MEETING OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

The last meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society yet held was held in their hall Shuter street on Monday evening last Those present were Vicar-General McCann, Rev. Fathers Rhodeler, Rand, Crinnie, Tracey and Vassey, Messrs R Elmsley, Thomas Long, Eugene O'Keefe H T. Kelly, M. J. Haney, W T. Kernaaan, D Miller, J. Murphy, M Battle, M O'Connor, A. Cottam, Dr W McKeown, T. Mulvey, F. Lee, Jno. J. Ryan, T. Battle, P. Hynes, T. Winterbury, W. Winterbury, F. Russill T. Kirby, Edward Murphy, P. O'Connor, J. P. McCarthy, A. D. Macdonald, L. J. Cosgrave, M. J. Phelan, J F. White, E. Stubbs, Du Argyol, Ma Elmsley Mrs B B Hughes, Mrs. Hynes, Mrs Clarke, Miss Walsh, Miss Macdonell, Mr. R. Elmsley occupied the chair. The principal business of the meeting was the election of officers and the address and presentation of the annual report of the president. The election of officers resulted as follows: Patron, His Grace the Most. Rev. Denis O'Connor, D.D., president, Remy Elmsley; vice-presidents, Eugene O'Keefe, M O'Connor, Thomas Long, M. J. Haney; treasurer, D. Miller; secretaries, A. Macdonald, W. T. Kernahan; honorary solicitor, H T. Kelly; honorary auditor, W. T. Kernahan, C.A.; board of management, A. Cottam, E. Stubbs, Edward Murphy, T. Mulvey, L. J. Cosgrave, T. Winterbury, L. V. McBrady, H. T. Kelly, Jno. Rodgers, J. F. White, Mrs. Touman, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. Elmsley, Mrs. Falconbridge, Mrs. Hynes. Miss Walsh, Miss Cooper, Miss Sheppard, Miss Macdonald, Miss Foy; advisory committee, Rev. Father Ryan, M. J. Haney, H. T. Kelly, M. O'Connor, R. Elmsley: agent, P. Hynes. It was decided to hold quarterly meetings henceforth. The solicitor announced that a permit had been granted to the Industrial School Board, creating the institution at West Lodge, an industrial school for Catholic girls.

The President's Address.

A short retrospective view of Catholic child-saving work of this city during the last five years.

In 1894 the Protestant community had an Industrial School and Children's Society in full operation in this city, and according to law all the waifs and petty offenders under the age of fourteen years had to be handed over to their custody, and they had then over fifty Catholic children in these institutions.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was the first public body to raise the alarm, having seen so many of our unfortunate little ones being drafted into these Protestant institutions, and systematically proselytized.

A deputation of their number represented this dreadful state of affairs to His Grace, the late lamented Archbishop, who freely joined in at once securing incorporation for our society, then establishing St. John's Industrial School, and now I am proud to say that we are in sight of a Catholic Girls' Industrial School also.

The Catholic children that were in the Protestant School have been rescued and transferred to Blantyre, and by placing our agent as a sentinel on guard of the children's court, the leak, thank God, has been virtually stopped.

To give some idea of the extent of the leakage, caused by the unopposed control of our children in the Protestant institutions, I may here state that since then 1,268 cases affecting the interest of 1,268 children have been brought to the notice of your agent, and have received the best attention and assistance of your society. These would have been placed at their mercy had we not organized.

Of the foregoing number, 40 boys were committed to St. John's Industrial School, where their best interests are being looked after, both spiritual and temporal, and 48 have been made wards of our society, and good foster homes have been found for the majority of them. We are in receipt of most pleasing reports from nearly all of them.

As this is our most important part of the child-saving work, your agent was directed to make a full report on the conditions of all our wards recently, and he at once made a most exhaustive report of each ward, with all reports from them, and the Government Superintendent who had sent an inspector to see them attached.

The only failure we have met was where the boys were too old and hardened when made wards to enable us to fully control them, and we had only two of that class.

Another weak point we find is in returning children for adoption to their abandoned parents on the plea that they had reformed, as we have found with regret that as soon as they get their children back they again break out.

Drunkenness among the women seems to be the greatest cause of trouble, and the hardest to overcome.

However, our experience on these two points will be well guarded in future.

