

Rotary Club.

FORMATION IN ROCKHAMPTON.

For some time past a movement has been afoot to form a Rotary Club in Rockhampton. This movement materialised last week when, the necessary preliminaries having been complied with, a meeting of citizens decided to form themselves into charter members and to establish a Club. The following comprise the charter members:—Messrs. J. Kenna, J. J. Macaulay, H. Grant, C. L. Harden, A. H. Paterson, Dr. Paul Voss, W. Breckels, A. Dunn, W. S. Buzacott, F. M. Sealy, W. L. Hobler, L. J. Cran, A. Raff Woolcock, A. Roland Woolcock, J. Chambers, E. M. Hockings, and C. H. J. Cox.

The meeting took place in the ball-room of the Criterion Hotel on Friday night, and it was decided that the weekly lunches of the club will be held in the same room. It was originally intended that Mr. T. McWilliam, President of the Brisbane Rotary Club, and possibly Mr. P. McGregor, who has recently been appointed Commissioner for Rotary in Queensland, would make the trip. But these arrangements were interfered with through the railway strike, and it devolved on Mr. Gibson, last year's President of the Sydney Rotary, to give the new club the necessary kick-off.

Mr. Gibson explained the why and the wherefore of Rotary, and gave members every assurance in his power in hand. Before vacating the chair he called for nominations for President. Mr. J. Kenna was proposed and the nomination carried unanimously. Mr. Kenna thanked those present and then proceeded with the election of other officers. The result is the following list of officers:—President, Mr. J. Kenna; Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Macaulay; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. J. Cran; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. M. Sealy; Sergeant-at-arms, Mr. C. L. Harden; Directors, all the above and Messrs. W. L. Hobler, W. Breckels, A. Roland Woolcock, A. Dunn, H. Grant, and A. H. Paterson.

A general discussion then took place regarding the forms and procedure of Rotary. As one of the main practices is the weekly meeting, and this takes the form of a luncheon at which the attendance of members is compulsory, it was decided that the meeting be fixed for every Wednesday, to date from Wednesday next, the 9th instant. At these weekly luncheons the general business of the club is carried on, and a certain amount of time devoted to music and other forms of diversion. If any man happens to be in town who occupies a prominent place in his own vocation, he is asked to give a 20 minutes' address to members. At Friday's initial meeting Mr. N. G. Wiley presided at the piano.

Objects and Origin of Rotary.

Rotary represents simply the idea of service—the chief pledge of its members being to see that they shall consider "service before self" and that by their example and their work for the community, in their businesses and professions and toward individuals, they shall give practical demonstration of the fact that "he profits most who serves best."

The final organisation of the club in

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The final organisation of the club in this city is the result of a number of conferences that have been held by local business and professional men who, with the assistance of officers of the International organisation, conducted a survey of the resources and possibilities of this community with a special view as to whether or not a Rotary Club would be of service to it.

Origin of Rotary.

The one hundred and two thousand Rotarians in the world, to which number a representative group of business and professional men of this city have just been added, developed in the last two decades from a meeting of four men on February 23, 1905, in the office of Paul P. Harris, a lawyer, in Chicago.

Harris, who is still a member of the Chicago Rotary Club, is looked upon as the "Father of Rotary." He had the original idea of forming a club that would promulgate the spirit of service and would be different from any existing organisation. Associated with him at that first meeting was Silvester Schiele, who also continues an active Rotarian. The test of the idea came with another meeting which drew to Rotary such business and professional men of Chicago who now as then represent a dynamic force of organisation and ability which has been inestimable value to Rotary throughout the world.

The idea they evolved and fostered to the point where it actually became a world force was an organisation which would consist of one man from each business or profession who would meet in rotarian in various places at frequent intervals and discuss various questions that might come up from time to time, become better acquainted with each other, and with the problems of the business of each as it affected the life of the community and for good fellowship. It was agreed that to promote fellowship one important step would be to call each man by his first name or nickname—to make it compulsory that this should be done.

The name "Rotary Club" was adopted shortly after the first meeting because the members met in rotation in the offices of each other.

The Chicago Club continued to increase in membership. In 1908—three years after the first meeting—the second Rotary Club was organised in San Francisco. Other clubs followed on the Pacific Coast and then the movement spread to the East and then to the South until sixteen clubs had been organised by the end of 1910.

It was in 1910 that the first convention was held in Chicago and the "National Association" formed. At this convention Chesley R. Perry was elected secretary and he continues to hold this office at the present time. Rotary emerged from a national organisation to an international organisation two years later at the Duluth Convention. A short time previous to this convention a club had been organised at Winnipeg, Canada, and during the convention a cablegram was received from the Rotary Club of London, England, asking for a charter. Rotary had thus quickly evolved from one club in 1905 to an

chapter. Twenty-two clubs were evolved from one club in 1905 to an international organisation in 1912.

Since 1912 the organisation has grown even more rapidly than during the first seven years. To-day there are approximately 1800 Rotary Clubs in the world. Although the greater number are in the United States, where the movement originated,

there are now Rotary Clubs in Canada, Newfoundland, Great Britain and Ireland, Irish Free State, France, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Cuba, Argentine Republic, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, the Republic of Panama, Mexico, Philippine Islands, China, Japan, India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Chile, and Switzerland. Extreme care has always been exercised in surveying cities and towns applying for membership to make sure that such communities are ready for a Rotary Club and are of sufficient size from which to secure a membership of representative men, and still have the membership restricted to one man from each business or profession.