

REPORT OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION, MONTREAL, 1926.

The report of your delegate to the Kiwanis International Convention at Montreal for the year 1926 will be essentially of ^{general} ~~several~~ trend. This affair proved to be of such magnitude that details can hardly find place in any sketch of limited proportions.

Our Lieut. Governor, George Imrie, has covered largely the more serious and business features of the convention now of past history.

And accordingly, by mutual understanding, it will be for me to dwell more particularly on aspects incident to the recent International Kiwanis gathering, rather than to attempt to portray, piecemeal, the technical findings of Convention deliberations. Before closing my narrative, however, I shall endeavor to deal, though briefly, with a few outstanding features which characterized the convention at Montreal.

In the first instance it shall be within the province of these observations to give some consideration to that which, from its very nature, should, I believe, be of interest particularly to California and Healdsburg Kiwanians.

I shall ever insist, that, so far as Californians are concerned, the Special Kiwanis Excursion from the Golden State to Montreal, constituted a most significant and integral part of the long-to-be-remembered convention of 1926.

Take away that seven day and seven night excursion to the convention city; forget those associations and friendships established; the wholesome impressions gained of things Kiwanis; the lessons learned or beliefs confirmed with respect to this great service organization; lose sight of the joys and thrills attendant to this historical California Kiwanis Excursion, and, to us from ~~the~~ ^{this} farthest removed Kiwanian State there would be missing from the Convention volume for 1926 a most interesting and

illuminating chapter.

And ^{thus} ~~this~~, my two fold theme, shall be: Excursion first,
 Montreal, last.

'Twas 2 A.M. at Oakland pier, May the 31st. Most of our colony in Pullman No. 560 were just getting the first wink of sleep, and George Imrie, in a thorough manner, was snoring the initial number of his repertoire of nasal selections.

We were awakened, however, by other, and still more wierd, more sonorous strains of "Show me the Way to go Home", "Three O'clock in the Morning", and ^{numerous} ~~other~~ selections equally apropos and classic in composition.

A band of forty pieces, -39 jazz horns and one portable organ was serenading each car to a degree not calculated to encourage sleep. One hour later another awakening. In deep gutteral but penetrating voice we were admonished to "sleep soundly", "rest in peace", "be not disturbed" and the like, until the last intruder had passed to another car to bestow similar blessings upon its slumbering occupants.

This was the now famous Dollar and Twenty Cent Band, at first with, and secondly, without their grotesque instruments. Never have I listened to such music in time of peace, nor shall I hope to hear in days of war. But this band improved with age and frequent rehearsal.

And thus we were off to a thrilling start, -a start characteristic of many activities on our long and interesting journey.

Up thru the beautiful Shasta country and on to Portland. Here was our first reception. Here was the local Club in a body. ~~Here~~ were scores of awaiting cars and soon we were on our 80 mile ride up and down the magnificent Columbia. To attempt a description of this wonderland would be to rob you of that thrill which only can be gotten by personal communication with the beauties of creation here.

We, by rare and bounteous fortune were permitted to receive this thrill. Go thou, ^ttherefore, and do likewise.

And here's a cheer for Kiwanian Julius Meyer. And here's a grateful vote of thanks to this considerate host. It was an appetizing and substantial luncheon served at his magnificent country home on the heights overlooking the glorious Columbia.

The Northwest country is rich in point of vegetable and animal life. But of the latter classification no creature provoked so much interest as did the "Galloping Gopher". Regularly at 5 P.M. and for each day on our long journey, this unique little creature was released from its den in the guise of a daily paper. For that was its name, and it galloped the rounds of our dozen coaches and reposed in the laps of each and every traveler until its columns were eagerly read and enjoyed by all.

This first issue, having been read and placed on file, we found our "special" pulling into Seattle. It was evening. Enthusiasm was fast increasing. All were in a most happy frame of mind. Yes, and happier still as we were received at the station in the open arms of a galaxy of gaudily dressed young Seattle maidens. Such apparent affection, such fond and fervent embraces a few of us retiring men had never experienced a thousand miles from home. (insert here)

Here, all anticipations were outstripped. Here, in the waiting was the Kiwanis Club of Seattle. The dinner, the expressions of friendship through the media of speech and song, the artistically appointed banquet hall, the catchy stunts, the dance and all, made for an evening of delight and gratification. (parting word, inseert)

On the following morning we pulled into the Canadian city of Vancouver. O, Canada! The land for which we've longed! With you we sing, God Save the King. Your blessings we do now implore. We love your realm from shore to shore.

No words of mine can tell you of our gathering in Vancouver. Portland was wonderful. Seattle, magnificent. Vancouver, glorious. That breakfast hour at Hotel Vancouver shall go down in Kiwanis

4.