Amendment work is of the first importance, and the fact that so many children are committed to our temporary custody and reported to your agent gives him ample opportunity to visit their homes and advise parents and children, and when advice fails to bring them before a magistrate.

In conclusion, I am happy to say that the City Council has granted us $600 this year, being an increase of $100, so well is it pleased with our work, and, best of all, we who were unarmed and powerless for child-saving work are now almost fully equipped to meet the enemies of our faith on equal terms, for which we should all be most thankful to Almighty God.

Secretary's Report.

Dear Sir and Gentlemen:—

I herewith most respectfully sumbit the Fifth Annual Report of the works of this society, for the year ending March 31st, 1900, for your favorable consideration and approval.

During the year 285 cases were brought to the notice of your agent, affecting the interest of 418 children. Of these 145 were from the Children's Court and the balance, 140, were private cases.

His Worship the Police Magistrate, deposed of the cases brought before him as follows

Committed to Blantyre Shelter	35
Committed to St John's Industrial School	13
Committed to the Good Shepherds	11
Committed to Mercer Refuge Reformatory	4
Discharged	12
Withdrawn	8
Filed	10
Made wards	10
Sent to gaol	7
Sent to Penetanguishene Reformatory	1
Discharged on suspended sentence after short confinement in Shelter	42
Total	145

Which gives a grand total of 1,268 cases affecting the interest of 2,136 children which have had the best consideration and assistance of your Society during the last five years.

Forty boys have been committed to St. John's Industrial School through the agency of your Society, which was very important, first, in the interest of the boys who had become ungovernable and were fast drifting into sinful habits, second in the interest of public morality and safety of society; thirdly, in the interest of our excellent Industrial School, which is now so popular with this class of boys.

WARDS OF THE SOCIETY.

During the year ten children have been made wards of the Society, and we have adopted out eight and two others are out on probation.

The most pleasing reports have recently been received from our adopted wards, and among others were the following and are a fair sample:

Orillia, Feb. 8th, 1900.

Mr. Hynes,

Dear Sir.—I must now fulfil the conditions of the agreement, but if there was no agreement it would make no difference, I would write just the same. I could not help writing to you to let you know how the little fellow is taken up with us, and my wife is overly taken up with him. From the first day I brought him home he called her mother, and all the neighbors like him, he is such a nice little fellow.

He goes to bed singing and gets up the same, and my wife says she would let the farm go before she would part with him. No matter what you tell him to do he will do it.

As God has not blessed us with children of our own, He has by sending us this one. The only thing the matter now is my wife is afraid that either you or his father or mother might take him away from her. I tell her that nobody will ever take him away, but she told me to ask you if you would be kind enough to answer this and let her know all about his parents.

I will close by wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year and many of them.

Yours very truly,
W. E. Gallagher,
Orillia.

P. Hynes, Esq., Secretary Children's Aid Society, St. Vincent de Paul.

Dear Mr. Haynes:—The following very satisfactory reports were made to me by Mrs. Harvie, who recently visited two of your children—Henry Whittaker, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tyrell of Udney.

There are no children in this home except Harry, and both Mr. and Mrs. Tyrell are very fond of him. He appears to be very happy and contented, and I think he is very likely to do well in the future. These people are very comfortably off and Mrs. Tyrell is a kind and motherly woman.

Visited January 18th, 1900..

"This little girl is very happy and is growing up nicely; she reads in second book and has a splendid home. She is obedient and easily managed.

Visited February 21st, 1900.

Sincerely yours,
J. J. Kelso.

PRIVATE CASES.

These cases give ample opportunity for the exercise of preventive and amendment work, which, now that the existence and power of your Society to punish obdurate sinners is so well known, becomes very effective, in fact, I consider it the most important part of our work, although but little of its results can be shown on paper; the fact that over 400 children were privately reported to your agent as requiring his official attention and protection during the year, and 2,136 during the five years shows plainly the active interest the public take in our good work of child saving.

Your most obedient servant,
P. HYNES,
Asst. Sec. and Agent.

CANADIAN NEWS.

A wing is being added to the Perth Separate school.

Hull has adopted a fire by-law which affects the entire city. All dwelling in the future must be fireproof.

Mr. Thomas Poupore, of Chichester, brother of Mr. W. J. Poupore, M.P., died in his 49th year.

It was the day set apart by the Education Department for instilling into the minds of the children a spirit of true patriotism for the great British Empire, of which Canada is one of the chief and most progressive self-governing colonies.

