

The Catholic Register

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest"—BALMEZ

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GRAND DEMONSTRATION CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

Silver Jubilee Celebrated—Large Audience and Many Visitors at Massey Hall—Fine Programme and Enthusiastic Audience.

At Massey Hall on Friday evening, June 12th, the Catholic Order of Foresters of Toronto and many of the brethren throughout Canada and from different parts of the States, commemorated the twenty-five years of their existence as a society, by an evening of musical and literary enjoyment. The members paraded and marched to Massey Hall, preceded en route by the band of the 18th Highlanders, the procession making a fine showing and speaking well for the strength of the Order. During the evening an excellent programme was given, Miss Annie Foley, Mr. Frank Cartan and Mr. W. LaFlamme being the vocalists and the fine band interpreting the speeches and songs with its selections, vocal and instrumental, magnificently given. Miss Foley charmed all with her beautiful voice, the Last Rose of Summer, especially being sung with exceptional feeling. Mr. F. Cartan was never in better voice and Miss P. Cartan proved a most acceptable accompanist. Mr. LaFlamme diverted and pleased the audience with his comic songs and the speakers were without exception, interesting, and their subject of vital importance not alone to the audience, but to Catholics everywhere. The demonstration on the whole was one of the finest seen in Toronto and the strength of the organization, as shown during the course of the evening was probably a revelation and a surprise to many.

Mr. L. V. McBrady, K.C., Provincial Chief Ranger, was chairman of the evening, and the grace and eloquence of his welcome was followed from his address, which was as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure the expectation of the Foresters of Toronto or elsewhere has been fulfilled indeed to-night. You will all be looking at your programme that some words of welcome are to be delivered by myself. On behalf of the Provincial Court of Ontario, and representing the Committee in charge of the arrangements for this evening's entertainment, I bid you welcome. Your appearance here to-night in such large numbers is deserved by the Catholic Order of Foresters, under whose auspices we are to-night assembled. Twenty-five years ago and our splendid Order saw first the light of day. We have lived that long honorably and well; we have borne the heat and burden of the day, and to-night, as you will hear from the representatives of our High Court and other representatives of our Order, we stand to-day, the Catholic Order of Foresters, foremost in the ranks of fraternity on the Continent of America. (Applause.)

It is meet and proper for me to say that our Order is deserving of this splendid gathering in this splendid hall to-night. I welcome you on behalf of the Provincial Court of Ontario, and on behalf of the Foresters of the City of Toronto; and let me thank the gentlemen who have undertaken to bring about this splendid celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Order. Twenty-five years more and where not will our Order stand amongst fraternal societies. We are nearly first to-day; we shall in less than that period climb to the top of the ladder, to the credit of the Catholic people of Canada and the Catholic people of America. (Applause.)

We have with us to-night the representatives of the High Court, gentlemen worthy, every one of them, of the high office each particular one holds; gentlemen who have performed their part ably and well. They have come here at the bidding of the Provincial Court of Ontario and the bidding of the Foresters to be one amongst us to-night, and to tell you from their own lips the splendid tale and the splendid record of our splendid Order. (Applause.) Though there is a little boundary existing between Canada and the United States, for the purposes of fraternalism, we know no boundary; we can stand on either side and stretch our hands across and, in the spirit of our Order, we can welcome each other as Catholics, as brothers, and as members worthy of membership in the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.)

It may be that in our time or in the years that are to come, as someone else has well said, the Golden Rod and the Maple Leaf may never be twined together politically, and the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack may never fly from the one flag staff as one, but it is otherwise when we stand together united in the spirit of fraternity; we are one in deed and in fact, and as the poet has well said at one time, "We are a union of lakes, a union of lands, a union that none can sever; a union of hearts, a union of hands, and the flag of that union forever." (Applause.)

As Canadian Catholic Foresters, therefore, we welcome the High Chief Ranger, the High Secretary, the High Treasurer, and the High Trustees of our Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.) We welcome them to our shores; and the Catholics of this City of Toronto, and the Catholic Foresters of Toronto, are indeed proud to-night that you have turned out in such splendid numbers to give them the welcome they so well deserve. (Applause.) And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have done. We have with us to-night a gentleman who, fortunately for the cause of the Catholic Order of Foresters, is the Acting Mayor of the City of

Toronto. (Prolonged applause.) You are justly proud of our Acting Mayor, and now I will ask him to give the city welcome to our visiting Foresters from the city of Chicago. (Prolonged applause.)

