

PRESIDENT LONG REVIEWS ROTARY CONVENTION

President of Minot Rotary Club Brings
Back Some Mighty Interesting
News From the Kansas City
Convention

At a meeting of the Rotary Club at the Monday luncheon, President E. A. Long was given a vote of thanks for the excellent work he did in behalf of Minot at the annual Rotary Convention at Kansas City, held recently. The report is so full of good points of interest to Rotarians and others, that we reproduce it in full:

I extend to the members of this Club my heartfelt thanks for the great privilege I enjoyed by your making it possible for me to attend this epoch making Convention. I do not believe there has ever been a convention made up of men and women, representative of such a variety of types, creeds and callings—men and women of big brains and broad visions charged with the Rotary vision—service, not self. There was not a dull speaker on the program, and the impression made was that the Program Committee had searched the very corners of the earth to select the right man to present the subject assigned.

I want to thank even more heartily this Club for remembering me while there, as expressed in the telegram, worded in the characteristic language of our inimitable Secretary Graham, which attracted sufficient attention to get Minot more prominently on the map, as the metropolis of the Northwest.

I had only one regret, and that was that every member of this Club could not have been there to have enjoyed and profited by the big things so forcibly and clearly presented.

President Pidgeon in his report of the year's work, said:

"Rotary in 1917-1918 is not different in kind but only in degree from the Rotary of previous years. The only difference is in the fuller development and realization of its ideal and in the new duties which the year has provided for its attention."

"The encouraging feature is that Rotary has not ceased to grow because practically all the nations in which it is established are at war. The reports of the year will show that Rotary has really grown faster during the war than at any previous time. This will encourage us in the belief, which we have always held with earnestness, that Rotary is not a luxury for idle men, but an avenue through which the highest type of service can be rendered to individuals, community and country."

It would have taken every member of this Club days to report the proceedings, and I can not hope to more than call your attention to a few of the mountain peaks.

The address of our great President

of the International Association, than whom there is not a more noble and worthy member of Rotary, and who has no superiors and few equals as a presiding officer, and who in his opening address sounded the key note of the Convention when he exemplified, "Rotary as a Living Force." His address alone was well worth the price of attending. Among other things he said:

"Anything that is a living force possesses life. It is not merely an artificial construction, such as a building or machine, useful as they may be. They do not change except to grow old and wear with use. But anything which possesses the germ of life changes and grows and presses out into the open, where there is light, air and space. Only when you have seen its most finished product can you estimate the value of the germ from which it started. 'This is what the crude beginning of Rotary was: 'We only know the meaning of the seedling when it has pushed itself into the light through bud, flower, leaf and fruit.' Rotary is not a finished construction, but an embodiment of life which is struggling upwards into the light. The acorn can not be made by the chemist, though he may be able to analyze and explain it. It possesses that element from which we call life. In Rotary this principle is its doctrine of service, and the significant assumptions which lie behind it. All modern thought is pointing to the unity of our universe. Its explanatory note is 'One God, one law, one element and one fair divine event to which the whole creation moves. One of the significant expressions of this unity is the doctrine of service. It was not created by Rotary. It would not be a living force were it mere construction. It is the essence of our world. Rotary can be a living force only because through it something of the very essence of our being is finding an outlet."

"We are in the grip of the most brutal war history has known. It is a war of ideas. Truth is in conflict with error. A doctrine of freedom and liberty for all against the German idea of might is right—the doctrine of the mass whipped into the subjection of the few. The story has not been told because it is not fit to be told. But we know enough to know all that is British, all that is American, all that is Rotarian, all that is human, yes, all that loves chivalry and fair play, must rise in its might and stamp this hateful thing beyond the possibility of doing harm. It is no use to sign treaties and contracts with a mad man, you must chain him. It is equally useless to sign treaties with those to whom treaties are mere devices for deceiving their neighbors; you must beat them into submission. The Kaiser quite sincerely invokes a god, who to us is a devil. Nothing is more momentous to a people than their conception of goodness. It is as true of nations as it is of individuals that as they think in their hearts so are they. Those who mould the nation's thoughts and shape its ideals hold its destiny in their keeping. The diviner, the man, the larger the world for which he lives

and dies. The whole doctrine of service is the attempt of the human soul to hear and to step in tune with the world's deeper harmonies."

"Rotary is a living force, because it not only holds an ideal which is true to the facts of the world, but persistently seeks to practice it. Character has a physical as well as a moral basis. We know the deeds of a man as they are expressed in life and service. The practical side of Rotary is its life. There can be few greater living forces than those that succeed in making toil a duty rather than crush the manhood of those who toil."

