

## THE CANADIAN

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Published Monthly, in English and French, at London, Ont., in the interest of the

Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada

And mailed to members on or about the 10th of each month.

Members are invited to send us items of news or information that will be of benefit to the Association. Contributions upon subjects of interest to the C. M. B. A. members will always be welcomed, but anonymous letters and items which the Manager does not consider for the welfare of the Association will not be published.

Correspondents will please remember that copy must reach us before the 10th of the month if intended for publication in the following month's issue and that space is limited and is not to be abused.

Address all communications to

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 C. M. B. A.,  
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 London, Ont.

LONDON, MAY, 1897.

## Delayed Medical Certificates.

Complaints are occasionally made that certificates are delayed somewhere after being forwarded to the Examiner in Chief. We can say that no delay occurs in the office of the Supervising Medical Examiner. We receive daily reports from Dr. Ryan on all certificates to hand. It must be remembered that many certificates are returned to the Local Examiners for various causes. Certificates are frequently forwarded to the Supervising Medical Examiner with important questions left unanswered, or if an answer be given it is evasive or indefinite. Applicants are apt to be indefinite on two points: their family history and their habits with regard to intoxicating liquors. Any of these reasons necessitate a return of the certificate to the Local Examiner and a consequent delay. We would ask our local examiners to carefully re-read their certificates before the applicants leave, in order that errors or omissions may be detected and corrected. Branch officers and members of the Association ought to take an interest in these matters, and see that certificates are promptly forwarded to Dr. Ryan. If this be done we are perfectly satisfied there will be no cause for tardiness with respect to medical certificates.

## Supervising Medical Examiners' Fees.

We beg to again call the attention of our Local Medical Examiners that the Supervising Medical Examiner's fee is now collected by the branches. Where the Local Medical Examiner is not a member of the Association the branch officers should notify him of the change, and also see that the fee is collected in the proper manner.

## Initiations, Per Capita Tax and Supervising Medical Examiner's Fees.

The Per Capita Tax, Initiation Tax and Supervising Medical Examiner's fees for the quarter ending 31st March, 1897, are over due, and we would call the attention of officers of branches, especially the Financial Secretaries, to the regulations in Sections 99, 147 and 176 of the constitution pertaining to those matters.

To the Members of the Grand Council of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada.

Brothers—Very important private business prevented my attending the meeting of your finance committee on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of February.

However, on March 25th, 26th, and 27th, I made a very careful audit of the books, accounts, vouchers, etc., of your Grand Secretary and your Grand Treasurer, also the bank books, reserve fund deposits and interest, and found everything correct and in accordance with the published statement and the report sent to the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance. I am glad to be able to state that the C. M. B. A. was never in a sounder condition financially.

I was much pleased to see that your Grand Council Trustee Board has secured very suitable quarters for the head office of our association. Your Grand Secretary's office is now situated on Dundas street, corner of Market Lane, one of the most convenient places in the city, and contains a first class vault and all the room necessary.

Yours fraternally.

GEO W COOK.

Member of Grand Council Finance Committee  
 Amherst, N S., April 9 1897.

## Presentation to Grand Trustee P. J. O'Keefe.

At a regular meeting of Branch No. 133, C. M. B. A., in Carleton, on Wednesday evening, the 25th April, the Chancellor, Bro W E Scully, on behalf of the members presented Bro. P. J. O'Keefe, the President, with an address and a gold-headed ebony cane suitably engraved.

The address is as follows:

St. John, N. B., April 28 1897.  
 P. J. O'Keefe, President of Branch 133, C. M. B. A.

Dear Sir and Brother—It is with the deepest regret that the officers and members of Branch 133, C. M. B. A., learn that you are likely to be called away to labor in other fields. We sincerely hope that it will only be for a brief period.

You being the father of our branch we feel it a great hardship to part with you, but, knowing that "when duty calls we must obey," we wish you success in your new field of labor and would ask you to accept this cane as a small token of the esteem in which you are held by your brothers and trust it will be of service to you for many years to come.

With best wishes, we are yours fraternally on behalf of Branch.

E O'ROURKE, Rec. Sec.

THOS FITZGERALD, 1st Vice Pres.

Bro. O'Keefe's was completely taken by surprise and was visibly affected. In a neat speech he thanked the members and referred to the amount of good effected by the C. M. B. A. since its establishment in Carleton and the number of widows and orphans relieved by its work, and hoped to be able to attend occasional meetings through the summer. Rev. J. J. O'Donovan referred to the pleasure he felt in seeing Bro. O'Keefe's work appreciated, and bore testimony to the amount of good effected by him since taking charge of the parish.

## THE QUESTION OF THE \$1 PREMIUM.

Father Burke Against it in toto

Sir,—For my part I most emphatically disapprove of this new regulation which is to take the place of the paid organizers decided on at the last convention. I never liked the first proposition which was carried through convention in its last hours, when nobody felt like prolonging discussion. I dislike the petty \$1 a head proposition all the more, since it openly accuses the membership of doing for a contemptible dollar what they, as zealous members, ought to be doing without it. I never heard any brother speak of the new

way without experiencing a feeling other to shame. I, for one, never felt like approving a paid organizer. Our growth is about as fast as it can be with safety to the organization. Pay men and send them through the land and they will trump up branches; a while our membership may increase, our death rate will go up alarmingly. We have too many branches now. In almost every province there are deputies galore. If they do not keep their small jurisdictions posted and attempt to effect new organization when time and circumstances permit, I don't see why they were ever appointed to do this, their necessary expenses are paid by the Grand Council. And can it well pay more? If all we hear at conventions be true, it cannot; and, therefore, stated amounts per branch to organizers or \$1. per head for initiation make a sum which at the next convention will have to be met when the question of expenses comes up.