Acting Mayor, Controller Ward, then extended the welcome of the city of Toronto in the words following:

Brother Chairman, worthy High Chief Ranger, Brother High Chief Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen: I regret exceedingly that His Worship the Mayor, who had several engagements, was not able to be present with us this evening; I am sure that he would have been delighted to have met this large audience, and to have, in person, welcomed the Chief Officers of the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters. However, in his absence, I assure you it is a pleasant duty indeed that I have been asked to perform; a pleasant duty because I am one of yourselves; a pleasant duty because I have the honor to be a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.) Worthy High Chief Ranger, and you, Brother Officers, on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Toronto, I extend to you a hearty welcome to our city. I hope that during your stay with us you will be able to see one of the finest cities I am sure, on this continent (applause); a city that is noted from one end of the continent to the other as "the convention city," a city that is noted for its friendship and hospitality; and I can assure you that I can say both on behalf of the citizens of Toronto and your fellow members of the Catholic Order of Foresters, that I hope your deliberations while you are here will be of material benefit to that grand organization that the Provincial Chief Ranger spoke so highly of a few minutes ago.

My address of welcome is going to be very short indeed, because I know that you are all anxious to hear the High Court Officers; the evening has been set apart for them; and I will simply confine myself to these few words of welcome and say to the High Court Officers and their friends who have come here, that during their stay in the city they have the perfect and full freedom of the city, because the last act I performed before I left the city hall was to muzzle the police. (Laughter.) I can tell my Brother Foresters here to-night, take the High Court Officers out, do as you like and nobody will interfere with you (laughter); if they do I will be at the hall at ten o'clock in the morning and see that everything is all right, and that they are well taken care of. (Laughter.)

Now, I hope that the different courts of Foresters will see to it that Brother Cannon and his fellow Officers are well looked after while they are in the city. I have guaranteed the city part of it; it is up to you to look after the rest of it. (Applause.)

Once more now I extend on behalf



J. F. STRICKLAND,
Deputy High Chief Ranger.

of the Mayor and Corporation a hearty welcome to our city, and I hope the visiting brethren will go away with pleasant recollections of their visit and speak of Toronto in the highest terms, as I am sure they will. (Applause.)

Vocal selections were then given by Mr. Frank A. Cartan, Miss Annie Foley, Mr. W. LaFlamme, and the choir of the Band of the 18th Highlanders, which were received with rounds of applause.

The Chairman—We have now reached that portion of our programme when we will hear something good of our Order. This is an age of unions; it is an age of unions. Look to the left or to the right or in any direction, and you find peoples becoming more united. That is one reason for the existence of the Catholic Order of Foresters. It is a splendid unity amongst our Catholic young men. In September of this year the Universal Church is celebrating the golden Priesting of the present Holy Father. When he was asked by those in authority or by those throughout the world, how best he would like to have his Golden Jubilee marked, he made this statement, "Form associations of our young men in all parts

of the world, not only in Canada or in the United States, but throughout the world, so that in the days that are to come there will be one splendid chain within the four walls of the Church," over which he reigns so well and so powerful to-day. (Applause.)

In his remarks he said, the Society I have in mind should be a regular beehive, every man should work, every one should perform his part; and that is, or ought to be, the very secret of success of the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.) We are no corporation or no institution that pays for services rendered, not at all, but every man is supposed to bear his part, to do his part and to do it cheerfully and well, in order that those around and about him may derive benefit. We have such men in the High Court to-day, beginning with our High Chief Ranger, Brother Cannon, a lawyer practising in the City of Chicago; a gentleman esteemed, highly esteemed, by the Catholic people and the citizens of Chicago generally. (Applause.) He gives of his time, he gives of his labor and of his efforts in behalf of our splendid cause, the grand unity that does exist within the ranks of the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.) He deserves well of you; he deserves well of the Order; the Order owes

much to him. For years has he held that very high position. He deserves well, therefore, of the Catholic people of Ontario and Canada and of the United States, and of the whole membership of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Give him, then, ladies and gentlemen, the reception to which he is entitled as Grand High Chief of the greatest fraternal association on the Continent of America.