"Rotary is not unmindful of the larger social duties. Through the instrumentality of the individual clubs it has faced almost every type of service which demanded. It has wrought not only to the need and welfare of the community but also to the need of the individual. It has made good men, but good social atmosphere for good men and women to breathe. It has recognized that worthy citizens are impossible without worthy society."

"During these war years Rotary recognizes that in the face of a cruel and unscrupulous foe all things must be laid aside until brutality is put beyond the capacity for harm."

"Rotary is a 'living force' first, because it holds a doctrine of human relationship which is true to universal fact, and second, because it does not hold its doctrine passively but proves its existence by its expression for human betterment."

"The true meaning of Rotary lies not in the present but in the future. Only men who are sincere lovers of their fellow-men, devoted to truth and righteousness, are worthy of the task. If Rotary is to retain its 'living force' it must be by men who are freed from the tyranny of the present; men who can feel the pull of the future; men from whose eyes the larger world is not obscured by some little selfish object; men who can sound the clarion call warning to the selfish and small. The present call is for men who discern the greatness and brevity of human opportunity, and who are determined to stamp it with their very best."

"Life is sheet of paper white. Whereon each one of us may write. One word or two and then comes night; though thou have time. But for a line—be that sublime. Not failure, but low aim is crime." Each day of the Convention was characterized by some expression of the Living Force Idea.

Tuesday was Rotary a Living Force in the year 1917-1918 on which day statements from chairmen of various committees and district governors were made by each in brief, crisp talks, as to what had been done.

In the afternoon there were special assemblies held at various places, on such topics as "Club programs by the Year," "Rotary and Associations of Commerce," "Subdividing Classifications," "The Employees and the Rotary Employers," "War Chests," etc., nine in all, and I was in a quandary as to which I should attend, and finally concluded to attend the Association of Commerce meeting. The principal ideas brought out at this meeting were, that the scope of the Association of Commerce work is that of great need and that the building, in another way as City Building, while Rotary is distinctly that of education and public affairs and to back up the efforts with the Association in this direction. That Rotary produces vision and trains men to be leaders.

Speakers gave instances of where Rotary had shown itself to be a bulwark of men and transformed their ideals. In one case Rotarians through advice and support of a man who was running a cigar stand in an office building, caught the vision and built up a system of chain stores from this humble beginning and now does a million dollar a year business.

Wednesday was Rotary a Builder of Patriotism. On this date Frank Mulholland, U. S. Inspector of the Red Cross, just returned from an inspection of some months of the training of France and Italy, made a great patriotic address which was received with great enthusiasm



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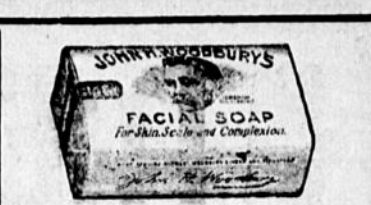
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as every reference to the war and patriotism was. This was one speaker that was urged to continue over his time. He was a former President of the International Association. He said that the Red Cross saved both France and Italy and restored the morale of their soldiers through its care for the sick and suffering families in their hour of great need, and sent the soldiers back to the trenches satisfied that their families would be well cared for, and hence had no worries on this score.

He spoke of the wonderful welcome that the Y. M. C. A. boys extend to the arriving troops, showing their good spirit by throwing apples at the boys on the boats as they landed. He said it was not necessary for a Y. M. C. A. worker to be a preacher and illustrated by quoting a program for a Sunday service he read on a bulletin board of a Y. M. C. A. hut, to-wit:

"Preaching at 10 A. M. Bible Class at 11 o'clock. Base Ball at 2:30. Cigars and cigarettes for sale all the time. Don't forget the prize fight tomorrow, Monday night."

A returned Canadian, a former preacher, said he had two great questions from which to decide his course of action. Whether he should remain in Canada and try to help the people get to heaven or go over there and help send the Kaiser.

Wednesday afternoon and evening was spent at Electric Park, nothing like it anywhere on this continent. I will quote the newspaper report of the day: "A patriotic festival at Electric Park with more than 6,000 guests present, and a 'win-the-war' rally at Convention hall with a crowd of 6,000 people. The day's program of the International Association of Rotary clubs last night."

"At both the park and spacious hall, patriotic demonstrations were in evidence continuously. Several bands, including the Fort Riley Medical Officers' training camp musicians and those from Chicago, Cleveland, Waxahatchie, Tex., and Quincy, played the latest war songs and guests joined in singing various numbers."

