

C. M. B. A. of Canada Hold an Open Meeting.

A most successful open meeting of the C. M. B. A. of Canada was held on Sunday evening, at St. Patrick's Hall. There was a large attendance of members of the various branches. Amongst those occupying seats on the platform were:—

Rev. John Quinlivan, pastor of St. Patrick's; Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R., pastor of St. Ann's; Mr. Justice Curran, Hon. M. F. Hackett, Grand President of the C. M. B. A.; Messrs. J. P. Killackey, and J. E. Howison, organizers; J. J. Costigan, T. P. Tansey, C. Daudelin, A. H. Spedding, grand deputies; T. J. Finn, grand chancellor; P. Reynolds, A. D. McGillis, M. Eagan, M. Sharkey, grand vicars; the presidents of the different branches, as follows: D. J. McGillis, Branch No. 26; A. Jones, No. 41; J. Freeman, 50; C. O'Brien, 54; J. Coffey, 74; Joseph Beland, 87; J. A. Primeau, 190; G. A. Carpenter, 232; Chas. Fortier, 240. Mr. L. Lamoreux occupied the chair.

Mr. J. E. H. Howison delivered a very interesting speech in the French language, dwelling more especially on the advantages derived from the C. M. B. A., and the sentiment of gratitude and love that every member should entertain for the association.

He was followed by Rev. Father M. Auclair, who treated of the bond of connection uniting the C.M.B.A. with the Roman Catholic Church. Quoting words from Pius IX., and Leo XIII., he contended that religion expected a great deal from mutual societies. His speech was very elaborate and the audience cheered it to the echo.

Mr. J. P. Killackey next took the floor. If every priest in the Province of Quebec, said he, preached the cause of the association with as much eloquence as Father Auclair, a great many more French Canadians would belong to the C. M. B. A. He thought the membership of the latter was too limited and he reproached the meeting with the fact. There was too much apathy amongst the active members, and in a city so thoroughly Catholic as Montreal, a mutual association like the C. M. B. A. should be very popular. He failed to see any reason for faultfinding in the administration of the board. A man criti-

cizing the officials who took care of his insurance money free of charge was guilty of ingratitude. On the other hand, the rate of assessment of the society were most easy as compared with those of other similar associations.

Mr. Justice Curran was next called upon to address the gathering, and the former Irish political leader was greeted with tremendous cheering, as he stepped forward. He was there to endorse all that had been said. He believed the C. M. B. A. was the most solid, the most secure and the best fitted to meet its obligations of all the mutual societies on the American continent. It was based on safe data. He was with Mr. Killackey when the latter complained of the comparatively small membership, but he did not think the C. M. B. A. was not flourishing for the sole reason that it did not do so by leaps and bounds. It was the thinking people that would join this association. When he joined it some twenty years ago, they did not have one cent reserve fund, but now according to their last report, the reserve was \$80,000.

Grand President M. F. Hackett closed the gathering, by a very eloquent speech. It had been a source of pleasure for him, he said, to listen to Father Auclair stating that, starting from an early period, and comparing the C. M. B. A. with other similar societies, the former held the most brilliant place. He had also been pleased to hear Mr. Killackey, who for some time has been doing yeoman's work in all parts of Ontario, and who, in 1898, had increased the membership of the society by 127. A bishop of Ontario had stated that the C. M. B. A. was the right arm of the Church in that Province, and they wanted to make it the right arm of the Church in Quebec. All the Catholics of America should form as a strong body to further help the Church. This association kept a man in the Church. No one could belong to it unless he was a practical Catholic. The speaker also referred to the fraternal sympathy that should exist between all the members of the C.M.B.A. and he closed his very eloquent effort by a strong appeal to his hearers.

A TRUE CELTIC POEM--THE SWORD OF CARROLL.

