

the right way to bring sister branches together, to strengthen the fraternal ties that should exist so strongly between the members of this great Catholic association, it will give us an opportunity to discuss publicly and to advise the representatives the proper amendments to endorse at the conventions.

I will not impose any further on your valuable space, and thank kindly for the same.

JOHN SUTTON, JR.  
Moncton, April 25, '88, Br. 162.

Dear Editor :

The April number of the CANADIAN has an article from Brother Sutton on Biennial Conventions. I believe that he has taken up this question solely for the good of the association from this point of view, that he is within his rights will be admitted, I think, and that he is performing a duty is beyond a doubt to my mind, if I thought otherwise I would not be taking up your space also. That we are "rushing in where angels fear to tread" is possible; that we will do our duty like veterans should not be expected, nor should it be supposed that we have any little or big axes to grind, and as we are known to be as modest as we are harmless none will make the mistake of thinking that we are after an ad.

If Biennial Conventions have advantages over annual conventions, and it would seem so as our association exists without annual Conventions, is not the time ripe for taking action to ascertain whether or not our Association could exist without the aid of Biennial Conventions and the substituting instead an authority clothed with proper power and costing less? We are aware from experience that Conventions are expensive undertakings; economy wisely lived up to would mean a strong plank in the edifice that the founders of our Association built and named the C. M. B. A., and if we who earnestly labor to carry on the worthy aims which the C. M. B. A., represents wish to see our humble efforts take root and produce good fruit we must not forget that the motto "eternal vigilance is the price of safety," then why not fewer conventions and save expense?

We should carefully guard against the expenditure of a dollar unless assured that the outlay is warranted. Has eternal vigilance been our watchword when selecting material from our association to fill representative positions? If we have not done so in the past we should prepare and do so in the future. It is to be hoped that representative members have constantly in mind the honors conferred upon them—honors that have been sought after in many instances, so say the unkindly thinking brothers, instead of the honors seeking the holders and when sought after all the more incumbent on the holders to give the association extra faithful service. It should be remembered by the rank and file that they themselves have obligations that must be lived up to as faithfully as the officers are expected to live up to theirs, nevertheless there is a greater necessity for our leaders to feel their responsibility and thereby set the rank and file good examples. No doubt there are many of us who burn to be shining lights, leaders so to say, not only in the C. M. B. A. front ranks, but in other peaceful associations where it is safe to be in the front ranks, especially when the ammunition in use is wind supply, inexhaustible and harmless though at times somewhat inconvenient in cases of thin skin. The

temptation to be shining lights and "get there" is ever with us, a universal rule the world over since the time his Satanic Majesty is said to have started out as a false shining light. Shining lights that are not false lights are what our Association requires to keep on guiding it into the right paths so that it may not fall into evil ways. May we be fortunate enough to have always none but up to date lights such that may be of benefit to our Association and not appear to be out of date lights shining from a selfish point of view, and then only for such time as the Association serves as a valuable stand upon which to shine.

With the Association served by true lights burning with the pure oil of zeal for the good of the C. M. B. A., surely the affairs of the Association could have been wisely managed without the apparent great expense incurred in the past. Perhaps the future has some good value in store for us in return for what the past has cost us, notwithstanding that some members think that full value is not obtained through Biennial Conventions.

Does every branch carefully select its representative, obliged as it were to enforce on a member the honors that pertain to the office of a representative to a convention, and not seem to hold such honor cheaply and to be given to any self seeking members, to the individuals that are said to be looking out for Number one everytime? There are individuals who, like the rest of us, are unable to see themselves as some of the branch (the minority) see them, it being their luck that the majority only see through them when it is too late, viz., after they have nothing further to gain through the branch. This type of character is not a groth of our Association alone, but like weed like thrives elsewhere; and as we unthinkingly assist the weed should we not begin to do some thinking now and weed it out so as to avoid mistakes being made in the future?

With the proper material in the majority of branch representatives at a Convention there would be no question as to whether or not, in return for the cost of holding a Convention, value is received; and such value would show up in the selecting at the Convention the right material for a Grand Council, all shining lights constantly burning with the pure oil of zeal for the good of the Association and showing evidence accordingly. I would regret to have it supposed that I am intimating that you are not now receiving fair value under the circumstances. It would be a stretch of the imagination to suppose that our Association should have an ideal grand council yet awhile; we must wait until the Association gives proof of an ideal rank and file, nevertheless all reasonable efforts should be put forth to obtain if possible increased value in return for the apparent large cost in the selecting of a governing body or head.

If it is necessary to incur the expenses of seven or eight thousand dollars to elect a grand council it is suggested that we make the term of office longer and save money. The longer the period of office the greater the saving anyway as it is a question with two sides, and as the side that is made up of representatives to conventions, and our representatives in the grand council can speak with an experience, not possessed by the rank and file who, as usual, appear to do what is termed the fault finding, it is to be hoped that the question merits harmonious con-

sideration and that in the end it may be wisely dealt with.

