

THE AERO CLUB OF SHANGHAI.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—With reference to the communications and footnotes on the subject of this club which appeared in your publication of 15th inst-ant, I beg to present the following facts.

As honorary Chinese secretary of the club, I was "the gentleman who sent in the notice of the meeting." I sent similar notices to all the three morning dailies of this city at the same time: the original to the "China Press" and one each of the two carbon copies to your paper and the "Shanghai Times." The name of the Aero Club of Shanghai was used and not the "Aero Club of China." My natural conclusion is that your reporter must have been mistaken in attempting to rewrite the notice to show "individuality." As evidence to show the reasonableness of my contention, I wish to point out to you that neither the "China Press" nor the "Shanghai Times" styled the club as the "Aero Club of China." I herewith enclose clippings of the two papers which appeared on the same day as your report appeared.

For the information of "Clutching Hand," I have to say:—

(1)—The Aero Club of Shanghai came into existence on January 8, 1921, at a meeting held at the Café Parisien.

(2)—The Executive Committee consists of:—

President:—Mr. Brodie A. Clarke, chairman, International Recreation Club, etc.

Vice-Presidents:—Major W. R. McBain, R. A. F., Honorary Advisor to the Aeronautical Department, etc., Mr. G. A. Bena, president, Italian Chamber of Commerce, etc., and the Hon. Tong Shao-yi, former Premier, Minister of Finance, Southern Government, etc.

Members:—Mr. T. E. Doremus, president, Shanghai Rotary Club, General manager for the Far East of the Du Pont Company Interests.

Mr. Y. C. Tong, director, Chinese Red Cross Society; member, Consultative Board, Whangpoo Conservancy Board; Member, Chinese Educational Committee, S. M. C., etc.

Mr. George A. Fitch, Secretary, Y. M. C. A., Pan-Pacific Association, etc.

Mr. J. Edward Doyle, City Editor, the "China Press."

Dr. Herbert Chatley, Acting Engineer-in-chief, Whangpoo Conservancy Board, etc.

Mr. F. R. Sites, United States Steel Products Co.

Dr. Julian Petit, secretary, Shanghai Rotary Club. English Secretary, Mr. L. D. Boone, U. S. Naval Flying Corps and Koster Company.

Chinese Secretary:—Jabin Hsu, local representative, Aeronautical Department, Republic of China.

(3)—Answered in the foregoing paragraph.

(4)—I herewith enclose three copies of the Constitution of our club in which the purpose of the club is clearly set out.

(5)—See Constitution, Article VI.

(6)—The Aero Club of Shanghai is still so called. As far as I know, there is no organization which calls itself the Aero Club of China.

(7)—Copies of your letter may be furnished to all the members of the association through me, if you wish. In this particular case I shall without your requesting me take up the matter at the first opportunity I have. There will be a tiffin meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at the Carlton Café to which both "Clutching Hand" and "Avro" as well as the general public are cordially invited to attend.

With reference to the allegations made by "Clutching Hand" as to the efforts made by him and others to obtain information regarding our club, may I respectfully refer him and your good self to the publication known as "the North-China Desk Hong List." On page 48 under "Clubs" the name of the Aero Club of Shanghai appears with the following information "L. M. Bocker, sec., 9 Hankow Road."

I might add that Mr. Bocker left Shanghai for the United States in November 1920. Before his departure, he gave instructions to his office to refer all matters of the club to me. But up to the present I have not been approached at all by inquiries or inquirers. I would ask "Clutching Hand" to substantiate his allegation that letters and newspaper articles on the subject have been ignored.

As to the letter of "Avro," I wish to say that I have received no letters addressed to me or the secretary of the Aero Club of Shanghai since November when I was elected to office. I have never been approached by any visitors armed with letters of introduction from any Aero Club in any part of the world.

As to further questions of "Avro" concerning our organization I refer him to the Constitution of our club, which you may publish at your discretion.

Your footnote, to say the least, is offensive and misleading. Besides what I have to say in the opening paragraphs of this letter, I feel that I owe no apology to any one. It is an erroneous statement that I vouchsafed no answer to the "other questions raised." The truth of the matter is that no questions were raised with me until

they appeared in print and my attention was called to them yesterday.

I am, etc.,
JABIN HSU.

Hon. Chinese Secretary,
8 Peking Road,
Shanghai, Jan. 16.

** The notice of the meeting of the Aero Club of Shanghai sent out by Mr. Hsu did not reach us. The intelligence we published came from another quarter, and in the form in which it was given, namely the Aero Club of China.—Ed.