A grand picnic and day of sports will be held on Wednesday, June 20th, under the auspices of Cornwall Branch No. 38, C. M. B. A. The affair will be held at St. Lawrence Park. Visiting lodges will be present from Montreal, Ottawa, Brockville and other places, and excursions will be run in connection with each. All the leading officers of the Order will be present and deliver addresses. Dinner will be served on the grounds. There will be sports, dancing, etc. A very interesting day may be looked for.

As a sign of the times may be noted the fact that the Catholic Bishops of a number of Quebec dioceses are making the teaching of English compulsory in the schools under their charge. This is not to make it a mere matter of learning it, like the students study Latin or Greek, but the practice of speaking it is encouraged and used in the equipment. On the other hand the English speaking people are awakening to the fact that they have neglected too much the use of the French language and are more devoted to its study at the present time than for many years in the past.

The Hon Frank R. Latchford, Minister of Public Works in the Ontario Government who represents South Renfrew in the local House, has offered a handsome gold medal to be competed for by the plowmen of the county, should their society decide to hold a plowing match next fall This medal, together with the high grade all steel walking plow offered the society some time ago by the Frost & Wood Company of Smith's Falls, makes two valuable prizes the South Renfrew Agricultural society will be able to hold out for competition among the county's plowmen.

A branch of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association is soon to be established in Douglas Mr John O'Sullivan, district deputy for South Renfrew, has interested himself in the formation of a branch in that village, and has succeeded in getting twenty-two applicants examined as charter members Dr. Connolly is the local medical examiner and he has forwarded the results of his medical examination of those applicants to the Grand Medical Examiner, Dr. Ryan, of Kingston. When his reply will be received and the other preliminaries arranged the branch in Douglas will be organized.—Renfrew Journal.

On the feast of the Ascension, His Lordship Bishop O'Connor of Peterborough visited Keene, the parish of Rev. Father F. J. O'Sullivan, where he administered the sacrament of Confirmation to fourteen candidates. Mass was celebrated at 9.30 o'clock by Rev. Father O'Sullivan and the ceremony of the administration of the sacrament took place immediately after. There was a very large congregation present. The altar was beautifully decorated. The music of the choir, under the leadership of Miss Clara Bell, was highly appreciated.

His Lordship preached an eloquent sermon on the text, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God in its justice and all these things shall be added unto you." He congratulated the children on the thorough and excellent manner in which they answered the catechism and exhorted them to still further efforts in the study of their religion.

The Canadian pilgrims to the shrines of Paray le Monial and Lourdes will, on the eve of their departure for Liverpool by the steamship Vancouver, attend a religious ceremony at St. James' Cathedral, at which Mgr. Bruchesi will preside. The ceremony will commence at 8.30 on Friday evening next, June 1st. The pilgrims will enter the church in a body, and will be addressed by His Grace. This will be followed by the benediction of the blessed sacrament and the blessing of the banner which the pilgrims are to offer to the shrine of Paray le Monial. The clergy and faithful have been invited to attend the ceremony in large numbers.

Archbishop Bruchesi will continue his pastoral visits during the coming week as follows: Sunday, May 27, Lacolle, Monday, St. Valentin; Tuesday, St. Paul; Wednesday, St. Blaise; Thursday, l'Acadie; Friday, St. John's.

European papers lately to hand contain an account of the archiepiscopal consecration of Mgr. Merry del Val, who was a few years ago Papal delegate to Canada. The ceremony took place on Monday, May 7th, at the Monserrato Spanish Church. Cardinal Rampolla performed the consecration. The whole body of diplomats accredited to Holy Roman See attended the ceremony, as well as a large number of bishops and archbishops. Cardinal Vives of Spain, and all the nobles attached to the person of His Holiness.

The invariable custom has been on such occasions that the new prelate should offer to those present after the ceremony ices, wines, cakes and other light refreshments. These were consumed amid the offering of the best wishes for the career of the newly-ordained prelate. Mgr. Merry del Val introduced an innovation in the custom. He caused two hundred of the poor of both sexes to be collected from the streets and brought to partake of a substantial meal, and afterwards gave to each a good shirt. Cardinal Rampolla and the donor of the feast blessed the tables, and the poor enjoyed the repast, while blessing the kind prelate who remembered them on that day.

