

THE RE-UNITED A. O. H.

Magnificent Convention in Trenton, N.J.—First Day's Proceedings.

The first convention of the re-united Ancient Order of Hibernians was fully held in Trenton, N.J., the episcopal city of the Rt. Rev. J. P. McFaul, D.D., the good Bishop to whose tact and unwearied efforts the adjustment of the long-lasting differences between the American Board, A.O.H., and the Board of Erin, A.O.H., is due.

The strength of Irish blood in Trenton (says the Boston Pilot) was proved by the hearty welcome given to the delegates, and by the American and Irish flags on numbers of public buildings and private buildings.

As a distinctly Catholic organization, the A.O.H. preceded its deliberations with Solemn High Mass in the Cathedral. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. D. J. Duggan, Borden-town; deacon, the Rev. George Osborne; subdeacon, the Rev. William F. Dunphy; master of ceremonies, the Rev. John McCloskey. The Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul occupied the episcopal throne, and the canons of honor were the Rev. E. S. Phillips and William J. McLaughlin.

The music of the Mass was by the full Cathedral choir of forty five voices, under the direction of Prof. G. W. Scholt.

The Rev. John H. Fox, preached. He said:

"I deem it a great honor to be invited by the commission to speak to you on this occasion, and to extend a welcome to you as the representatives of the great order of Hibernians. In the name of the Catholics of the city and Diocese of Trenton, in the name of the illustrious Bishop who has labored so hard and successfully for the uniting of your grand order, I welcome you all here to-day. There is another place than this for extending you a joint welcome on the part of the citizens of Trenton, irrespective of race or creed."

"Here in this cathedral I welcome you as Catholics, as Irish Catholics—sons of a race which, of all races, has over been faithful and loyal to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church will always have a hearty welcome to offer all the members of your organization. Be true to the tradition of your Irish ancestors, true to this grand country of ours, true to the Holy Church, and true to God."

"The object of your order and the principles that guide it should command the respect of all fair-minded men. It is an organization of men of Irish blood professing the Catholic faith, united together in the cause of country, Church and mutual aid, the principles that guide you are: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

"Your order is composed of Irishmen, and what a wonderful history there is connected with that word 'Ireland'—a history of past glories and heavy sorrow."

"But your order is composed not simply of Irishmen, but Catholic Irishmen; and what race has been so Catholic as the Irish."

"During full three hundred years England tried to rob her of her faith by persecution and bloodshed; during those dark and dreary years thousands were put to death, thousands and thousands more died from famine, but Ireland never lost her faith, never wavered for a moment."

"As a Catholic priest, then, I welcome you here to-day, and I congratulate you on the very happy ending of the chasm that divided you; continue, then, to be united, for you know as well as I can tell you, that in union there is strength, in disunion there is weakness."

"To accomplish anything you must be united. This country of ours, this grand United States, by the fact of its unity, is enabled to wage successful war against Spain. Think you that this would be possible if there was a North and South?"

"At one time Ireland was divided, therefore she was conquered, but when it became a religious battle Ireland was united and England failed to conquer her, so Ireland today is as the ever was—Catholic, united, and as the ever was—Catholic strength and power; God is omnipotent because he is essentially one; if he were not he would not be omnipotent. For eighteen hundred years and more the Catholic Church has been compelled to fight for her very existence. There has been not a power which at some time or other has not assailed the Catholic Church, but she has conquered every enemy and stands to-day strong, glorious and victorious, the wonder of the whole world."

"I tell you it is in her unity she is strong; she is unconquerable because she is one—one in faith, one in obedience to authority, and one in devotion to her principles. How wonderful is the unity of the Catholic Church? where can you find anything like it? Turn over the pages of history where can you find anything like it? The Church is the society, the principles of over 250,000,000 made up of the people of every race, people of every shade of color, differing from one another in customs, in habits, and in opposition to each other in warfare, as the case now between Catholics and the United States and those of our race; but nevertheless all Catholics are one in faith, one in obedience to authority. So united in faith are

these hundreds of millions of Catholics that if you should ask of the faith of one of them you would thereby receive an answer that would apply to every one of the entire number.