History, at least with our California delegation. Here for the first time were the kilted bag pipers in all their glory and gaudy Scotch attire. Here the local Kiwanis Glee Club ^{sang} ~~said~~ sweet songs to their visitors from the sunny south. And here, too, were we thrilled for the first time by the immortal "Allurette". (Sing)

The glad hand of the British subject clasped that of his brother from another land. Here was sung "America" and "God Save the King" to the same melody and almost in the same breath. (~~insert California~~) The Stars and Stripes were unfurled and presented to the Vancouver Club amidst lusty and enthusiastic applause. Then, that stirring speech of acceptance by President Charley Bruce which shall be forgotten only when the last listener from this Golden State shall have passed beyond the portals of the Golden Gate above. Those sentiments of cordiality and welcome are still resounding in our ears. Stretched out toward us I can still see that friendly hand of Canadian good will. That unmistakably wholehearted acceptance of our American flag was profoundly indicative of ^{the} International Brotherhood of Man. In short, here was the spirit of Kiwanis exemplified after a fashion I had never experienced before.

As if all which occurred at this memorable breakfast hour was not sufficient to elate and edify our party from California, listen to the sentiments of the following ballad as sung with much gusto by 200 Vancouver men and women to the tune of an old English air. (Read verses) *Calitorny-i-a*

Yes, and Vancouver shall be remembered by California Kiwanians for many a day as well.

Adjournment with regrets, but not until we had paid a reverential visit to the Harding Memorial where fitting ceremonies were held.

Up the Frazer River canyon into the heart of the Canadian Rockies and to Jasper National Park, where for several hours we recessed; and motored or hiked; and ^{galloped} ~~gylped~~ and refreshed at this

5.

beautiful and balmy oasis in the Dominion of "Canada Dry".

For many miles along the banks of the Athabaska, and passing a thousand inland lakes whose shores were fringed by the white barked quaking aspen. Here is the mink and otter. Here is the mule tail deer and the incomparable grizzly bear.

But we must forget the charms of this northern land lest there be interference with the subject in hand.

We are now at Niagara Falls. Dining in the spacious Canadian Hostelry we behold thru its windows the seventh wonder of the world, and peculiarly wonderful as we gaze on this giant cataract illuminating the darkness of night thru the agency of millions of candle power generated by its very waters.

An evening session here. Songs, to be sure. Awarding prizes for the bridge tournament on board train, inspiration^{al} address, instructions and rehearsals for the main event at Montreal.

I come now to part 2 of my theme. And with brevity and dispatch it shall be my endeavor to touch upon but a few of the aspects of probably the most interesting and most instructive International Convention ever held under the colors of Kiwanis.

A convention such as this consists of a multitude of activities. You can not attend them all. You can digest only the essence of what takes place, not the details. A delegate elects to take in those functions which are likely to be of most concern to his own club. To do this was the chief aim of your representatives at Montreal.

The Forum meetings, the Conferences, and the District dinneers called for our attention to the exclusion of many other Proceedings. Each has its indisputable place at an International Convention, and there is a certain correlation between all of these three activities which go to make for the convention in the large.

At the morning conferences, and there were six of these simultaneously under way at each day at 8 A.M., we grasped more concrete ideas of Kiwanis work, a clearer enlightenment of how

a Kiwanis Club should be run, than from any other gathering or source of information.

Here were read reports of district officers and the various district committee chairmen. Then and there developed an open discussion, a critical analysis of these reports, as well as some conclusions as to the best procedure for future work in club activities. Here, too, were discussions and understandings concerning any and all subjects, including election of officers, in which any unit such as our California-Nevada District should be interested. Naturally some of the subjects dwelt upon here found their way into the general assembly for final action. Much of the conference program was calculated to give enlightenment to the district trustee, who, upon returning to his club is supposed to impart as best he may any and all impressions of useful import.

On separate sheets I have jotted down many of the most important suggestions gleaned from these conferences. Time will not permit to ^{fully} dwell upon these here. What we may not be permitted to present today on the many points of interest as concerns the workings of a Kiwanis Club may, hereafter, and from time to time be brought to light for your interest and education.

The Forum of Montreal is an auditorium of great capacity, so spacious in ^{fact} part that only a portion of its floor space was required to accommodate ^{to} 10,000 Kiwanians and friends assembled. Here was the rendezvous for all. International officers held sway at these sessions; but everyb man was privileged to lend his voice from the platform or the floor.

As the results of these meetings are to find their way into the columns of the Kiwanis magazine I will stress only one or two spectacular events.

You will be especially interested in the singular recognition given to our own California-Nevada delegation. Adorned with characteristic arm bands of gold and with other insignia of our far western district our group were seated in a body high above the auditorium floor, a most conspicuous location. Suddenly, and as ^a wide departure from the serious business program at hand, our boys broke forth with "Hail Kiwanis", lustily and in wonderful fashion. For us it was the thrill of the whole convention. The cheers were deafening and at no time in Montreal ran higher the spirit of Kiwanis. The bloc letter K in black was put on against a white background with artistic effect. Moving picture machines were making the most of the display, and press agents were busy in the preparation of journalistic copy of generous and laudable comment. California again had scored at an International Convention to a degree that no other district could, or did, approach.

