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BRANCH 253.

To strike out in section 156 the following: "But such meetings shall not be on a Sunday or legal holiday."

BRANCH 200

To allow branches to hold regular meetings on Sundays and the continuance of the \$1.00 bonus.

VISIT OF GRAND PRESIDENT HON. M. F. HACKETT TO HAL- IFAX, N. S.

After many pressing invitations from representative officials in that section, a very strong one, issued by the several Branches of the city of Halifax and Dartmouth, had the desired effect of inducing our worthy Grand President to make us a visit so long desired. Accompanied by his amiable lady, he arrived there on Tuesday evening, 19th ult., by C. P. Railway, and was met and welcomed at the station by quite a gathering of brothers. A special committee, composed of Grand Deputy Cragg, President Monaghan, Branch 132; President O'Donnell, Branch 160; President Grant, Branch 208, and President Thomas, Branch 241, escorted the visitors to the Halifax Hotel, where appropriate quarters had been engaged. Here again the Grand President was met, not only by a further gathering of members, but by several members of the City Council and leading citizens, who accorded him a hearty welcome and practically bestowed on him the freedom of the city. Most unfortunate, the weather for the two following days remained most obstinately wet and disagreeable, yet everything possible was done to neutralize these climatic conditions and to try and make the visitors forget the weather. But it was impossible to carry out the originally arranged programme. On Wednesday morning official visits were made to Government House, City Hall and the Parliament Buildings. Lieutenant-Governor Daly was, as might be expected from our distinguished co-religionist, most cordial in his greetings, and the same may be said of His Worship Mayor Stephens and Hon. George Murray, the Premier. Following this Bro. Hackett lunched at the Halifax Club with some prominent C. M. B. A. members. After lunch Madame Hackett was called on by the wives and daughters of our members. At the conclusion of the reception the party, by special invitation of the Gardens Commissioners, made a visit of inspection to this "Pride of Halifax," and not only did they see all that was to be seen, but came away laden with choice bouquets. Returning, a brief stop was made at St. Mary's cathedral, the magnificent new decorations of which were greatly admired. Wednesday evening was set apart for a grand rally of all members at the association rooms on Barrington street. The attendance was good and the rousing eloquence of Hon. Mr. Hackett on that occasion made such an impression on the gathering that many of those who have been lukewarm in the past will, without doubt, become imbued with that vigorous interest which, as the Grand President so forcibly pointed out, is the sacred duty of each and every member.

Already the fruits of his stirring address are visible, in the fact that a number of applications and examinations are in process; and many more will follow.

Thursday was to have been the day

for a grand harbor excursion, but alas! the elements were against it. In the evening, however, the members accorded the Grand President and visiting brothers a banquet at Hotel Florance, a bright new summer hotel situated about ten miles outside the city. Instead of a contemplated water excursion one by rail was substituted. A special conveyed the party, numbering about seventy five, and, after enjoying the repast, speeches were made in proposing and responding to the toasts of the Queen, Our Guest, Visiting Brothers, etc. Here again our Grand President delighted his listeners by his charming felicity in reaching their hearts with words breathing that spirit of fraternity which he never tires in inculcating. Rev. Father William McDonald, from Stellarton—the big man with the big heart; Rev. Father McKeough, from Pictou; Bro. J. P. Hallisey, from Truro, and others also made capital speeches. The only drawback to the entertainment was the ruthless insistence of the railway people to start the return journey on schedule time, and thus the merry gathering was cut short, although the run home was made lively by song and jest. On Friday morning the members had the very great pleasure of being joined by ex Grand Chancellor Bro. Dr. MacCabe, who has been sojourning at Truro. Friday afternoon an impromptu excursion on the harbor was organized, and the guests had the opportunity of cruising over the finest harbor in the world with the accompaniment of as bright a sunshine and as invigorating a breeze as this world affords. Friday evening was looked forward to as the great night, and it truly was a red letter occasion for the C. M. B. A. in Halifax, as one of the most important features of that meeting was the noble and characteristic letter of His Grace the Archbishop, Dr. O'Brien, addressed to Grand Deputy Cragg the whole association will read its encouraging words with appreciation and delight.

Halifax, P. E. I., July 24, 1898.
To Jas. R. Cragg, Esq., Grand Deputy C. M. B. A., Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Cragg: I regret very much that unavoidable absence from the city deprives me of the pleasure of meeting and welcoming the Hon. Mr. Hackett as the representative of the C. M. B. A. I must beg of you to be the interpreter of my sentiments, and to make known my sympathy with, and approval of, the principles and aims of the C. M. B. A., and my earnest hope that its membership may be largely increased. I cordially unite with my fellow-members in bidding a hearty welcome to our chief Executive Officer, and trust his visit to Halifax may be a pleasant one, and conducive to the best interests of our noble Association.

I remain, yours very truly,
(signed) J. C. O'Brien,
Archbishop of Halifax.

The local press gives the following account of the meeting:—

Members of the C. M. B. A. and their friends filled St. Mary's hall last evening, the occasion being addressed by Hon. M. F. Hackett, Grand President of the association, and others, regarding the association and its aims and objects. James R. Cragg, local president, occupied the chair, and beside him, on the stage, which was decorated with plants and flowers, were Hon. Mr. Hackett, his honor the lieutenant governor, his worship the mayor and Dr. MacCabe. The other gentlemen on the stage included Rev. Dr. Foley, Rev. Peter McDonald, of Stellarton, Rev. Father Underwood and other members of the clergy.