"She is also one in her form of worship throughout the entire world; one in government; the parish is subject to its pastor, the pastor to his Bishop and the Bishop to the Supreme Head in Rome. The Unity of the Catholic Church was manifested to the world in a wonderful way on the occasion of the calling of the Council of the Vatican. Eight hundred Bishops and Archbishops from all quarters of the globe, assembled there, a most striking example of the unity of the Catholic Church."

"Labor, then, gentlemen, for this unity that is so essential to the welfare of your order, and look with suspicion on the man who would favor disunion."

"The support of God and the Church will be with you, and your order will grow in faith as will your influence with your fellowmen."

"The business sessions were held in Taylor Opera House. At the one which followed the Mass, the Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul delivered a brief and enthusiastically received address, in the course of which he said:

"This enthusiastic greeting renders it impossible to restrain the feelings awakened in my breast by the sight of this convention, composed of delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada, for the purpose of lasting reconciliation of the united and happily re-united during this memorable year of '98."

"As a man whose pride is to have first seen the light of day beneath the genial sky of the ever-faithful isle, as the chief pastor of the Diocese of Trenton, as Bishop of the Catholic Church, I bid you a thousand welcome and pray God to bless your deliberations. Questions momentous to the integrity, the progress, the prosperity of your noble order—questions whose significance and importance are far-reaching, not limited merely to the interests of your own organization, but co-extensive with the welfare of the Irish race—will engage your attention."

"Wherever an Irishman, yea, wherever there dwells a heart in which pulsates the spirit of the nation, and where the sun in his majestic course around the world does not cherish the sons and daughters of Erin? the principles of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity here proclaimed by a reunited Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet a generous welcome and encourage the undivided Gael to unite for securing the strength and the influence which, joined to that indomitable courage which has never deserted us during long ages of oppression and tyranny, will place dear old Ireland forever in possession of her long-sought liberty."

"Let, therefore, these deliberations be conducted in the spirit of your great fundamental principles, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity; let all personal ambition, old jealousies and contentions be cast aside, and this will be the grandest convention known in the history of your organization and productive of most important results to the Irish race throughout the world."

"His Honor Mayor Welling G. Sichel then extended to the Ancient Order of Hibernians the freedom of the city."

"I feel, as mayor of the city of Trenton, that you have paid us a great compliment by holding your convention in our city," said Mayor Sichel. "On the very ground on which this building is erected was fought one of the decisive battles of the Revolutionary War; the war that brought about the independence of this glorious country and caused the Stars and Stripes, which mean liberty, prosperity, peace and good will to all men, to float over our land."

"I had the pleasure, a short time ago, of visiting the country where no doubt many of you were born—Ireland. Many times did I wish for a happy reunion of her hills."

"I congratulate you upon having united and come together as one great body, for, as you know, 'in union there is strength.'"

"I feel that Bishop McFaul, as arbitrator, has performed an important and manly duty in bringing you together, and I sincerely hope that the deliberations of your body, during your session here, will prove a benefit to your order, as all beneficial orders are a benefit to mankind."

"While you are in this city we want to make you comfortable and extend to you true Jersey hospitality."

"I want to say, on behalf of the citizens' committee, that every member stands ready to do anything in his power to help you and make your visit pleasant while you are here."

Bishop McFaul commended their work in bringing about the reunion.

"Fourteen years ago," said Father Phillips, "relying on ourselves and listening, perhaps, to unwise counsel, we began to wage a suicidal war on each other, and thus belied the principles taught to us in our motto of 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Passion, selfishness urged us on until at last our fraternal contentions became a snarl in the nostrils of honest men, who hated a Hibernianism that was a divided Catholicism. But now, however, by the grace of the good God, who loves holy old Ireland, we are united together in one loving body, one full of charity for each other. We have been brought together by the patience and brilliant efforts of a grand churchman, whose high ecclesiastical honors, whose civil and social surroundings never caused aim, and I say of him, never will cause him to lose his love for the fair land of his birth land for the children of St. Patrick, the patron of our order."

"My Lord, we thank you, and to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, for all time, we will leave as a sacred heritage the name of James A. McFaul."

