

THE CANADIAN

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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 of interest to the Association, or upon subjects of interest to the C. M. B. A. members will always be glad to receive any letters and articles which the Managers do not consider for publication in the Association will not be published.

Correspondence will be published in the copy must be sent to the Editor of the month, if it is to be published in the following month. Correspondence is limited in length and must be signed.

Address all communications to
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LONDON, JANUARY, 1897.

1896-1897.

Our Success in the Old, Our Hopes in the New.

On the very threshold of a new year, it seems to us opportune after wishing our membership the fullest measure of happiness in 1897 to recall the work of the Association in the past twelve months and note wherein we have succeeded or failed in the accomplishment of our mission.

The two fold purpose for which the C. M. B. A. was instituted, and approved of and supported by the Church, viz., Fraternity and Protection for those dependent upon us, cannot by any amount of subtle reasoning on the part of those who wish to make it a mere business machine, be lost from sight. Certainly no one can deny that a truly noble and meritorious work is being done by the insurance feature of our Association. Working together then—insurance, fraternity, religion—they make a combination which should satisfy the most exacting Catholic. We have frequently been told, however, by those in a position to know and we must not shut our eyes to the fact, that there are members in the C. M. B. A., who seem to ignore the religious and fraternal side of the Association and imagine that it is subordinate to the business side. This is indeed, an unsound position, a very erroneous idea, and we sincerely hope it may quickly be eradicated. The primary condition of membership, all must readily see, is that of Catholicity, and practical Catholicity. The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association must sail under no spurious name. It must be what its name predicts if it is intended to be a permanent organization, an organization deserving the sanction and blessing of the Church.

All the danger to our Association comes from this side. If a member fails to fulfil the monetary obligation, neglects to pay his dues and assessments, he *ipso facto* suspends or expels himself, and there is the end of it: but if he discharges his duty as to payment of dues and assessments he holds on to membership, for a time at least, even if he neglects his religious duties entirely. As a general thing in render-

ing an account of our stewardship, in reviewing the work of the year, we are only required to give cold figures and the necessary comment on our business administration. Our Conventions, also have devoted their attention to the mathematical side with almost unvarying exclusiveness. This has given rise to comment in certain quarters, and it is suggested that since constitution changing in this regard cannot or should not occupy the deliberative sessions of the Grand Council to the extent it has in the past, that prominence be given the Catholic, Fraternal and Social sides of our great organization in the future, so that in our desire for sound financing, we may not overlook the fact that we are banded together to increase fraternity among all, and the Catholic virtues of "integrity, sobriety and frugality" individually, under solemn obligation. We have been told, "you can give the figures as to assessments, actual enrolments, suspensions, expulsions, resignations, deaths, etc., but so far no real measure has been brought forward whereby the standing of the member as to those qualities which constitute his practical Catholicity—can be ascertained." We cited sections 30, 31 and clause 56 of section 210, of our Constitution, but this is not considered sufficient.

In the year 1896 we have from a business point of view made considerable progress. On Jan. 1st 1896 we had a membership on our books of 10,403, holding C. M. B. A. policies amounting to \$16,166,500. During the year there were 1216 new members admitted. We lost by death 107 members and by expulsions and resignations 126. In the past twelve months the large sum of \$168,150.00 has been paid beneficiaries and we have added \$8,758.75 to our Reserve Fund, exclusive of interest. Since the 1st. Jan. 1896 we organized 18 branches, 2 in Ontario, 6 in Quebec, 2 in New Brunswick, 3 in Nova Scotia, 3 in Prince Edward Island and 2 in Manitoba and the North West Territories. Our membership on 1st. Jan. 1897 is divided as follows:—Ontario 6,522 members, Quebec 2269, New Brunswick 922, Nova Scotia 739, Prince Edward Island 185, Manitoba and North-West Territories 308. Total 11,116.

All this shows a steady, normal, and fairly satisfactory increase. The officers of the branches have generally worked well for the association, sacrificing their time and ability in its interests in the most praiseworthy way. For the officers of the Grand Council we can say the same. They have evinced the desire of doing all they could in the faithful discharge of their duty. Little change has been made in the personnel of the Council by the late Convention. The only important change made was that of Grand President, and we feel safe in assuring the membership that the

now incumbent will emulate the able ex-chief officer in conducting our affairs prudently and well.

All things considered we have reason to be satisfied with our record of 1896. As a convention year it will make us better know and appreciated. We shall strive to keep the ennobling objects of the association through THE CANADIAN, and every other legitimate channels, before the people.

