

# INSTALLATION OF ROTARY'S NEW PRESIDENT

## Marked by Striking Address by Rotarian A. Roberts

### HOW MOVEMENT CAN HELP THE WORLD

THAT THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION ROTARY COULD MAKE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS BY JUST UNOSTENTATIOUSLY, BUT YET SINCERELY, DOING THAT WHICH WAS THEIR IDEAL—SERVICE ABOVE SELF—WAS THE OPINION EXPRESSED BY ROTARIAN A. ROBERTS IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE GRANTHAM CLUB ON MONDAY.

The speaker dealt with the fears that existed at the present time and spoke of this as more or less the malaric age.

The retiring president, Rotarian E. F. Dunkerton, invested his successor with the chain of office and also paid him a wonderful compliment, describing a talk given by Rotarian Roberts as the best he had listened to during his association with the Rotary Club.

The address on this occasion by the new president was a striking one and listened to with keen attention.

Rotarian Dunkerton, in stating that this was the first time he should have the honor of speaking to them as president, said he had some satisfaction in being and knowing that during the 12 months he had held the office the members had offered him loyal support and friendship.

He, the speaker, then paid tribute to his success as Rotarian Roberts, whom he had known for a number of years. He alluded to his writing words and remarked that as a Rotarian they valued what he said. They knew Rotarian Roberts did not talk without a book and what he had to say was well worth listening to.

He wished the new president would have as long a time as he, the speaker, had, and as much satisfaction when he finished his year of office.

#### HELPED TO KNIT CLUB TOGETHER

The new president, on behalf of the Club, presented Rotarian Dunkerton with the immediate past president's badge in appreciation of his services.

He remarked that he was sure they would all agree with him that Rotarian Dunkerton, as president, had upheld the tradition and dignity of the office, had helped to knit the Club together, and in make it a real Club—a band of men in fellowship—and from the beginning to the end had received, as he desired, the confidence, respect and the admiration of the members.



Rotarian Roberts

Rotarian Dunkerton in thanking the members for the tangible mark of appreciation, and fellowship, said while the past year had not been spectacular or picturesque in any way he must confess that they had had a good year; they had got a little closer together than they were before and were accepting each other's point of view with more tolerance.

In his address the new president explained the ideals of Rotary which were, he said, to do what they could to help others along without a bit of showing and gaining a lot of applause. He then went on to say the first thing that struck him, owing to all sorts of circumstances, was that the crime of mankind today was admirably free.

#### A MANAGED AGE

To say that they were living in a managed age, when people were managed hand and foot, and almost read their neck, would not be exaggerating the thing altogether, he said.

In some instances the manacles were self-imposed and Rotarian Roberts indicated people who found themselves bound down through getting their insurance, or car, or wireless or house on the installment system. He could just imagine that type of people, because of the fear that possessed them, looking through the window every time someone knocked at the door, to see whose turn it was to get something from them. Because of those self-imposed manacles they lived in a certain amount of fear.

Another was mentioned Rotarian Roberts in which they were getting bound down was not merely in a political sense, but through political actions due to tariffs and other restrictions and legislations that limited or barred free intercourse of business and industry; and in some cases, a free intercourse of friendship between community and community.

Then again, he related with a thing which was binding people down in some parts of the world and including them the liberties they might in have was deteriorating.

In all these directions and in numerous other ways people were losing their personal liberty and freedom. But apart from these shackles placed upon them and loss of liberty the worst thing of all

was the devil of fear. The speaker said he knew the members would be wondering what that was all leading to. How could they contribute anything to a world in such circumstances as that; a world in which there were all sorts of creeds and faiths; and all kinds of laws as far as politics were concerned, and a world in which there were a large number of people who profess neither creed in religion and laws in politics, but were free lancers?

#### RELIGION

The president remarked that he was speaking quite candidly; indeed they knew his position.

He was a Methodist and lay preacher and sincere in both, but he had come to the conclusion that the thing that was going to knit men together, as far as they could see things in the world, was not religion.

That was rather a bold statement to make, observed Rotarian Roberts. It was our particular religion, should he say, because they would never get Hindu or Mohammedan, or any other like faith, to give up their and believe that their religion and personal afterthought was of less importance, or of less effect in the world than One in Whom we believed. Therefore, as far as the human mind could conceive they could not see any unity of faith or creed among human beings, and so could not expect any particular religion to come out of religion. The future, of course, was not for them to speculate upon.

It was the same with politics, continued Rotarian Roberts. He was like a good many people often hopelessly and utterly in the wilderness in the political world, sometimes believing in one party, sometimes in another as others had been doing there last few years. There was a feeling that one could not look to any particular party or creed for the salvation of men and ridding them of the fear. But when they looked further about and noted them all without prejudice and bias they would find, somehow, explain it as they would, that in them all there was something that was common to every one of them. And the amazing thing in his reading of people was this: that it seemed to him the things that were common to all were the things most essential to the goodwill and uplifting of men, and he thought that was just where Rotary came in.

#### COMMON TO ALL

They did not profess any particular creed and political outlook, but they did profess and believed and practiced something that was common to all, that was best in all the religions in the world, and all the politics in the world and which was reflected in their motto "Service Above Self." It was because they were honest in their belief towards it that they could be worthy of the name and have any merit to the claim of being called Rotarians. It was not sufficient for them to meet back by back in the spirit of goodwill and fellowship; that was just on the top and nothing underneath it.

It seemed to him that if at the bottom of their hearts they were not sincere in their allegiance to what were the objects then the fact of being a Rotarian was in a degree dishonest and dishonourable. They must be prepared to sincerely believe and try to act up to the objects of Rotary.

Proceeding, Rotarian Roberts said the thing that should matter, according to their own conscience, was that every Rotarian should at all times sincerely try to forward the movement of Rotary and the spirit of Rotary and its motto of "Service Above Self." The one thing that was important was that they should put this thing before them as their aim and endeavour. That was how Rotary could make its greatest contribution to the rest of the world by just unostentatiously, but yet sincerely, doing that which was their ideal. (Applause)

Rotarian Dunkerton mentioned that in thanking the officials on Charter Night he wanted to mention the past presidents and look that opportunity of acknowledging the help they had given him.

Rotarian V. F. Barrand, a Grantthamian and member of the Rotary Club at Retford, was given a welcome. He brought good wishes from his Club to the Granttham Club. Although a visitor the speaker said he had spent many happy years in Granttham and Retford. Rotarian Barrand remarked that he found few clubs took so-called service seriously, but Granttham, he observed, had taken it very actively.