

Society News.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

JOHN C. SCHUBERT, HIGH CHIEF RANGER,
ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

Mr. John C. Schubert, High Chief Ranger of the Catholic Order of Foresters, who has been spending a few days in this city, left for Idaho last Wednesday. Mr. Schubert, when speaking of the progress of the C.O.F., said that the Order is growing with extraordinary rapidity; new courts are continually being formed, and yet there are many places where a court could be established and have many members. During last year no less than 140 courts were formed.

In view of the great enlargement which is continually taking place in the order, Mr. Schubert and a few others have been agitating for home rule for the Quebec and other courts distant from headquarters. If this were obtained Mr. Schubert says that the expenses of the courts could be cut down to one-tenth of their present figure. He believes also that the high council, at the convention, would also be able to give better legislation, as a small body can deliberate and arrive at conclusions better than a body of five hundred. To send a delegate from the Province of Quebec to the convention at St. Paul, it costs the society at the least sixty dollars; therefore, about \$6,200 are spent each year, when about \$720 would suffice if the courts had home rule, and instead of so many delegates, one in every 500 attended the conventions.

The C.O.F. numbers 28,000 members altogether, among these six different nations are represented: English-speaking, French, German, Belgian, Italian, Polish and Russian; there are also two courts of negroes; no racial distinctions as to color are made; religion only is the point on which they must be unanimous to be admitted. The C.O.F. has the sanction of many Catholic Bishops, both in the States and here; Cardinal Taschereau, of Quebec, having especially expressed his belief in the nature of the society, and Bishop Messner of Wisconsin, so far believes in it as to be himself a member of its brotherhood. In some parts of the States the growth of the C.O.F. during the last few months has been phenomenal; this is always the case in districts where the A.P.A. exists. The reason for the Catholics flocking to the standard of the C.O.F. is a protective one; it is not a society for fighting bigots, it is not animated by antipathy to Protestants; but Catholics in A.P.A. districts feel that in joining its brotherhood they will be better able to resist the A.P.A.'s encroachments on their liberty. The C.O.F. was organized ten years ago, with its headquarters in Chicago, which is now its chief stronghold. There are about 10,000 members of the society in Chicago, and all its high officers except one live in that city. Since its foundation, ten years ago, the C.O.F. has paid out in death benefits the sum of \$800,000; for sick benefits, \$300,000; and funeral expenses, \$150,000.

Mr. Schubert is very hopeful for the future of the society, and believes that in a few years it will rank as perhaps the most powerful benefit organization in America.

A meeting of the C.O.F. was held in St. Lawrence Hall, on Wednesday last, to complete arrangements for the transportation of the Canadian delegates to the C.O.F. convention, at St. Paul, Minn., which begins June 5 and ends June 9. The delegates were so well satisfied with their previous trips on the Grand Trunk that they decided to again go by this route to Chicago. From Chicago they will proceed to St. Paul by the C. M. & St. Paul Railway by special train, passing through Milwaukee, and taking up the large Wisconsin delegation. There will be 450 courts represented at St. Paul.

A. O. H.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR BRANCH NO. 2.

Branch 2 of the A. O. H. will hold the election of officers immediately after the return of their delegate from the convention at Omaha, which is expected to take place some time this week. Branch 2, of the A. O. H., has been established about 18 months and already numbers 175 members in good standing and the numbers are increasing very

rapidly. A movement is on foot to hold a monster Irish demonstration some time during the summer; if this can be brought about there is little doubt it will be a success. The members, however, are determined, they say, not to have an excursion for the benefit of the railway companies, but will have their excursion to some near place where an enjoyable time may be spent without absorbing the funds of the society. It will be remembered that the A. O. H. made a good showing in the procession last St. Patrick's day; but by next year they are resolved to make a turn out that will surprise their friends and the public in general.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO REV. FATHER STRUBBE, C.S.S.R.

At the meeting of St. Ann's Young Men, in their Hall on Sunday afternoon, an address of welcome was read to Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., it being the first time he had appeared officially since his return from Belgium. There was a good attendance, and the address, which was a splendid literary composition as well as a touching expression of the esteem in which Father Strubbe is held by his young men, was read by Mr. J. J. Casey. Father Strubbe, in replying to the address, said that during the whole time he was away his thoughts were in Montreal; he said what pleasure it gave him on St. Patrick's Day to receive from a lady of his parish a present of some shamrocks, which he wore in his buttonhole, like a true Irishman. He then said that he visited a Dominican Convent in Flanders, in which was preserved a green flag of Ireland. This flag has a history. After the defeat of the Irish by the Orangemen at the battle of the Boyne the flag, which had never been captured, was carried to this convent by some Irish refugees, and it had remained there ever since.

