

Gift
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Minutes of the Third Annual Meeting of the Grand Association of Patrons of Industry of the Province of Ontario.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Grand Association of the Patrons of Industry was held in Richmond Hall, Toronto, February 27th, 1894.

The meeting was called to order and duly opened by the Grand President, Bro. C. A. Mallory, Esq.; at 2.30 p. m.

GRAND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BRETHREN,—With unmixed pleasure I welcome you to the third annual convention of the Grand Association of Patrons of Industry for the Province of Ontario. The presence of many with whom we have been associated in past conventions is proof that you still hold the confidence of our people, while the many representatives from newly organized counties show that the work is extending, and that Patron principles are continuing to appeal to the better judgment of the Canadian electorate. I also extend a hearty welcome to the representatives from the province of Quebec, and I am looking forward to the time when we shall not only have Grand Associations for the Provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, but when the toilers of the whole Dominion will be united in one common brotherhood, sinking party differences, and working together for the common good.

In reviewing the work of the past year, I am happy to inform you that great success has attended our efforts for the spread of Patron principles. At our last annual convention we were pleased to report an increase of 600 sub-associations to our list. It is now my pleasure to announce that 300 additional organizations have been formed during the past year, and, further, that a greater enthusiasm is manifest among our members than at any time during our past history. Not only has our order extended, but our influence has increased, until, at the present time, Patronism is recognized as an important factor in Canadian politics.

The Grand Association, finding that our petitions in the interest of the masses received but scant courtesy at the hands of our legislators, outlined a system by which candidates should be placed in the field on the Patron platform in the several rural constituencies. Our people have responded nobly, and the greatest enthusiasm is manifest at the prospect of being able to enforce our demands on the floor of Parliament by a sufficient number of Patron representatives to hold the balance of power between the existing parties. We now find the press and representatives of both political parties claiming to stand upon our platform, and vying with each other to be recognized as the Patrons' friends.

THE ELECTIVE SYSTEM.

In view of the approaching elections, and also of the fact that different interpretations have been given by the party press of the seventh clause of our platform, it may not be amiss that I should take this opportunity of giving what is generally accepted by Patrons of Industry as the proper system for the election of county officers, except judges. Patrons hold that all county officers paid by the people should be elected by them. We consider that electors who have sufficient intelligence to choose from themselves law-makers of our land may safely be trusted to elect those whose duty it is to enforce those laws. It is said that by this we are introducing the American system, and, further, that thorough inspection must cease when officers become elective. In reply, we may say that the election of county officers does not necessarily imply a