

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN:

Dear Sir and Bro.—From the absence of communications in THE CANADIAN from members of our Association, many of whom are men of letters and competent to discuss intelligently matters of interest to members of the C. M. B. A., one would infer that THE CANADIAN is not being read, or that we prefer to let our interest in the affairs of the Association smoulder until the convention. As it seems to be in order, in this year of grace, 1900, to review the progress made in the past, and to speculate on the changes and improvements that may be made in the approaching twentieth century, it might not be out of place here to remind our members that some of the amendments to the constitution that no doubt will be presented for consideration at the next convention to be held during the first year of the next century, may be of great importance to our Association. In my humble opinion all proposed amendments affecting the beneficiary fund law should be presented for consideration by the branches or in THE CANADIAN during this year. At the risk of being considered "fresh," I will submit a few changes that seem to me to be necessary to the vital part of our Association—the increasing of our membership. Any member who has given much thought to the subject of organizing, and has watched our efforts in that direction, must be convinced that so far they have been little better than a failure. If there is not sufficient money paid into the Grand Council by the branches in per-capita tax to efficiently maintain the Grand Council and to defray the expense of advertising that should be done, and of prosecuting such a vigorous canvass as is necessary in order to increase our membership by a substantial number each year, then let all the initiation fees go to the Grand Council—except of charter members of new branches. Our average initiations per month in Ontario should not be less than 100. At a reasonable estimate there must be about 30,000 eligible Catholics in this Province. The average in the Province of Quebec ought to reach 150. But we might just as well send a mite to convert the Mohammedans as to send an Organizer to the Province of Quebec without some assistance from the press of that Province, where we have to compete with such progressive fraternal organizations as the Independent Order of Foresters. Their average initiations, per month, in Quebec, for the twelve months, ending 1st August last, was 213. The next matter to which we should give some careful consideration is our system of paying assessments. While I prefer our present system as being the cheapest and safest, still it does not seem to be the one that commends itself to the uninitiated. In order to compete successfully with the other fraternal organizations, we must be in a position to say exactly how much it will cost per month for \$1 (xxx) or \$2 (xxx) at a certain age. The next question I respectfully submit, for discussion, by the members of the C. M. B. A. is—I fancy I hear some braves kicking already—the advisability of admitting women to membership. Being in a position recently to get the information, I took the trouble to ascertain whether many of our Catholic women were members of one of the societies into which they are admitted, and was somewhat surprised,

not so much at the number who were members, but to find there many I did not expect ever gave life insurance a thought. I was informed Catholic women were initiated in their own houses, and paid their assessments and dues there. The points that will naturally suggest themselves to our minds in connection with this question are: Are women good risks? If they are good enough risks for the straight life companies, for the Independent Order of Foresters, for the Ancient Order of Foresters, and for the Home Circle, why are they not good enough for the C. M. B. A.? What have we to fear from the presence of Catholic women in our Association? Would it not be a benefit to have women in our branches? Will men not naturally prefer the societies into which mothers, sisters, wives and daughters are admitted?

Can we successfully compete for membership with fraternal organizations into which our Catholic women are admitted if we continue to exclude them? I believe the C. M. B. A. will stop short of its inclusion of amelioration if it fails to provide for the admission of women, at least those who are "bread winners."

Yours fraternally,

J. C. O'NEIL.

Brantford, Feb. 8, 1900.

BRANCH NO 90, PICTON, ONT.

To Major F. P. Horrigan, I. N. W. M. P.:

The officers and members of St. Gregory's Branch of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association desire to tender their hearty congratulations for you having received the very important appointment of Inspector of the North West Mounted Police, and also to express the sentiment of regret that each and every one of us feel at your early departure from amongst us.

When the official announcement was made and your name appeared in the Canada Gazette, the official organ of the Dominion Government, the hearts of each and every one of us were filled with delight, but when we came to give it our calm consideration we seemed to realize how true the remark "that there is no joy but what has its tinge of sadness." This is the sentiment which fills our hearts individually and collectively in addressing you this evening. As a member of our great Catholic society we have learned to esteem and admire your sterling abilities, always foremost in advancing the good work which has been the aim of our society in this town and county, viz., "piety, integrity and frugality." In educational matters you have distinguished yourself, having held the position of High School Trustee for a great number of years, and your work in connection with that important body has stamped you as one of the most efficient members that ever sat at that board.