"At the close of the address Bishop McFaul, as the presiding officer of the temporary organization, announced the other temporary officers: James O'Sullivan, of Philadelphia, national secretary of the American Branch; Edward R. Hayes, of New Brunswick, national secretary of the Board of Erin wing, and John P. Bullard, of Trenton, were named as the temporary secretaries. N. J. O'Brien, of Indiana; Charles J. O'Neil, of New Hampshire, representing the American Branch; James J. Carroll, of New York; C. P. Boland, of Pennsylvania, representing the Board of Erin, were named as the committee on credentials."

In the evening Bishop McFaul and the officers of the A. O. H. held a public reception in the Opera House."

At the morning session this cablegram was read from John Dillon, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party:

"President A.O.H., Trenton, N.J.—I heartily congratulate the members of your great organization on their reunion. They have set an example to the Irish race which will, I trust, be followed, and they have added one more to the many great services rendered by them to the Irish cause."

Telegrams were read from Bishop Foley, of Detroit, the national chaplain of the American Board; Mgr. Conaty, of the Catholic University, Washington, D.C., and other men prominent among the clergy and laity of Irish blood."

Bishop McFaul presided over the day's meetings. At the afternoon session, after the Bishop had read the terms agreed upon as the basis of the reunion of both wings, he announced that the next business in order was the election of officers to serve until the regular election of officers at the close of the session. The Rev. E. S. Phillips, who was at the head of the Board of Erin, nominated P. J. O'Connor, of Savannah, Ga., who was the head officer of the other wing when the reunion took place. Mr. O'Connor was selected by acclamation."

A letter was read from Bishop Foley, of Detroit, in which he expressed his pleasure at the reunion of the order, and returned a check for over \$219, the sum received in excess of the \$50,000 promised by the order to fund a Celtic chair at the Catholic University at Washington, D.C."

The reports of the officers followed. That of the Rev. E. S. Phillips, of the Board of Erin, was confined to explaining the cause of the reunion of the order, which, he said, was to set an example to Irishmen in all parts of the world, and to commemorate the one hundred and anniversary of the fight for Ireland's freedom."

Mr. O'Connor, in his report, spoke of the attention the ladies' auxiliary should receive, and the amount of good it has done for years. The famine in the western part of Ireland and the need of immediate action by the Ancient Order of Hibernians to relieve the same, and the war between Spain and United States, were dealt with."

National Secretaries O Sullivan and Hayes and Treasurer Dundon followed. Secretary O'Sullivan reported that the American branch had 1,491 subordinate bodies and 98 military companies, with 90,967 members, located in all the States and Territories, except Wyoming, and in New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island. The laborers' benefits were \$17,064.52; for charitable and other purposes, \$412,043; balance in the treasuries of subordinate lodges \$648,525.19."

The ladies' auxiliary has 298 divisions and 18,915 members. It has paid out \$11,087.88 in sick and funeral benefits and \$19,143.81 for charitable and other purposes, and has a balance of \$48,646.04."

Secretary Edward R. Hayes reported that the Board of Erin had about 5,000 members."

THIRD DAY, THE PARADE. The great event of June 29, was the parade in which about 2,000 men and a score of bands participated. At the Bishop's residence, it was reviewed by the Bishop, the Mayor, the officers of the two former wings of the A.O.H., and the citizens' committee."

It was one of the greatest demonstrations ever held in Trenton. Fully 20,000 people attended the sports which followed it in the afternoon in Newton Park."

FOURTH DAY. Mr. John O. Weedon, chairman of the committee on constitution, presented the draft of a constitution, which had been approved by the Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul, and a few minor changes it was unanimously adopted. The constitution makes very few changes from the one under which what was known as the American branch of the order worked."

A new ritual for the order, prepared by Bishop McFaul, was adopted. It differs in no very essential points from the old ritual, but it has been shortened and simplified. The morning session was almost entirely consumed with the report of the committee on insurance. The committee reported against the adoption of a national plan of insurance and thought the matter of insurance should be made optional with county organizations."

Under the present system the matter of insurance is left to the various county boards or individual divisions to regulate as they see fit. The Southern and many of the Western delegates voted this changed, so that a national plan of wider scope might be substituted. It was represented by Southern and Western delegates that the order in these sections of the country was languishing for the want of a good insurance feature that would attract recruits and that men who might be secured as members were joining other organizations whose insurance features were more permanent. It was also pointed out that in Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Michigan the A.O.H. paid death claims of \$1,000 each and the excess of members, and at each death the respective reserve funds were added to by assessments to the extent of \$400."