The Rev. Father stated that he held the old flag in his hand and that he offered a hundred dollars for it, but could not buy it. The nuns, however, told him that perhaps some day they would present it to him; then he would give it to St. Ann's Young Men's Society. Several new members were admitted to the society and the meeting adjourned.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB.

THE SECOND CONCERT A GRAND SUCCESS.

The second concert of the season took place at the Catholic Sailors' Club on Wednesday night. There was a very large attendance of sailors; there was also a number of ladies. Among the citizens present were: The Rev. Father Jones, S.J.; Rev. Father Forhan, S.J.; Mr. R. Martin, President of branch 226, C.M.B.A., several members of the Catholic Truth Society and others. The following gentlemen contributed to the programme: Messrs. Carpenter, Fayne, Collinson, J. Lakin, Fulton, J. Greene, Parkes and others. Mr. G. Parkes, the popular favorite, was there and delivered several of his comic songs in fine style. Mr. Fulton sang several ludicrous ditties in a mirth-provoking manner. He also gave specimens of step dancing, etc. Mr. Fulton is a born humorist and his appearance on the stage, after each encore, was greeted with roars of laughter; Mr. Fulton received a valuable prize for his singing in New Orleans, and he certainly deserved it. During the evening Mr. Carpenter treated the audience to some of his original parodies on the song "Daisy" and others. In these parodies Mr. Carpenter displays considerable facility as a verse maker, while treated from the standpoint of humor his parodies are somewhat more laughable than the original songs. Next week Mr. Carpenter will give an exhibition of step dancing and highland flings, at which exercises he is an adept. The concert was closed by a recitation from Mr. Green, entitled "How Bill Adams won the Battle of Waterloo." Mr. Green is well known as a humorous reciter and the sailors and committee feel much indebted to him for his valuable services.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of St. Ann's T. A. & B. Society was held in their hall, corner of Young and Ottawa streets, on Sunday last, 18th May, and was well attended. The President, Mr.

P. Flannery, occupied the chair. After the regular order of business had been disposed of Rev. Father Godts, of St. Ann's Church, made a short address in the interest of the society. There was a resolution of condolence passed on the death of a very old and respected member, Mr. P. Harkin, who died last week. The committee of management were empowered to make arrangements to hold the usual excursion or picnic, during the summer, after which the meeting was brought to a close. The officers of the society held a special meeting after to make the necessary arrangements.

IRISH CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the society, held in the hall, 223 McGill street, last week, the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers of the society for the ensuing six months: President, Mr. Thos. Kinsella; 1st vice-president, Mr. Daniel O'Neill; 2nd vice-president, Mr. William Grace; secretary-treasurer, Mr. James Inskip; collecting do., Mr. John Davis; assistant collecting do., Mr. Wm. Inskip; grand marshal, Mr. John Dwyer; assistant marshals, Messrs. Patrick McGovern and Jas. Keegan; auditors, Messrs. Arthur Jones, Patrick Corbett and Michael O'Brien. The treasurer's and auditors' reports were read and showed a good balance in favor of the society and gave general satisfaction. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the retiring president and secretary.

A BOGUS "NUN" CONVICTED

Sensational Exposure in Glasgow.

At the Eastern Police Court, Glasgow, recently, Sarah M'Cormack, a young girl, 18 years of age, was charged with falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition in so far that she had fraudulently represented that she had been a "white nun" in Lanark Convent and had delivered a series of addresses in the Glasgow Globe Theatre, on her alleged experiences in convents. A Gospel Army captain, called Samuel Evans, was concurrently charged with inducing many persons to pay for admission to the addresses.

The court was crowded and great excitement was shown in the proceedings. Hugh O'Neill, the first witness, stated that he had been the foster father of Sarah M'Cormack. From the time she was ten years of age she worked at the mill until taking a distaste at the mills, when she went to domestic service in Glasgow. He knew her history intimately from the time he took her out of the workhouse, where she was until ten years of age. She never had been a nun.

Sister Theresa O'Farrell, superioress of Smylum Orphanage, denied that M'Cormack had ever been in Lanark Convent. Thomas Walker, her uncle, declared the girl never had been a nun.

Several witnesses gave evidence of having paid for admission to the Globe Theatre to hear the "white nun's" revelations, which a placard described as "shocking revelations—tricks and quirks of priests' lives, and the horrors of the convent exposed by the converted nun." The revelations were scandalous. M'Cormack "revealed" that disobedient nuns were hung from the ceiling—some by the head and some by the heels (laughter.)

