

SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC MEETING IN GRANBY, QUE.

On Sunday evening, December 10th, 1899, Branch 129 held a most successful public meeting. The Grand President, the Hon. M. F. Hackett, and the Provincial Organizer, Brother J. E. H. Howison, were present and addressed a large and very attentive audience.

Brother Howison was the first speaker in French. He had accepted with pleasure to come and speak of the C. M. B. A. to the people of Granby. The twenty three years of existence of the Association proved a constant and steady progress, and now the C. M. B. A. was protecting hundreds of families from the North West Territories inclusively down to the Atlantic Ocean. As an insurance brotherhood, its principles were sound and its rates just, giving insurance at cost, from year to year. The Association was collecting only what was required, but at the same time had wisely made provision to collect a sum sufficient for all time to come, and thus could never fail to fulfil its obligation towards each and every member. It was incorporated in the Dominion by a special act of the Federal parliament, and the Government was controlling its operations through the Superintendent of Insurance, who once a year makes a thorough investigation at the Grand Secretary's office. The C. M. B. A. was also accumulating a reserve, although not required by law. That was a protection for the members against any emergency, and to perpetuate the Association. The C. M. B. A. had distributed up to the present time nearly \$2,000,000 to the widows and orphans of its deceased members, and this large sum which represented the death claims of the Association had all been paid without any litigation. Where was the regular life insurance company, or the fraternal association, which had done better.

Besides helping the widows and orphans, the C. M. B. A., as a truly Catholic association, was also uniting its members in the bonds of the noblest and most durable fraternity, the Christian Catholic brotherhood, making no distinction as to their nationality or condition in life, excepting that they practice the faith of their fathers, the Catholic faith.

The C. M. B. A. was again a powerful factor against improvidence, and it was a sweet consolation for the husband and the father who at their death could depend on it for the future welfare of their family. The importance of providing for the future needed no comments. Now-a-days, no one had any right, so to speak, to die and leave a wife and small children in charge of relatives, friends, or the public. It was a duty then for every father to provide for those dependent on him in case of a premature death. It was a filial duty for the young men to endeavor to leave, in case of death, something to their parents who brought them up and in return were entitled to some help. It was also a duty for those enjoying health to encourage good things even at a sacrifice. Who would care or could deny the excellence of the C. M. B. A.? Every one could fulfil this duty to the satisfaction of his conscience by becoming members of the Association. A great mistake to be avoided and which was made by many of those who were invited to membership was to defer the matter. They were never ready, or thinking they could always wait a little longer. The sad consequence was that they were wait-

ing too long and almost invariably were always too late to join.

Brother Howison gave an illustration of the case by reporting a very pathetic example. The bread-winner had left his home in the morning, happy to be able to earn another day's salary and comfort for his family. Suddenly he met with an accident and was carried away in the ambulance to the hospital. On his arrival the doctor examined his wounds, pronounced them to be mortal and hastened to summon the priest. Realizing his precarious condition the poor man was thinking of what might become of his wife and his children after his death, and he regretted deeply his negligence in not joining a good association such as the C. M. B. A. But it was too late. Death had come and his family was left unprovided for. Then commenced for the widow and her young orphans a life of sorrow and misery. The family was dispersed. The boys were soon placed into a manufactory working therein the whole day long for a salary hardly sufficient to pay for the most modest boarding. The eldest girl, to whom piano and embroidery work were perhaps taught in prosperous times, had also to work to endeavor to earn her living. The young ones, and the baby, too, had also to depart, for their widowed mother had also to work for her own living. The poor mother got the worst, though. Every day she had to go out washing here and ironing there and every evening when she came back to her empty room she figured the cost for the piece of bread and meat needed for her subsistence and, full of joy, was finding the means of putting half of her small earnings in reserve, for her little children, later on, when she would be able to go and see them.

That was no invention. It happened almost every day in the families bereaved by the sudden call of the bread-winner. Read the papers, inquire from the thousands of young people, girls and boys, working in the manufactories, hotels, restaurants and boarding houses and all or almost all of them will tell you that they enjoyed a prosperous and happy life when the family was together, but suddenly the father was called away, and as this brave father had never thought to provide for his family after his death, misery was their lot. All of you who may yet hesitate to become members of a good mutual benefit association, are invited to visit the hospitals, asylum and even jails. At the hospital see this young girl. She is coughing terribly, she spits blood. Get nearer her bed, be not afraid. Her eyes are still brilliant, and they looked at you with kindness; her lips are still smiling peaceably. She will soon die. Ask her the cause of her awful state. She will tell her story without hesitation; for she suffered too much and does not want to die without letting her neighbors profit by the cruel teaching of her miserable life.

I lost my father when I was young. As he had left us penniless, my mother had to separate from her children, and I took engagements where I could find any. One day I was deceived, and soon misery, shame, discouragement and despair made me fall lower and lower until the day I was brought in this hospital, where they took pity on me and procured me the happiness of preparing myself to die as a Christian. Ah! if my father had been living, or, at least, if he had left me something to live with!

At the asylum. See this young man.

