

C. O. F.

REPORT OF TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION.

The twelfth annual session of the above order was held at Ottawa on 10th Sept. and following days. High Chief Ranger, Thos. H. Cannon, Chicago, presided over the deliberations in a masterly and impartial manner, being ably assisted by V. H. C. R. Thos. Callon, Milwaukee, and High Sec. Thos. B. Thiele.

The establishment of Provincial High Courts at last session and the transferring to these bodies of the duties of electing representatives to the annual session—one to each 500 of membership—instead of, as heretofore, each court electing a Representative, caused a great decrease in numbers, there being but 73 delegates in lieu of 500. This result, tested for the first time at this convention, proved the wisdom of the measure, business being expedited, measures more carefully considered, and discussion more intelligent; moreover, from a financial standpoint, it was also an improvement, many thousands of dollars being saved.

On Tuesday immediately after roll call the delegates proceeded in a body to the Basilica, where High Mass was celebrated and sermon in French and English preached and the duties and responsibilities of those holding membership in a Catholic Order such as the C. O. F. are explained by its work and wishing it progress and prosperity.

After returning to the Convention Hall committees were appointed and routine business proceeded with, the afternoon being occupied in like manner. The first practical business session was held on Tuesday evening, a report of which was taken from the Ottawa Free Press of the following day:

The respective committees of the Catholic Order of Foresters convention labored hard yesterday afternoon in order to furnish reports for the first business session last evening, but were unable to do so owing to the many important questions which had to be carefully considered. High Chief Ranger Cannon called the brethren together last evening progress only was reported by a majority of the committees.

There was a second session in the convention hall at 8 o'clock, there being nearly 300 prominent local brethren in addition to the 73 delegates who composed the convention. High Vice Chief Ranger Callon of Wisconsin, and High Secretary Thiele rendered the chairman invaluable assistance during the evening.

Rev. M. Cleary, of Minneapolis, Minn., chairman of the committee on telegrams, reported that filial greetings had been cabled to His Holiness and his apostolic blessing asked for. Greetings were also wired to His Grace Archbishop Feohan, Spiritual Adviser of the order in Chicago.

At this stage of the proceedings there was a pleasant interruption of the regular business caused by the arrival of Monsignor Routhier, Vice-General, and representative of His Grace Archbishop Duhamel. The assembled Foresters gave him a rousing reception, which lasted some minutes. After the reverend gentleman had been introduced by High Chief Ranger Cannon, Monsignor Routhier, in complete and unreserved demand from all parts of the hall, delivered a stirring French address, in which he reviewed the history of the order and held it up as a model institution which every young Catholic citizen should be affiliated with.

of assessment, shall be assessed according to age the number he had attained upon joining the order, such to be his permanent rating. Provided that all members in the order whose age at initiation was greater than forty-five years be assessed as if between the ages of forty-four and forty-five.

Table with 2 columns: Age range, Assessment rate. Rows include 18 to 20 years (48 cents), 20 to 21 (49 cents), 21 to 22 (50 cents), 22 to 23 (51 cents), 23 to 24 (52 cents), 24 to 25 (53 cents), 25 to 26 (54 cents), 26 to 27 (55 cents), 27 to 28 (56 cents), 28 to 29 (57 cents), 29 to 30 (58 cents), 30 to 31 (59 cents), 31 to 32 (60 cents), 32 to 33 (61 cents), 33 to 34 (62 cents), 34 to 35 (63 cents), 35 to 36 (64 cents), 36 to 37 (65 cents), 37 to 38 (66 cents), 38 to 39 (67 cents), 39 to 40 (68 cents), 40 to 41 (69 cents), 41 to 42 (70 cents), 42 to 43 (71 cents), 43 to 44 (72 cents), 44 to 45 (73 cents).

