convention of the world-wide organization now in session here.

In anticipation of these discussions, 10,000 Rotarians, representing every section of the world, have gathered in Los Angeles. Twenty-two countries are represented at what is regarded as the greatest international gathering this city has ever entertained. Each of the sixty-eight clubs in the British Isles is represented—the English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh Rotarians in the city number almost one hundred each.

From China, the Philippines, South America, Cuba, Mexico, Porto Rico, to say nothing of the thousands of clubs in Canada and the United States, the delegates have been flocking into Los Angeles on every regular train and on dozens of specials from all quarters.

The only organization in the world without an inactive membership is the way George C. Diehl of Buffalo, New York, described International Rotary during the course of a report on attendance to the thirteenth annual convention of the organization in session here today.

The unique features of Rotary membership were emphasized by this speaker in calling attention to the manner in which the organization has progressed in seventeen years from a single club in Chicago to more than a thousand clubs in twenty-five countries with an aggregate of something like 80,000 members. The business and purpose of Rotary are outlined briefly and succinctly.

First—To promote recognition of the worthiness of all climate occupations and to dignify each member's occupation as a citizen and a business man by the exchange of ideas and business methods.

Second—To increase the efficiency of each member as a citizen and a business man by the exchange of ideas and business methods.

Third—To encourage high ethical standards in every business and profession and in service to the community of each business and profession.

Fourth—To promote acquaintance and fellowship among various men of various business and professional activities as an opportunity and an aid to service.

Fifth—To quicken the interest of every member in public welfare and to co-operate with all other civic organizations in community development.

Rotary came into being in Chicago, February 23, 1905, with a group of four men—one a coal dealer, one a machine operator, one a merchant tailor, and the fourth an attorney. The attorney, Paul P. Harris, first advanced the idea of forming a club different from any club then known, and to him belongs the credit for starting the great Rotary movement.

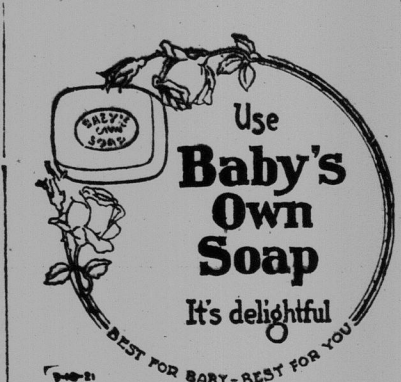
At this meeting of the four, when decision was made to organize a club, it was also decided to invite to membership just one man from each different business or professional calling, a printer, a real estate man, an insurance man, and a banker were the first four admitted. "Rotary" was chosen as the name of the new club because the members met in "rotation" at their places of business. "Rotation club" seemed somewhat inapt, so they adopted the shorter form, "Rotary Club."

The Chicago Club continued to increase in membership. In 1908—three years after the first meeting—the second Rotary club was organized in San Francisco. Other clubs followed on the Pacific coast, and then the movement spread to the east and then to the north until sixteen clubs had been organized by the end of 1910. It was in 1910 that the first convention was held in Chicago and the "National Association" formed.

At this convention Chesley R. Perry was elected secretary, and he continues to hold this office at the present time. Rotary emerged from a national organization to an international organization two years later at the Duluth convention.

A short time previous to this convention a club had been organized at Winnipeg, Canada, and during the convention a cablegram was received from the Rotary Club of London, England, asking for a charter. Rotary had thus quickly evolved from one club in 1905 to an international organization in 1912.

Since 1912 the organization has grown even more rapidly than during the first seven years. Today there are more than one thousand Rotary Clubs in the world. Although the greater number are in the United States, where the movement originated, and in Canada, there are now Rotary Clubs in Newfoundland, Great Britain, and Ireland, Cuba, South America, the Republic of Panama, China, India, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands and Japan. This growth seems all the more remarkable when it is realized that the organization has never at any time employed paid organizers. And in addition, extreme care has always been exercised in surveying cities and towns applying for membership to make sure that such communities are ready for a Rotary Club and are of sufficient size



from which to secure a membership of representative men and still have the membership restricted to one man from each business or profession.

Further than this, under the constitution of the organization a new club must start with a minimum of seven members or a maximum of twenty-five. In other words, it cannot be smaller than fifteen, nor larger than twenty-five at the beginning. Also, during the first year of its existence a Rotary Club cannot grow faster than the rate of three new members each month. The idea behind all this is to make sure that every Rotary Club organized shall have a very substantial basis at the start and that its membership shall be very carefully selected during the first year of its existence, and thoroughly grounded in the precepts of Rotary.

Each Rotary Club is a complete working unit in itself and is entirely independent of every other club and is supposed to make itself a part of the community in which it is established and to adapt itself to the peculiar problems of that community. During the last few years a model constitution has been provided that all new clubs are required to adopt. Many of the older clubs have their own basic laws.

There is no administrative unit between the club and the headquarters of the international association, which is located in Chicago. The Chicago office is the administrative office of the international association, and the International Board of Directors is under the charge of the active executive officer of the organization, Secretary General Chesley R. Perry. The International Board is required to meet every six days to transact the business of the organization and the Secretary General is required to carry out the instructions of the Board.

