

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.

Third Biennial Convention at Stratford on June 19th and 20th

Across the floor where the "Bird of Freedom" holds the fort in face of all creation, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is reputed among societies the most numerous, the wealthiest and most influential. In its ranks are found men of every grade, from the humbler walks of life; and side by side at its councils sit the Judge, the Senator, those learned in law and medicine, the mechanic, and the unskilled laborer. Its cognized by the Church, bishops and priests are numbered as chaplains of the Ancient Order; and wherever it has gained a foothold, its best friend is the pastor, who appreciates the worth and beneficence of the Hibernian organization. The funds of the Order in the States go into the millions; and hundreds of thousands of dollars return to members as "sick benefits," and to their families in case of death.

Of this magnificent society the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Ontario is an offshoot. Some four or five years in existence here, the Order has made such headway as to count Divisions in the Counties of York, Frontenac, Peel, Wentworth, Welland, Perth and Elgin. While most if not all of our Catholic societies are cosmopolitan in their character—admitting, as they do, all nationalities to membership—the Hibernians are open to none but Irishmen, or their descendants. To become a member of the Ancient Order, the applicant must show that he is a son of the Green Isle, either by birth or descent; and this will account for the hold which the Order has taken on the affections of our young Irish Canadian citizens, whose pride of race is paramount to all other passions, save love of their Faith. There is a happy blending in the love borne to the land of our birth and that we bear to the land of our adoption; and he who cherishes the hallowed memories of the fatherland is seldom or never found wanting in fealty to the land of his adoption. Hence it is that in every land the children of the Gael have proved their devotion to the flag of their new allegiance, planting beside it on the "deadly breach" the Sunburst and the Shamrock.

On the 19th and 20th instant the Ontario branch of the A.O.H. assembled in the city of Stratford. It was the third biennial convention held in the Province, and the following delegates were in attendance: For the County of York—Provincial Secretary John Falvey, County Delegate Hugh McCaffrey, Division No. 1 (Toronto)—President J. Rutledge, J. Traversa, Division No. 2—Secretary M. J. Ryan, Treasurer P. Falvey, Patrick Boyle, Division No. 3—President D. Glynn, P. J. Lowe, Division No. 4—President, J. Falvey, Secretary M. J. Rahally, Division No. 5—President Hugh Kelly, Peel County—County Delegate F. J. Golden, Wentworth County—W. J. Mulvale, P. F. McBride, T. O'Dowd, Hamilton, Perth County Provincial Delegate H. Guerin, Provincial Treasurer Guerin, J. Dolan, M. S. Donovan, J. Dillon, J. Smith, Stratford; Messrs. Fleming, Burns and Gleeson, St. Mary's, Elgin County—County Delegate P. J. Handley, Frontenac County—J. J. Bohan.

On Tuesday morning the delegates met in C.M.B.A. hall, and proceeded thence to St. Joseph's Church to hear Mass. The pastor, Rev. E. B. Kilroy, D.D., addressed the delegates from the altar-rail. The Rev. gentleman said that, worthy children of the Church as they were, he had much pleasure in meeting them; and, though not familiar with the vernacular, he understood it sufficiently to bid them a *cordiale saluta* to Stratford. Father Dolan was celebrant, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Kealy of Dublin, Ontario. It was a masterly discourse, breathing from beginning to end a religious and patriotic fervor which deeply impressed all who heard it. Referring to the origin of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Father Kealy said the parent body had done service in Ireland of heroic character. When it was a felony to offer the Holy Sacrifice the members of the Order stood guard in the glens and on the mountains while the priest broke the Bread of Life to the faithful flock. Sixty or seventy years ago, said the preacher, the Order was instituted in America; and the Christian zeal and devotion which marked it in the old land marked it in the new. The old Hibernians, though strange to the country, soon imbued the national spirit, and it is on record that no class in the citizenship of the Republic more gallantly served the Union in the time of danger. In the early days of the Revolution, when the liberties of the "thirteen colonies" hung in the balance, Washington had no truer allies than the Irish; and what was true then is true today—the Irish are, when fairly treated, everywhere and always faithful. It was so in France and Spain, in Austria and other continental countries, where Irish names are stamped on the battlefield and written in the most luminous pages of European statesmanship. During all these ages, whether at home or abroad, the Celt clung to his Faith, even as we now find it symbolized on the banners of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Ever and always faithful to the creed of St.

