

THE CANADIAN

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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welcome, but anonymous letters and letters which the Manager does not consider for the welfare of the Association will not be published.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 15th of the month, if intended for publication in the following month's issue, and that space is limited and brevity much desired.

Address all communications to

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21 Queen's ave., London, Ont.

LONDON, MARCH, 1896

GRAND PRESIDENT FRASER-

We publish in this issue an excellent portrait of brother O. I. Fraser, which we intended having in the February number, but were unable to do so on account of an accident which happened as we were going to press. As all our members would like to have our Grand President's portrait and the sketch of his biography in the same number of the official organ, we take much pleasure in acceding to their wishes.

Brother O. K. Fraser has held the chief executive office in the gift of this association during this and the past term. He is yet but a comparatively young man having just turned his thirty seventh year. He was born and has spent all his life in that delightful town at the foot of the Thousand Islands, Brockville, and has at all times since attaining his majority taken an active and prominent part in its affairs. While proud of the Highland Scotch and Connaught Irish blood transmitted to him by his parents, he is at all times distinctively Canadian. Entering the C. M. B. A. as a charter member of Branch 43 in which branch he has at various times filled the important offices of Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Trustee and President, he made his debut in the Grand Council as first delegate from Brockville Branch at the Stratford Convention in 1885, and has been at all Grand Council Conventions since that time.

From the outset he took a prominent part in the affairs of the association and was first appointed a member of the committee on laws which reported at the Toronto convention. This was followed by his election successively to the positions of Grand First Vice President and Grand Trustee, which latter position he resigned at Hamilton convention to be a candidate for the Grand Presidency. He was elected to the latter position and has since performed the duties of that office creditably to himself and with every satisfaction to the association. It was during the first months of his regime as Grand President that the much vexed question of separate beneficiary was settled, and although he had been one of the strongest opponents of separation in any form from the United States, he did not forget that the wishes of the association were paramount to his personal views, and the Grand Council never had reason to regret that the final settlement of so important a question was confided to him. Brother Fraser has expended a vast amount of time and labor in the work of the Association, in which he seems to take the keenest satisfaction and pride, and he will have the satisfaction of knowing

that the years during which he has been at its head have been, taking everything into consideration, its most successful ones.

Grand President Fraser is a brother of the late Hon. C. F. Fraser, ex-commissioner of Public Works for Ontario, whose sudden death a little over a year ago has been so deeply deplored by the Catholic people not only of this Province but of Canada throughout, in whose hearts his name and deeds shall ever be enshrined.

ABOUT REINSTATEMENTS.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir and Brother. — The writer has read with interest the letter of brother J. A. Doyon, District Deputy, Ottawa, in the February issue of *The Canadian* dealing with suspensions and reinstatements of members. While it is to be regretted that some brothers are careless in paying their dues and assessments thereby causing branch and Executive officers great and unnecessary trouble and annoyance, yet the remedy for the evil he proposes is by far too stringent and productive of a possible loss in membership in the association on that account.

Writing as a past Financial Secretary of our years experience, I may say that Brother Doyon's remedy No. 3 is wholly impossible. Out of Berlin Branch's membership of one hundred, at least one fifth reside scattered over whole North America as far away as St. Louis and Portland, Oregon. With many of these it can happen without any fault of theirs, that their remittances may be delayed in the mail, or they might be sick and have no one to attend to their remittances, or for a month or two be unable to pay. They are suspended. Can you require them to come to Berlin to be reinstated? What applies to one branch, is more or less applicable to another.

As to his remedies Nos. 1 and 2 they may also be productive of great hardship. Remittances may be delayed in the mails or temporary poverty may prevent payment by a brother. He is suspended. Accidentally it may happen to a resident brother that he forgets to pay or meets with mishaps and can not pay and of course finds himself suspended. He is old beyond fifty years, perhaps sickly, has kept up his insurance from early youth, is denied a physician's certificate of good health, and forsooth must lose the only hope of providing for those most dear to him after he is laid to rest. You will deny him reinstatement, brothers that is hard. Aside from this it is also expensive to pay a dollar for a physician's certificate.

The present tendency of fraternal and regular insurance companies is rather to hasten than to obstruct the reinstatement of members suspended or in arrears.

Clause or remedy No. 1 may be seriously discussed as acceptable, that is, if some change is desired and if the fine or punishment on reinstatement is not excessively high. But then crops up the question of the application of the fine. Should it go into the general fund of the branch or to the association at large by remitting to head office?

We have in Waterloo County, St. Boniface Sick Benefit Society, an incorporated Catholic society as its name implies, and a good institution it is, with a fine treasury and a good membership, in which since last spring a monthly fine was introduced. Though some dislike it, it was found to be the

only practical remedy against delinquent payers.

There is another evil in which some branches have fallen that should be discouraged, namely the habit of branches carrying members unasked, and waiting for a settlement some months hence. But too often brothers so carried afterwards decline to pay up and thus the branch loses the assessments paid for them and thereby must sooner or later face a depleted treasury.

F. sternally yours,
Fredrick Rohleder, Pres. Branch 12,
Berlin, 19th February, 1896

AN AT HOME.

