

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

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Shanghai
(City)

China
(Country)

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Organization of International Club in Shanghai

center, but primarily for its members. For instance, if the American members of the club wish to arrange to hold their most beautiful ballroom in the Far East. As a matter of fact there are probably not many in the United States that are better.

The hotel was not a paying proposition and hence it was obliged to dispose of its property. The hotel itself was originally the private home of a wealthy Shanghai family and has accommodations for no more than thirty or forty guests. Its principal attractions have been the ballroom and the outdoor annex known as the Italian Pavilion, which is adapted to dancing for summertime.

Recently a group of Shanghai capitalists arranged to take over the hotel property, less a certain section of the large surrounding garden which is used as an open door cinema. Undoubtedly certain facilities will be incorporated in the new club for such games as bowling, billiards, squash racket, etc.

The property was purchased by this group at a cost of 1,200,000 taels (U.S.G\$500,000) and it is planned now to convert it into an International Club. In this connection it is proposed to have two hundred proprietary members, each to subscribe to a certain number of debentures, which will pay seven or eight per cent interest. In addition, provision will be made for fifteen hundred regular members who will be called upon to pay a fee of \$10 (Chinese currency) a month.

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The idea is to conduct the club as a sort of community center, but primarily for its members. For instance, if the American members of the club wish to arrange to hold their George Washington Birthday Ball in the ballroom they can do so. During the past few years it has been customary to hold this Ball at the Majestic. There are probably about fifteen hundred people in attendance at these functions and five or six hundred couples on the dancing floor at one time. A very high class American jazz orchestra is retained and will probably also be one of the features of the new club.

As Young China is very keenly interested in modern dancing this International Club will furnish the facilities for international gatherings and especially dances in which the Chinese will participate in a very substantial way. Thus it will likely prove to be a center at which the East and West may meet in a pleasing social manner.

Undoubtedly certain facilities will be incorporated in the new club for such games as bowling, billiards, squash rackets, badminton and also special rooms for card games and mahjong.

Thus Shanghai will develop through this International Club a most unique institution in thorough keeping with the cosmopolitan character of this commercial metropolis of the Far East.

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