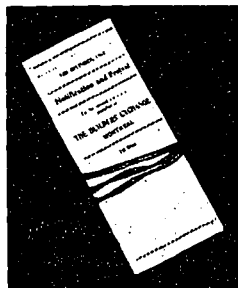


Banquet of Montreal Builders

Hon. W. A. Weir Declares That the Building Trades Should Show the Government Some Appreciation of the Lemieux Bill and Advocates Technical Education as a Solution of the Labor Problem—Sumptuous Programme and Record Attendance



THE SUMMONS.

THE best traditions of the Montreal Builders' Exchange were sustained in the success which attended the last annual banquet, held in the Place Viger Hotel, Montreal, on the evening of December 12. The attendance proved the largest in the history of the organization and included many representative men whose interests lay outside the building industries.

Aside from the growing popularity of this aggressive exchange, there appears to be no way of accounting for this record-breaking patronage unless those who attended were moved by some fearful impulse as a result of having been suddenly served with writs commanding them to be present at every course of the dinner, or appear before an officer of the Montreal Builders' Exchange to answer the charge and to be further dealt with according to law. No doubt several honest men smiled dubiously (being conscience-clean) as they tore the binding of red-tape from a formidable looking legal folder endorsed "NOTIFICATION AND PROTEST"; but one would scarcely believe that so many people in Montreal had learned to dread the appearance of a buff-colored piece of cardboard bearing a red seal.

Any reference to the banquet would be incomplete without a word about the menu card. We are reproducing on this page miniature half-tones of the menu and the folder, the originality of which, upon careful perusal, could not fail to impress one with the idea that the officers of this organization are alive. From start to finish, covering four large sheets of closely printed paper, the document scintillates with droll humor, as the great array of viands are introduced in rotation.

The toast-list was not large, but each proposal was honored by two or three responses, and with a most generous programme of musical and instrumental diversions the evening wore well on into night ere the party broke up.

Mr. James Simpson, first past-president, presided, and arranged on his either hand were the following speakers: the Hon. R. Dandurand, speaker of the Senate; Mr. L.

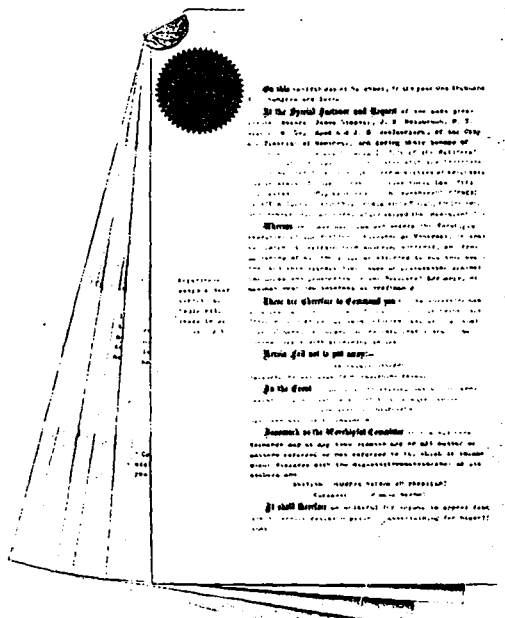
A. Rivet, M.P.; Ald. De Serres, acting mayor; Hon. J. D. Rolland, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; Mr. C. H. Catelli, president of the Chambre de Commerce; Mr. A. O. Brossard, provincial architect; the Hon. W. A. Weir; Mr. Rene P. Lemay, president Province of Quebec Association of Architects; Mr. W. T. Cast'e, Mr. Geo. A. Ross; Messrs. Alcide Chausse, J. H. Lauer, Joseph Thibault, of the Builders' Exchange; Mr. W. E. Ramsey, Mr. N. T. Gagnon.

In responding to the toast, "Our Province, Quebec," the Hon. W. A. Weir suggested that the master builders should show the Government some appreciation of the passing of the Lemieux Bill, which he pronounced a great success, having received the approval of both parties. He said the foundation of all successful legislation was the assent of public opinion, and from this fundamental point

of view he believed the bill went a long way in the right direction. The principle on which the Government had gone was the appeal to common sense or public opinion. Without it they were bound to fail. He believed that before long they would see compulsory arbitration; not only in public utilities, but in every walk of life dealing with industrial energies. Men had, of course, every right to combine, but to his mind there was one fatal principle in trades unionism, and that was that all workmen, whether skilled or not, must be paid the same wage; a man who is inferior at his trade must receive the same as the skilled workman. It was a fatal defect, and one which he believed the workers themselves would eventually remedy. The Government, he considered, had done its best for the people of Quebec. He recalled with gratification the passing of the Factory Act, by which no child under fourteen can be employed in a factory, and no child between fourteen and sixteen, if it is not able to read or write. This was

a distinct advance, and when the school inspectors met at New Jersey last year it was stated that there was nothing like it in the United States. Technical schools had been established, which would fill a great want in the province of Quebec.

We should have a thorough system of education before Canada could take her place among the great industrial factors of the world. What was wanted in Canada was the development of thought power. Further, there should be a community of sentiment, by which each province should have a thought for the needs of the others.



AFTER THE SHOCK OF HAVING BEEN SERVED WITH A WRIT OF PROTEST HAD WORN OFF, MANY A MAN SMILED AT THE PROSPECTS OF A BOUNTIFUL FEAST. THE ABOVE IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE MONTREAL BUILDERS' MENU.