

“community of interest.” For the first time they realize fully the meaning of interdependence of nations. Rotary clubs can and should capitalize on this opportunity to develop a complete understanding between people which will result eventually in the building of a world economy on a basis of mutual welfare.

International understanding and good will must start with the individual if he is to be a sufficiently intelligent citizen of his country to have an influence in bringing about better relations between countries. Approaching international service from this angle it is clear that even with most of the world at war there are still as many opportunities for international service as there are individual Rotarians.

The World a Unit

The war is demonstrating that the old order of things is fast changing. Swifter forms of communication and transport have brought the peoples of the world into new and more intimate relationships. Seas no longer divide continents—they unite them. Thought is almost instantly transmitted over limitless areas. Distance is now measured not by miles but by minutes and the world has shrunk to the proportions of a neighborhood.

Today human needs are overleaping old boundaries, and labor and capital have to find their opportunities regardless of clime or race. Mass production spurring nations to seek readier access to sources of supply and even wider outlets for their products, leads to increasing internationalization of production and distribution. Except by un-

economic substitutions, national self-sufficiency is an impossibility nowadays as no country in the world possesses all the raw materials, nor the food stuffs, nor the luxuries used by a civilized population.

International Trade

For that reason international trade plays an important part in the prosperity of any nation. At the same time, because of its importance, it is often the source of international frictions. Trade barriers, conflicts for markets and unfair dealings in international trade all produce ill will between countries. If these antagonisms and frictions can be reduced and at last removed much progress will have been made in the direction of world peace. In the field of international trade there is therefore infinite opportunity for good if Rotary's ideal of service can be made to prevail.

Today's Need

Never has greater need existed for cooperation, understanding, and good will. When selfishness, distrust and fear prevail, disaster is the inevitable result. The welfare of the world demands that the facilities for better conditions of living and health, for domestic comfort, for efficient and economical business methods and similar boons shall be shared by all peoples in a spirit of mutual helpfulness.

Mental Disarmament

Experience has shown that merely bringing people together is not in itself a guarantee of peace. On the contrary, it may be a cause of strife. For example, closer association of those who, by instinct, tradition or training, regard one another as foes and who are thereby