

Golden Jubilee of the Rev. G. R. Northgraves.

On Wednesday, the 28th August, the golden jubilee of the Rev. G. R. Northgraves was celebrated with unusual eclat by the congregation of St. James' Church, Seaforth, Ont., and the priests of the diocese of London, together with a number of priests of other dioceses of Ontario and the United States, 35 in number, who joined in thus honoring the rev. gentleman on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Catholic priesthood.

The occasion was a memorable one, as few priests survive to complete so long a period of service in the active ministry; nevertheless Father Northgraves is still engaged therein and is quite vigorous for his years. He was ordained by Bishop Farrel, the first Bishop of Hamilton, in St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, together with two other priests, both of whom have been dead for many years. These were the Very Rev. F. E. Rooney, of Toronto, and the Rev. P. Bardou, of Cayuga.

The celebration began with solemn High Mass, sung by Father Northgraves, the Jubilarian, at 9.30 a. m. He was assisted by the Rev. Fathers M. J. Brady and Donald McRae as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The Rev. D. J. Downey officiated as master of ceremonies. His Lordship Bishop McEwry, of London, was to have presided but he was unavoidably absent through sickness. The Rev. D. P. McNamee, P.P., of Lucan, ascended the pulpit after the Gospel and delivered an eloquent and impressive sermon on "The Priesthood," making special reference to the effective work of the Jubilarian during his fifty years of incumbency of that sacred office.

Many more priests arrived by the 12.45 train from the East, and at 1 o'clock the visiting clergy, together with Judge B. L. Doyle, of Goderich, partook of a substantial banquet in honor of the occasion.

Addresses were read from the priests of the diocese and from the people of Seaforth parish, each of which was accompanied by a well-filled purse.

The address of the priests was read by Rev. T. J. Aylward, rector of St. Peter's Cathedral, London, the purse being presented by Rev. T. J. West, of St. Thomas. The address of the people of Seaforth parish was read by J. L. Killoran, barrister, and the purse presented by Robert Devereaux, Sr.

Address of the Catholics of the parish of Seaforth, Ont., to Rev. G. R. Northgraves on the occasion of his golden jubilee to the priesthood, Aug. 28th, 1907.

iring toil. We have in retrospect the years when a parish extended for more than a hundred miles, when comforts were few, and the scattered parishioners needed the most vigilant care. The diocese has many priests in it to-day, who were not born when you, dear father, offered your young life, with all its hopes and ambitions, with its exuberance of energy and its wealth of ability, to hold aloft the lamps of Faith and Truth. Those who set forward with you lovingly and cheerily, on the journey, looking with eager eyes into the sanctified future, have one by one dropped away from your side. Now the labors of half a century lie behind like a golden sunset, and we stand and see the glory from the hill. Oh! the love and honor we owe the veterans of our holy church—those grand old men who stood the storms of a less liberal age, who fought firmly for the privileges we now enjoy, and whose sacred lives are crowned with garlands of human souls.

In token of our appreciation of your long and arduous service in the Church and as a mark of our respect and love, we ask your acceptance of the accompanying gift. We pray that God will spare you in health and happiness for many years yet, and when your time comes to give up the heritage of life, may Heaven's eternal years be yours.

The Parish of Seaforth.

Rev. Father Northgraves said in reply:

Dear beloved friends,—I have heard with much emotion the reading of your address to me on this solemn occasion of the golden jubilee of my ordination to the priesthood of the Catholic Church.

You have praised my work during the fifty years of my priesthood, and I presume that during that long period this work has really been of some value to religion. It could scarcely be otherwise, for the labors of a priest honestly fulfilled can scarcely be over-estimated, as the priests are called in holy scripture the ministers and ambassadors of Christ, the dispensers of His mysteries, God's coadjutors, the bearers of good tidings.

I know that in many things I have failed in being what a model priest should be, and I am conscious to myself that I have fallen far short of what I should have been as a priest of God, but you have in your kindness and benevolence attributed to me qualities beyond what I possess. This is the consequence of your charity and good-will, and your respect for the priestly office. I therefore regard what you have said rather as a description of what I should be than of what I have actually been, and I thank you sincerely for the kind wishes you have expressed in my regard, and here I will say of the priests of this parish of Seaforth that of all the parishes in which I have performed priestly functions, I think there is not one in which I have found a more thoroughly and devotedly Catholic spirit and more earnest piety than I have discovered here.

Closing of C. M. B. A. Convention.

