

# NAVY LEAGUE EXPANSION



*Left to right: Sheldon Clark, Chicago, President of the Navy League of the United States; Leo T. Dwyer, Indianapolis, Vice President, State of Indiana*

The Indiana State Charter was presented to Leo T. Dwyer, State Vice President by Mr. Sheldon Clark, President of the Navy League of the United States February 27 at the Indianapolis Athletic Club at Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was the occasion of a joint meeting between the state organization and members of the Indianapolis Council of the Navy League of the United States. The president of the Indianapolis Council, Mr. Nicholas H. Noyes, presided.

Approximately 450 persons attended. Representatives of all of the 18 councils in Indiana were present at the luncheon. Governor Ralph Gates, who is also a member of the League, was present as a guest.

Rear Admiral Arthur S. Carpender, USN, Commandant of the Ninth Naval District, was the principal speaker. The Admiral, referring to the League, said: "I believe sincerely in the Navy League, and I have given it my wholehearted support because I recognize that after the war is over, the naval officer may be regarded as a special pleader for the cause of a strong Navy, and rightly so, because the Navy belongs to the civilians who support it."

"That is the strength of the Navy League. It is composed entirely of civilians. No naval officer may enjoy membership. It can be a major force in postwar public opinion as to the need for seapower by a nation that has leadership thrust upon it in a modern world."

Lieutenant Alexander Vraciu, USNR of Gary, Indiana, one of the state's outstanding war heroes, was also present and spoke.



*Left to right: Dr. J. E. M. Thomson, State Vice Pres. of the League of Nebraska; Frank A. Hecht, Jr., Regional Vice President of the Navy League of the United States.*

Rear Admiral Arthur S. Carpender, USN, Commandant of the Ninth Naval District, was the guest and principal speaker at the State Charter banquet at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 7. Mr. Frank A. Hecht, Jr., Regional Vice President of the League, presented the State Charter to Dr. J. E. M. Thomson at the banquet, which was attended by nearly 100 members of the Navy League of the United States, representing the Lincoln Council and several of the other councils throughout the state.

Mr. Hecht in presenting the State Charter said that an effort was being made to have strong local councils in every state of the United States, and that it was recognized that the local councils were the strength of the League. He said that, "If our organizations are numerous enough and our local membership representative enough we can prevent what happened after World War I. We can save the fleet."

Preceding the banquet the Lincoln Council and the State Council held business sessions. Irving S. Chapin was elected president and Dr. J. M. Woodward was elected secretary-treasurer.

Dr. J. E. M. Thomson was elected Honorary State Vice President of the State organization and Mr. E. B. Crofoot of Omaha, Nebraska, was elected State Vice President.

Earlier in the day Rear Admiral Carpender and members of his staff, together with representatives of the Nebraska Navy League were the guests of Governor Dwight Griswold at the governor's mansion for luncheon.

## ORGANIZATION PROGRESS

As reflected by the other side of this page a great many of the local organizations have not held charter meetings nor elected permanent officers.

These charter meetings should proceed as rapidly as possible.

The Navy stands ready to furnish outstanding speakers and combat movies of recent actions for these meetings. All requests for Naval assistance should be channeled through the state vice president.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

There are many activities in which a local council may engage. The local organization should become the group to which the Navy looks for assistance in recruiting and rehabilitation programs. Some specific programs are suggested.

### Speakers Bureau

A worthwhile project by local councils is the organization of a Speakers Bureau. Every local organization should have at least two or three men who are well versed in the story of sea power and its influence on history, and who can tell the story of the Navy League and its objectives. These speakers should be made available to the organizations in the vicinity of the local council, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, and other clubs. Much good can result from the appearance of these speakers. Through this means the story of the Navy League may be effectively told and a foundation of public opinion built to support the keeping of the fleet after this war. A letter to the regional office will bring material for your speakers. Write to the Navy League of the United States, 400 West Madison Street, Chicago 6, Illinois, if your organization is interested.

### Thrift Shop

A thrift shop is operated in the Navy Relief Building on the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes by the Navy Relief Auxiliary. Wives of officers acting as volunteers sell material which is donated and the funds are devoted to furnishing without charge layettes and clothing for infants and children of needy families of men in the service. The shop needs clothing, particularly for women and children, household furnishings such as pictures, vases, and bric-a-brac, costume jewelry, toys, and books. If a drive is not organized by your local council any material in this category may be shipped direct to: Navy Relief Society, U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. It will fill a great need and the funds will assist a worthy cause.