

There are, unfortunately, few Irish priests in Canada west of Lake Superior, and each year upon the occasion of the anniversary of Ireland's patron saint from every parish in the west which contained a handful of the sons of Ireland there was a desire to have Father Sinnott preach the panegyric of St. Patrick.

During his residence in the North west Father Sinnott became widely acquainted and is today probably better known and has more warm friends in the west than any other clergyman who has ever lived in Western Canada. He is, indeed, truly an ideal priest, an able exponent of the doctrines of the Church of Christ, preaching always the doctrines of love and peace and ever ceaselessly striving to bring spiritual comfort and contentment to those entrusted to his care. Hundreds there are, scattered over the broad, bleak prairie, who will shed a bitter tear and heave a heavy sigh when the news reaches them that the good father, who so zealously worked for their spiritual welfare and was ever ready and deeply solicitous to make happy the humblest homes and the poorest souls, has been chosen for duty in South Africa.

Father Sinnott, during his residence in the west, was not unmindful of the fact that in Catholic societies there is great good. In 1896 he organized and became a member of the Portage la Prairie branch of the C. M. B. A., to the successful formation of which may be attributed the organization of a branch shortly afterwards at Brandon.

In 1898 Father Sinnott left Portage la Prairie, going to Montreal, where he was appointed assistant at St. Anthony's Church, which position he held when chosen as chaplain of the Second Contingent. Prior to his leaving for the east, the Rev. Father was presented by his Portage la Prairie parishioners with a magnificent testimonial of their love and gratitude and by his friends in Brandon he was also given a suitable token of the high esteem in which he was held even by those whom he visited only occasionally. Among the Catholics of both places, and indeed throughout the entire Northwest, there was the deepest regret when the Rev. Father took his departure for eastern Canada, and the wish was general that he might be spared to return to the west and again engage in the noble work which he had been performing so ably and so well.

Last year Father Sinnott made a visit to Edmonton district in the interests of immigration and to report upon the advisability of establishing a colony of Eastern French families in the far west. It was thought that this visit was but the forerunner of Father Sinnott's return to western Canada and the news of his despatch to South Africa came as a surprise and bitter disappointment to western Catholics.

That the good father may be spared to return safely to his native land when the war is over will be the earnest wish of his western friends who are numbered by thousands, for scarcely a settlement from Winnipeg to Calgary is without those who love and revere Father John C. Sinnott.

FAREWELL TO FATHER SINNETT

A hearty farewell was extended by the parishioners of St. Anthony's church, Montreal, to Rev. Father John C. Sinnott when he was leaving to join the Second Contingent in the capacity of chaplain. He was presented with a purse of \$250 and an address, in which

his self-sacrifice in the exercises of his ministry was eulogized and assurances given him that the parishioners would watch his progress with deep interest. They assured him that they would pray for his safety and his work and wished him a happy return. Father Sinnott made a very touching reply.

Father Sinnott sailed from Halifax for South Africa on the 17th of January.

GRAND COUNCIL TRUSTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Grand President and Board of Trustees of the Grand Council of the C. M. B. A. of Canada was held in St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, Que., on January 1st, 1900.

The following members were present: Hon. M. F. Hackett, Grand President, P. J. O'Keefe, J. J. Behan, P. J. Rooney and Joseph A. Chisholm, Grand Trustees. Dr. Ryan, Supervising Medical Examiner, F. K. Latchford, Solicitor, and Samuel R. Brown, Grand Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed on motion of Bro. O'Keefe, seconded by Bro. Chisholm.

The Grand Secretary presented the following statistics for the year 1899, which, on motion of Bro. Behan, seconded by Bro. Chisholm, were ordered to be spread on the minutes and published in the official organ.

STATISTICS.

During the year 1899 the C. M. B. A. of Canada issued 17 assessments.

We received on Beneficiary account \$179,251.17; the amount transferred to Reserve Fund was \$8,991.90; our Reserve Fund at present, including interest, is \$67,110.00; we paid to heirs of deceased brothers \$131,000.66.

We received on General Fund account, including the balance from 1898 \$112,007.11; our General Fund disbursements amounted to \$13,752.00; the General Fund balance on Dec 31st, 1899, was \$175,111.00; we paid organizers during 1899 \$1,718.17.

The total number of members initiated was 134; the net increase in membership was 128; our membership at present is 1,278.

The number of new branches organized was 25; the total membership of said branches is 1,000.

The number of new members admitted in 1899 in Ontario was 100; Quebec 122; Nova Brunswick, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and North West Territories, 11.

The amount paid to organizers for 1899 is as follows:

W. F. Higgins	Salary for 6 months	\$1,200.00
	Expenses for 6 months	100.00
	Total	\$1,300.00
J. E. H. Howison	Salary for 12 months	\$2,400.00
	Expenses for 12 months	200.00
	Total	\$2,600.00
H. J. Johnson	Salary for 6 months	\$1,200.00
	Expenses for 6 months	100.00
	Total	\$1,300.00
John C. Sinnott	Salary for 6 months	\$1,200.00
	Expenses for 6 months	100.00
	Total	\$1,300.00
John M. Gibson	Salary for 6 months	\$1,200.00
	Expenses for 6 months	100.00
	Total	\$1,300.00
	Total	\$8,100.00

John H. Feeley, Canvasser in Montreal, received \$200.00 for bringing in 22 new members.

W. F. Higgins, Organizer for Nova

Scotia, received \$100.00 salary for one month.

The number of members in the Province of Quebec was 1,000. The number of new members admitted to the Association during the year 1899 was 134. The number of members who were initiated during the year 1899 was 134.

The amount of the Reserve Fund at present, including interest, is \$67,110.00.

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The Secretary reported that a large number of branches were in arrears for per capita tax, etc., and he asked the Board what action should be taken, as the constitution in this matter was continually violated.

It was moved by Bro. O'Keefe, seconded by Bro. Rooney, that the branches in arrears for the per capita tax, initiation, supplies and Supervising Medical Examiners fees be again notified by the Grand Secretary that all such arrearages must be paid within thirty days from date of notice, and also that the attention of the members of said branches be called to the neglect of the branch officers in complying with Sections 17, 18 and 19 of our Constitution. Carried.

The following resolution was moved by Bro. Chisholm, seconded by Bro. O'Keefe, and carried unanimously.

Whereas His Lordship Bishop Mac Donald, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., has recently addressed a circular letter to his clergy in which he warmly recommends the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada to his people as an organization highly deserving of the confidence and support of all Catholics.

Resolved that this Board, on behalf of the Association at large, put on record its sincere thanks to His Lordship for thus graciously emphasizing the claims of our Association upon the support of the Catholics of the Dominion.

Further resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes and a copy of the same be forwarded to His Lordship Bishop Mac Donald.

A deputation from the Montreal branches waited on the Board to discuss the question of devising some other means of adopting some better plan than at present in existence to increase the membership of the Association, particularly in the Province of Quebec.

The following Grand Deputies and brothers were present: A. H. Spedding, A. B. Poltevin, E. Bourgeau, Chas. Fortier, J. H. Feeley, J. J. Costigan, P. Reynolds, C. Paudelin and H. Auclair. Grand Organizer Howison was also present.

The members of the Board were very much pleased with the remarks made by the various speakers, and promised to carefully consider the suggestions given, and if at all possible would comply with the deputations' request.

A question was brought up as to the legal standing of a certain member of one of the Toronto Branches.

After some discussion it was moved by

Bro. O'Keefe, seconded by Bro. Behan, that the matter be referred to the Legal Committee of the Association to advise as to the legal standing of the member in question.

The Legal Committee reported that the member in question was not a member of the Association.

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