In opening Mr. Cragg read letters from His Grace the Archbishop and Rev. Dr. Murphy, who were absent from the city, regretting their absence but assuring the members of the association of their hearty co-operation in the aims

and objects of the C. M. B. A. They particularly regretted inability to be present to welcome the grand president.

The chairman on introducing Mr. Hackett, spoke of that gentleman's prominence as a Canadian and a C. M. B. A. member and paid a tribute to his ability.

Hon. Mr. Hackett, on rising, was greeted with loud applause. He thought the chairman must have prevaricated slightly in regard to his introduction and that he should notify the audience so that they should not expect too much and be disappointed. He had been in the city four days, and words failed to express the sentiments of himself and Mrs. Hackett over their welcome by all creeds and classes. He had heard of the C. M. B. A. members of Halifax before, but his expectations had been eclipsed by his welcome. He and Mrs. Hackett had read the history of Nova Scotia and they had read of the beautiful harbor of Halifax, its park gardens and surroundings and they were delighted at having seen them: words failed to express their feelings. He was not egotistical enough to take this welcome to himself personally, when he reflected how little he had done to deserve it, but looked upon it as a tribute to the position which he holds, and which he said it was his desire to fill in such a way as to conduce to the credit and advantage of the association. He had received from north, south, east and west many flattering proofs of kindness and confidence from his brethren, but none touched him more than the evidence of the good will of the Halifax brethren. In presence of such marks of confidence he felt strengthened in the resolve to make every personal sacrifice and to spare no pains to deserve it.

He was happy to say the C. M. B. A. is a band of brothers, a brotherhood of friendship and benevolence which knows no distinction of origin or class, but which embraces in its protective folds every class and condition of mankind, only asking that they kneel at a common altar and mingle in a union of hearts, a reciprocal affection and a mutual aid, which will redound to their greatest moral, material, general and individual advancement. The C. M. B. A. is more than a mutual benefit association. It has not only for its aim to assist the widow and orphan, but its mission is to elevate and educate the Catholic masses. There is something comforting in the thought that Catholics possess such an institution, which aims to make men nobler, greater, truer and better men and citizens.

The growth of the association is marvellous, and there is, so to speak, no locality of importance, no growth of Catholics upon the continent which does not feel, directly or indirectly, its beneficial and salutary effects. Its greatest ambition is to unite the Catholics of Canada. Its mission is great, noble, generous and good, and no man who loves his country and his fellow man—no matter before what altar he kneels or in what tongue his lullaby is sung, will fail to say from his heart of hearts, to the officers and members, rank and file, "God bless you, go on in your noble work."

We live in an age of combination, when desired results are more easily obtained by union, the crystallization, so to speak, of all the living forces available, whether of men or capital. Union in part is strength for any purpose. It may be said the C. M. B. A. encroaches upon a field already pre-

empted by many kindred associations, but such contention is most untenable. He knew of no divine right which gives the monopoly to any one or body, but in any case the field is broad enough for all. In the face of the evening's magnificent demonstration, which bore unmistakable testimony to their loyalty to the order, it might seem superfluous to offer advice. But if he might venture to do so he would say: Cultivate and encourage above all the fraternal spirit which constitutes the chief aim and strength of their beloved association. Let it be a band of brothers in the truest sense of the word, thus setting an edifying example to their co-religionists who have not yet affiliated with them. All can leave their footprints upon the sands of time. The years depart, but the good done lives and abides. Catholics of education, wealth and influence owe it as a solemn duty to themselves and their co-religionists to help on the good work which the association has undertaken by joining its ranks as soon as possible.

The C. M. B. A. appeals to all as a Canadian institution. It is essentially a Canadian society. In 1892, when the death rate in the United States became greater than the Canadian members felt they should bear, they saw the necessity of a Canadian institution. The Catholics of this great Dominion are loyal to the Canadian flag. We stand under the folds of a flag that glories in liberty and freedom in every sense of the word. There is a great and glorious future in Halifax and the surrounding towns for the C. M. B. A., he said.

He again referred to the many natural beauties this fair city of ours possesses, and of its very hospitable people. He requested the ladies particularly to show their fathers, brothers and husbands the way to the C. M. B. A. In closing he said the reception tendered him and Mrs. Hackett will long remain in his memory, and he hoped some day to return and meet them all again.

The next speaker introduced by the chairman was Dr. MacCabe, who was one of the first grand presidents of the association in Canada. After the able address of the grand president he felt that further remarks seemed out of place. He had spent some of his life in Nova Scotia, and he walked the streets of Halifax now with just as warm a heart as he had twenty three years ago. The occasion was particularly pleasing to him, and he expressed the warmest greetings from his brother members of the C. M. B. A. of Ottawa.

Short addresses were also given by the Rev. Father McDonald, of Stellarton; Rev. Father Underwood, of Dartmouth, and the Rev. Dr. Foley.

His Honor Lt. Governor Daly moved a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mayor Stephen, to the speakers, and heartily passed.

The evening's programme was interspersed with vocal selections by Misses Murphy and Doyle, and Professor Currie.

Hon. Mr. Hackett and lady took their departure on Saturday morning for Yarmouth, whence a pressing invitation had been extended them—carrying with them the genuine friendship and admiration of all with whom they came in contact. Private hospitality was extended the party by His Honor the Lt.-Governor and Mrs. Daly, Premier Murray, Mrs. John Murphy, "Briar Cottage" and others. Bro. Geo. W. Cooke, Amherst, the present Nova Scotian representative on the list of Grand Council officers, was with