

DOMINION BANK BUILDING
FORT WILLIAM

CRAWFORD C. McCULLOUGH, M. D.
F.R.C.S. (C), F.A.C.S.

J. HOYLE DENNISON, B.A., M.D.

December 19, 1950.

Mr. J. A. Caulder,
50 King Street W.,
Toronto.

Dear Joe:

This is a delayed response to your note of November 29 - delayed because to answer your question re the Commonwealth Dinner, it was necessary to do some searching of the archives and at this time of year is not conducive research. I think I have at last got the information you desire.

Question 1 - Did I add the 6th Object? The answer to that needed no research. It is - no. The sixth object was proposed by Dr. Donald MacRea then Dean of the Faculty of Law at Dalhousie University, Halifax who was chairman of the C&BL committee of R.I. under Pete Snedecor's administration in 1920 - 1921. At Edinburgh the Board withdrew the proposed text of constitutional changes and by consent of all concerned obtained through a debate occupying a whole afternoon, the convention passed a resolution which set up the "committee of thirty-one" which did its work the following year while I was President and presented the new constitution which was adopted at the Los Angeles Convention. Only ^{ONE} ~~20~~ recommendation of Donald MacRea's draft was presented to the Edinburgh convention and was adopted by it namely, - a new object to be added to those heretofore existing - the SIXTH OBJECT. I was 1st Vice President of R.I. at the time and was also Chairman of the Convention Committee. Donald MacRea proposed the 6th object, wrote the text for it and the Board presented the resolution to adopt to the Convention.

Question 2 - Did I not institute the B. E. dinner? Off hand I would have replied in the negative but never having been any good on detailed memories of by-gone days and events, I was not so sure that I did not have something to do with the start of this annual event. So there was no alternative to digging into my archives and believe me, it proved quite a job. Here is what the research has yielded; - prior to 1923 there had never been a B. E. dinner as such but there had been a dinner of Canadian delegates in each of the preceding three or four years. At Kansas City in June 1919, this Canadian Dinner was quite an affair and Andrew Home-Morton at the time President of the British Association along with the other two or three delegates from Britain were honoured guests. At Salt Lake City in 1919 and at ~~Atlantic City~~ in 1921 there was a Canadian Dinner. I cannot find any record of anyone from

↓ Las Angeles

Britain being present . At all events there were only a few delegates from the Commonwealth outside the Canadians and undoubtedly they would be invited the more so since at these dinners the program to put it kindly was not very inspiring so any addition to the talent would be eagerly sought. At Los Angeles in 1922, the Canadian Dinner was again as at Kansas City, quite a do and as we had delegates at the Convention from various parts of the Empire, most of them were guests (this was the first time Australia had a delegate to the Convention). I recall discussing with others at that time the possibility of expanding into a B. E. dinner as soon as feasible. Next year in 1923(following my presidential year) I was Chairman of the Canadvisory Committee and at the meeting of the Canadian delegates at St. Louis, I proposed that as we had a few several delegates from other parts of the commonwealth we make the dinner a B.E. dinner. This evidently met with favour for the minutes of that meeting of which I was chairman and Sid McMichael was secretary record that " it was suggested that for this and following years, the dinner be a British Empire dinner but that the arrangements continue to be made by the Canadian Advisory Committee" The only account of the ensuing dinner that I can find is contained in the issue of July 14, 1923 Of THE CALGARY COG, a copy of which was in my St. Louis file. A quotation from the first paragraph of the article headed THE BRITISH EMPIRE DINNER is interesting,-

" Formerly, at annual conventions, the Canadian delegates held a Canadian dinner. This was enlarged this year to a BRITISH EMPIRE dinner. One need hardly say that to all of us, delegates of the Rotary Clubs of Empire, it was a delightful event and quite one of the big features of the week's programme at St. Louis. The large dining room of the Jefferson Hotel was beautifully decorated and it warmed our British blood to see the old Union Jack and the flags of the overseas Dominions and colonies as well as the Stars and Stripes of our hosts' country"

From 1923 onwards there has been no interruption, the first few years under the name of the B.E. dinner and subsequently following the promulgation of The Statute of Westminster, as the British Commonwealth dinner. All did not run too smoothly however for in due course the R.I.B.I. lads assumed more and more authority regarding arrangements until finally in the year that Bruce Richardson was Chairman of the C. A. C. matters came to a head and a show down was had. The result was, after some very plain speaking on both sides that the present plan was agreed upon namely that when the Convention is held in North America, the C. A. C. assumes responsibility for the arrangements with the Secretary of R.I.B.I. acting as secretary-manager ; when in Europe, R.I.B.I. has the responsibility of arrangements. However, the saving and most desirable safeguard that the dinner should always be a Commonwealth dinner was in the agreement that the spirit of the Statute of Westminster should rule whereby the Chairman of the dinner should be in turn a Rotarian from the component Dominions and in this sense, G.B. & I. should be counted a Dominion. The way it has worked out in practice is that Fred Hickson is the wheel horse in close liason with the delegation from the Dominion whose turn it is to have the Chairmanship. The PRINCIPLE having been established, arrangement as it now operates is satisfactory to all.