Patrick, they also cherished an unquenchable love for their native tongue. But dark days overtook that, too; and for a time it seemed that the people and their tongue were to be exterminated for ever. Iniquity of the most subtle ingenuity was plied with an unsparring hand, and all the diabolism of a fierce and relentless government was exercised with the determined purpose of exterminating the Irish, root and branch; but all the strenuous efforts of the inhuman monsters failed, and we see to-day in the old island home, our kith and kin battling bravely for Ireland's right to govern herself, and millions of her exiled children the world over ready and willing to back her demand with their moral and material support. And while the old Faith survives, unruled and untarnished, what do we behold the Ancient Order of Hibernians doing in the matter of the old tongue? We see the grand old Order setting us all a noble example by endowing a chair of Irish Language in the Catholic University of Washington, and setting aside out of its funds for that purpose the princely sum of fifty thousand dollars. Deeds like this speak more loudly than words; and this endowment will be the noblest scroll on the escutcheon of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Go on, then, fellow countrymen and fellow Canadians. Your fathers were neither afraid nor ashamed to proclaim the faith that was in them. Neither are you, whose pride it is to be Catholic and Irish, and whose motto is the purest that could be engraven on your hearts the sacred motto—"Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity."

The foregoing is but the merest skeleton of Father Kealy's sermon, which, as we have said, was a finished effort, and delivered with a resonant eloquence which filled the spacious church from end to end.

Mass having been finished the delegates returned to the hall, where they were visited by Mayor Monteith, and warmly welcomed by his Worship to the "Classico City." He expressed the hope that the deliberations of the convention would be fruitful of good results, and invited inspection by the delegates of Stratford's institutions, of which there were several worthy of a visit. Mayor Monteith concluded by tendering to the delegates the freedom of the city. Suitable acknowledgment of the Mayor's courtesy was made by President Hoy and Mr. Boyle.

After Mayor Monteith had retired the following address, on behalf of the Stratford Division, was read by the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. R. A. Kennedy:

To the Officers and Members of the Ontario Provincial Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians:

BROTHERS—Greeting—The members of Division No. 2, A. O. H., extend to you their hearty welcome on this your first meeting in the city of Stratford. It is an honor we greatly appreciate to have among us so influential an assemblage as is gathered here today. We extend to you all the freedom that free Irish hearts can give, and hope and trust that you will avail yourselves of all the liberties, and you will feel that you are as free as if assembled around your sacred fireplaces at your homes. On behalf of our fellow Protestant citizens we can assure you they will do all they can in their power to make your visit here a time ever to be remembered. The several officers and committees will inform you of the programme of entertainment.

Again we bid you a hearty welcome, and our wish is that your meeting here will be one that you will look back upon with pride and satisfaction.

On behalf of the division.

R. A. KENNEDY, Chairman. JOHN DOLAN, Secretary.

This fraternal greeting, which at once made the "strangers" perfectly at home, was responded to by Mr. Patrick Boyle, who, on his own as well as on behalf of his co-delegates from a distance, gratefully thanked the Hibernians and our separated brethren of Stratford for kindness and attentions that would long be remembered.

It being noon an adjournment took place till one o'clock, at which hour the convention reassembled, when Dr. Kilroy and Father Kealy entered the hall. The Reverend gentlemen were received with enthusiasm, and Father Kealy was requested by President Hoy to open the regular proceedings with prayer, which his Reverence did. Dr. Kilroy addressed the convention on the importance of its work, and counseled those who took part in it to be prudent in speech and act, and above all to set a good example to their fellow-citizens by practicing the virtues of charity and good-will. He then withdrew from the hall, as did also Father Kealy half an hour later.