As a member of St. Gregory's congregation your position will not be easy to fill, your valuable assistance in all important matters in connection with the parish gratuitously given will never be forgotten, and many will be the prayers and supplications which will be poured forth to the Throne of Divine Mercy from the members of the flock you are leaving that Almighty God may shower His choicest blessings, and that He may long spare you to fill the important office which you are so eminently fitted for. You are particularly honored this evening by the presence of our highly gifted

Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Twohey. The society will never forget his kind words in showing this mark of respect to you and to the branch this evening. As a brother, we wish you God speed, and as we are about to grasp your hand and say farewell we will never forget the many happy hours which we spent in your genial company in St. Gregory's hall, and before parting we wish to say that wherever duty calls you, whether it be on the shores of the beautiful Fraser River or along the banks of the majestic Assiniboine you will no doubt make hosts of new friends and companions but will never have truer or more steadfast ones than those you leave behind in this grand old County of Prince Edward, the garden of Ontario.

We ask you to accept this gift as a remembrance of your association with us, and sincerely hope and pray that you will never have to use it in self defence.

Signed on behalf of the branch,

E. F. R. A.

M. J. R. A.

W. J. R. A.

M. J. R. A.

F. R. M. A.

C. M. B. A. LECTURE.

St. Mary's Branch 254, C. M. B. A., Kensington, P. E. I., now feels satisfied that the best way to secure new members is to have the benefits of the Association discussed in open meeting. At the request of the branch, Grand Deputy Bro James McIsaac, editor and proprietor of the Charlottetown Herald, on January 31, in the hall at Indian River, delivered an eloquent, comprehensive and instructive lecture on the C. M. B. A.

Bro John T. Mullin presided in his usual efficient manner and introduced the lecturer in some very pointed and appropriate remarks.

The lecturer carefully explained what are the essential elements of a society, and clearly showed that the C. M. B. A. possesses these in a most eminent degree of perfection. Then he pointed out the relation in which many societies stand to the Church, whether in communion or opposition, and the potent influence they have for good or for evil. man's natural adaptability for society and the greater influence he wields when working through societies. the power of existing societies, their origin, aims, machinery and advantages. the origin, growth and progress of the C. M. B. A. the securing by Canada of a separate Grand Council. its rapid growth and flourishing condition in Canada and the grand future that must be its store for it, the superior over all existing societies, the truly fraternal element, the very small premiums paid on benefits; no large salaries paid to hordes of officials and agents and many other interesting and thoughtful points. He closed with an animated exhortation to all young men in the parish to become members of Branch 254 which, he proudly exclaimed, "I know, from official inspection, to be among the foremost successful branches in Canada."

The burst of applause with which the large and enthusiastic audience greeted this concluding remark showed that the lecturer knows well how to use a convincing argument, and soon after the meeting several persons signified their intention of applying for admission into Branch 254.

Rev. J. J. McDonald, P. P. Kinross, member of Branch 254, supplied

the lecture with a pointed and impressive speech, in which he endorsed what the Grand Deputy had said and clearly showed that the C. M. B. A. is the society for Catholics to join. Rev. Mr. T. and Hon. John A. McDonald also spoke in praise of the many good qualities of the C. M. B. A. A vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer and gracefully acknowledged.

In connection with the lecture was rendered a programme which included songs by Rev. J. J. McDonald, Miss Grace M. Vane, Rev. T. Donohue and J. A. Ready. Readings by Rev. J. J. McDonald and J. A. Ready.

Branch 254 expects to hold another such meeting before the winter is past.

Fraternally yours,

J. A. R. A.

St. Mary's Branch 254.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

Resolved that we, the members of St. Mary's Branch 254, tender our sincere sympathy and condolence to the family of Bro. James McIsaac on the death of Bro. James McIsaac's wife.

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