

and an inventory within each community of work for individuals and business organizations which would be required to be done after the cessation of hostilities, during the period of hesitancy and reconversion. A recent post card poll of Rotary clubs in Canada and the United States, designed to learn the status of the Work Pile project, showed that in 73% of the replying clubs the Work Pile was in process of being built or was about to be built. Not to be overlooked are certain by-product assets resulting from the Work Pile activities of Rotary clubs, such as a higher sense of unity developed among the citizenry of the community, a closer and more understanding relationship between the farmers and the city businessmen, a broader understanding of social and economic questions on the part of high school and college students who participated in the survey, and new vision on the part of the public concerning the tremendous resources the community has for sustaining itself during the reconversion period.

Perhaps the most important is the arousing of the citizenry to the fact that every family in the community has a responsibility for, and can do something about, providing work which will carry returning servicemen and farmers and dis-employed civilian workers over the reconversion period through private initiative as contrasted with any system of "made" work provided by a government.

There has also been a very important effect on the thinking and morale of the service men and women who are learning what their home communities are doing to prepare for adequate work for them when they are demobilized.

Many Clubs Compete for President's Award

The board of directors initiated a president's award to be a citation to be given to one club in a district, signifying superiority in carrying on the Rotary program. Up to the 17th of May, 72 districts had submitted entries—56 from districts in continental United States, 5 from Canada, 1 from Hawaii, 3 from Great Britain and Ireland, 1 from Puerto Rico, 1 from Mexico, 1 from Cuba, 1 from Nicaragua, 2 from Australia, and 1 from India.

Excellent District Conferences Held

All districts in the USCNB and in Ibero America, with the exception of district 42 in Central America, held district conferences.

It is gratifying to note that district 100 in Hawaii held its first conference since the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. All six clubs were represented, with an attendance of 353.

In Great Britain and Ireland, conferences were held where possible. An outstanding conference was held by the 70 clubs in the London district. Four districts in India held conferences which were well attended. Three of the five districts in the European, North Africa, and Eastern Mediterranean region held conferences, and the district in South Africa held its conference.

Wartime restrictions caused cancellation of the conferences in New Zealand and one of the conferences in Australia.

Clubs Active in Community Service and War Work

In the USCNB, Rotary clubs are engaged in every conceivable type of war work and community service activity. There has been more than usual interest in vocational service, particularly in the improvement of standards of correct practices in business.

In Ibero America, clubs have been active in all types of community service usual among Rotary clubs, and several types particularly needed in their respective countries such as construction of highways and airports through arousing the interest of governmental authorities, stimulating efforts to combat tuberculosis and cancer, sanitation, campaigns to reduce mendicity, child vagrancy, and so on.

Remarkable Growth in Eastern Hemisphere

In the Eastern Hemisphere, there are approximately 850 clubs active in 25 countries. Latest figures indicate that since July 1 there has been an increase of more than 1,000 members in these Rotary clubs.

Typical activities are a Rotary club in Sweden establishing a home for sick Finnish children, and another club collecting 2,000 books for prisoners of war; in Egypt, a club providing free milk for a hundred babies at a hospital, and, through its efforts, the doubling of free water facilities in the poorer sections of the city.

In India, during the recent famine, the Rotary Club of Calcutta, assisted by contributions from other clubs, provided food for over 40,000 adults and 6,000 babies, as well as countless pieces of clothing.

TR and RR Circulation at All-Time High

"The Rotarian" magazine has constantly grown in value, with the result that its circulation has likewise grown. In April it had an all-time high of approximately 190,000 subscriptions, of which nearly 17,000 were special subscriptions for libraries, schools, military camps, non-Rotarians, and so on.

"Revista Rotaria's" circulation was at an all-time high of 23,180, of which 16,246 were subscriptions by Ibero American Rotarians—practically 100% subscriptions on a voluntary basis.

Problems Ahead

Successful as has been the year, there are, nevertheless, problems confronting the organization. The very rapid increase in the number of Rotarians means an added responsibility upon clubs to see that these new Rotarians are thoroughly informed in the principles and program of the organization.

There is the very important problem concerning the re-establishment of Rotary clubs after the war in regions where they formerly existed.

There is the problem of increasing the funds of the Rotary Foundation so that the great work of the organization world-wide may go forward in an ever-increasing manner.

Other problems are more continuity on the board of directors and R.I. committees, development of a better understanding of vocational service and subsequent action thereon, centralization versus decentralization in R.I. administration, close adherence to the fundamental principles of the organization, and provision of permanent headquarters for Rotary.

Rotary Ideals Are Universal

The ideals of Rotary are universal in their application. Wherever Rotarians are they give evidence of the usefulness of the program of Rotary. Just the other day there came to my desk a photograph of a grass hut just back of the firing line in New Guinea, on which had been placed a Rotary emblem asking for Rotarians to register, and in a short time a number from different countries had made their presence known, with the result that informal Rotary gatherings are held as the exigencies of war permit, out in that battle-scarred country. So wherever Rotarians go they make known the principles for which the organization stands. And the strength of the organization wells up from the vision and loyal devotion of the Rotarians throughout the world.