The "Revue Celtique" of Paris recently published the following curious and very interesting poem. Mr. Kuno Meyer, of the Liverpool University, translated it into English. The original Irish is in the Book of Leinster. The person who just brought this poem and its translation to the attention of the Irish public says:— "The poem is written in that extraordinary metre known as deibhdhe which would be impossible to reproduce in English, and which has long ceased to be practised by Gaelic poets. Cearbhall, or Carroll, as the name is now generally spelled, was the last King of Leinster that lived at Naas, in the County of Kildare. He died about the year 909. It is evident that sword making was carried to great perfection in ancient Ireland, for Carroll's sword had been in the hands of fighting men for over a hundred years, and seems to have lasted intact through all the fighting."

For the benefit of our Gaelic Society, and all interested in Irish literature, we give the poem and its annotations.

Hail, sword of Carroll! oft hast thou been in the great wolf of war, oft giving battle, beheading high princes, oft hast thou gone a-raiding in the hands of kings of high judgments, oft hast thou divided the spoil when with a king worthy of thee. Oft hast thou been in a white hand where Leinster men were, oft hast thou been among kings, oft among great hands. Many were the kings with whom thou hast been when thou madest light, many a shield hast thou cleft in battle, many a head, many a chest, many a fair skin. Forty years without sorrow, Enna of the noble hosts had thee. Never wast thou in a straight, but in the hands of very fierce kings. Enna gave thee, it was no niggardly gift, to his own son, Dunlang; (1) Thirty years wast thou in his possession, to Dunlang thou broughtest ruin. Many a king upon a high steed possessed thee until Diarmid, (1) the fierce king; Sixteen years was the time Diarmid had thee. At the feast of Allen upon a time Diarmid the hardy-born bestowed thee—

Diarmid the noble king gave thee to the man of Maige, to Murican; (2) Forty years stoutly thou wast in the hand of the high King of Allen; (3) Thou never wast a year without battle while with Murican of the mighty deeds.

In Wexford Murican King of the foreigners, (4) gave thee to Carroll; While he was on the yellow earth Carroll gave thee to no one. Thy bright point was a red point in the battle of Odba of the foreigners. When thou ledest Aed Findliath vanquished in that battle of noble routs.

Red was thy edge, as was known, at Ballach Mughna (5) it was provided. In the valorous battle of Ailb's plain throughout which fighting raged. Before thee the goodly host broke on a Thursday at Dun Ochter. When Aed, the fierce and brilliant fell on the hillside above Liath-muine.

Before the host broke on the day when Cellach was slain, With numbers of troops in high, lofty Tara.

Before thee the hosts fled southwards in the battle of Boyne of rough feats.

When Cuogha, the lance of valour, fell at seeing thee, for dread of thee.

Thou wast furious, thou wast not weak, heroic was thy swift force.

When Ailili Frossach of Fal fell in the front of the onset.

Thou never hadst a day of defeat while Carroll of the fair gardens had thee—

He that swore no lying oath, he that went not against his word.

Thou never hadst a day of sorrow; many a night thou hadst abroad;

Thou hast found many a king with grace of valour, many a battle awaiting thee.

O, sword of kings of the great conflagrations, do not fear to go astray!

Thou shalt find thy man of valour, a lord worthy of thee.

Who shall henceforth possess thee, or to whom wilt thou deal ruin?

From the day that Carroll departed, with whom wilt thou be bedded?

Thou shalt not be neglected until thou comest to the house of Naas with strong fight.

Where Finn of the feasts is, they will say to thee, "All hail!"

(1) Dunland and Diarmid were kings of Leinster.

(2) Murican was also a king of Leinster.

(3) King Allen is only a poetic name for King of Leinster, the Hill of Allen being one of its noted places.

(4) All kings of Leinster claimed sovereignty over the Danes settled in their province.

(5) The battle of Ballach Mughna was fought in 809. It was in it that Cormac MacCullinain, King of Munster, was slain with 7,000 of his troops.

Eloquence must flow like a stream; that is fed by an abundant spring; and not spout forth a little frothy water on some gaudy day, and remain dry the rest of the year.

MARKET REPORT

SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE TRUE WITNESS.

