

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

## OF THE C. M. B. A.

The following study comprises as many chapters as the order of business of our meetings offers as subjects for our attention and deliberation. It presents an opportunity to discuss the various items of our order of business, and to deal with the questions that interest the association in general, and each of the branches in particular.

This study will give to members all the information they may need for their self government; the holding of the meetings of a branch and the conduct of its deliberations. It implies a programme d'ensemble which embraces everything, provides for everything and instructs in everything.

The C. M. B. A. is not merely a life insurance society, it is a Catholic association whose eminent character of benevolence and charity we shall endeavor to demonstrate.

The first order of business calls on the Marshal to ascertain if all present are members of the association, and it needs no further comments.

## THE BRANCH TO OPEN IN DUE FORM.

Each branch must hold regular meetings at least semi-monthly, at the time and place prescribed in its by-laws or in a standing resolution (Sec. 156). The Grand President may, however, for exceptional cases, allow a branch to hold but one monthly meeting.

Apart from regular meetings, there may be also special ones. The special meetings may be called in such manner as the branch shall, by its by-laws or standing resolutions, direct, but no business shall be transacted at such meetings except what was plainly stated in the call for said meetings (Sec. 158).

The attendance at all the meetings is not rigorously required by the constitution, which contents itself by simply rendering liable of removal from office an officer who shall absent himself from three successive regular meetings of the branch, unless prevented by sickness or some other unavoidable cause (Sec. 193).

The number required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business is seven members in good standing, including one qualified to preside, excepting that branches having a membership of not more than twenty-five may transact business with a quorum of five members. (Sec. 157 amended.)

The meeting shall be opened by the President, or, in his absence, by the First Vice-President, or by the Second Vice-President, in the absence of the two others. If all three are absent the Senior Chancellor present shall preside. (Sec. 157.)

## OPENING CEREMONIES.

There is no reason to dispense with the opening ceremonies, according to the ceremonial. On the contrary all members may draw therefrom salutary teachings, as, for instance, in this statement by the First Vice-President:

"To encourage, by all honorable means, Christian union and mutual protection for our members, and those dependent upon them, and also by means of Christian books and literature, approved by our Spiritual Adviser, to educate members and their families in piety, integrity and fragility."

Also in that of the Chancellor:

"There should be due respect paid to all mandates of and decrees from our Grand Council or President, and to the orders of our superiors; the laws

of our association should be observed and strictly enforced, no unnecessary debate should take place, proper decorum should be observed, and business should be promptly transacted."

## PRAYER BY THE SPIRITUAL ADVISER.

Let us not forget that we belong to a truly Catholic association. We could not become members thereof without furnishing the proof of our being practical Catholics, declaring at the same time that we did not belong to any secret society and promising to not fail to comply with the requirements of the Church as to our duty as practical Catholics, under the penalty of ceasing to be members of the Association. The C. M. B. A. therefore does not eliminate the priest. On the contrary, having carefully placed itself under the regis of the church, all members of the clergy have a right to attend all meetings of the association, whether they be members or not. And Section 140 provides that the resident pastor of the parish in which a branch is located shall be the spiritual adviser thereof, and hence when he is present at a branch meeting, it is the duty of the presiding officer to invite him to recite the opening prayer.

## THE ROLL OF OFFICERS CALLED AND ABSENTEES NOTED.

It is the officers especially who must give the example of regular attendance at meetings, under penalty of removal of office as already stated. The absence of one of them, especially the three presidents or another qualified to preside, may be the cause of grave inconvenience. Officers in office then should have at heart to not deceive the confidence of the brothers who elected them, by not attending regularly the branch meetings. It is to them, more than to other members, that belongs the duty of making up the number required for the quorum, and that is the reason why the roll is called and absentees noted.

The fourth order, which refers to the reading of the minutes, requires no comments.

## INITIATION OF ELECTED CANDIDATES.

The ceremony for the initiation according to the ceremonial, is obligatory, except in the case of a member of the clergy who has only to sign the roll and pay his assessment, etc. And all the solemnity possible should always be given to this ceremony in the midst of a large attendance of members.

The initiation of an applicant must take place within one month after his election. Should he fail or neglect to present himself for initiation within the time mentioned, he shall forfeit his initiation fee and all other claims to membership in the Association.

The initiation cannot take place at the meeting at which an applicant was balloted for, unless the Branch, in urgent cases, so decides by a resolution unanimously adopted (Sec. 151).

Of course before initiating a candidate, the latter must have been approved by the Supervising Medical Examiner, recommended by a majority of the Branch Trustees and balloted for and elected.

The explanations by the President to the new members should always be complete and clear, especially regarding the payment of assessments.

Upon the initiation of a member the Recording Secretary should not delay forwarding to the Grand Secretary said member's application for membership, properly filled in as required on said blank form. It is the proper notice of initiation.

## THE TRUSTEES AND VOTING FOR CANDIDATES.

The admission of applicants for membership is of vital importance to the Association. The trustees whose duty it is to inquire into and report upon the character and fitness of applicants to become members, have a great responsibility, of which they must be fully conscious. It is incumbent on them not to recommend a candidate who is a bad risk for insurance. They also from a moral point of view should not allow to enter our ranks trouble some persons or men who do not possess the qualities required by the constitution.