- President—Hon. M. F. Hackett, X.C., Stanstead, Que.
- 1st Vice-President—Hon. A. D. Richard, Dorchester, N.B.
- 2nd Vice-President—Bernard O'Connell, Dublin, Ont.
- Secretary—J. J. Behar, Kingston, Ont.
- Treasurer—W. J. McKee, Windsor, Ont.
- Marshal—J. J. Costigan, Montreal.
- Guard—Jacob J. Weinert, Neustadt, Ont.
- Trustees—Mr. Geo. Lynch, Staunton, K.C., Hamilton, Ont.; Dr. Germain, Montreal; Rev. Father Burke, Alberton, P.E.I.; Mr. G. V. McInerney, K. C.; St. John, N.B.; Mr. J. A. Chisholm, K.C., Halifax, N.S.

The above are the new officers of the Grand Council of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

The convention was brought to a close on last Friday night. It was finally decided to raise their rates to the level of the National Fraternal Congress. The change will take place as soon as the amended constitution comes into force. As a prelude to this, there must first be a meeting of the Committee on Laws, who will deal with the changes recommended by the convention. After an agreement has been reached the new constitution will be printed, and after certification by the committee of laws, will be promulgated by the Grand President, after which it will go into immediate effect.

Old members are not affected by the new schedule, which only applies to new members. The changes, it would appear, will not be irksome. There is already provision in the constitution by which a collection up to 24 assessments is authorized. The C.M.B.A. is also the only fraternal society that has not made a change. The most levied hitherto, however, has been 20 assessments, so that there are still four assessments which could be required from members by the present constitution, without disturbing their condition.

The sharp debate on this question, which commenced on Thursday evening, did not close till yesterday afternoon. The crux consisted in the fact that by the original proposal it had been intended to place the older footing as the new. This led to a pronouncement from the seniors, of whom there were many to emphasize the hardships attending such a scheme.

The advocates of change pointed out that the parent American society had adopted the table of the National Fraternal Congress. The dangers, it was declared, which they were seeking to avert at this convention were precisely those against

which it was the purpose of the Dominion Commission to guard. Amid loud applause it was pointed out by a delegate that the Independent Order of Foresters had changed their rates, while allowing old members to remain as they were, so that the new schedule merely affected new members.

There was also vigorous opposition to the project of establishing two separate funds, one for senior and one for new members, an arrangement which, it was claimed, would be practically to break up the C.M.B.A. into two societies.

In the end, the amendment of Dr. Fiset, of Quebec, was carried, by which the seniors gained their point. After a motion of confidence in the executive had been carried unanimously, a delegate rose to enquire whether in case of the convention lasting another day or so delegates would receive any financial compensation for their time. Doubts were swiftly set at rest by a decided statement from Chairman Hackett to the effect that in case of such a contingency they would certainly be entitled to further pay, which, he observed, amid loud applause, would be well deserved, in view of the strenuous way in which the delegates had done their duty.

This fittingly preceded the election of the executive, which was marked by striking unanimity, there being an entire absence of opposition candidates for the Grand Council offices. All the old officers were elected.

The newly-elected president, Hon. M. F. Hackett, K.C. of Stanstead, Que., after thanking the delegates for re-electing him, and referring to the fact that this was the fifth time in which they had done him the honor of making him their president, said that it was the object of their association to form a grand army of Catholics from Atlantic to Pacific. There had been clouds hanging over the association, but he thought he saw around him, the silver lining would soon be manifest, so that the C.M.B.A. might go prospering onwards, the banner of Catholic association of America. In closing he spoke hopefully of the part which the association might play in the development of Canada.

In connection with the election of trustees, Mr. Frank J. Curran laid stress upon the fact that Montreal, with her 300,000 Catholics, was unrepresented on the board of trustees. Yet Montreal was at the flood tide of prosperity. She had plenty of money to erect new buildings and for colossal schemes of amusement. Some of her surplus wealth might be profitably devoted to the C.M.B.A. But to bring about this result, he pointed out, it was advisable that Montreal should have her share of representation on the board.

In the end Mr. Curran was rewarded by seeing his nominee, Dr. Germain, of this city, elected to the board of trustees. One delegate had previously proposed Mr. Curran for the post, but that gentleman withdrew his name. The voting for the trustees being by ballot, with 446 potential voters, look considerable time, so that it was well on in the evening when the session terminated.

their fathers sprang, no matter though such young men be ruggedly efficient and honest in character and efficient in ability. They are not regarded so respectable as the non-Catholic.

