

GRAND PRESIDENT HACKETT'S ADDRESS.

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

Brothers.—Two decades have passed away since the first branch of our Association was formed in Canada, and looking back over the field of labor, the obstacles with which it has to contend, the numerous kindred societies straining every effort for patronage and support, I believe the Association has reason to be proud of its success, and that we, as members, can congratulate ourselves on the healthy and prosperous condition of our Organization.

Table with columns: Number, Location, Date of Organization, Organizer. Lists various branches across Canada with their respective dates and organizers.

and Supreme Council, I believe I have the universal sentiment of the Brethren of whom I have the honor to have the pleasure of associating myself with you in the celebration of the Anniversary of the Association.

Following a presidential warranty of emigration I have given a list with numbers and location of the various branches, together with names of Organizers, so that the members may be fully conversant with the workings of the Order, and know and appreciate in what portions of the Dominion our Association is making progress, and to whose energy and exertions we are indebted for such growth.

proval of the aims and purposes of the C M B A. The meeting was a most agreeable one in every way, and the Grand President made many friends and admirers by his able and convincing speech.

VISIT OF GRAND PRESIDENT HACKETT TO YARMOUTH, N. S. JULY 23rd.

The Hon. M. F. Hackett, with his wife, visited Yarmouth on Saturday evening, July 23rd. He went to Yarmouth upon the invitation of the local branch, after having visited Halifax in the evening he attended a meeting of the branch and on Sunday afternoon a formal reception was tendered to the hon. gentleman and his wife by the members at the rooms in McLaughlin's block.

The attendance was a large and representative one, including, besides the members of the association and their lady friends, a number of prominent citizens of Yarmouth. On the platform, besides the guests of the day, were Rev. Father Hamilton, Mayor Johnson, T. B. Flint, M. P., and the President of the local branch, F. G. J. Comeau, who presided.

President Comeau, after a brief and appropriate welcome of the guests, presented a formal address of welcome to the Grand President, which was as follows: Sir—The members of Branch No. 190, of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, on the occasion of your first visit here, extend to you a most cordial and hearty welcome.

We welcome you, sir, not only because of the dignified position you hold in this organization, but also because of your earnest zeal and true devotion for the welfare and higher attainments of its members, which claim our admiration and sincere gratitude. We appreciate, in common with our confederates throughout the Dominion, your eminent talents and the great services you are rendering our worthy Association.

To this address the Grand President replied feelingly and then proceeded in an eloquent and able manner to set forth the claims and principles of the C. M. B. A. He gave an interesting sketch of its rise and progress and showed by a chain of strong reasoning the extensive and useful sphere it must necessarily occupy as a financial and fraternal institution. He was heartily applauded. Mr Hackett's closing remarks were of a most fervent and sympathetic character, showing him to be not merely a gifted orator, but a whole souled worker for the good of his fellow men.

Initiations Reported in July and August, 1898. Initiations Rapportees en Juillet et Aout, 1898.

Table with columns: Br., Initiated Members. Lists various branches and the number of initiations reported for July and August 1898.

N. B.—The initiations in the last three branches are charter members. Les initiations de trois derniers succursales sont des membres fondateurs.

THE LANDRY APPEAL.

Memramcook, N. B., Aug 26, 1898. Mr. Samuel R. Brown, Grand Secy, C M B A, London, Ont. Dear Sir and Brother—Kindly add to the lists already published, the names of the following branches as having contributed to the Landry Appeal.

Table with columns: Br., Amount previously acknowledged. Lists various branches and the amount they have contributed to the Landry Appeal.

In the works of God progress is really the greatest when obstacles crowd thick and fast.—St. Paul of the Cross. We are always complaining that our days are few, and acting as though there would be no end to them.—Addison.

A perusal of the foregoing list must convince us that for some unknown reason the Province from which we expected so much and which from its population was justly regarded as the recruiting ground of the Association, has done practically nothing during the past few years. It is needless to add that I refer to the Province of Quebec.

I am not unmindful of the fact that in this Province there are many religious and national benevolent societies appealing for sympathy and support, but the field is broad enough for all, and the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada has no rivalry with any other kindred organization except in doing public and private good. And I trust you will not deem me egotistical if I cherish the hope and venture the prediction that the fruits of the present Convention, now being held in Quebec's rock-bound capital, will impart new life and vigor to the work, will stimulate our members, will direct our energies, and will cause us to take a more active interest in our Organization, so that when we meet again in convention, Quebec may take her place as the banner Province of our Association.

It has been my pleasure during my term of office to appoint a number of Grand Deputies in each Province.

