

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP WHICH WILL LEAD TO PEACE

Emphasised at Grantham Club's Charter Night Anniversary

WHY GERMANY AND ITALY WERE OBLIGED TO BAN THE MOVEMENT

Visit of Notable Figures in a Virile Organisation

WELL KNOWN FIGURES IN THE WORLD-WIDE ROTARY MOVEMENT WERE AMONG THE GUESTS AT THE EIGHTH CHARTER NIGHT ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE GRANTHAM CLUB, WHICH TOOK PLACE UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF ROTARIAN CANON H. E. STANCLIFFE AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, GRANTHAM, ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

Speakers to toasts emphasised again the value of the fellowship which Rotary offers, and which, it was suggested, may well represent the pathway to peace. The view was taken, too, that the banning of the movement in Germany and Italy was a natural sequence of events, it being felt that such an international movement could not be permitted in those countries, in spite of the fact that there was not one word of criticism against it.

An exceedingly large company attended the function, including visitors from other clubs in the district, and the occasion was noteworthy, too, in that it was one of the last which the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Warde, attended prior to his departure for Brighton next week.

An excellent meal was provided, and subsequently the annual dance was held, the company being considerably augmented, and the proceedings continued until an early hour yesterday morning.

Following the loyal toasts, and one in honour of Rotarian the Duke of Kent, which were submitted by the president, "Rotary International" was submitted by Rotarian A. Roberts, a past-president of the Grantham club and chairman of the club's international service committee.

Rotarian Roberts observed that anyone who proposed a toast relative to an international organisation had no easy task, in view of the situation abroad, and that was especially the case when it was applied to a Rotarian.

They were supposed to take no part in politics, either to propagate for or against, but at the present time, with the world situation as it was, he thought they would agree that no intelligent man—and, of course, Rotarians were intelligent—could stand aside and say to himself and his friends that these things were of no matter to them. Of all the important, urgent and vital questions before them as Rotarians or as citizens of any description, the most vital and important were international affairs today.

TAKING NO SIDES

Nevertheless, it was not their concern to enter into controversy regarding forms of government. They took no sides as to whether there should be a dictatorship, monarchy or republic. Those things were purely domestic matters for the countries concerned. Neither did they enter into controversy regarding world personalities, either in attack or defence. Those things were not part of their work.

But they did take part in propagating principles. That was their object, and after all, principles were not mythical things. The principles on which they all agreed, therefore, were justice, truth, and liberty, and a definite and important reason for the extension of Rotary International was the propagation of these principles.

Rotarian Roberts said he had recently heard justice alluded to as an ambiguous term, but, in his opinion, there was no ambiguity about it. There was a standard of justice which was capable of interpretation by any honest man or officer country. Certain people there were who had a reverence for "Might," and they said that "Might" had sacred rights which demanded the reverence of all principles.

"We say definitely that however strong a nation is, it has rights that should be respected. We go further than that, and we say that weak nations have sacred rights, too, and that they must be respected. And until such time as that happens there is no hope or possibility of peace and progress in the world."

Similarly, they believed that truth was of vital importance, when they considered the facilities there were for propaganda, both over the air and through the Press. And how dependent the majority of them were, as ordinary persons, for forming their opinions on what they heard, or what they read. Therefore, he suggested they had the right to insist that however news was sent through to them, that news should be true and sincere.

The same applied to politics as well as to news, and they all had to keep on insisting that when a policy was declared it should be kept to that, and should be nothing more and nothing less.

MOST DEAR TO THEM

Then, thirdly, the thing which was most dear to them and probably was just as dear to people of other countries as their own, was liberty. Liberty, in its proper sense and sphere, was vital. Because they believed that principles were greater than personality, and more important than any form of government, he thought there was complete justification for the existence of Rotary International. Rotary was one of many organisations whose only aim and object was to bring those principles into the everyday, ordinary affairs of all nations and all people.

It did not matter to them whether people were strongly armed or whether they were almost unarmed. They had seen quite recently what one man could do, armed only with a neatly-rolled umbrella, with his mind made up and his will intent on peace. (Applause.)

Therefore, they felt that Rotary International, containing roughly 25,000 members and something like 250,000 members, had an influence and work which was being felt, and was becoming more effective every month that went by.

In fact, to him, the greatest compliment to the effect and power of Rotary was that where this international intercourse and the spreading of those principles were not desired Rotary had no access. That, he thought, was a compliment to the effectiveness and power of the spirit of Rotary which was spreading throughout the world.

In conclusion, he said that in his experience as a Rotarian, which was probably somewhat limited and circumscribed, he had never yet met a man who both by precept and example represented all that was best and highest in Rotary more than did Rotarian Fred Gray, whose name he coupled with the toast. With such men as him in the forefront they knew that their direction was right, and that they could carry on determined to establish the principles of justice, truth and liberty.

Rotarian Fred Gray, who comes from Nottingham and is a past-president of R.I.B.J. and chairman of No. 2 District extension committee, commented that he probably was in the forefront until about two years ago, but now he was somewhat on the shelf, although it was as usual