The opponents of a change in the rules met this contention with the statement that a similar plan was tried in Ohio with disastrous results, and nearly resulted in breaking up this order."

The resolution in favor of a national plan was tabled, which kills it till the next convention. The election of officers took up a good part of the closing session. There were only two candidates for the office of president, John O. Weedon, of Michigan, refusing to allow his name to be presented, and P. J. O'Connor of Georgia, withdrawing his name. The fight was between former State President E. J. Slattery, of Massachusetts, and John B. Keating, of Illinois, and resulted in the election of the latter, the vote standing 167 to 114. Mr. Keating, the new president, is a prominent Chicagoan, being treasurer of the State Board of that city. He is also president of the A.O.H. of Illinois. James E. Dolan, of Syracuse, N. Y., was unanimously elected vice-president of the organization, and James O'Sullivan, of Pennsylvania, was elected secretary over James P. Bell, of Hartford, Conn."

There were three candidates for treasurer—P. T. Moran, of Washington, D. C.; D. Maber, of Iowa, and Daniel Lynch, of Michigan. Mr. Moran was elected, receiving 178 out of the 232 votes cast."

To the board of directors, P. J. O'Connor, of Savannah, Ga.; P. A. O'Neill, of Philadelphia; E. J. Slattery, of Massachusetts, and M. J. Burns, of Indiana, were elected. Mr. John J. Clancy, of this city, was placed in nomination for a place in the directorate, and, despite the fact that no end of combinations had been made by the parties who were elected, Mr. Clancy came within a few votes of landing. He has a very large number of friends in the order."

The newly-elected officers were at once installed by Bishop McFaul, and short speeches of thanks were made by many of them."

The next national convention will be held in Boston in 1900. Mr. President and Honorable Delegates—With pleasure do I rise at the close of this magnificent convention to express my admiration at the efficiency with which it has been conducted, both on the part of its officers and assembled delegates. I am gratified beyond expression to find that Irishmen and the sons of Irishmen in America have made such rapid strides in intelligence, parliamentary ability, and eloquence within this generation. Ireland has always stood pre-eminent in forensic eloquence, and I rejoice that these grand gifts have come across the sea and are making their influence felt in this greater Ireland, over which she floats the flag of the free."

"Allow me to say that I am proud of the intelligence, virtue and courage of the men sent from their respective States to cement this grand old order firmly together, and to declare to the world that 'What God has joined together let no man put asunder.'"

"Let me here repeat what I said at the beginning of this convention: 'Stand together under your noble leaders for faith and fatherland, and you will be felt at home and abroad and the star of Irish freedom cannot set.'"

THE RESOLUTIONS. The committee on resolutions reported in due season. The preamble outlined the following:

"To the Rt. Rev. James A. McFaul, Bishop of Trenton, for his arduous labors as arbitrator, temporary chairman of our convention, and for his many, many acts of kindness to our officers, and to the delegates, we tender sincere and heartfelt thanks. The A.O.H. and the Irish race will be forever under the deepest obligations to him for bringing together and forever cementing all Hibernians under one banner for friendship, unity and Christian charity."

"To His Honor, Mayor Sichel, of Trenton, to the reverend clergy, to the press and people of this old historic city, and the citizens' committee for their untiring acts of kindness, generous hospitable treatment we entertain feelings of the kindest regard, and carry with us recollections of a most affectionate nature."

A resolution against the proposed alliance with Great Britain was adopted and the widest applause. The resolution read:

"Whereas, America's ancient and persistent enemy, England, now smugly friendly, seeks an offensive and defensive alliance with this, the greatest and best republic the world has ever known;

"And, whereas, we believe that the ends for which a wise Providence seems to have destined this great nation can best be attained by cultivating and cherishing the friendship of all peoples by the justice of her conduct and the equity of her politics, while still maintaining a lofty isolation, 'America for Americans';

"And, whereas, such an alliance would, we believe, so retard American progress that should England offer as a further inducement the complete independence of beloved Ireland, yet cherishing Columbia's welfare closest to our hearts, we believe the sacrifice on our part too great to be made; now, therefore be it

"Resolved, that we, the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, in national convention assembled at Trenton, N. J., in 1898, as American citizens, prompted by our loyalty and devotion to this country and our faith in its greatness, earnestly condemn said proposed alliance with this oppressor of weak people, and protest against alliance with any and all foreign powers,

"Resolved, further, that copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives."