I am satisfied that our association has not properly considered either the ethics or wisdom of this paid system. It seems to me that our conventions of late are acting very much on the plan of some of the parliaments, which consume all the time at their disposal in useless discussion and then proceed to rush through the necessary legislation when the Back Rod is at the door for prorogation. For the first days of convention the Grand President keeps telling us how much such meetings cost per day and how we must get through at a certain time, at Ottawa, in two days. Then the orator delegate nuisance must be endured until about the time for elections comes on. A great rush of propositions follows, with the cry of "carried" very often before the question is put from the chair, by the big majority, who are beginning to tire of business in which they take no active interest. No wonder unwisdom propositions are often adopted and constitution-tinkering indulged in, at the instance of a committee on laws whose usefulness, to my mind, has long since passed away, but which must make a show of dotting i's and crossing t's as a vindication of its existence. There are few members of our association who would not rather entrust all these matters usually dealt with by the Committee on Laws to the Grand Secretary and Board of Trustees.

Coming back, however, to this \$1 premium on initiations which is the outgrowth of a resolution passed in convention to pay organizers, I beg to say again, that I for one, and I think most every right-spirited member, will disapprove of it in toto. We are held to do all we can to increase our membership as honest brothers, will we do anything better because this mercenary element is now introduced? If we must demean ourself and depart from the honorable ways of the past let it be for something worth while and not for a miserable dollar.

I hope the different branches of the association will take up and fully discuss this new departure of the Grand Council.  
 A. E. BURKE  
 Branch 214

## The Need of Publicity in the C. M. B. A.

At a recent meeting of the Local Advisory Board of this city strong representations were made as to the necessity of greater publicity being given C. M. B. A. matters in the public press, and the representatives present were urged to have a press committee appointed in each branch who would take charge of this important matter. In our

reading of the newspapers we find items of interest concerning every other society but our own. This is a grave injustice to our Association and should be remedied. As it is to the public we look for recruits, it should be our endeavor to keep our affairs before that public, in as pleasant a light as possible, at all times. Instead of this, what do we do? Nothing or next to nothing of interest in the daily papers and an appalling list of resolutions of condolence in the religious weeklies.

The impression thus made on the public mind is that the C. M. B. A. people are always dying and that therefore they must be an unhealthy lot. And here let me say a word as to resolutions of condolence.

No one can sympathize more with the bereaved members of a deceased brother's family than I can. I know by sad experience that

The path of sorrow and that path alone  
 Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown

but in my opinion the proper way to express that sympathy is by fraternal visits to the widow and children, by procuring employment for such of the latter as are old enough to work, by counselling the widow as to the best way to invest her money so as to conserve it as long as possible, and not by passing a formal resolution, sending it to the paper and considering the whole matter closed. Not only are resolutions published on the death of members of the Association, but the February CANADIAN contained eleven resolutions, taking up nearly half a page, referring entirely to deceased relatives of members. I think, on a little reflection, we will come to the conclusion that this is a very hollow way of expressing sympathy. I am sure that the sending of a sympathetic letter by the secretary of the branch to the family would answer every purpose and save our society from the unpleasant notoriety it now receives through the publication of the resolutions referred to. If we must give public notice of the deaths of our members, let it be done by publishing a letter of acknowledgment and thanks from the family for the \$2.00 or the 1.00 received by them, very often in the hour of their sore need. This is, after all, the most effective advertising any society can receive. It shows at once the benefit to be derived by membership in the C. M. B. A. and impresses that fact much more pleasantly on the mind than the melancholy resolution of condolence does.

I was glad to see a couple of these letters in the February CANADIAN, but as it is circulated entirely amongst our own members, it is not the best place for them. Publish them in the nearest local paper and thus spread the news amongst men who do not belong to our Association, but who may have known the brother and who may be induced to join, by seeing the aid and comfort given his family by his wise forethought.

I am sure the care taken in preparing these resolutions would, if applied in reporting occurrences of interest in the branches, result in an immense amount of good being done by making our Association and its beneficent work better known. Let every branch therefore appoint a committee of one or two members, whose duty it shall be to prepare notices in as readable a manner as possible, of all events of interest occurring in the branch, and send these notices to the editor of the nearest paper for publication.

If these events are not as frequent as they should be let the committee urge the officers to give them something to do.  
 Toronto, 17th March. J. D. WARDE.

## Address and Presentation.

At a regular meeting of Branch 189, C. M. B. A., Sydney, C. B., it was moved by Bro. E. C. Haurahan, seconded by Bro. D. K. McIntyre, and carried that the following address and presentation be tendered Bro. Simon Frazer on the eve of his departure from the charge of the Cape Breton section of the I. C. R. to the Truro section, spread on the minutes and sent to the local papers and to THE CANADIAN for publication:

Simon Frazer, Esq., Trackmaster, I. C. R.  
 Dear Sir and Brother,—The news of your removal from the charge of the Cape Breton Section of the Intercolonial Railway to the Truro Section by order of your superiors necessitating your absence from the meetings of Branch 189, C. M. B. A., Sydney, has been learned with the deepest regret by your brother members of this branch. We however have the consolation to know that the loss of your assistance and cooperation at our meetings is in a measure compensated for by the fact that your change is a promotion in the service, a matter which is always appreciated by your fellow brethren, when happening to any of our members and the