Fraternally Yours,  
JNO. M. LYONS,  
Moncton, N. B., April 10, 1888.

THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN.

Dear Sir and Brother—I notice that a discussion has been started in the columns of THE CANADIAN with the object of finding if possible some means for reducing the expenses of our Conventions, and with your permission I will submit for consideration my views on that important question. Bro Sutton, of Moncton, N. B., favors the holding of triennial instead of biennial conventions. I would respectfully suggest a reduction in the number of delegates attending the Conventions, whether the same be held biennially or triennially. I think the number of delegates could be reduced by one half or perhaps by two thirds without impairing the efficiency of the Conventions for practical work and business.

If our Association continues to grow, which I hope and believe it will, the number of delegates will soon become unnecessarily large and perhaps the Conventions themselves become unwieldy, unless some means be found to effect a reduction in the representation.

Possibly an arrangement could be made whereby the two or three contiguous branches in each city, county, or district could come together and select a delegate for the Grand Convention. And these local meetings or conventions would cost very little, and they might be the means of promoting a healthy emulous and fraternal spirit among the different branches—something which would in itself be a good thing.

Yours fraternally,  
J. J. HUGHES,  
Souris, P. E. I., May 5, 1888.

#### EXPENSES OF CONVENTIONS.

At a regular meeting of Dorchester (New Brunswick) Branch 167, on the 30th March the following resolutions were passed, after a full discussion thereof, lasting throughout several evenings of meeting:

Resolved that we heartily agree with the movement put forward by Branch 145, Toronto, to reduce the expenses of conventions.

That in our opinion a Grand Council consisting of no more than thirty members, elected by districts or groups of branches, or otherwise chosen, as will seem best to the Grand Council, would be as efficient as one composed of a delegate from each branch.

That when reduced to the number not exceeding thirty, the Grand Council should meet yearly.

That this subject should be passed upon by resolutions by every branch in the Dominion, and such resolutions forwarded to the Grand Secretary, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Council.

L. H. CHAMBERS, P. A. LANDRY,  
Rec. Sec. President.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Stanstead, Que., March 16, 1888.  
Editor of The Canadian.

Dear Sir and Bro.—I have just examined the report of the Grand Council of the C. M. B. A. of Canada for 1887. I find at the end of it, the death record from February 10, 1880, to Jan., 1888. This death record is too incomplete to be of value as vital statistics of the association. It ought

to give the total membership and average age of members each year. And if it was supplemented by the Supervising Medical Examiner's report of the causes of death, classified as hereditary or chronic, and accidental or acute, with average duration of membership, we might come to some conclusion that would benefit the Association. In the seventeen years of the existence of the Grand Council the number of deaths has increased. Has the membership increased in the same proportion? I have no statistics on which I can base an opinion. Has the age of members been kept at about the same average by the admission of new members? Those statistics would be necessary to study in an intelligent manner the question of mutuality, which is very important. If the death rate is increasing we must see if it is due to causes which can be remedied, and then remedy them. If we cannot, we must make provisions against it, so as to insure the permanency of the Association. I would have something to say of the causes and remedies, but I prefer to wait for those statistics, if they are available.

Yours fraternally,  
L. A. LAPAUME, M. D.,  
Med. Examiner Branch 166.

DR. MACCABE.

The Ottawa Special Correspondent of the London Advertiser in referring to the Normal School says:—

As a Normal School for Western Ontario is about to be erected in London, a short sketch of the Ottawa Normal School will be timely. The institution is situated on a lot of eight or ten acres, adjoining the militia armory and grounds. As stone is plentiful here, the structure is built of that material, and is a substantial, imposing building. It was opened on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1875, with J. A. MacCabe, M. A., LL. D., as its principal. Dr MacCabe has been most successful in the management of the institution, and many of the teachers of the province have received from him and his expert assistants training which, with native talent, has placed them in the front rank of the profession.

As I informed you in a letter I sent from Toronto while on my way here, Dr. MacCabe has a very warm regard for the graduates of the institution in London and the West, some of whom were among the brightest pupils of their year. I have already mentioned several. Another, Miss Mackenzie, now superintendent of the London kindergartens, was highly praised by Dr MacCabe and his associates on my recent visit to the Ottawa Normal School. The genial doctor is a model educationist. He holds the esteem and respect of his staff in a marked degree, and is thus enabled to secure that otherwise would not be attainable. As president and director of the C. M. B. A., Dr. MacCabe has been known to the members of that most useful institution in Western Ontario.

I always seek the good that is in people, and leave the bad to Him who made mankind, and knows how to round off the corners.—Goethe's Mother.

Love of Mary is a wisdom beyond art and science, literature and philosophy, giving a knowledge of God, grace, sin, creation, Jesus, eternal and invisible things.—Father Faber.