4. That the above articles become operative on the 1st of January, 1906, and the constitution be amended in accordance therewith. The opening feature of the afternoon was the reading of the address of His Holiness Pope Leo conveying best wishes for the order, and the apostolic blessing. It had been forwarded to Archbishop Duhamel and conveyed to the convention by Monsignor Routhier, who pronounced the blessing on the assembled Foresters, all of whom knelt while the benediction from Rome was being offered.

Then followed the presentation of reports, Bro. P. J. McKenna of Escanaba, Mich., chairman of the committee on the State of Order, presented the following: "That the Catholic Order of Foresters during the past year has enjoyed remarkable prosperity and that its growth and success is indeed flattering. We commend the grand work of every high court since the institution of our order and the successful administration of High Chief Ranger Cannon. High Secretary Thiele and colleagues deserve the highest commendation of every worthy Catholic Forester throughout the United States and Canada."

"Your committee recommend that in future we hold biennial sessions." Regarding the question of granting applications for the organizations from certain Southern States of the Union, the committee concluded that it would be in the interest of wisdom, on account of the epidemic of diseases, to exclude North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

The report further recommended, where members died from Bright's disease or consumption within six months after having joined the order, that when such cases occur the high court submit them to a commission of three doctors, and if the findings of that commission be unfavorable to the member an ex-aminer, said examiner shall be expelled.

The report was discussed, clause by clause. Strong objection was taken to the recommendation for a biennial session; and, on motion of Rev. Father Kelly, of Chicago, it was laid on the table. High Medical Examiner O'Malley in reply to questions said there were no reasons for excluding the States of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma from the territorial bounds of the order, whereupon they were stricken from the list of those objected to in the report.

The recommendation as to the medical examination was referred to the committee for action. On Thursday, after routine business was disposed of, the order was settled up as the place for holding the next session, after which Chairman Cummings, of Chicago, presented the contribution committee report, principal among the recommendations advanced being those to change the initiation fee from \$5, \$8 and \$10 to a uniform rate of \$5; to abolish avowal courts; to pay sick benefits for twelve successive weeks in one year; to give the provincial court power to make special assessments, not to exceed 75 cents per capita, instead of 50 cents; to permit to pay from the general fund a member's dues not paid up on the 15th of each month, and to fine such delinquent member the sum of 25 cents to permit to remain a member until forty-five years of age to take out an increased insurance of either \$2,000 or \$3,000, on obtaining a favorable medical report. The committee brought in no recommendation on biennial sessions, but the convention took it up seriously, and for five hours thrashed out the question of holding the next meeting at the expense of the members, that might accrue if they were established.

Rev. Father Scanlan, of Chicago, moved that the biennial session be held in the month of September, and followed up his motion with a strong plea for economy. Delegate Murphy, of Ohio, opposed the motion and claimed that economy should not be practiced at the expense of the member's health. Mr. Lee, of Toronto, also offered opposition to the motion, for the reason that an early account of the assessment of graded assessments should be made. He moved in amendment that the fiscal year be changed from June to January and that the next annual convention be held in Columbus in February, 1907.

Vice-General Routhier, Rev. J. M. Cleary, Solicitor General Curran, M. P.; Mr. Cannon, High Chief Ranger; Mr. De Guey, and High Vice Chief Ranger; Mr. Lee, Provincial Chief Ranger; Mr. F. R. Litchford, and others. The evening's program was the best speaker, and addressed the meeting in French. He was representing Archbishop Duhamel, in the latter's absence. He has the pleasure to see them all together by fraternal bonds, whether they came from one side of the line forty-five or the other. He was not a member of their order, but he was a member of the order of the Holy Child, and he was a member of the order of the Holy Child, and he was a member of the order of the Holy Child.

It was, he said, of the highest importance that all societies should work, not to give a few years of apparent prosperity and then a collapse. He suggested that they should have a special footing (appliance). He concluded by thanking them for the pleasure of attending and for the interest he had taken in their work.

