

THE WORLD CRISIS

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View Through American Glasses 1932

The chief guest at to-day's Rotary Club luncheon was the Rev. Ray Foote Purdy, an American clergyman, who is at present relieving the Rev. Dr. McMillan, and who spoke on the American view of the world crisis.

The thing the world was suffering from most to-day was a lack of unity, the lack of the feeling that they were one brotherhood, said the speaker. The position in America was in a way a reflection of that. American politics were a conflict between conservative and creditor East against the more open and restless West. They were interested only in themselves, and a feeling of isolation had grown up. After the war America wanted to be self-sufficing, hedged round by high tariff walls, and with as few outside entanglements as possible.

POSITION ALTERED

Within the last two or three years the position had altered greatly. The extension of credit from America to European countries had reached great proportions. The depression had broken down that credit system, and the edifice of confidence and faith that had been built up had collapsed like a house of cards.

There was a feeling abroad in the present difficult times that the policy of being interested in all the world should be dropped, and that they should forget the other fellow and at least put their own house in order. There was no doubt that there was a great deal of wisdom in that feeling, which had given rise to such individualistic efforts as Russian Communism, Italian Fascism, and American isolation. They had been trying to demonstrate the validity of a new theory. It also explained the unwillingness of America to enter into the League of Nations or the Disarmament Conference.

"That, however, I do not consider to be the answer to the problem. We need unity and confidence in one another," said Mr. Purdy. "The only alternative is for human nature to change."

Mr. Hubert Hoskin, President of the Johannesburg Rotary Club, handed over the cup won by Pretoria in the annual Rotary cricket match last February.