The Rotarians proceeded to the park about the middle of the afternoon and paraded before moving picture machines. Fully 5,000 persons swung into line, forming a procession a half-mile long. The Rot. E. Leslie Pidgeon, international president, and Mrs. Pidgeon, led the parade, and bands in costume were interspersed. Among the marchers were delegates from England, Scotland, Canada, Cuba and Hawaii. The Canadians carried a large banner containing the flags of the allied nations.

The Rotarians carried banners, carried poinsettia parasols; the Wichita delegation wore sunflower hats, while the Minneapolis visitors drew a cart on which stood a flag containing \$100,000 in white and blue lights and costing \$1,000. The Omaha war tank appeared in the center of the grounds.

"About 6:30 o'clock the guests seated themselves at lengthy tables in a pavilion fronting the park lake and partook of an old-fashioned New England baked bean supper, furnished by the New England Rotary clubs. One thousand and four hundred loaves of Boston brown bread, 15,000 pickles and one barrel of sugar shipped here for the occasion were consumed."

"Two hundred Kansas City Minute circle women prepared the box lunches at the park yesterday morning. Greater Kansas City and Leavenworth Rotarians donated aprons and served the beans, leed water and iced coffee."

Governor Harding of Iowa made a telling address on this day—full of patriotism and interspersed with fun. He said let's put the word damn both before and after the Postdam family."

He said we have only one great task before us at this time, and that is to drive Kaiserism and all that it represents from the face of the earth. Because it is antagonistic to all that Rotary represents. Christianity and Kaiserism can not live in the same country. The spirit of Rotary is: 'I am my brother's keeper.'"

Furthermore, that any man who can play golf can hoe corn and any man that can hoe corn will not when there is corn to hoe, is a slacker, and a golf ball is something a man chooses when he is too old to chase anything else."

on for years and will, if need be, take the Germans with us to the judgment seat of God. How long will the war last? It will last until we win."

"The greatest achievement of America is that she now is in the war. It is hopeless to change German minds except by force. We understand now our eastern boundary is not the Atlantic seaboard, but is that wavering line in France and Italy, where our flag is flying."

Could Build K. C. in 15 Months
The work of the government in the past 15 months would be equal to that of building Kansas City and St. Louis to their present size in the same period, according to the Washington speaker.

"Our greatest achievement in fifteen months is that we have changed our minds. We now understand we are a part of the world. Germany has yet to understand that we shall put an army in France if the boys have to swim across the ocean. This war will end when America wins victory."

Andrew Home Morton in presenting the British flag to the International Association said "We would like to have made it of silk, but in these days silk is needed for air planes, not making of flags, and I would have believed that after all it is but red, white and blue, differently arranged from yours, and there is woven in the brotherly love of Great Britain and all that it stands for in this mighty struggle for civilization and humanity."

Dr. E. M. Porto of the Havana Cuba Club brought the greetings of the Pearl of the Antilles and presented the International Rotary with a Cuban flag and a beautiful album of views of that country. He found difficulty in expressing himself adequately in the English language and longed to be able to speak Spanish and tell us what he thought of the Kaiser.

The Annual Message of Paul Harris, President Emeritus and founder of Rotary as one of inspiration and received in the spirit in which it was sent.

Some of the epigrammatic statements I will quote, as I can only touch in a feeble way on the many, many great thoughts presented. One said:

"I hope you will all be in heaven 20 years before the devil knows you are dead."

Another: "Rotary has the power to change men."

Another: "Rotarian principles can not fail to build up the life in every way."

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City said: "That is the most remarkable convention ever assembled."

President Wilson was quoted as saying: "Rotary is cement that will hold the world together in friendship."

The following Resolution was adopted: "Whereas, the supreme and inviolable spiritual power sustaining the hearts and strengthening the arms of the nations opposing Germany in the present war is the consciousness that their cause is right and just and in harmony with the will of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and

"Whereas, Prayer is the greatest and most effective agency for vitalizing that spiritual power among the peoples of the Allied nations and making it virile dynamic force, fortifying and upbuilding the morals of the soldiers and civilians, and

"Whereas, Rotary is a business and professional man's organization and is dedicated at this time to the task of winning the war, now therefore, Be It Resolved, That this Association now endorses a movement to be known as the War Angels, looking to the special devotion by Rotarians and the people in general of one minute at a fixed time daily during working hours to meditation and prayer for the success of our arms and the triumph of our cause, and

"It is Further Resolved, That the affiliated Clubs be urged to arrange for the observance of the War Angels at 11 A. M. local time, in each community, the period to be announced by bells and whistles, and to ask the press to open its columns to the War Angels Department to the end that the community as a whole may be induced to participate in this appeal to the Supreme Being for inspiration, strength and guidance."

The Convention paused for a minute at 11 o'clock each morning for prayer and meditation.