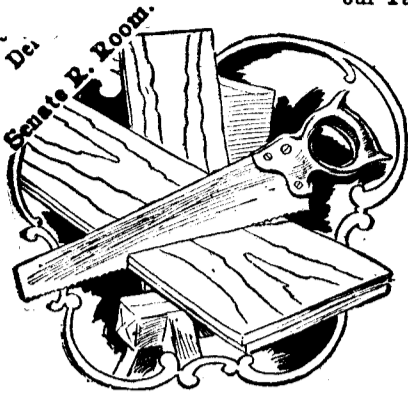


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BRANCH OF NEW CATHOLIC ORDER

Large Body of the Knights of Columbus to Visit Winnipeg.

Several hundred members of the secret society, the Knights of Columbus, the most enthusiastic and influential Catholic association on the continent, will arrive in the city on Saturday morning, the 28th instant, and will spend Saturday and Sunday here.

The object of the special trip of the Knights to this city is to organize a branch of the order. For the past three years local Catholic people have been negotiating with the leading officials of the association to come to Winnipeg and begin operations here. The order is, however, exceedingly slow in beginning or instituting new branches, the purpose of the officials being to exercise very great care both in the selection of the localities where branches may be organized, and also in the choice of the members of the various branches when the decision to open there has been reached. After several years of negotiations, the decision to come to Winnipeg was reached and arrangements have now been completed to run one or two special trains to the city from the south, and also possibly a special train from the east. Having decided to take this step, the officials of the order made a special effort to get a most representative body of men to make the trip, and among the visitors to the city at the close of the month, will be many of the leading Catholic business men of the northwestern States.

A large party will come north from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and from leading towns and cities of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Many Knights will also come from Fargo and Grand Forks, and a large contingent will come in from Western Ontario.

Local Programme

Local arrangements are now being completed for the meetings here. The work of the institution of the branch will begin on Saturday morning and will continue till 7 p.m. At the conclusion of the Lodge work a banquet will be served to the visiting brethren by the Winnipeg members. Both the ritualistic service during the afternoon, and the banquet in the evening will be strictly private, none but members of the order being admitted to other functions.

In addition to the members of the order, it is anticipated that about forty ladies, wives of members, will spend Saturday and Sunday in the city. Winnipeg ladies interested in the formation of the new lodge will entertain the visiting ladies during the afternoon. A tea will be given, and the visitors will be driven about the city. On Thursday afternoon of the present week a meeting of the ladies interested in the event will be held in St. Mary's hall. The committee of gentlemen in charge of the arrangements will also be present and a conference will be held and all plans fully discussed.

On Sunday morning at 11 o'clock all the visitors will attend High Mass in St. Mary's church. The centre of the church will, if possible, be reserved for strangers, and the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Father Riordan, of St. Paul, well known as one of the most eloquent pulpit orators in the United States.

During the afternoon, the visitors will be driven about the city and at five o'clock they will take the evening train for the south.

The Order

The order of the Knights of Columbus occupies the same place in the Catholic Church that the Masonic order does in the Protestant Church. It is a secret society within the Church formed for the purpose of advancing the interests of Catholics both individually and collectively. It embraces within its membership almost all the leading Catholic of the cities in which it is established, and is recognized as the great Catholic order. A large number of Winnipeg Catholics will be admitted to membership in the branch to be formed here. In connection with the work of the order, an insurance feature is maintained, but this element is not emphasized. It is regarded as one of the minor elements, the chief features of the work of the order being of a different nature.

The candidates who will form the first council of Winnipeg have selected the following as a committee of arrangements: T. D. Deegan, J. E. O'Connor, Dr. J. K. Barrett, F. W. Russell, J. J. Callahan, Norman Lindsay, H. H. Cottingham, A. J. H. Dubuc, L. Cardinal, T. J. Langford, O. Marrin, J. Bernier, L. Villeroy, D. Smith.

These gentlemen will meet to consider all arrangements for the event at the rooms of the Catholic Club this evening at 8.—Free Press, April 17.

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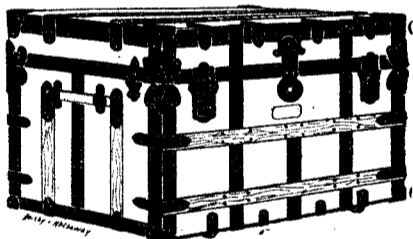
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