The feature of the egg market this week has been the demand from foreign buyers for fresh stock, and several sales of fair sized lots have been made for shipment to London. The receipts have been more liberal owing to the fine warm weather in consequence supplies have been more than ample to fill the local requirements. Although the demand has been good and trade active. The tone of the market is easier, and the bulk of the sales of choice stock have taken place at 11c and No. 2 at 9½c to 10c per dozen.

Dressed Poultry.—This market is quiet as usual at this season, but the feeling is steady owing to small receipts. Fresh killed turkeys are selling at 10c to 11c; chickens at 7c to 8c; and old fowls at 5c to 5½c. Geese are meeting with a ready sale at 6c and ducks at 8c to 9c. Latest advices from the principal raising districts in Ontario state that the prospects are good for turkeys this coming spring as considerable attention is being paid to the raising of the same.

Dried Apples.—There has been no change in this line, prices ruling steady at 5½c to 6c for dried, and 8½c to 9c for evaporated.

Beans.—The demand for beans continues slow, and business is principally of a jobbing character. Choice hand-picked are selling at 95c to \$1. and primes at 85c to 90c per bushel.

Hops.—An easy feeling prevails in this market, but prices show no material change. Canadians are selling at 17c to 19c, as to quality, and English Kents at 40c to 43c per lb., duty paid here.

Honey.—Business in this produce continues very quiet and the market is without any new feature of note. White choice in comb is quoted at 8c to 9c in round lots, and at 9½c to 10c in a jobbing way. White extracted honey is offering at 7c to 7½c; buckwheat comb at 5½c to 7c, and extracted at 4c to 6c.

Potatoes.—There is a good demand for choice lots, and sales off cars have taken place at 70c per bag. Sprouted stock move slow, at 55c to 60c per bag. For small quantities 75c to 80c has been paid.

Roots.—Trade in these has ruled quiet and the market is dull. Quebec turnips are offering at 85c to 90c per barrel; carrots at 85c, and parsnips at \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Baled Hay.—The demand is good and as receipts are small owing to farmers being busy with their field work, a firmer feeling has prevailed and prices are slightly higher. Choice No. 1 has sold at \$6.50 to \$7; No. 2, at \$5 to \$5.50, and clover mixture at \$4.50 to \$5.

Baled Straw.—There is no change in this line the market being quiet and steady. Choice bright on track is quoted at \$3.50 to \$4, and ordinary at \$2.50 to \$3 per ton.

Maple Syrup.—The market is still very firm under a good demand, and supplies are picked up almost as fast as they come forward. Syrup in wood is selling at 5½c to 6c per lb., and at 65c to 70c per tin. Sugar is also in good demand at 7½c to 8c per lb.

Ashes.—The market for ashes is quiet. First pots are selling at \$4.05, and seconds at \$3.90 per 100 lbs.

Tallow.—Demand for tallow is limited, and business quiet. Refined is quoted at 4½c to 5c and rough at 2½c to 3c per lb.

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The Catholic Sailors' Club held their usual weekly concert on Wednesday evening at the Club Rooms, Commissioners Street; and judging from the most enjoyable evening spent by all those present, the success of the coming season's series of entertainments is already secured. The dates of the

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weekly concerts have been changed this year so as to meet the sailing dates of the ships.

There was a large attendance on Wednesday evening and a most select programme of vocal and instrumental music was contributed principally by the seamen in port. Mr. George Mathieu occupied the chair, and the following seamen took part:—

Messrs. Morris, Leavy, Wilson, Gilvarey, Davies, Bage, Gregory, Smith, and Gascoigne, together with Messrs. Marrow, Ford and Lancashire, Mrs. Durand and Miss "Tootsie," who also contributed.

Time is like a river made up of the events which happen, and a violent stream, for as soon as a thing has been seen it is carried away, and another comes in its place, and this will be carried away too.

Men in great places are thrice servants: servants of the sovereign or state, servants of fame; and servants of business; so that they have no freedom, neither in their persons, nor in their actions; nor in their time.

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