The audience rose and responded with prolonged applause and the clapping of hands.

Mr. Thomas H. Cannon, High Chief Ranger, on rising to speak, was greeted with applause. He said: My Brother Foresters and ladies and gentlemen, I do not take for myself this oration which you tender, but rather in the jubilee spirit as an example of the feeling you have for the Catholic Order of Foresters in celebrating its Silver Jubilee. (Applause.)

I wish to preface what I may have to say to you by returning my own and the thanks of my associates for the very generous welcome that has been accorded to us, not only by our Brethren of the Order in the City of Toronto, but by the representative of the Corporation of the City of Toronto to itself. (Applause.) I take that, too, ladies and gentlemen, as an expression of the esteem in which this Society is held by the good Catholic people and by the good citizens of the City of Toronto, and I am more than delighted on this occasion to find in your metropolitan city of Canada the welcome extended to a Catholic Society and its officers by a Catholic public official and brother member of our order. (Applause.)

As you know, in this year of 1908 this great Society of ours is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. As you have heard, twenty-five years ago it was born in the City of Chicago; and its record of 25 years entitles the Society and its members to rise up in jubilee on this occasion to recount the great deeds of the Society during this past quarter of a century and to pledge new fealty and devotion to the high and holy purposes of that Society for another twenty-five, yes, for another fifty years to come.

I heard, ladies and gentlemen, in the beautiful selections rendered by your splendid band, those songs and anthems of many countries. I heard "Rory O'Moore" and "The Last Rose of Summer," and I heard "The Bonnie Briar Bush," and I heard "Dixie" and "The Swanee River," and "The Star Spangled Banner," and "Yankee Doodle," and I heard "The Maple Leaf" (applause)—I heard all these songs, and while each one of those patriotic songs spoke from you a share of generous enthusiasm and applause, when finally that sweet and tender melody "Home, Sweet Home," was played by the band, then may your applause was not so demonstrative, but in every mind and in every heart in this audience went out that feeling for home, sweet home; and no matter where we be, no matter where we come from, whether from across the border where we may stretch the friendly hand across, or here upon your native soil, home, sweet home after all is the place and is the purpose in which we have the highest and most direct interest (applause); and this Catholic Order of Foresters is a home Society (hear, hear); it is a Society of men who are interested in their homes; it is a society of men who believe that as the home is so will be the city, and so will be the State, and so will be the Nation. It is a Catholic Society endeavoring to take care of the Catholic home, and in doing that, my

brethren of the Order, we feel we are doing the highest patriotic duty that men can lay their efforts to; and so during 25 years the Catholic Order of Foresters has been protecting the Catholic homes of America, of Canada, and of the United States, and the record of those years discloses that 10,000 Catholic homes have been taken care of in a financial way. That is to say, 10,000 of the members of this Society have passed to a better land, leaving behind them a widow or orphans, whom this Society have made their charge and their care and whom this Society have enabled to battle again with life after the father and protector has been taken away. We point to our record of twenty-five years and to an expenditure of ten millions of dollars for the support and maintenance of the Catholic widows and orphans, the beneficiaries of the deceased members of the Catholic Order of Foresters (applause); and besides that 10,000 homes there are the other 130,000 Catholic homes safely to-day nestling under the protecting wing of the Catholic Order of Foresters. 130,000 homes—the homes of 130,000 patriotic Catholic men who have engaged with this Society for the purpose of protecting those homes. (Applause.) Well have we done during these 25 years. Our Society, as you know,