Pilgrimages Suspended.

Rome, August 29.—The suspension of pilgrimages is largely due to the recent insult to Cardinal Merry del Val, Papal Secretary of State, by anti-clericals. The suspension operates from now until the end of October. It will affect mostly the French pilgrimages. Trade people are greatly disappointed. They say they will lose large sums of money.

The Holy See has just readmitted Abbott Tyrell. He was suspended after his expulsion from the Jesuit Order. Abbott Tyrell signed a formal declaration not to publish any more of his writings without previously receiving authority from the Holy See.

SCHOOLS OPENED.

All the Catholic schools of the city opened Tuesday with large numbers. Some of them will be overcrowded, notably St. James, on St. Denis street, and Belmont, on

Catholic "Climbers" in Canada and U. S. A.

A writer in the Catholic Sun draws attention to one of the fruitless sources of mixed marriages in the United States and Canada. He says:

"My limited observation leads me to conclude that those figure most frequently in mixed marriages are the daughters of well-to-do or fairly well-to-do Catholic parents, young women who have enjoyed the advantages of an excellent convent training. Girls of this class, of good education, and of some considerable pretense to social standing, are, it seems to me, much more likely to marry non-Catholics than the maid from the factory or shop girl of the same religious belief. Experience shows such to be the case in the United States and Canada. It is not so in England; in the upper classes.

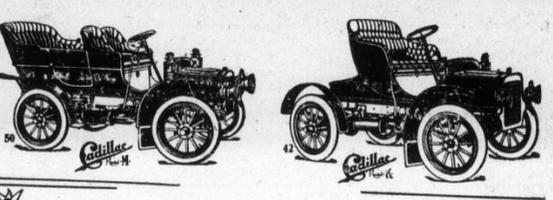
"Now, how is this to be accounted for? I should say that it arises from social ambition. We find the parents working up from 'shirt sleeves' to wealth, and with the acquisition of the remaining desire to advance socially—to get into the society set. For that purpose the society of non-Catholic friends is assiduously cultivated. The daughters of Patrick Murphy, Honoré Benoit, Karl Schmidt or Donald MacDonald—Catholic nouveaux riches of different nationalities—would seem to form a matrimonial alliance with young men of the class from which

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poor lay mind that the conditions which contribute to mixed marriages should come in for a little more censure. The Catholic "snob"—male or female—should be run down like an obnoxious animal; Catholics should be taught to have a little more pride in their religion—remembering that Catholicism even on the human side of the organization—has a wealth of tradition and record of achievement to which the non-Catholic people of our day can make no pretense. A wholesome vigorous crusade along those lines would surely have some effect in lessening the worldliness, the mercenary instincts, and social snobbery that play so great a part in producing mixed marriages, and the "leakage" which we so much deplore."

Closing Week at Cliff Haven.

Fascinated by the bracing, brisk air of September, a large crowd of visitors have decided to spend the month of September at Cliff Haven. Several of the cottages will remain open until October 1, while the Dining Hall and Champlain Club will be open until September 16.

That the sixteenth session of the Catholic Summer School has been the most successful in the history of the institution is the testimony of everyone who has had the good fortune to visit the school during the session. The attendance has been so much larger than in previous years that the sixteenth session not only is the high water mark of all sessions, but itself marks the beginning of a new and even more successful era in the history of the institution. The lectures of the session have surpassed those of preceding years in the wide scope of the various branches of learning and in the variety of subjects embraced. The accommodations of cottages and dining hall though at times taxed to their utmost by the size of the crowd on the grounds, have yet given ample comfort and satisfaction to all the season's guests. The social life of this year has been one continuous round of amusement as varied in character as can be found among a gathering of old and young all from every state in the Union and even from the Philippines.

The lectures of the last week were very whit as interesting as those of the preceding weeks. The evenings of Monday and Tuesday were taken up by two lectures by Rev. Clement Francis Kelly, of Chicago, President of the Catholic Church Extension Society, on "A Dream of Equality." On Thursday and Friday evenings Rev. John Talbot Smith, LL.D., President of the School, delivered two lectures, the first on "Literary Fads, Isms and Others," and the second on "Literary Ideals." Victor

Death of Mrs. T. Callaghan.

The death occurred yesterday of Mrs. T. Callaghan, wife of Mr. Thos. Callaghan, of the Treasurers' Department, Montreal Post Office, after a lengthy illness. The True Witness extends its sincere sympathy to Mr. Callaghan. May her soul rest in peace.