But this was not all. In the contest for the attendance prize in the Gold Division, California-Nevada had eclipsed all rivals. Again our boys sang "Hail, Hail, Hail".

I would like very much to tell you of "Canadian Night". But again, our time is short. Suffice it to say that Canadian history, in its various epochs, was spectacularly portrayed in tableaux and in scene. The care free life of the French settlers, the contented Scotch, the ambitious English and the crafty sons of Erin; - all were depicted in beautiful settings of history and romance. And not the least exhilarating of the program of that memorable night was the lusty singing of that forevermore immortal French folk song "Alouette". This was the key song extraordinary of the entire performance. By it, we were thrilled in far away Vancouver. In Montreal we were captured by the beauty of its simplicity and swing. This little "Skylark" of a song, for that is its meaning, once led by Jules Brazill, was repeated so many times that night that its echos are still reverberating in our ears. During the entire performance, at every lull and every pause

10,000 chanteurs of Kiwanis Klan broke loose with "Alauette".

At the close of Canadianian Night two little waifs, one representing Uncle Sam, the other, Canadian Joe Kanuck met midway on the stage and shook the hands of International love and good will. I wish it were within my power and that time would permit to give you a pen picture of that function known as "District Dinner". There were many of these, each held at different hostelryes on the second convention night.

Kiwanians, wives and friends from the Pacific Coast states, including western Canada, feasted and sang together. All were happy. Complimentary words were exchanged here. International officers and other men of high position came and spoke and passed out to some other gathering of like character, and always escorted by the music of the bag pipe, or by our own Dollar and Twenty Cent Band. A district dinner at an International Convention establishes a high standard, and unmistakably teaches the true worth of local Kiwanis social functions.

To point out that dancing constitutes the closing scene would be superfluous of course. Your representatives from the Healdsburg Club received both inspiration and thrill from this particular assemblage. We recomend that gatherings of this nature be far more frequent right here at home.

Before closing I glean from my little note book just a few cryptic observations:

Go back to your club and report something.

Do not simply say "We had a good time."

While in Canada the presumption is in our favor.

Take back greater conception, higher idealism of Kiwanis.

Delegate is now in better position to council with his fellow members

Running a Kiwanis is just horse sense plus inspiration at times perspiration.

Consider every man of certain classification before making your selection.

Do not overlook the man of lesser responsibility--

The subordinate of today is the leader of tomorrow.

Select the men who represent the cross section of community thought and activity.

Kiwanis has come to a full stature of manhood.

Do not permit your club to become childish.

Together with sociability and levity, function within an atmosphere of serious intent.

Do things. Get Behind substantial movements.

Create a sound and wholesome public opinion.

Get the community largely to finance your constructive undertakings.

Keep in mind the child, the boy. Name a committee on vocational guidance. Help the boy select his life work.

Make the most of music. Sing, "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

Be joyful and happy in your club work.

Attend luncheons or resign.

If you do not expect to attend regularly, why join.

If you do not intend to play your little part, give some active man a chance.

Officers, committee men, inspire your members.

Inspiration is the dynamo that makes the wheels go round.

If your club is lacking either in horse sense or inspiration, take stock, dismiss the drift wood, reorganize, take in men of red timber and go to the bat.

Read Kiwanis Convention Magazine and get what you cannot expect from a delegates report.

Identify yourselves with public affairs

Keep out of politics. Citizens are watching you.

Investigate needs of community.

Inaugurate movements lost sight of by other agencies.

Work hand in hand with Chamber of Commerce.

Keep in harmony with other service clubs.

10.

Take the lead. We are the biggest and best.

Plan upon some objective. Whip into line all community agencies and put the job across.

Do something of outstanding nature or your club will be a weakling.

Work, have a good time, and never forget the dignity presumed in officers and members of Kiwanis International.

Members of the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club, in return for your considerate action in nominating me as your district Trustee, and in facilitating my trip to Montreal to represent you at the late International Convention, I am grateful to a degree more than I can express. To me, this opportunity to get at the heart of Kiwanis teachings has been nothing short of a revelation. I pledge my best efforts in the future of this, our Healdsburg club, as well as to strive to ^{do} be my little bit for Kiwanis International.

I thank you one and all.

Edward Quinn

Song - Californy - i - a
Insert, Page 4

There are forty eight States in the union I've heard.
You may count them yourselves if you don't take my word
But it's plainly impossible, search as you may,
To find one to beat Californy-i-a.

If it's climate you're seeking you may have no fear,
It is found there for fully twelve months in the year.
And bad weather,^{is} so the citizens say,
Most unusual in Californy-i-a.

It has raisins and grapefruit and oranges too -
You'd think in the Garden of Eden they grew.
The inhabitants know how to work and to play
In that land of delight - Californy - i - a.

The world has long known of its oil and its gold,
Of its trees so gigantic, a thousand years old.
But only its people can truly display
The charm that's in Californy - i-a.

For Vancouver Kiwanis the pleasure's is great
To welcome the men from so famous a state;
And we shall remember for many a day
Our visitors from Californy - i - a.