Calling the convention to order, President Hoy took up the first item of business, which was the appointment of a committee on credentials. The committee having reported, the delegates answered to their names, after which came the reading of the minutes of the last convention. Upon the question of their adoption, it was moved that a certain clause in the report of the finance committee be amended; and this having been agreed to, the minutes were passed.

The President appointed the following committees: On Finance; Standing of the Order; Revision of By Laws; Grievances; Resolutions; Printing; Life Insurance. It was six o'clock when this duty was dis-

charged, and an adjournment was moved till eight o'clock next morning, in order that the committees might have ample time for the preparation of their respective reports.

As a mark of honor to the convention a promenade concert was held in the drill shed on Tuesday evening. It was a most agreeable entertainment, and reflected credit on the ladies and gentlemen who managed it. Better still, the gathering was not unaided, either religiously or nationally. Pretextants as well as Catholics were there; and English, Scotch and German were fairly sprinkled amongst the Irish. The concert was of a piece with the uniform courtesy of the people of Stratford, whose good nature and hospitality were so refreshing in those evil days of the Klux Klux and Dark Lantern.

It was near twelve o'clock on Wednesday when the committees had finished their labors, and no time was lost in taking the result into consideration. One by one the reports were subjected to close scrutiny. The prunings and purgings not uncommon in such cases were resorted to, till finally each report passed with general concurrence.

The election of officers for the ensuing two years, next and last in the order of business, was declared as follows:

President, Hugh McCaffrey, Toronto.
Vice President, J. Dillon, Stratford.
Secretary, John Falvey, Toronto.
Treasurer, M. Guerin, Stratford.
Insurance Secretary, T. O'Dowd, Hamilton.
Chaplain, Rev. E. B. Kilroy, D. D., Stratford.

Votes of thanks were passed to the brethren of Stratford; also to its citizens and press; and the proceedings of the third biennial convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Ontario closed with prayer and the singing of the national anthem, "God Save Ireland." BURNISHOLE

C. M. B. A.

The seven Branches of the C.M.B.A. in the city purpose holding a joint Excursion and Picnic to Oakville, on Monday, 23rd July next. This is the first time the Toronto membership has undertaken an outing of this character, but judging from the success that has always attended their efforts in other respects we feel confident that the results of this will be satisfactory. It is expected that similar excursions will be run there on that day by the Branches at Hamilton, Dundas, St. Catharines, Merritt, Thorold and Niagara Falls, so that those who go, will have an opportunity of becoming acquainted not only with the Toronto membership, but also with the "clan" from the above places. The idea is a good one, and a pleasant day's outing is guaranteed to those who take advantage of the occasion. Keep Monday 23rd July free from engagements that you may be at Oakville on that day. A good programme has been arranged.

At a regular meeting of Branch 111, C.M.B.A., Toronto, held on Thursday 14th inst., the following resolution of Condolence was unanimously passed.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to call to Himself the beloved wife of our most esteemed Financial Secretary Bro. V. P. Fayle, be it resolved that this Branch place on record its sincere sympathy while bowing with submission to the Divine will, and testify its feelings, deep sorrow and regret at the loss sustained by Bro. Fayle and family, of a loving and kind wife and true mother, and we pray that the Almighty God may comfort them in this their hour of trial and affliction, and that this branch tender to Bro. Fayle and his sorrowing family its sentiments of sympathy and words of Condolence and offers its heartfelt prayers, that He, who doeth all things well, may give eternal rest to the soul of the faithful departed. Resolved that it be recorded in the minutes of this Branch and a copy sent to the CATHOLIC REGISTER.

J. J. BOLAND, Rec. Sec.

At the last meeting of Branch 30, Peterborough, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas Almighty God in His infinite wisdom who seeth all things for the best, has seen fit to remove by death, the sister of our esteemed President, F. H. Brennan, M.D.