It is interesting to note in passing that here is another instance that the C. A. C. justified its existence and its worth for it is not an exaggeration to say that at the time that Bruce and his committee stepped in bad feeling was increasing. Many Canadians were quite up in arms even to the point of reverting to a purely Canadian dinner. At the time, I was not on the C.A.C. so while in full consultation with Bruce and the committee, I was not present at the joint meeting which worked out the new procedure. I was thus in good position to be much more helpful in arriving at a happy agreement than I should otherwise have been.

As to your question No.2, well, I have given you the record. Frankly, I do not think it shows that I instituted the thing. I had a good deal to do with it but there were others. Certainly, it was a Canadian dinner at the time I was International President. The first B.E. dinner as such was in 1923 at St Louis, Ray Havens being President of R.I. and I, Chairman of the C.A.C. I have no record nor do I recall from memory who was Chairman of that dinner but I feel sure that it was the then Chairman of the C.A.C.- Bill Cairns - No, it could not have been he for he succeeded my tenure of the chairmanship and would therefore be in charge of the arrangements at the 1924 (Toronto) convention. The COG article lists me as one of the speakers at the dinner but makes no notation of who was chairman. Perhaps Sid McMichael who was secretary of the meeting of Canadian delegates at St Louis might remember. Undoubtedly, he would have some record of who was Chairman of the dinner in 1924.

After all, what difference does it make? So long that things get done that I believe need to be done, I have no pride in any personal part that I have had in the doing. Once the thing is done, the detail of how it was accomplished is no longer of much concern to me with the result memory of the thing that was done is about all that authentically remains after a few years have passed.

Question 3 - Did I not start the Business Methods Committee? I certainly did not. It was a committee from the earliest days but in the great surge of the program of Boys' Work, Crippled Children work and this and that philanthropy, Rotary was increasingly becoming in danger of getting away from its fundamental reason for being as exemplified in its unique basis for membership, the classification system and therefore the primary avenue for service - in the practice of the member's own business or profession or calling. Thus, when I became president, I determined that the main business of Rotary must assume once again its rightful place if Rotary was to be saved from becoming just another of the philanthropic societies of which there were already far too many. Hence, I appointed a very strong Business Methods Committee with Guy Gundaker as Chairman, briefed the committee thoroughly, got my Board unanimously and enthusiastically behind a definite program worked out co-operatively by the Committee and the Board, then presented the program to the International Assembly in a speech that sold the proposition to the extent that I had not dreamed possible. I guess I must have expressed the thoughts that had been not mine only but those of all the Governors

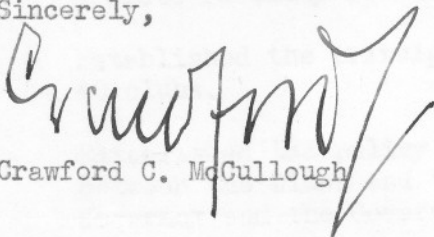
I instituted nothing. All **I** did was to get Rotary back on an even keel. Guy's committee, Jeff Lydiatt's committee on education and the District governors did the rest. Community Service activities were not played down but only given their right proportion as an outlet for service. Business Methods or Vocational Service became the key note of the year. It continued to be the key note with even greater emphasis the following year under Ray Havens and the following years under Harry Rogers, Arthur Sapp and Guy Gundaker. Out of it all came the famous Resolution 34 written by Bill Manier and adopted at St Louis in 1923, Ray Havens being then President. No one man does these things. He may have come on the scene at the right time and with the right idea but it takes the combined and continuing work of many to get the thing done.

That speech of mine to the Assembly (it was extempore) was given wide circulation not on my initiative but on that of the Board and the Committee. It was published in THE ROTARIAN and in other Rotary magazines, likewise in part or in whole in club publications and what have you. As a literary product it was not a good speech but the content was straight from the heart. Any way, it served its purpose and I suppose it was inevitable that ~~that~~ the exaggeration that I started Business Methods would be stated here and there whereas the fact was and is that I did no such thing.

Now Joe, there are the answers to your three questions and much as I love you, I hope you may call it a day so far as it involves digging into archives and dusting off memories which at best must be imperfect.

To Margaret and you and the family, a Happy Christmas.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crawford C. McCullough'. The signature is written over the typed name below it.

Crawford C. McCullough