

The Hands-Around-the-Pacific-Movement

BY ALEXANDER HUME FORD

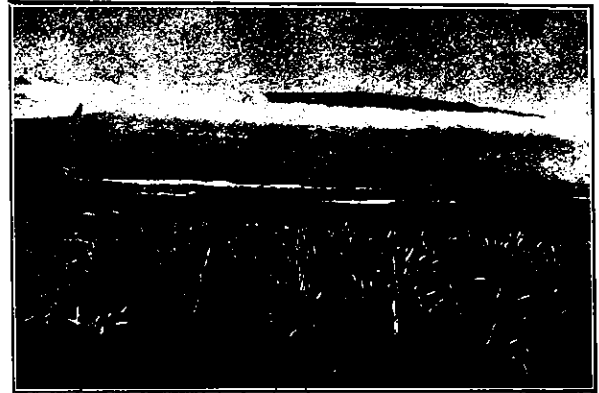
[Our readers will remember an article in our March issue on the "Ad" Club of Honolulu by Mr. Ford. This further article gives an account of the growth of the movement which Mr. Ford is advocating and was written before there any thought of war.]

At a luncheon of the "New Zealand Club" in Wellington, I was commissioned to carry around the Great Ocean a message that New Zealand believed in the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Movement, and that it would do its part in creating a Pacific Patriotism. Since then, I have encircled the Great Ocean, and the message from New Zealand has done much to cement the other lands of the Pacific with this great movement, which is headed to-day by the chief executives of most of the Pacific countries.

In a way, the ideals of the "New Zealand Club" are the ideals of the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Movement. The "New Zealand Club" meets at luncheon whenever there is a distinguished visitor in Wellington whom they wish to hear from. The Hands-Around-the-Pacific branches about the Pacific are similar organisations save that they meet weekly, and when there is no distinguished visitor from abroad to address the meeting, they lunch together, meet each other and hear from one of their own members. In this way they develop a local as well as a Pacific patriotism, both of which are absolutely necessary in the furtherance of the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Movement.

In Honolulu, Hawaii, a "Hundred-thousand-Club" was organised and was supposed to represent the desire of the people to reach a hundred thousand population, but this was not really the desire of Hawaii. Our real desire was to make Hawaii known to the world as a place where tourists and distinguished visitors would be gladly welcomed. So the "Hundred-Thousand-Club" gave way to the "AD" or "Advertisement" Club, which meets weekly at lunch, and has five hundred members who recently raised \$30,000 gold in a single day for promotion and publicity work in Hawaii. But during the life of the "Hundred-Thousand-Club" in Hawaii, the head of the tourist bureau of New South Wales was entertained at a joint banquet of this club and the "Hands-Around-the-Pacific" club. He grasped the idea and organised in Sydney the "Millions Club," consolidating it with the Hands-Around-the-Pacific organisation in that city. The "Millions Club" of Sydney holds fortnightly lunches, and has a membership of over a thousand, but it is not as closely woven together, however, as those organisations that hold regular weekly lunches. The Honolulu "AD" Club for instance, for three years has never missed meeting together every Wednesday noon at lunch; the first twenty minutes being given to the officers to make reports, the second twenty minutes to the speaker of the day, and the third twenty minutes for discussion between the speaker and the members. The minutes, the death knell to so many organisations, are never read. But the weekly lunch is never omitted.

In Perth, West Australia, the branch of the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Movement is called the "Millions Club of Western Australia" and it is the desire of the people of West Australia to gain a million population for their State. The Premier, (Mr. John Seaddan) is the presiding officer, always present at the weekly luncheon to the distinguished guest of the day, while Sir Harry Barron the Governor General is the Patron of the club, and receives the distinguished guest who is provided with an automobile by the Government Tourist Bureau. This organisation has brought about the splendid co-operation in West Australia of the Railways, the Roads Department, the Government Tourist Bureau, the Government officials, and private transportation



The Rich District of the Island of Mani extending up the sides of Haleakala, Hawaiian Group

companies. The leader of the Opposition is vice-president, and the Mayor of the City, second vice-president, while the active head of the Chamber of Commerce is treasurer, and the directorate numbers in its fold, the most active editors and business men of the city. Usually a hundred or more sit down together at the weekly luncheons. As the constitution and bye-laws of the Perth organization have been adopted by the different Hands-Around-the-Pacific clubs around the Pacific, it might be well to present them.

The objects of this club shall be:—

- (1). To establish and maintain an organization, membership in which shall be open to any respectable male citizen of the State of Western Australia, who is interested in securing a million people for this State.
- (2). To get its members together at luncheon on Tuesdays of every week in the city of Perth to conduct its business, listen to the address of some prominent speaker, and to discuss matters of interest to the club and to the State.