Resolved that we the members of Branch No. 30, while we humbly bow to the Divine Will, nevertheless recognize the great loss sustained by our esteemed President and tender to him and his family our sincere condolence in this the hour of their sad bereavement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bro. Brennan and family, inserted on the minutes, and sent to the local papers, the CATHOLIC REGISTER and Catholic Record for publication.

THOS. DOLAN,
W. J. DOLAN,
THOS. J. DOLAN, } Committee.

At the regular meeting of Branch 105 C.M.B.A., London, Ont., held June 12th, 1894. Moved by Bro. Dr. M. J. Henavan, seconded by Bro. F. McNeill, that the sympathy of this branch be extended to our Worthy

Grand Secretary, Bro. S. B. Brown, in the great loss he has sustained by the death of his beloved sister Mrs. Sullivan, and we pray that the giver of all good may comfort him in his great affliction, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Bro. Brown, and also inserted in the CATHOLIC REGISTER and Catholic Record. JAS. ROXWOOD, Rec. Sec.

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Musical Examination at Loretto Abbey.

The excellence of the department of musical instruction at Loretto Abbey has for many years been a subject for favorable comment among those interested in this special sphere of work. Under the direction of such well qualified and highly cultured teachers, the standard of work attained at this well known seminary for young ladies challenges the admiration of all who are acquainted with the results as shown in the annual examinations, which this season have been conducted by Mr. A. S. Vogt of the staff of the Conservatory of Music. In the piano department there is at once evident a refined influence combined with an admirable thoroughness in technical training which is most commendable. In the competitions for prizes in this branch of musical work the following pupils were successful: For the gold medal, Miss Butler of Deseronto; silver medal, class five, Miss McMahon; highest standing in fifth division, Miss Carey; in fourth class, Miss Lynn; in fourth class, section two, Miss Annie Carey; in fourth division, Miss Gormally; third class, Miss Buggy, and second class, Miss Edith Buggy. Besides these pupils, medal winners of previous years who are pursuing the full graduation course were examined and obtained high averages. Miss Guttin of Owen Sound rendered Liszt's Rhapsody No. 2 in a very artistic manner and with excellent technical skill. Praise is also due Miss Miller of Toronto for a clever performance of Hummel's La Bella Capriccio. The vocal pupils under Mr. E. W. Schuch's instruction sang with admirable taste, demonstrating the careful and successful character of their training in tone production, style and other details which are but too frequently neglected by many of our vocal teachers. In the violin and harp departments the engagement of thoroughly qualified instructors is producing desired results, and the general equipment of the Abbey for musical work is a matter for honest congratulation to all connected with the faculty of music in that institution.

Picnic at Pickering.

The Annual Picnic in aid of the Catholic Church was held in Gordon's Grove on Wednesday June 20th. The day opened very unfavorably for outdoor enjoyment, as rain fell until about eleven o'clock, when the clouds disappeared and all was sunshine and smiles. The popular Pastor Father Gallagher was present with a kind greeting for his friends as they came, also the following visiting clergy, Rev. Fathers Killeen, Adjala; Hurd, Toronto; and Jesscott, Oshawa. The Lacrosse match between Whitty and the League of the Cross Club, of St. Paul's Toronto proved rather an easy victory for the former, or as some of the local sportsmen put it "these Toronto fellers wasn't in it." The following is a brief list of other games, one hundred yard race 1st, J. Body, Toronto, 2d, T. Henderson, Pickering College, the other contestants were left behind. Standing long jump, won by H. Cavanagh, Highland Creek. Putting heavy shot, 1st Philip Kehoe, Pickering, 2d Joseph Cowan, Pickering. The vaulting high jump was the contest of the day, between T. Henderson, Pickering College, C. McGuire, Pickering, A. O'Leary, Pickering, up went bar until the nine feet notch was reached, this being the top of the poles and as each contestant cleared it, they agreed to divide the prize. The Pickering orchestra was present discoursing sweet music and the young people enjoyed themselves with the merry dance, altogether a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

As a blood-purifier, the most eminent physicians prescribe Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It is the most powerful combination of vegetable alteratives ever offered to the public. As a spring and family medicine, it may be freely used by old and young alike.