Chief Ranger Cannon was then called on. He expressed his pleasure that this year they had had a meeting in Ottawa, and he thanked them heartily for the kind way they had received him. He had heard that they had received a message of congratulation from Pope Leo, and he was glad to hear that they were interested in the order. He was inspired with the highest and best of motives, and he appealed to them to keep this standard of work. He impressed on them the further fact that their organization knew no shortness of race or color.

Mr. F. R. Litchford made a short speech, and followed by General Salter, who delivered a particularly happy address. He said that at this session of the order they had had valuable lessons in their debates to inculcate prudence and judgment, and that they had had the good of those who came after had been carefully handed. They society held a particular interest in the order, and he was inspired with the highest and best of motives, and he appealed to them to keep this standard of work. He impressed on them the further fact that their organization knew no shortness of race or color.

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TO TRAIN THE CHILDREN.

Series of Instructive Lectures for Teachers.

The lectures given at Columbus Hall, New York, during the past week by Mrs. B. Ellen Burke were attended by a good number of Catholic teachers interested in primary work, chief among whom were the Sisters of the various teaching orders employed in the parochial schools in the city. The lecturer, who is an experienced platform speaker, is a woman of graceful bearing and charming manner. Her perfect ease was due, one felt, in part at least, to a broad knowledge of her subject and the earnest desire she had to interest and benefit her hearers.

The lectures given were of especial interest to the young teacher, who was brought face to face with the heavy responsibility resting on her, not only in an intellectual, but in a moral sense as well. In her first lecture the speaker laid emphasis upon the necessity of understanding the child, his law of growth, his likes and dislikes, his environments, and everything about him that will tend to modify his manner of development. Mrs. Burke emphasized the need for studying the causes and antidotes for anger in children. "When a child comes to school day after day," she said, "and gets angry over something regularly, you are helping him to form a habit which is mastering him. Look for the reason. Is he unhealthy, and fretful because of that? Has he a jealous mind which nurses anger because he has lost a game or fancies he finds partiality on the part of the teacher, or for some other reason that he has not had fair play? Does his anger inspire him to revenge? All these can be found and remedied. No child is ever able to conceal anger. You may read the cause in his face if you set yourself to child study. You must teach him self-control. We are not moulding children, we teachers. We are leading them to unfold and develop. If we are moulding them we are not doing just what we ought. It is very easy to mould. That which we should do is a work of art greater than that of any artist."

In her second lecture on the "Classification of Work," the speaker began by asserting that before a method of education can be formulated the teacher must understand that certain principles underlie such a method, and must acquaint herself with those principles. She considered the most important principle that of "proceeding from the known to the related unknown," and others of great import, "to proceed from the concrete to the abstract, from the simple to the difficult, and always according to the law of dependence." It is the duty of the teacher to supply the conditions which will cause the child to think, to observe, and to give expression to thought. The sources from which the child may be observed and study obtain thought may be broadly classified as: Nature, art, and literature—using the last terms in their widest sense. From this classification the speaker suggested that certain portions of the day should be devoted by the children to studying and expressing the thoughts they derived from objects of art, or literature, or Nature. After this broad classification, another sub classification was explained which may be applied to every development lesson used in the school-room. The last named included preparatory work as well as work in class, and was summarized thus: 1. Object or reason for giving lesson; 2. Point of lesson; 3. Matter or expression of new thought to be obtained from lesson; 4. Method to be used in giving lesson; (a) review of known thought out of which new is to be developed; (b) development of related unknown from the known; (c) application of the new; (d) drill work; (e) reproduction.

An application of the above formula was made by the speaker, which greatly interested all her hearers. In her succeeding lectures Mrs. Burke confined her attention principally to the general subject of literature. She referred to the statement so frequently made, that the youth of the country are consuming enormous quantities of harmful literature. If this be true, she said, she feared that the teachers are largely to blame. She believes that teachers, more than parents, are responsible for a depraved literary taste on the part of their pupils. It is one of the teachers' duties to make their pupils acquainted with the best that has been written, and to so cultivate the tastes of these young people that they will in after years select of their own accord what is good and helpful.