Father Fitzpatrick's picnic at Lakefield, Peterborough, on May 24th, proved to be a huge success. In point of numbers it surpassed all former years, as the increased gate receipts showed. Everything went off in first-class order, not a hitch in any particular. From 9 o'clock in the morning until after 3 o'clock in the afternoon there was a constant procession to and from the grounds. The day was fine, the grounds and spacious rink in grand condition, the sports long and well contested, and a happier or more sociable gathering could scarcely be found. Over six hundred people purchased admission tickets at the gate, while about one hundred others, were either admitted free, or gained admission by stealth. Taken on the whole the picnic of this year was the best ever held in Lakefield. The refreshment tables were considered by critics the best ever seen at a picnic, and reflect much credit on the women of Lakefield and Young's Point. The large booth in charge of Misses Scollard and Jennie Kearney and Mr. McFarlane, was well patronized, and contributes largely to the financial success of the picnic. The dancing platform was, as usual, always occupied. The athletic sports were closely and hotly contested. Lively, suitable and interesting speeches were made by Mr. Laplante, of Peterborough; Rev. Father McGuire, of Hastings; Mr. D. O'Connell, of Peterborough, and other gentlemen. The speaking was brought to a close by Father Fitzpatrick who in his own name, in the name of his parishioners thanked the people from Peterborough, Hastings, Douro and Ennismore, who so kindly came so far, and at great inconvenience, to be present at the picnic. He thanked his many Protestant friends both of Lakefield and Peterborough who had done so much year after year to make his picnic a success.

The following clergymen were present and helped on the picnic in no small measure: Rev. D. O'Connor, of Peterborough; Rev. A. Wachter, C.S., of St Jerome's College, Berlin; Rev. J. O'Sullivan and Dr. O'Brien, of the Cathedral; Rev. P. J. McGuire, of Hastings, Rev. W. J. McColl, of Lindsmore; and Rev. J. Phelan, of Lindsay. The ticket contest will be decided next week.

Winnipeg, Man., May 28.—A mass meeting of Roman Catholic ratepayers was held in St. Mary's school Sunday, when a report of the committee which has recently been negotiating with the Public School Board was read, together with incidental correspondence explaining the discussion which took place at the meetings, the net result being that while many members of the Public School Board would undoubtedly like to meet the difficulty by making some concessions to the Catholics, they felt they were entirely debarred from taking such action by the present school law. Clause 7, of the 1897 amendments, which provides that there shall be no separation of children according to religious denomination during school hours was thought to be especially restrictive. The committee therefore reported that no practical result had been reached through the negotiations, and that it was evident that nothing of any benefit to Catholics could be arranged owing to the present law.

The following resolution was moved by N. Bawlf: "Whereas, the Catholics of Winnipeg have for ten long years suffered under the odious burdens imposed upon them by school law of 1890, and whereas, recent negotiations with the Public School Board of the city make it plain that as the law at present stands we can expect no relief, be it resolved, that we, the Catholics of Winnipeg, in meeting assembled, hereby instruct the committee to take immediate steps to lay our grievances before the Dominion and Provincial authorities, pointing out to them the severity of our long continued prosecution and praying them to come to our relief on lines laid down in the Privy Council decisions."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Bawlf remarked that Winnipeg Catholics have struggled for ten years to retain their schools, at the same time paying their public school taxes, and that it was time this state of affairs should cease to exist. This sentiment was loudly applauded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

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—Our beautiful Mosaic Axminsters, special for 1.00
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—Our beautiful line of Victorian Axminsters sold regularly at $3.50, clearing at; 1.50
—A line of very heavy Royal Axminsters, sold regularly at $2.35, clearing at 1.50
—Our own Wilton Carpets, made expressly for ourselves, sold regularly at $2.45, clearing at 1.60
—Heavy French Wiltons, sold regularly at $3.25, clearing at 1.50
—Some of our best 3-frame Brussels carpets, sold regularly at $1.05 and $1.16, clearing at ..... .85

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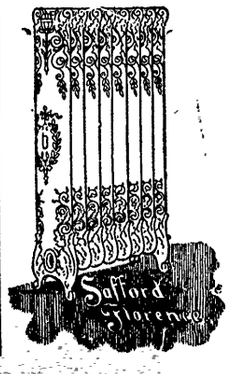

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