

# ANZAC DAY

## Rotary Club Remembers

### ADDRESS BY DR. MORGAN

The Newcastle Rotary Club, at its weekly luncheon yesterday, held an Anzac Day meeting, in which songs, and an inspiring address by Dr. Idris Morgan, were features.

"Anzac Day has become a national day in Australia," said Dr. Morgan, "a day set apart for the people of this continent to commemorate the sacrifice of those who fell, and the valour of those who fought. On this day, those of us who lived in the troublous days of 1914-18, find our minds charged with sadness, and tinged with pride. The thoughts of those who fought and those who remained civilians turn to the events of those years.

"Disenchantment, and disillusionment, I make bold to say, are the mental states of most returned soldiers, and, apparently, in most of the countries who fought in the war. As far as our own men are concerned, whatever may be said concerning the origin of the Great War, of this I am certain: The men who fought in the A.I.F. enlisted, prepared to sacrifice anything and everything, including life itself, for what they believed to be a just and right cause. Never were motives more pure or more heroic. Those men believed that their sacrifice would rid the world for ever from the fear and the suffering of war, and endow it with universal freedom. Even after years of warfare, when the glamour of adventure had long since been replaced by the bitterness of continued physical strain and mental anguish, they hung on and won, still firm in the belief that the job must be done, war and oppression must be scotched once and for all. Those of our comrades who fell died in that belief. Perhaps theirs was the happier lot. We revere their memory to-day. Many thousands have died since, knowing and feeling, as I do, that although the effort has not been entirely in vain, the time is not yet. Many thousands still carry the mental and physical scars of the conflict, and the disenchantment—the

### AFTERMATH OF WAR

Very few men who saw actual warfare possess a nervous and mental equilibrium

as stable and reliable as it was before they endured the experiences of shell fire and other conditions of active service. With the advance of age—the average age of the returned soldier is now 45 years—and the worries and hardships of the last few years hundreds have broken down completely or partially under the strain. The community hears little of the matter. The average Digger prefers to lick his wounds in private, and the Repatriation Department does its work quietly and efficiently without a publicity department.

"The returned soldier is a unique man, a man suffering the result of experiences never before the Great War experienced in the world's history, so intensively, or on such a large scale. The world has a short memory, and already a generation has grown to manhood to whom the war is a story, and who, I am afraid, do not grasp its full significance.

### EVOLUTION OF MAN.

"Man has evolved from a simple organism, through aeons of time to the complicated and elaborate mechanism seen in the human being as he is to-day. Primarily, man was governed by instincts only, all instincts being subjugated to one—the instinct of self-preservation for the purpose of self-propagation. Whatever the ultimate aim of Nature's scheme may be, preservation of the individual for the purpose of propagation of the species is found as the motive of all the actions and impulses of the animal and of primitive man."

"Man became a human being, homo sapiens, because in some way he began to endeavour to gain control of his instincts. He ceased to act purely on the basis of self-preservation. This evolutionary process still goes on. Man has gained some control—but how much?"

"The history of evolution is the story of an unending struggle by man to gain control of these all-powerful instincts. Each individual is the summation of his ancestors. The tota of gained control of one man is handed on to his off-spring. Actual apparent gain in this direction may take millions of years to become obvious. Commercial competition and business rivalry are at base due to the urge and instinct for self-preservation. History shows that nations, being collections of individuals, have behaved as individuals. Nations have attacked other nations to provide food for their peoples, to obtain land on which to plant over-abundant population, and to obtain gold with which to buy food. Might has been right. Not satisfied with enough, men acclaimed as great in history, followed one conquest after another, to add luxuries to sustenance, and sometimes for the sheer joy of

after another, to add luxuries to sustenance, and sometimes for the sheer joy of conquest only. Up to 1914 the law of the forest still played the largest part in governing international relationships. For years prior to 1914 the leading nations of civilisation—with the possible exception of America—prepared intensively and competitively for war."

#### WAR AGAIN?

"Just 100 years after Waterloo the storm broke. Many and various explanations of the causes of this last great war have been advanced. The favourite one is the time-worn economic explanation. An over-populated country urgently in need of fresh territory to house and feed its surplus population, prepared to take by force what was necessary for the life of its population—the old instinct of self-preservation. Sixteen years have elapsed since the first Armistice Day, and to-day, in spite of the efforts of the League of Nations and Disarmament Conferences, intense nationalism is drowning the saner voice of internationalism, and a race of armaments, with its inevitable result has begun. Things are as they were—shaping towards yet another repetition of what the world saw in the times of Pharaoh, Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, and the Junkers of Germany.