With the warm approval of the church and its Bishops from Vancouver to Prince Edward Island, the thankful prayers of so many widows and orphans snatched by the C. M. B. A. from penury and ruin, and the loyal support and example of our membership, we can with confidence look for even greater success in the New Year 1897.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP FABRE OF MONTREAL.

Our C. M. B. A. members throughout Canada regret to hear of the death of His Grace Archbishop Fabre. He was a true friend to our association, and to his wise counsel and just decisions at a critical time in the history of the association, may, to a great extent, be attributed the success of the C. M. B. A. of Canada in the Province of Quebec.

The *Catholic Record* in its leading article of the 9th inst. says of the deceased prelate:

His Grace Archbishop Edward Charles Fabre, of Montreal, died at the Archiepiscopal residence, on the 30th ult. His Grace was the Metropolitan of the ecclesiastical Province of Montreal, which besides the Archdiocese includes the dioceses of St. Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke and Valleyfield.

Archbishop Fabre was the third Bishop in succession in the diocese of Montreal. He was a native of Montreal city, where he was born on the 28th February, 1827. He received his education partly in Canada and partly in France. He received his preparatory studies at the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe, and continued his ecclesiastical course at Issy in France, where he was a classmate of the eminent late Archbishop of Algiers, Cardinal Lavigerie, and others who were afterwards prominent in the Church. He was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1850 by Bishop Prince, and had charge successively of Sorel and Pointe Claire parishes, and in 1854 he was appointed a canon of the cathedral of Montreal and was stationed in that city by Bishop Bourget.

In 1873 he was consecrated to be Coadjutor Bishop of Montreal and he succeeded to the See in 1876, on Bishop Bourget's resignation owing to ill health, and he was promoted to be Archbishop in 1886.

Recently his Grace celebrated the one thousandth ordination to the

priesthood conferred by him: he ordained 1420 subdeacons, 1220 deacons, besides conferring minor orders and tonsure on as many more. He confirmed during his episcopate 220,500 children, and dedicated or consecrated forty seven new churches. He also consecrated to the Episcopate Archbishop O'Brien of Halifax, Bishop Lorrain of Pontiac, Bishop Enard of Valleyfield, Bishop Decelles of St. Hyacinthe, Bishop Larocque of Sherbrooke, and Archbishop Langevin of St. Boniface. Seven of the priests whom he ordained have since become Bishops, including Archbishop Langevin.

Mgr. Fabre was an indefatigable worker, and regularly made his visitations to all the parishes of his diocese, in which religion has greatly prospered during his administration. He was distinguished for his gentlemanly affability and Christian kindness, and he will be mourned by Protestants as well as Catholics throughout the Dominion, and especially in his native city.

The body of the deceased prelate was laid out in a catafalque in the cathedral, and the funeral took place on Tuesday, 5th inst. A large number of prelates and clergy were present and a great concourse of the people of Montreal of all denominations. *Requiescat in pace!*

Grand President's Circular.

To the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada:

My dear Brothers, At our last convention, the subject of engaging paid organizers was discussed, and a resolution was passed referring the same to the Board of Trustees. When the Trustees met at Windsor, in the month of October last, the question was discussed and the following resolution was carried:

"Moved by Reverend M. J. TIERNAN and seconded by J. J. BEHAN that the Trustees while recognizing the desirability of employing paid organizers have not sufficient funds available for such purposes and would recommend that a circular be issued by the Grand President urging the branches to make a vigorous effort to increase the membership; and, as an incentive to bringing in New Members, that the sum of one dollar be paid out of the General Fund of the Grand Council for each new member brought in, such payment to be made to the member bringing in the new member and that the branches be recommended to supplement this Bonus of one dollar by adding thereto one half the initiation fee of three dollars paid in the branch by the new member. CARRIED."

While deploring our inability, at the present time, to employ paid organizers, we trust every member of the Association will do his utmost to secure new members under the terms specified in the resolution.

We may, we hope, at a later period, be in a position to employ organizers, but, at the present time, we must rely upon the good will and hearty cooperation of each and every brother of the various branches throughout the Dominion.

Trusting that the action of the Trustees will commend itself to the organization of the whole country and that, under the provisions of the resolution of the Trustees, our membership may be greatly increased,

I have the honor to be,
Most respectfully and fraternally,
M. F. HACKER, Grand President.
Stanstead, Que., December 1896.