the standing of our Order when we see the Acting Mayor of your city representing His Worship the Mayor of this Municipality in welcoming us here to-night. These are the kind of men who belong to our Society; and while we are not all the big wigs, while we are not all of the high and mighty ones of the earth, having every good and earnest and consistent man, no matter what his position or sphere in the world, we still have these men who are leaders and who have learned to know this Society, to value its principles, to engage in and to support its cause, and by their leadership and by their efforts we hope as the years roll by to make our Golden Jubilee a most signal success, not with 130,000, but with 530,000 Catholic Foresters of Canada and America (applause); and with a record of accomplishments that shall exceed in beneficence the accomplishments of any other body of men that may have ever been organized upon the American Continent.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attention. I am indeed glad as a representative of the Executive of this Society to have come here to join with my Brethren of Toronto and Ontario generally, in celebrating our Silver Jubilee. I hope that success will be the portion of this jurisdiction in the years that are to come; and that by united, patient and persevering effort we shall make our Society stronger and better in every link of its chain, and more capable of carrying out to a greater and better extent its mission of practical Catholic benevolence. (Applause.)

The Chairman—Ladies and gentlemen: It is my privilege and my honor to announce another Executive Officer of the Catholic Order of Foresters, one, who, like the distinguished High Chief Ranger of our Order, gives up his time, the whole of his time in your interests and in the interests of the membership of our Order generally. He performs his work well; he gives the whole of his attention to his work. He has been successful in his office as we Catholic Foresters know here in Toronto and in the Province of Ontario, he deserves well of the Order, and the Order owes him much because of the manner in which he has performed his work. Give him the reception, too, that he deserves. I refer to our splendid High Secretary, Mr. Thos. F. McDonald. (Applause.)

Mr. Thomas F. McDonald,—Brother Provincial Chief Ranger, ladies and gentlemen: Let me say, as our High Chief Ranger has said, that we do not accept your cordial expression of good will entirely in a personal sense. We come as emissaries of the High Court to join with you to-night to felicitate with you on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Order. You, who are members of the Order, will recall that in the city of Chicago, on May 24th, which was the natal day of our Order, we celebrated its Silver Jubilee; and you will pardon me as a Chicagoan if I say that the gathering participating on that occasion was the greatest gathering of Catholic laymen numerically, and I might say in a representative way, of the Catholic people, that has gathered on the North American Continent in the past twenty-five years, or possibly in all time in the history of our Church. We, of course, gathered as representatives of a fraternal insurance organization.

We of Chicago, if you will permit us, feel a particular pride in the organization because of the fact that it has men of every tongue; it has men of every nation, and, as your Chairman has so well said, it knows no border line, it knows no north or south, or east or west; its requirements are the standard of practical Catholicity, and under that banner all Catholic men in Canada and the United States or where not may join the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.)

Now, I know not whether your Union Jack is to be entwined with our Star Spangled Banner; that happy day might come some day in the dim distant future, but in the meantime, my Brethren, when we come from Chicago, and when you will come, as we hope you will, to meet with us occasionally in our fair city of Chicago, none of these lines will be drawn, but the great open heart of welcome will be extended to you as you have extended it to us; and we will try to prove the value of unity and fraternity as exemplified by the Catholic Order of Foresters. (Applause.)

For our membership in Canada, speaking a personal word to the Brethren of the Order who are here to-night in such splendid numbers to give us welcome and to join with us in our jubilee celebration—I say for our splendid membership in Canada, in the Province of Quebec and Ontario and British Columbia, and in the Great Northwest Provinces now opening up so rapidly, the High Court has always had the utmost consideration, and deservedly so, because the membership of these Provinces is nearly one-third of the entire membership of the Catholic Order of Foresters (applause); and working together in our cause of fraternity we shall some day perhaps realize that desire of the Holy Pontiff when he said he desired that these associations of men might be spread throughout the land, east and west, and north and south, and everywhere in one great unbroken bond of Catholic fraternity. (Applause.)

My Brethren, these things are within our power. In this Society we have the men to make these accomplishments possible; we have the men, the leaders of public thought and opinion, in every city where our Society is organized. I do not come here personally by referring to what you know better than I do about the personnel and character of the membership of our Order in the City of Toronto. As I said a moment ago, it is a mark, an exceptional mark of

in the religious sense because it requires that the members shall yearly give practical evidence of their Catholicity. It is Catholic in the National sense, as already has been suggested to you, because we embrace within our fold men of all nationalities who are eligible. It is Catholic, I may say, in the social scale or in the business scale inasmuch as we embrace within our fold the Most Rev. Bishops, several hundred of Rev. Clergy, professional men of high rank, business men, and mechanics, and men engaged in all the vocations of man. We are a practical insurance organization, and to more fully carry out our purposes of paying policies on the death of members, we have provided a reserve fund which at the present time has attained the substantial sum of almost two millions of dollars. (Applause.)

