

THE CANADIAN

Price, - 50 Cents.

Published Monthly, in English and French, at London, Ont., in the interest of the

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 or information that will be of benefit to the Association. Communications upon subjects of interest to C. M. B. A. members will always be welcome, but anonymous letters and letters in which the Manager does not consider for the welfare of the Association will not be published.

Correspondents will please remember that copy must reach us before the 10th of the month, if intended for publication in the following month's issue, and that space is limited and every inch must be used.

Address all communications to

S. R. BROWN,

Editor and Manager.

Catholic Block, Dundas Street,
London, Ont.

LONDON, OCTOBER, 1898.

INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP

There is no reason why our Association should not, at least, double its membership during the present term, and we are satisfied this could be done if the members at large would only shake off their lethargy and go to work.

Many of our branches are not increasing their membership; in fact, several have not initiated even one member for sometime past. This should not be, and it certainly is not the means to keep down our assessments. Brothers, if you make no effort to increase our membership you must not grumble or be surprised at special assessments.

We do not wish it understood that we are sounding an "alarm trumpet," but we want our members to understand that the greater the increase of membership the lower the number of assessments on average. Wake up, then, brothers, and work. There is a vast field for increase, especially in the Province of Quebec, and certainly the good that would undoubtedly follow should warrant individual effort. The C. M. B. A. demands work from all its members, and every brother should consider himself in duty bound to bring in at least one more member from this out. Brothers, do your duty. There is not a member but knows of a friend or relative who should be a member and would be one if the effort were made to bring him into the ranks. Induce your relatives or friends, whom you think eligible for membership, to join the C. M. B. A. By so doing you will fulfil your duty towards the Association, benefit your neighbor and increase your own security at the same time.

WHY SOME MEMBERS HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR C. M. B. A. POLICIES.

We have lately received a number of letters from C. M. B. A. members asking us why we do not forward their policies.

If those members would read our official organ, there would be no necessity for their writing us such a question.

In the November and December numbers of THE CANADIAN for the year 1897 the following notice appeared:

A policy will not be issued by the C. M. B. A. to any new member who has not furnished a "Certificate of Birth" or a "Declaration of Age." Said certificate of birth or declaration of age must be forwarded to the Grand Secretary by the Branch Recording Secretary with the application for membership.

DR. McKENNA'S REPORT OF CONVENTION.

Mr. President and Brothers—As your delegate to the late C. M. B. A. Convention, I seize the present opportunity of our meeting to give a brief account of my stewardship. I left Toronto on Saturday, the 20th ult., and, by easy stages, reached Quebec in good time for the meeting on the following Tuesday.

The delegates met at Tara Hall in the morning and marched in procession, headed by one of the fine brass bands of the city, to the Church of St. Roch. Here Solemn High Mass was celebrated. The music was grand beyond description. We had two sermons, one in English, the other in French. After Mass the procession returned to the hall, where addresses of welcome were presented and replied to; they were in English and in French. The meeting then adjourned for dinner, and, on re-assembling, the President, Hon. M. F. Hackett, read, or, rather, delivered, his beautiful address. This gentleman is a man of commanding presence and wonderful oratorical powers, possessing, in my opinion, all of the qualities that fit a man for the leadership of a great party.

The following are the principal measures that were passed at the different sessions:

Conventions in future are to be held every third year, the money thus saved to be applied to the payment of organizers. A large number of the delegates were not in favor of the change, and if the motion were brought up again before the same meeting I think it would be defeated.

Amendments were proposed respecting the manner of levying assessments. One set forth that there should be eighteen annual assessments, every alternate one to be a double-header; this was lost.

The second was to do away with double-headers, and to have instead twelve equal monthly assessments of one and a half each. This also was lost, and the assessments, therefore, remain as before—eighteen per year and a special when absolutely necessary. It was also proposed to do away with District Deputies and to have instead Provincial Deputies, with full powers. In discussing this question it was shown that, as Organizers for each Province were to be appointed, Provincial Deputies would not be required. The proposition was voted down.

A measure which evoked a good deal of warm discussion was a motion to do away with the delegate from each branch having in its membership a grand officer. The vote on this question was almost a tie, but the Grand President gave his decision in favor of the motion, and the members seemed satisfied.

Another motion that was carried after a somewhat stormy discussion

was that a sum equal to one advance assessment for each member be taken from the Reserve Fund and placed in the treasury, for the payment of unlooked-for calls. A great many of the older heads among the members regard this as a very unwise proceeding.

These were the principal changes made at different sessions.

The officers, with two or three exceptions, remain as they were.

There was an exciting contest for the Second Vice-President's chair. Bro. J. Loughrin, M. P. P. for Nipissing, carried the election against one of the most popular members of the Association, Bro. E. O'Connell, of Dublin. Whether in his own constituency where he is personally known to every one, or in a constituency whose voters are gathered from all parts of the Dominion, the name of "Jack" Loughrin, of Mattawa, seems to possess a magic power.