Under the auspices of St. Gregory's Branch, No. 90, Picton, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 21st, a very pleasant surprise greeted the many friends of this branch by accepting an invitation to attend an At Home in St. Gregory's Hall. At eight o'clock the chairman, Bro. J. R. Mulligan, called the meeting to order and, after welcoming the visitors, briefly addressed them on the many advantages to be derived from being a member of the grand Catholic organization. Some vocal and instrumental music followed, after which the speaker of the evening was announced—Wm. G. A. Goodwin, an old Prince Edward boy, who, on coming forward, was loudly cheered. Mr. Goodwin's subject was Man's Relation to Earth, a subject which he handled in a way in which only the deep thinker and men of giant intellect can.

The speaker has won for himself a continental reputation, chiefly from his contributions to the American press on the great questions of temperance. He has also won golden opinions for himself at home by the many articles appearing from time to time in the provincial press, one of which was a reply to that distinguished litterateur, Goldwin Smith. Mr. Goodwin's address was a rich treat, and was much appreciated. The next number was a vocal solo by the pretty and accomplished young daughter of our Senior Chancellor P. H. McCarron. This young lady possesses a beautiful mezzo, soprano voice of great range, which delighted the audience. Mr. A. J. Burke appeared next, and, as usual, in his deep rich baritone voice provoked storms of applause, which nearly raised the roof. The following brothers briefly addressed the gathering. Chancellor J. B. Davis and Mr. Goodwin, (our last representative) Mr. Stortz, Bro. Kearse was highly complimented for beautifying the hall. He also gave a solo in his usual fine style. Joe Redmond, who is always willing to give a helping hand, was with us, and gave a solo. Major P. P. Horrigan, Br. 9, Kingston, gave us a short address in fine style. After a standing vote of thanks was tendered the speaker, this very pleasant evening came to a close.

MARTIN STORTZ, Rec. Sec.

C. M. B. A. ASSEMBLY.

The first assembly under the auspices of St. Gregory's Branch, No. 90, was a great success. On Thursday evening, Feb. 6, the large assembly hall located in the new Gilbert and Lighthall block presented a gay and festive appearance.

Pretty invitations had been issued, on which was noticed the lady patronesses and stewards, Mrs. M. Goodwin, Mrs. J. B. Davis, Mrs. D. Sullivan, Mrs. Capt. J. J. O'Hagan, Mrs. R. Harrington, Mrs. J. W. Shannon, J. Heffernan, Capt. J. J. O'Hagan, Mar-

tin Stortz, F. Kearn, Dan. Fitzgerald, Wm. Desjardins, R. Harrington, M. Power. Promptly at nine o'clock the splendid orchestra of the Citizens Band, under the leadership of Prof. John Black, struck up a pretty C. M. B. A. march, which opened one of the finest assembles ever given in this part of the province. The ladies wore beautiful costumes, which were very much admired, particularly in executing some of the pretty figures of the Manhattan and Bombay Lancers. The supper room was a genuine surprise, beautifully festooned with rich colorings in bunting, tastefully decorated with innumerable flags, with suitable pictures adorning the walls; and last, but not least, the tables. One would fancy that the famous Delmonico or some renowned caterer from far Paris had superintended this department. The spread was a magnificent one, which will long be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to take part. After supper dancing was resumed until every one appeared satisfied. The branch feel highly flattered at the compliments they have received on this their first assembly. Bro. F. Kearn had charge of the decorations, which were simply grand.

Ye Olde Time At Home.

St. Catharines, Feb. 11, 1896.

The grandest and most successful ball held in this city for years was that under the auspices of the C. M. B. A. in the Welland House on Tuesday evening. Fully four hundred were present. The spacious dining room, which was prettily decorated in white and blue, was used for dancing and the second floor of the house was opened for card playing and singing, to all the members of Branch 10, their visiting brothers, as well as to all visiting friends. The drawing room was also most tastefully festooned, and the tables covered with flowers, and was a sight most pleasing to behold — one that will long be remembered by all who sat to the excellent supper provided for the occasion. Mr. J. E. Lawrence, secretary, and Mr. M. J. McCarron chairman, did all in their power to make it a most successful affair, and were heartily seconded by the Reception Committee, Messrs. M. Sullivan, J. E. McCarthy, Capt. McAvoy, Capt. P. J. Gallagher, Ed. F. Bogy, Capt. W. R. Welsh, Thomas J. Joy, Capt. J. D. McGrath, Thos. Nihan, Sen., and also the Floor Committee, Messrs. W. J. Flynn, Jno. A. Burns, Victor Bogy, Ed. Murphy and M. Kimmitt. Port Dalhousie, Merritton, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Buffalo and Niagara Falls, N. Y., were well represented, which goes to show the esteem in which Branch 10, C. M. B. A., is held by our neighbors. Too much praise cannot be awarded to the new proprietors of the Welland House, Capts. O'Hagan and Malcomson, who surpassed themselves in attending and catering to the wants of the guests. Capt. O'Hagan is a member of Branch 10. Dancing was kept up until the wee hours of morning, when the most successful ball for years came to an end. It was an "olde time" party, at which all who were present enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent, and will dwell in the memory for years to come.