Our honorable Brother Ward has paid us the courtesy to-night of welcoming us to your great city of Toronto; and certainly it is a great city; it stands as a peer with any of the other cities of the United States or Canada, with a well ordered system of Government as I have observed it; it has beautiful residences, powerful and substantial business houses; and I think that I can convince you that these are not mere empty compliments, but you will realize that we have an appreciation of our greatness and the force and the significance of Toronto as a city and as a community when I tell you that the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters has invested in the Municipal Bonds of the City of Toronto in the amount of \$75,000. (Applause.)

As I stated a few moments ago, the Order had its birth in the City of Chicago; it first was evidently intended as a local organization, as its name would imply; it was then termed "The Illinois Catholic Order of Foresters." However, it discharged its good work in such a prompt manner that it was advertised; it extended through the adjoining cities, finally came into your Dominion of Canada, and has developed continuously from its birth to the present time, so that it now extends from Nova Scotia and Maine on the eastern shore to Vancouver in British Columbia and Los Angeles, California, on the west (applause), composing, as already has been alluded to, a membership of almost 140,000, distributed in 1,590 subordinate courts. It stands numerically as the first of Catholic Fraternal Insurance Organizations in existence in the United States and Canada. (Applause.)

I am delighted as a representative of the High Court to have met you this evening; I am proud of the Brethren of Toronto and to realize that they fully appreciate the significance of the 25 years of the great work of our Order; and I am confident that these meetings, this meeting particularly, in the City of Toronto and the several meetings throughout the Dominion of Canada and the United States, will prove an inspiration to go forward and continue the great work in which we are engaged. Again let me say that I esteem it a great privilege and pleasure to be with you to-night. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Now, ladies and gentlemen, we have still another member of the Executive whom I know you would like to hear from. He is a particularly interesting gentleman; he is the man who holds the key on all the funds of the Catholic Order of Foresters; he comes from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; he is in business in a very large way in the lumbering business, and is still another man who can give of his time and his labor, and his efforts in behalf of our great Order. I know that he does his work well; I know that you cannot get near the little place where he keeps the funds of the Order unless you have a document signed by about 47 members of the Order. (Applause.) He takes good care, too, that even then he will growl and complain a little before he will hand the money over.

Have much pleasure in introducing to you Mr. John A. Limback of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. John A. Limback: Ladies and gentlemen, and Brother Foresters, I am proud of the distinction of being the High Treasurer of the Catholic Order of Foresters; it certainly is a position that any man who is a Catholic can be proud of.

As Brother Cannon and Brother McDonald have expressed our sentiments of the reception that you have given the members of the High Court this evening, I want to express to you my thanks for having the opportunity of visiting Toronto upon an occasion of this kind. I am going to be very brief in my remarks. I am going to read to you an extract from the remarks made by His Grace Archbishop Quigley, the Spiritual Director of the Order, in an address he gave in the City of Chicago at the celebration of the 25th Anniversary, and I think this extract is worthy of consideration on behalf of the members of this great and grand Catholic Fraternal Insurance Organization. He says, you have visited the fatherless every time an assessment was paid, and this, as St. James told us, is religion, true and undefiled, but it is above all other things, charity, Christian charity; and every time a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters pays an assessment upon the announcement of the death of a member, he is contributing to the great work of charity; he is relieving some family; he is providing for the well-being of some fatherless children; he is providing for the education of the children left to the poor widow deprived of the bread winner of the family; and this you are doing in tens of thousands of cases.

Now, Brother Foresters, what more beautiful work can you and I and every Catholic gentleman in the United States and Canada perform than true Christian charity, than belonging to an organization like the Catholic Order of Foresters and every

(Continued on page 5.)



L. V. McBRADY, K.C., Provincial Chief Ranger.



L. GIGNAC,
Provincial Executive.