No applicant shall be balloted for until a favorable report upon his application has been presented to the branch from the Grand Secretary and a majority of the Board of Branch Trustees (Sec. 141). Members have, in this case, the same duty to fulfil as the Trustees, and they should be particularly zealous of their prerogative to reject any applicant who is not worthy of becoming a member, although approved by the Supervising Medical Examiner as an insurance risk and recommended by the Trustees as to his character and fitness to become a member. The Trustees may well be ignorant of certain facts known by other members of the branch and sufficient to reject the applicant. On the other hand one must avoid being guided by prejudice, rancour, or spite, which might urge one to vote against an applicant absolutely worthy.

When an applicant has been rejected by a vote of the branch, notice of the same should be immediately sent by the Recording Secretary to the Grand Secretary (Sec. 150).

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND REFERENCE FOR INVESTIGATION.

The application is read at a regular meeting of the Branch, entered on the records and referred to the Board of Trustees for investigation, whose duty it is to report at the next regular meeting of the branch after the receipt by the branch of the notice of approval by the Supervising Medical Examiner of the applicant's medical certificate (Sec. 140).

To be continued.

## EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BRANCH 87.

On Wednesday, 7th of March last, the Dionne Hall, the meeting place of Branch No. 87, was magnificently decked with small flags on the occasion of the inauguration of the new mode of recruiting members, adopted at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees in Montreal at the end of January.

The meeting opened in due form under the presidency of brother President Joseph Boland, having on his right Rev. M. Roux, Spiritual Adviser of the branch; Grand Deputies A. H. Spedding, A. B. Poltevin, J. J. Costigan, Chas. Fortier, J. Feely, ex-Grand Deputy C. Daudelin and President Sharkey, of Branch No. 20.

There were also present the following brothers: J. A. Laguerrier, 2nd Vice-President, Branch 112; J. Lozeau, Recording Secretary, Branch 142; J. B. Quesset, Treasurer, Branch 112; G. O. Mosier, Recording Secretary, Branch 240; P. A. Hubert, Recording Secretary, Branch 83; L. F. Turpin, Treasurer, Branch 83; Ernest Therrien, Branch 140; and a great number of other members from the sister branches of the district of Montreal.

The Recording Secretary read tele-

grams from the Grand President, the Hon. M. E. Hackett, Grand Secretary S. R. Brown, Grand Trustees J. J. Behan and Supervising Medical Examiner F. Ryan, expressing regrets at being unable to attend the meeting and wishing every success to the branch.

The following gentlemen were initiated members: J. J. Drolet, F. Martineau, P. J. Dufresne, J. Desay, A. Laguerrier, N. Berthiaume, A. Legault, J. Pauchamp, A. Patenaude, L. A. LeBlond, H. Marotte, J. R. Brault, J. Desautels, D. Hennevey and A. S. Lavallee.

Speeches were delivered by Rev. Father Roux, who in the course of his remarks said the Church looked upon the C. M. B. A. as a truly Catholic Association, destined to play a very important role in society.

Grand Deputy Spedding followed him, endeavoring to explain to the new members their duties towards the Association.

He was followed by Grand Deputy Costigan, who said he would speak in English, for he found among the newly initiated members Mr. Daniel Hennevey, an English speaking member, and for this reason he would address the meeting in his language. He congratulated the Branch on having initiated fifteen members the same evening and complimented Brother J. E. Bourgeau on his success with the new plan of increasing the membership, a plan which he had so well upheld before the Executive of the C. M. B. A. lately.

Brothers Poltevin, Feely, Daudelin, Sharkey, Lozeau, Mosier, Hubert, Turpin, Marois, Fr. Martineau and J. E. Bourgeau also spoke on the good of the C. M. B. A.

The present method of Branch 87 and the C. M. B. A. in general, for increasing the membership was adopted by the Executive at the suggestion of Grand Deputy Bourgeau.

Instead of defraying expenses of organizers to organize new branches and increase the membership, of those already in existence, each member is now constituted a canvasser and the association pays him the sum of \$3.00 for each new member he brings in.

It was moved by Brothers A. Marois and S. Picard and unanimously resolved:

That thanks be tendered to Rev. M. Roux, the Grand Deputies and sister branches for having so generously answered the call of the branch in attending this meeting in such large numbers.

The following resolutions of condolence were also adopted at the same meeting:

Moved by Brothers A. Marois and A. Bourdon and resolved:

That the members of Branch 87 have learned with regret the death of M. J. Drolet, son of M. E. Drolet, one of the most devoted members of this branch.

Moved by Brothers S. Picard and Francis Martineau and resolved:

That the family of Bro. Drolet, in this day of trial, accepts the condolence and sympathy of the members of this branch and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the official organ, THE CANADIAN, for publication.

After some other routine business the meeting was closed in due form.

A good conscience can bear very much, and is very useful in the midst of adversity.

An evil conscience is always fearful and unquiet. sweetly shalt thou rest, if thy heart upbraid thee not.