In order that the board may keep itself informed of the system desires and wishes of the clubs, there has been established a system of arbitrary grouping of clubs in what are called districts. There are 39 Rotary districts in the world at the present time. Each district governor is elected by the annual convention from nominations made by the clubs of the district, and the governor is an international officer and the accredited representative of the International Board to the clubs. He is required to make a monthly report to the board. None of the international officers, save the secretary general and his assistants, is paid.

The members of the International Board and the District Governors are all volunteers and receive no emolument of office. From time to time, through the growth of Rotary, it has been necessary to re-arrange the boundaries of the districts for the convenience of the District Governors, who are required to visit all clubs and keep in close touch with them. In a very large district—there are some in Rotary that have as many as 70 clubs in a large territory—a very heavy burden is placed upon the District Governor, but Rotarians regard selection for District Governor as a very high honor and every man who has been chosen for that office has given a very remarkable example of sacrifice and devotion to the organization.

This was shown in a very marked way through the growth of the organization. A re-arrangement of district boundaries was made necessary and protests were made to the board by clubs which were separated from each other by long distances. The board, however, made the slightest effort to bring about the reduction of his district, although the purpose of the re-districting was to make it more convenient for the governors to visit their clubs and attend to the business of the office.

At the convention in Los Angeles a new constitution and set of by-laws were proposed which makes provision for the organization of national associations of Rotary by groups of clubs in separate regions through petition to the convention. This will give an additional administrative unit between the club and the International Board, but these national associations, if authorized, will function under authority of the International Board which will still be the supreme governing body of Rotary.

Under the rules of the organization no president of International Rotary can succeed himself unless some one of the vice-presidents is elected president, the International Board changes every year, with the exception of one member. This one member is the immediate past president, who is called, who is held over one year after his term as president expires to serve and advise the board.

The board consists of five persons—the president, the immediate past president, and the three vice-presidents. Under the proposed constitution, the board will consist of nine members to be elected by members of the various national associations during the annual convention, places being established for each association and the members present at the convention voting for the officers.

The present officers of International Rotary are: Dr. Crawford C. McCullough, eye, ear and throat specialist, of Fort William, Canada, president; Ralph W. Cummings, mill supplies manufacturer, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, first vice-president; William Coppock, operator of laundries and dry cleaning establishments of Council Bluffs, Iowa, second vice-president; H. J. Luther Stark, lumber mill owner and capitalist of Orange, Texas, third vice-president; Estes Snedeker, lawyer, of Portland, Oregon, immediate past president. This constitutes the governing body of Rotary. The executive work of the organization is carried out by Secretary General, Chesley R. Perry of Chicago. The headquarters office of Rotary International is in Chicago.

Rufus Chapin, vice-president of the

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Union Trust Company of Chicago, is treasurer.

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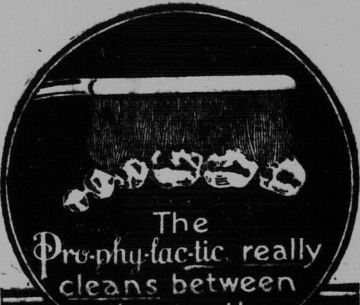
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consideration by the committee and that it was now practically assured that the department would make the desired changes in this province. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Gale for his contribution of time and services in this connection.

It was decided that the branch would hold a smoking concert and musical entertainment for the visiting delegates to the provincial convention which opens here on Thursday.

The question of unemployment received considerable attention as a result of recently published statements regarding unemployment, relief measures and the failure of all present schemes to effect a substantial or permanent improvement in this regard. Attention was drawn to the concrete proposition that the unemployed be organized into a "relief corps" which, at the best, could only be regarded as charity. Extension of the idea of the memorial workshops plan and other schemes were suggested and the whole matter referred to the employment committee for further consideration and recommendation.

Approval of the city's decision to reopen the federal-municipal employment service bureau was also recorded. Reports from various standing and special committees on routine business matters were received showing the financial and general position of the association to be steadily improving.

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to 60 degrees below zero. At the highest altitude ever reached in an airplane, the temperature hovered around 60 degrees below zero. This was nearly seven miles up.

This remarkable spot is in Washington. It is the cryogenic laboratory of the Bureau of Mines, Department of Interior, where, for more than two years, scientists have been working in an effort to liquefy helium gas, purify it and make it 100 per cent. efficient in the life of giant dirigibles.

And after numerous failures, success finally is in sight, and the scientists of this that they expect to be able to announce before the end of the year that what has been assumed to be impossible has been accomplished and that helium gas has been liquefied and absolutely isolated from traces of any foreign gases.

When the process is perfected, it will be of inestimable value to science, particularly to the navigation of the air by the huge ships which will cross the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It will make accidents, such as that which recently happened the dirigible Roma impossible for the gas is non-inflammable and only lacks lifting power to the extent that it has been impossible to free it of other gases.

The research work is also calculated to reduce the cost of producing helium, which to date has been so extensive and prohibitive that airships have been only partially inflated with it.

AGAINST THE EMBARGO.
London, June 7.—(Canadian Press)—The Whitbaitide congress of the co-operative union held at Brighton, which 1,700 delegates representing 4,000 members were present asked the government to reconsider its decision regarding the importation of Canadian steer cattle.

When you are making sandwiches for the picnic basket, or for any occasion, Robinson's Butter-Nut Bread cuts cleaner than other bread, and without waste of crumbs. It makes a neat, enticing sandwich, and satisfying as well.

Have a good time—eat it often. Full pound and a half net weight, wrapped in sanitary wax covering.

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