John Banks stated that he offered to prove to Evans that M'Cormack was a fraud, but he refused to listen to the proof and to a telegram from the Lanark Convent denying that M'Cormack ever was in that institution.

Frederick Tierney stated also that he offered to prove that M'Cormack was a fraud, but Evans would not listen, and threatened that if witness or any other person attempted to expose the sham nun in the hall Evans would have them "seriously shifted" (laughter.)

Mrs. M'Lennan, a Protestant and the last employer of M'Cormack as a domestic servant, informed Evans that she was a poor helpless creature and not to be relied upon even for her honesty. Witness also proved that M'Cormack could not have been in a convent for eighteen months, as alleged. She told Evans that the girl's statement could not be relied upon, and directed him to find out the truth from the girl's relations. She could not believe anything the girl said.

George Ball stated that he saw Evans hand over the book "Maria Monk" to the woman M'Cormack. He said to her,

"Read and study this all day, so that you will have something to say in the meeting, as you seem very ignorant" (sensation). Evans also bought in a Glasgow shop the white veil worn by M'Cormack (laughter.) The day "Maria Monk" was given the girl witness asked one of Evans's men, "Is that where the white nun gets her information from?"

Thomas Scott, one of his men, stated that Evans received the drawings of the meetings. Accused paid M'Cormack once 30s, and again 20s—in all £2 10s. Witness saw the girl M'Cormack read "Maria Monk," but he did not see Evans specially give her the book. Witness "run" the "white nun" after Evans had dropped her. Witness added he would not take the proofs of M'Cormack's fraud simply because the informants were Roman Catholics (laughter), and would say any lie against a Protestant (hisses.)

W. Fitzpatrick stated he received the money drawn in the theatre while the "white nun" was there. It amounted to between £50 and £60. That was accounted for to Evans. The girl M'Cormack got £1 (laughter.)

Witnesses were then examined on Evans's behalf.

Sarah M'Cormack was then put into the box. She said that when she went to the "General" he offered her 10s per week. She had no desire for money herself. "General" Evans determined to make the price 6d and 3d, but as the people would not come in he lowered it to 2d (laughter). The place was perfectly packed for 2d; for 3d it was less crowded, but for 6d only the body of the hall was occupied. She represented herself as a nun to Evans. The latter told her to read "Maria Monk" and "Edith O'Gorman," to try to get out of them something she could say at the meeting.

Baillie Murdoch, in passing sentence, said M'Cormack had pleaded guilty, but she was young, and it was her first offence. However, they wished to show their horror of such a crime as she had pleaded guilty to, and they must inflict a penalty of seven days' imprisonment. Regarding Mr. Evans, they thought his judgment was warped, and that he had been too anxious to refuse to listen to some of the witnesses, because they were Roman Catholics. He had acted wrongly, but they were inclined to give him the benefit of the doubt, and find the charge in his case not proven.

M'Cormack wept as she left the bar, and on emerging from the court-house Evans was hooted by a large crowd. The leniency of the sentence on M'Cormack for vilifying a religious order is considered by many as a miscarriage of justice. Great credit is due to Detective Gordon for his conduct in tracing M'Cormack, and to Messrs. D. J. Quinn and Walter Conway, who worked up the case.—Cork Examiner.

FATHER ELLIOTT'S BRAVERY.

Edward Hill, of St. Louis, Mich., late Colonel of the Sixteenth Michigan Cavalry, in a letter to the New York Tribune, gives the following interesting information concerning Father Walter Elliott, the distinguished Paulist missionary.

"Father Elliott's invitation to the G.A.R., published in the Tribune of March 28, inviting James H. Kerswell Post to the memorial services in the Church of the Paulist Fathers, recalls Father Elliott's heroism as a soldier and the patriotism of his family.

"At the battle of Chancellorsville, Father Elliott, then a headless boy, a private in the Fifth Ohio Volunteers, returning from a detail of duty, could not find his regiment, which had changed its position in his absence. Going at once to the extreme front, where the 16th Michigan then held a line of battle, bringing his musket to a shoulder, young Elliott requested permission to fall in with the regiment as he wished to be reported 'on duty,' fighting when the battle raged the fiercest.

"Father Elliott lost two brothers in the war. William R. Elliott, captain in the 1st Michigan Cavalry, was killed in the Gettysburg campaign. Major Robert T. Elliott, a brave and most accomplished soldier, was also killed in action while in command of his regiment, at Tolopotomy, Va., on May 30, 1864. I was at his side when he fell, and shall never forget his last words as he was borne to the rear, 'Give me my sword.'

USEFULNESS.—No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for another.—Dickens.