Everything in him indicates a man of sorrow, caused by hard work and misery. Try and have him to recall the past. Suddenly his face will be illuminated by a heart-rending smile and his lips will stammer the name of his father, dead, dead, gone, without any money, misery, misery.

At the goal now! Do you remark some among the young convicts who turn their faces at your approach, they blush, they try to get away from your sight. Ah, poor young men, tell us also your story. Tell us why you are here, in this house of shame and infamy.

We lost our father when we were young. My mother had not the means to support us. She placed us into manufactories wherein we had bad companions. They brought us with them into the evil path. We soon lost our job, and hunger and misery, taking hold of us, we have been stealing.

Brother Howison concluded by an appeal to join while it was yet time. A policy in the C. M. B. A. would avoid such a disaster and be one of the best, if not the best, part of an inheritance to be left to the family.

The Grand President followed. Speaking French, he asked that after the eloquent address delivered by the Organizer he be permitted to say a few words in English. Granby is the birth-place of the Hon. M. F. Hackett, and recalling his early days in most eloquent terms, it was a great pleasure for him to find himself in his native city, and he was proud to be present at this meeting in his capacity as Grand President of such an association as the C. M. B. A. The Grand President's address was most eloquent and enthusiastic, and good results are expected after his and the Organizer's visit.

EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY.

Of Branch 11 Stratford Ont. and Banquet to Hon. F. R. Latchford, M. L. A.

Hon. Bro. F. R. Latchford, Q. C., Minister of Public Works for Ontario, and Solicitor for the C. M. B. A. of Canada, was yesterday afternoon and evening the honored guest of Branch 13, C. M. B. A. The hon. brother was entertained with both a concert and banquet during the evening and during his stay in the city was the guest of Dr. Devlin.

THE ENTERTAINMENT.

The Separate school hall was prettily decorated with flags and red, white and blue bunting. In a brief introductory speech the chairman, Mr. John Nelligan, President of Branch 13, welcomed the audience, which was a very large one.

The programme opened with an instrumental by Miss Gertie Folk, who played with her usual brilliancy. Miss Kennedy rendered "The Children's Home" and was heartily applauded. Miss Kate Carlin's solo, which followed, was artistically taken, and was also well received.

Brother Nelligan next introduced the speaker of the evening, Hon. F. R. Latchford. As the Minister of Public Works came forward on the platform two little girls presented him with a handsome bouquet.

While delighted to be present, Brother Latchford felt he owed an apology for not coming prepared to speak on the aims and purposes of the C. M. B. A., as he was expected to do. In celebrating the eighteenth anniversary of Branch 13, C. M. B. A., it would be well, said the speaker, to look back a little to its position eighteen years ago.

It must be remembered that the C. M. B. A. was then an American institution. The Order had spread to Canada, and the first Canadian lodge had been founded at Windsor.

In 1880 the fifth convention of the Grand Council had been held in Stratford, and at that time there were only a few hundred members in the whole Association. Those present had gone away well pleased with Stratford's hospitality, and Brother D. J. O'Connor, of this city, was elected President. To-day the membership numbered 13,000, and was still increasing. This was a very happy record. In 1881 another great step was taken. Before that time the American branches had controlled those in Canada, but it was felt that the Canadians were not getting justice, and separation was the result.

The cause for insurance were very low. Last year there were only fifteen, continued Brother Latchford. When a man joined the C. M. B. A. he agreed to pay so much per month, while the organization guaranteed him or those dependent on him a fixed sum. In this way \$100,000 had been paid out to widows and orphans in the Dominion. The flourishing state of the organization was the more remarkable, since many of its members had come to this country in poverty or humble circumstances.

The people of Stratford, said Brother Latchford, were to be congratulated on the progress of education in this city. He knew of cities larger than Stratford which had not such a hall in their separate schools.

He was not sure that the C. M. B. A. was doing all that it might do. The people were not brought together as they should be. He thought the ladies, especially, should know more of its aims than they did. Every lady who was about to be married should make it a condition that her husband should insure in some society, for a man was not dealing justly with his family unless he did so. Yet many men could not spare the price of a bad cigar or a worse drink daily for this purpose.

If Stratford made a special effort the membership of the C. M. B. A. could be increased and perhaps doubled.

There was, said the speaker, a social side to the C. M. B. A., and perhaps this was not made so prominent as it should be. Religion, too, had to be considered, as no one could be a member of the C. M. B. A. without being a practical Catholic. There were fewer societies uniting Catholics to come together than those which were enjoyed by other denominations. The C. M. B. A. was not a secret society. The Order had no signs or passwords. The speaker considered that many of the secrets of so-called secret societies were mere nonsense after all.

He was glad to find that the C. M. B. A. was well represented whenever anything of a patriotic nature was being done. In closing Mr. Latchford thanked the audience for their attention, and expressed a wish to meet them again in the near future.

Brother Bernard O'Connell, Dublin, followed in a neat and humorous speech, and ended by saying that he did not know why he had been asked to speak. Perhaps, like Lepidus in the second Triumvirate, he had been thrown in to make up the number.

After solos by Miss L. J. O'Connor and Miss Kate Carlin and a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker of the evening, moved by Rev. Father Cook and Mr. James O'Leary, the meeting broke up with God save the Queen.