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# PEAK



ROTARY CLUB OF HONGKONG

刊週社輪扶港香

CLUB 3413

DISTRICT 96

WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 19, 1948.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23rd, 1948.

Speaker: Mr. M. Silas.

Subject: A Musical Treat.

Old Tientsin

Address by Major C. W. L. Way

At our last Tuesday meeting the whole atmosphere was excitingly historical in view of the fact that Major Way, an old Tientsinner, delighted the members with a talk on Old Tientsin, responded to by another old Tientsinner, Sir Shouson Chow.

The speaker said "Tientsin" was formerly known as Tze-chu-lin, meaning Purple Bamboo Grove. Its present name means "Heavenly Ford". It was until recently the very prosperous seaport for Peking and also for the enormous hinterland covering most of far Northern China and Mongolia. The temperature there is 110° in summer and 25° below zero in winter with glorious Springs and Autumns.

The city lies 40 miles up the "Sea River" from Taku, the word Taku meaning Big Fort. The many forts at the river mouth served as defences in the old days against sea-rovers, including Koreans and even Japanese. During winter-frozen days the railway was the only means of communication. Mail by Pony Express prevailed in olden days during winter. As soon as the little Mongol ponies could be seen in a cloud of dust, a signal would be raised on the Custom House flagpole when news-hungry ice-bound residents would crowd for their mail.

During these 3 to 4 months, business came to a standstill. People passed their time in skating, ice-hockey, ice-yachting, cross-country riding and hunting, and visits to peaceful Peking, only 90 miles away.

The speaker then traced the various heroes during the Boxer Uprising, who defended and saved Tientsin and Peking. The most unforgettable character was Charles Gordon with an unbeaten record of victories with the Chinese Ever-Victorious Army. The Town Hall in Tientsin is named after him. Among those who remembered Gordon Hall are Sir Shouson Chow and his family, all of whom were in Tientsin during the Boxer Trouble of 1900. Shouson was then exactly 40 and the speaker was 37 years younger. In those days Rtn. Chow was an executive in the China Merchants with their godowns full of fine Tribute rice from South China for the Imperial Court in Peking. In spite of having a direct shell-hit in his house and with fears for his wife and young family (including Rtn. Y. K. Chow) he organized the distribution of rice under severe fire.

The word "Boxer" came from the name "I Ho Chuan" or Society of Heavenly Fists. 20,000 International Troops were despatched to raise the siege of first Tientsin and then Peking. The jealousy among the Armed Force Commanders was such that this large force finally marched to Peking in alphabetical order and only after tragic delays.

A world figure, who resided in Tientsin in the early 1900's was Herbert Hoover, an engineer. He later became President of the United States. James Watts, known as the Saviour of Tientsin, displayed courage almost without parallel in the history of deeds of brave men.

Relating his father's Company, the Taku Tug & Lighter Co. Ltd., the speaker said that his father served in this firm for 46 years, from 1886 until his death. On the 1900 trouble, this firm reaped a good income from transporting Armed Forces and materials, declaring a dividend of 127% four months after the Boxer Uprising and 45% the following year.

Being a rider himself, the speaker said that racing in Tientsin was always delightful. Having 3 courses in Tientsin and 2 in Peking, continual racing could be enjoyed except on frozen ground or short rainy season. Many noted riders are now participating in Hongkong racing and are known to people here.

In the sport annual of Tientsin, she produced many stars in Rugby Football, track and interport hockey, tennis, badminton and polo.

The old Tientsinner concluded his talk by declaring that he hoped that listening to vagrant memories would be as enjoyable as telling about them.

In thanking the speaker Rtn. Shouson declared that although he was old in age, his heart was as young as ever, and the memories of Old Tientsin as described by Major Way

seemed to be only yesterday's happenings. He said that the Boxers were "fakes", and could be killed by bullets as any other human. Tientsin would have been in very bad shape and the residents' lives in imminent danger, if the Boxers had not been routed. He described the character of the Empress Dowager, and Emperor Kwang Hsu, whom he knew personally.