"It is not impossible to imagine a world at peace—no armaments at all, no possibility of war. To imagine such a state of affairs, however, one must imagine every nation of the earth governed by men capable of thinking entirely in terms of a world community, men who have completely mastered the feelings, impulses and emotions engendered by differences of race, colour and religion, and one must also imagine these rulers supported in all countries of the world by populations with the same changed outlook."

"Some will say that is a Utopian idea. Why? Because, as the man in the street says, 'You can't alter human nature.' In short, the imaginary world at peace depends first and most on the mental attitude of the various peoples of the earth; on the amount of control they have gained over their primitive instincts. This is a purely biological equation, one which is so obvious, capable of so much proof and so important in moulding behaviour in individuals and nations that it cannot be set aside lightly or neglected in discussing the problem of the causation and prevention of war.

"After 1914, for the first time in the history of the world came a practical and honest endeavour to adjust international differences by an appeal to controlled reason as against the instinct of violence. A valiant attempt but partially successful. Might in the East has still proved the method of providing sustenance for a sur-

Might in the East has still proved the method of providing sustenance for a surplus population. Intense nationalism is the characteristic feature of the world to-day. Again instincts play their part and control is gained slowly.

"Perhaps, however, the biologists are inclined to be too pessimistic. Never has there been such a universal demand that arbitration shall supersede war in the councils of the world. The recent Sino-Japanese war, and the present state of affairs in the world, has come about in spite of this demand. The time is not yet, says the biologist. He says that, and we know from our own observation that

this is true, individual men and individual races have not gained control at the same rate.

#### A NEW GOSPEL.

"Wars in history have but rarely been declared or conducted by a nation. This responsibility has fallen to the lot of a few men. These men held the fate of the many whom they represented in their hands. Patriotism, the glory of righteousness of death in battle for king and country had been preached for years, till it became almost a tenet of human faith. A new gospel has arisen. True it was preached many years ago, but does not seem to have found more than an echo in the council of the nations till to-day—the gospel of living for mankind rather than dying for the interests of one group. It is puzzling to understand how these leaders of nations for so many years have maintained this doctrine and practised it. One would have expected enlightened rulers to avoid war at all costs. If what we are told is true, one of the leading nations of the earth, as recently as 20 years ago, deliberately prepared for conquest by war.

"The war showed that the spirit of self-sacrifice and the control over selfish impulses gained by man is not perhaps at so low an ebb as the biologist would have us believe. If thousands of men and women in the major portion of the world were willing and able to make the sacrifices we saw and know were made, then the picture is not so black. The fact remains, however, that wars are still with us and likely to be. The biologist may be entirely correct in his contentions, but I think it is erroneous to draw the conclusion that because wars exist, man in the mass has not sufficient control of his instincts to prevent them. Man in the mass has rarely had the opportunity to declare war. Rarely, except in the case of small nations like Greece, where the army numbered hundreds only, has the declaration of war been made by a plebiscite of the people.

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"In spite of what is said about the economic necessity for expansion of crowded nations, many times must the guilt be laid at the door of rulers drunk with the instincts of power, and commercial interest drunk with the lust for gain, both states being manifestations of the victory of primitive instincts over recently acquired control.

#### IS WAR INEVITABLE?

"The problem then resolves itself into this: As wars are still possible there must be in the countries of the world men who believe in war as a just method of settling disputes or biologically, whose instinct for violence is greater than their reason. If this were not so there would be no war. These men must be in a majority, or if not, must hold a major power in the affairs of the world. If those who hold the opposite view are in a majority in number, then they must hold a minor power in the councils of the world.

"I think the biologist, when he states that man has not developed sufficiently to

men will be remembered as an effort that made peace possible."

allow him to overcome racial differences and live at peace, has overlooked an important point. Individuals or races who have gained this control he speaks of may be in an actual numerical majority in the world, but may not yet have become an articulated opinion, strong enough to sway the world's councils. I am idealist enough to believe that this consensus of opinion against war as a method of settling international disputes is sufficiently strong in the world to accomplish its object, if it is given the opportunity to become articulate. That is a tremendous 'if.' The signs of our times, despite what is apparent on the surface at present, suggest that this is so. New forms or new ideals of national government, begetting new forms of international government may be necessary, propaganda study, and thought along the lines laid down by Rotary and other organisations, are necessary; many things are necessary, but it is not impossible. Imagine what could be done towards altering the world's attitude to war with a fraction of the world's annual armament bill!

"We have learned that the time is not yet, but we believe that the acts which culminated in the long last sleep of our mates, forged one more link in the chain of human progress, and hastened forward the day when all men shall live at peace. All human progress has been made in travail and sorrow. The fight against disease, ignorance, oppression, and injustice throughout the ages is a tale of sacrifice and martyrdom. When universal peace is accomplished the sacrifice of these men will be remembered as an effort that made peace possible."