

Clubs may find in this article material which can be used as the basis for an interesting club program.

Inventory of Rotay

by Philip Lovejoy, Secretary, R.I.

(prepared for delivery to the 1944 Convention of R.I. — May 19, 1944)

UNDER the dynamic leadership of Charlie Wheeler, flanked by his devoted colleagues on the board, and fortified by the committeemen, district governors, and the club officers throughout the world, our Rotary organization, despite almost insurmountable difficulties, has gone forward to new heights during this fiscal year about to end.

Membership At All-Time High

Our numerical strength is at an all-time high. A few more than 224,000* Rotarians in 5,190 clubs in 60 geographical regions of the world is the statistical story tonight. This is an increase of 138* Rotary clubs in 22* geographical regions of the world since the first of last July—with 42 days yet to go, a number already 13 more than were admitted in the entire previous Rotary year.

New Clubs in Many Countries

There is romance in this extension activity. There is drama in it. There is pathos and heartache. But, with all, there is a virile vision. Where are these clubs located?*** 51 in continental United States, 9 in Canada, 47 in Ibero America—in 11 countries—of which 17 are in Brazil and 12 in Mexico. In England, with all of its wartime activity, the Rotarians found it possible to bring in 5** new clubs, and there are 2 in Northern Ireland. Down in Australia there is 1. Down in New Zealand there are 8, and in South Africa, 1. In India there are 7. In Ceylon there is 1. In China, with all of its difficulties, there is a new club at Lanchow. And word just received from C. T. Wang of Chungking, our Administrative Adviser for Free China, and incoming Director of R.I., tells us that a club at Kweilin has been organized. There is one new club in Switzerland, 3 new clubs in Sweden and 1 in Finland. So even in war-torn Europe, new Rotary clubs continue to come into existence. We have knowledge that 40 additional clubs are in the process of organization for admission to Rotary International, these clubs being located in 10 geographical regions of the world.

*As of 6 June — 225,350 Rotarians in 5,201 clubs. (150 new clubs since last July in 25 countries—

**55 in U.S.A., 48 in Ibero America, 6 in England, 9 in India, 4 in Sweden, 10 in Canada, and 1 in Kenya.)

Membership Increases More Than 1,000 Each Month

In the beginning of the year, it appeared almost certain that membership in the individual clubs would decrease, with all of the demands that are being made upon men, entering into the armed services, and engaging in war enterprises, or carrying on their businesses and professions under the extraordinary conditions confronting them. But our guess was wrong, for tonight I can tell you that up to the end of April, the number of Rotarians throughout the world has increased nearly 13,000 over that of last July. Why do men join Rotary? Why do they give of their time to organize new Rotary clubs? Why does the percentage of attendance remain high throughout the world? What is it that men see in Rotary that causes it to be at this all-time high?

Perhaps the answer is found in the revitalization of the program of Rotary, in the earnest dedication of Rotarians to activities directed at the achievement of the organization's program as expressed in its objects. For in nearly 5200 communities of the world there are groups of Rotarians responding to myriads of service opportunities to make these communities better places in which to live, men investing their talents, their time, their energies to contribute their bit that civilization might move forward just a little, but ever upward in that unending spiral that reaches through the clouds, the ideal, a world in which the welfare of the individual shall be uppermost, and where each individual shall have the opportunity to achieve in accordance with his ability.

5200 Rotary Clubs Serving Their Communities

It would be delightful, if time permitted, to give a complete resume of the activities of these 5200 clubs. That every Rotary club in the world may have some idea as to the accomplishments of the year, we have prepared an annual report briefly written, adequately headlined and illustrated, which will appear in the convention proceedings. Were it not for a paper shortage, as well as

a manpower shortage, advance copies of this report would have been distributed to you this year in accordance with our annual custom. We are sure that you will understand the exigencies of the times which make this impractical. It is hoped that every Rotary club will read the detailed report when the convention proceedings appears. Indeed, it would make a good club program.

Financial Condition of R.I. Good

A few highlights from this report will be of interest to you. Financially, because of the abnormal conditions under which we are operating we will have an excess of income over expense of perhaps \$125,000. It should be understood that this comes about primarily because of our inability to function as we would in a peace-time year. The reduction of the convention to a proxy meeting means a saving of many thousands of dollars. The inability of a number of our incoming governors and R.I. representatives to attend the assembly likewise means a considerable saving. Would that we could have these normal meetings at a greatly increased cost because of the great contribution they make in international understanding and in the development of more effective ways of carrying on our program during the year! The time will come when one of our great peace-time conventions can be held, and the administrative expenses of that meeting will undoubtedly be in considerable excess of the amount that would normally be budgeted out of the current income of that year, at which time we can draw on the surplus made up from the unexpended amounts in these abnormal years.

Collections in all parts of the world have been remarkably good considering the difficulties involved in transmitting funds and the uncertainties and delays in mail service.

Preparing for Post-War Employment

Early in the fiscal year President Wheeler and the R.I. board initiated the Work Pile project which contemplates the making of a survey