There was present at the meeting Mr. David M. Maynard, who was 15 years ago a member of our Club, and is now serving as Economic Adviser to General MacArthur in Tokyo.

#### Rotary International Monthly - "The Rotarian"

We have just received 30 copies of the July issue, 28 copies of the August issue, 39 copies of the September issue and 50 copies of the October issue of this publication. These will be placed on the table at our next meeting, and those who have subscribed for it beginning July please collect their 4 copies each. Those members who wish to buy a copy, but have not subscribed for them, may buy the latest two issues, September and October, at \$1.00 each.

#### Gift of \$1,000 to Hongkong School For the Deaf

Secretary John has received the following acknowledgment from Miss Li Luk Wa, Principal of the above School: "Thank you very much for the cheque for \$1,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Hongkong. We are very grateful to you for this most generous gift. Will you convey our sincere thanks to the members of your Club."

#### Appeal to Rotary-Anns from Medical Department

The Director of Medical Services has addressed the following appeal to Rotary Ladies: "An appeal for books and periodicals for the Mental Hospital was made recently and I should be grateful if you could bring the appeal to the notice of your members. It is scarcely necessary to emphasize the value of books and magazines to patients in hospital especially those suffering from mental illness. Any kind of reading matter whether new or old, in English or in Chinese, is acceptable. Gifts should be sent to the Medical Officer in charge, Mental Hospital, High Street, Sai Ying Pun. I also wonder whether any of your members would care to visit the female inmates of the hospital from time to time. The patients, particularly the English speaking ones, get very lonely and long for some contact with the outside world."

#### Deadline for Contribution of Articles in 1949 Hongkong Rotarian

In spite of repeated reminders, contribution of articles has been very scarce and a number of Committee Chairmen have not handed their Committee report. A last warning is now being given that articles and reports must be handed in to the Secretary before November 25, otherwise they will not arrive in time to be published. Our youngest member, V. C. Labrum, has been asked to assist in its publication.

#### Acknowledgment from Rotary Club of Falkirk

The Secretary has received the following letter from the above Club: "It was very pleasant to have another visit from Rtn. Neill Garland at our Club today. The occasion was an outstanding one when he presented to our President the Banner sent from the Club of Hongkong. Our President accepted this most generous gift with pleasure and expressed thanks to Rtn. Garland, but I have been asked to write this note of formal thanks to yourself and all your Members for a gift which will always find a place of honour at our Luncheon Table. It is a most beautiful Banner. (From Robert Wilson, Hon. Secretary.)"

#### Club News & Notices

The application of the following new members have been approved:

Harry A. Ayres - General Agent, United States Lines.  
Major Class. - Transportation. Minor Class. - Ocean Shipping.  
Robert Bruce - Representative of The British Council.  
Major Class. - Government. Minor Class. - Culture Promotion Service.  
John William Harper - Owners Representative of Pacific Far East Lines Inc.  
Major Class. - Transportation. Minor Class. - Refrigeration Freight Shipping.  
Alim P. Jagtiani - Partner in the Hongkong United Trading Company.  
Major Class. - General Merchandise. Minor Class. - General Exporting.  
S. H. Pang - General Secretary of the Chinese Y. M. C. A.  
Major Class. - Associations. Minor Class. - Y. M. C. A.

These proposals are before the members for a period of 10 days during which any member objecting to the election should write to the Secretary stating the reason for his objection.

Attendance, November 16, 1948. 64 members out of 76, 85%.

Visiting Rotarians. A. P. Jagtiani (Hyderabad), V.K. Bashi, H. Kadoorie and P. Pearson (Shanghai).

Guests. F. F. Booth, H.W. Hume, J.W. Harper, D. Maynard, Kartar Chand, C.G. McNab, F.J. Alexander, C. D. Slade, C.H. Koo and C.A. Koo.

Birthday. Best Wishes and Many Happy Returns to Rtn. P. K. (Kwok) on Nov. 29.