On Thursday and Friday the speaker illustrated her methods by giving a specimen lesson with a class of young pupils. On the previous day she explained what she intended to do with the children. She gave some valuable hints concerning teaching children to read, outlining a system which would enable the child to read about four hundred words after about five months' study, using phonetic words and sentence methods. A report cannot do justice to the work; suffice to say, the plan presented has the merit of simplicity and common sense. The lecture for Sunday school teachers on Wednesday night drew a large audience, delegations coming from the teaching force in many neighboring churches. Mrs. Burke said in beginning her remarks that in Sunday-school teaching the work is in one sense less difficult, since we have not to furnish subject matter; the theologians do that. However, it is a most important work, and the fact that it is indulged by the Church is proof of its importance.

The speaker said she wished to "talk" rather than "lecture," as she considered the former a more appropriate term. To sum up the many interesting suggestions made: A Sunday-school teacher should come before her class with a thorough knowledge of the lesson, which should include matter preceding and following the lesson of the day. She should impress the lesson upon the young minds by telling stories taken from the Bible or elsewhere; anecdotes having a bearing upon the subject, quotations or verses from the Scriptures, etc. She should also employ pictures—copies of real works of art, when she can get them. Other devices were suggested. The speaker dwelt at length upon the manner of the teacher. She should have and show sympathy for the child. She should keep the attention of her pupils from wandering and their interest from flagging. After this lecture a few pleasant remarks were made by the Rev. Father McMillan, who talked on how to encourage and interest the new children in the Sunday-school; how to keep children there, need of being patient and kind and sympathetic.

The lessons given with the children on Thursday and Friday afternoons were among the most interesting features of the week. The preparatory work was done on Thursday. The children knew nothing of the plan of the teacher. But when they assembled on Friday afternoon they were led by adroit questioning to compose part of one of Whittier's poems for which preparation had been made on the preceding day. The way the children expressed their thoughts was a revelation to many of the teachers. They realized that there is much in the minds of their pupils that may be brought out by the kindly voice, and the interested manner of the teacher, combined with judicious questioning.

A Mothers' Meeting is something novel in Catholic circles. This was held on Thursday morning. Mrs. Burke emphasized her belief in the influence of love and gentle ways. Mothers ought to take an interest in the games and plays of their children as well as in their troubles. They should help them in their studies by asking them questions about school, etc. In fact in everything which concerns the child the mother should show interest and sympathy. They should take pains to learn who are the companions of their little ones, what they talk about, and what they do when they are together. The lecturer thinks "do" a more potent word than "don't," which is misused in many families. Obedience can be enforced in most cases better by a promise of reward, than by threats of punishment. Children should never feel self-conscious by talking about them in their presence. Mothers should not make children vain or envious by talking too much in their presence about their clothes and looks.

In this and in all her lectures the speaker let her hearers a great deal of matter for reflection. After all, the greatest thing needed in the management of children, it would seem, is a good fund of common sense, tempered with sympathy, and a conscience alive to the responsibility of training children to be good, intelligent and useful human beings.

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Christian Liberty. "In no other State has the Catholic Church so much liberty as in Italy," said Premier Crispi at the late celebration in Rome. An article in the American Catholic Quarterly Review by Rev. William Poland, S. J., gives a description of the liberty the Church enjoys in Italy. "In 1870, after the taking of Rome, when the era of Italian splendor began, this method of raising a revenue was applied with fitting magnificence to the whole peninsula. Hundreds upon hundreds of churches and monasteries, whose inmates were driven out, were seized, and either torn down, sold at auction, or turned into barracks or brothels. For twenty-five years the work has gone on. Church lands have been confiscated, and even the vestments and chalices of the altar have been put up for sale. In this way the Italian Parliament, pushed forward by its ever-swelling budget, has despoiled the Church, and driven out penniless upon the street, not merely religious men, but thousands of peaceful nuns. 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