The Board of Grand Trustees has lost one member by the resignation of Bro. Killackey, and in his stead reigned Bro. Chisholm.

Some minor business, along with slight changes in the salaries of officers that were effected, you will learn from the next issue of THE CANADIAN.

The meeting of delegates of the C. M. B. A. held at Quebec was an assembly composed of gentlemen remarkable for debating talent and Christian and manly demeanor. We had there, from all parts of our great Dominion, good priests, judges of the High Court, members of the Legislature and of the learned professions, and last, but not least, representatives of the commercial and agricultural interests, who were not a whit behind their brothers in being able to make themselves heard and felt in the debates. It would take up too much time were I to attempt to describe the social side of the meeting; the reception by the mayor and council in the hall; the ride on the street cars, accompanied by bands of music; and the pleasant sail of several hours down the beautiful St. Lawrence on the Government's magnificent steamer Aberdeen, are incidents that must remain during life in the minds of those who partook of the large-hearted hospitality of our brothers of Quebec.

What we saw during our stay in Quebec and in our passage to and from that good old historic city was a revelation to the most of us. We were taught by a portion of the press of Ontario that our neighbors of Quebec were behind the age, but we saw there nothing that savored of ignorance; everything betokened a highly advanced condition of culture and prosperity. It is not necessary to speak of the courtesy of the Frenchman of education; he is proverbial for urbanity and gentlemanly behavior. What surprised many of the visitors was that the same traits (in a somewhat different degree, it is true) were observed in those who labor with their hands. The little newsboy or boot-black who happens to jostle you in the street will say with an apologetic smile, *pardonnez moi*, and the deck-hand on the steamer, when you shift your chair to allow him to pass, will smilingly ask you not to stir with the words, *n'importe*. It is a remarkable fact that in the city of Quebec, with its population of 100,000, I did not see a single beggar. Of course, there are poor people in Quebec, but here, as in every other instance where she is unhampered, the Church takes care of her poor.

No matter in what direction you turn in this city you behold everywhere the influence of the grand old Catholic Church.

On the journey from Quebec to Montreal I stationed myself at the car window to observe the backward condition of the lower Canadian farmer as evidenced by the presence of the draw-well, old wooden ploughs, tumble down buildings, etc. To my intense astonishment, I saw nothing, as far as the eye could reach, but a smiling landscape, made up of trimly kept and well-fenced fields, cosy farm-houses, with their pretty outbuildings. Every building is white—even the buildings in which the pigs are kept are painted white. The whole district along the line of the C. P. R. between Quebec and Montreal presents such a beautiful picture, betokening prosperity and contentment, that the eye never grows tired in looking at it.

In my travels through Quebec I met with nothing but pleasure, and my recent experience has given me a very high appreciation of our neighbors of lower Canada.

I must, perhaps, make an exception in the case of the cab man, who evidently places a very high value upon his services. Even here, however, it seems impossible to say anything harsh. In my one or two altercations with men of that guild I must say that I did not show to advantage. The cabby, so good naturedly, and with a manner that no pen can describe, argued the point with me, that in the end I was forced to the conclusion that it was I, and not the cab-man, who was attempting to perpetrate a piece of downright robbery. I almost, in fact, felt like apologizing.

In concluding this imperfect account of my visit to the Convention, I wish to thank you for the honor you did me in appointing me your delegate. The visit was a never-to-be-forgotten one and one that has raised the C. M. B. A. to a high pinnacle in my estimation. We have a noble association, with an almost perfect mechanism. Its Executive is composed of gentlemen who would do credit to any organization or to any assembly in the world, and if the rank and file will only be true to themselves and work with renewed zeal in the future, the C. M. B. A. must become a great power for good in this "Canada of ours."

C. McKENNA.

BRANCH NO. 1, WINDSOR, ONT.

A pleasant feature of the regular meeting on the evening of the 15th of September last was the presence of the Very Rev. Dr. Flannery, who was recently appointed Dean of Windsor, and no doubt to the fact of his expected visit may be attributed the very large attendance of prominent members.

The genial President, Bro. John H. Connelly, after a few appropriate remarks relative to our distinguished guest, called on some of the senior members to introduce Dr. Flannery and welcome him to our branch, amongst whom were Bros. D. B. Odette, Francis Cleary, Dr. Reaume, Judge McHugh, Mayor Davis, W. P. Killackey, Dr. Remi Casgrain, W. J. McKee, T. A. Bourke and others.

Bro. Odette, in welcoming the Dean to our branch and Windsor, said he had the pleasure of Father Flannery's acquaintance for over thirty years, and the high esteem, respect and admiration in which he is held by all classes and creeds was shown by the generous support accorded him during