While many of them have done their duty nobly and well, some there are who do not seem to realize their duties and responsibilities, and I believe that a change in the system of appointments would redound to the greatest benefit of the Association.

The time has arrived in the history of our Association when the employment of organizers has become a necessity, and I believe the future progress and welfare depend largely upon immediate action in this respect.

The keen competition of sister societies, the amount of money by them spent in advertising, the great inducements given for cheap insurance, all combined, render it necessary and imperative that competent organizers should be employed in the various Provinces, in the interests of this Association.

Acting upon instructions received at the last convention, the Board of Trustees have recently secured the valuable services of Brother Killackey as organizer in Ontario, and who during the short period that he has been engaged has done most excellent work. In Quebec arrangements were made with Brother Montreuil during the winter to take up the same work in that Province. He started under most favorable auspices, but was prevented from carrying them to a successful issue, owing to family affliction.

Our reserve fund, which in 1896 amounted to \$33,312.33, has now reached the sum of \$31,500.00, the whole of which is on deposit in the following banks: Canadian Bank of Commerce, Merchants, Bank of Toronto, British North America, Bank of Montreal, and Eastern Townships Bank in Stanstead. These deposits are drawing three per cent., compounded semi-annually. Our general fund is in excellent condition: we owe nothing, and have sufficient funds on hand to defray the expenses of this convention.

In fact, I have much pleasure in stating that at no previous convention were we in as sound a financial position as we are at the present time.

For further information upon our financial and legal affairs, our membership, death-rate, cause of death, etc., I take much pleasure in referring you to the very complete and elaborate reports of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, the Grand Medical Supervisor and our Grand Solicitor as well as the report of the Trustee Board, all of which will be placed before you.

The reports of the various committees will also be laid before you. Let me urge you to give them your most serious study and consideration, in order to more intelligently take part and assist in the deliberations of the convention.

The negligence of many of the branches to furnish the Bonds provided for by the constitution, has been called to our attention. I have been in communication with the forceful branches, and the matter will be most satisfactorily arranged forthwith.

Many subjects of grave importance will be placed before you, among others the holding of Biennial or Tri-ennial conventions; the abolition, as far as possible, of special assessments, and the question of the appointment of Grand Deputies. The proper solution of these, and other questions, will have great bearing upon the future of our Association, and will receive, I am convinced, that attention and serious consideration their importance demands.

Death's Angel has paid us frequent visits since our last meeting. Some of the greatest spirits and warmest friends of our Association have gone to their final and heavenly reward. It seems but yesterday that the courtly and kindy Archbishop of Montreal, sojourned at Paris on his way to Rome and turned back to close his earthly career at the foot of Mount Royal in the city he loved so well. A short time afterwards we were shocked at the news that the Archbishop of Kingston had become vacant, and that the illustrious and gifted prelate, Monsignor Clary, was no more. A few days afterwards we were called upon to pay a last tribute of respect to the earthly remains of the Head of the Canadian Hierarchy, in the person of the late Cardinal Taschereau, Archbishop of Quebec, and but a few weeks since we were again called to mourn the loss of the Dean of the Canadian Episcopacy, in the grand personality of the late Mgr. Laflèche, Bishop of Three Rivers. Valiant Princes of the Church, warm friends of this Association, we mourn their loss, and from our heart of hearts give utterance to the prayer, *Requiescat in Pace*.

But the list does not end here, the startling announcement lately received of the death of Archbishop Walsh has brought sorrow to many a Canadian heart, but doubly so to the C. M. B. A. of Canada, of which he had been, from the foundation of our Council to the time of his death, the Grand Spiritual Adviser. To his advice, counsel, kindly encouragement and friendly warning, is due in a large degree the success and progress of the Association throughout Canada.

Recognizing the grand work the C. M. B. A. was destined to do for the Catholic people of Canada, he became a member in 1873, and from that time he has encouraged it, watched over it, guarded and directed it.

Noble in character, refined in scholarship, estimable, strong in faith, strong in his love for his people, his whole life was devoted to his service, and to ours till "God's flag" touched him and he slept.

In stepping down from the high office to which you so kindly succeeded two years ago, I desire to express my warm appreciation of the fraternal feeling and kindly courtesy extended to me by every member of the Association with whom I have come in contact.

I would not be true to the interests of the organization if I did not recognize the most valuable assistance rendered no times without number by our Grand Secretary, Brother Brown.

To his indefatigable efforts, his untiring zeal, his unceasing ardor, and to his sterling worth, is due in a large degree the success of our Association.

Ready, willing, courteous, and ever prudent, his aid and counsel have been ever at my disposal, and I take this opportunity of tendering