Another resolution, which was adopted, resolves; "that the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, through its delegates in national convention assembled, pledge to the Government of the United States the lives, fortunes, and sacred honor of its members, to the end that the Government of the United States may be successful in its war with the Government of Spain."

Little Cuba was not forgotten, as one of the resolutions read: "We extend our earnest sympathy to the Cuban patriots in their glorious struggle for independence, a struggle which gives new courage to our people, new hope for Ireland's future. We trust that victorious peace, aided by the efforts of our great nation, will soon bring the Queen of the Antilles the happiness of freedom and the assurance of a prosperous future."

In order that Hibernians who go to the front in the struggle with Spain may be known to future generations, the following was adopted:

"Members of the A.O.H., actuated by an abiding love for American institutions, as well as by the most unselfish patriotism, have responded to the call of the President of the United States for volunteers to serve in the war for humanity, now being waged on land and sea against Spain, and it is important that record of such members be preserved."

"Resolved, that such division of the order shall forward to the national secretary a record of the name, age, description and birth-place of each member of such division who has enlisted, or who may hereafter enlist, in the Army and Navy of the United States, as well as the date of such enlistment, that the national secretary shall enter the same in a book to be called the military and naval roll of honor of the A.O.H., that each division secretary shall keep the national secretary informed of the number of engagements participated in by its enlisted members, that all promotions, deeds of bravery and meritorious conduct shall also be noted; and record to be completed when the member is mustered out at the close of the war, if not sooner mustered out in action in defense of our country and its flag."

Another resolution recommended that the order in each State where the same exists shall select some date in each year to be styled "Hibernian Memorial Day," that on such day the members of the order will attend appropriate religious services, praying for the repose of our loved dead, and then proceed, clothed in proper regalia, to the cemeteries in their locality, to decorate the graves of their deceased brethren."

The convention adopted a resolution which provided that "We tender our loving reverence to His Holiness Leo XIII., whose love and distinguished incumbency of the Chair of Peter, has been marked by a lofty interpretation of the relations between Church and people, and who has over expressed a noble interest in the cause of suffering humanity."

The following recommendations were also adopted:

"We view with horror the awful sufferings of the peasantry in the west and southwest of Ireland.

"We denounce the heartless barbarity of the hypocritical government which closes its eyes to the terrible spectacle of thousands of its subjects starving within the reach of plenty. We extend our deep sympathy to our unhappy brethren who are reduced to such a state of destitution."

"We recommend that the national officers issue at once a circular to every division of the order, asking that all such as have been already described, donate as liberally as circumstances permit toward the relief of the sufferers in Ireland. All subscriptions to be forwarded to the national secretary."

"We also recommend that the sum of \$1,000 be donated from the national treasury for the same good purpose."

"We further recommend that the last mentioned sum be forwarded at once, and all others as quickly as possible, through such channels as the national officers may select."

Other resolutions were adopted calling upon the race throughout the world to join hands; demanding the discontinuance of histories in the public schools, which histories contain any alleged historical facts which may have children against any section, race or creed; urging the teaching of Irish history in our schools; protesting against the continued incarceration of the Irish political prisoners; recommending the cultivation of Irish music and literature; endorsing the work done by the '98 Centenary committee of Ireland, Great Britain and France."

THE LADIES' AUXILIARY AT THE CONVENTION. Delegates from the Ladies' Auxiliary of the A.O.H., in America, met at Trenton, N. J., during the past week to further the interests of their Order. The following States were represented: Ohio, Kansas, Montana, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and New Jersey. The delegates handed Mass Monday morning. In the afternoon they were invited to be present at the opening exercises of the convention at the Opera House, the Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul delivering an address, as did P. J. O'Connor, national president of the A. O. H., Rev. E. S. Phillips, N. P., of the Board of Erin, and Mayor Sichel, who welcomed our attending delegates."

In the evening the delegates attended a reception, and all had the honor and pleasure of meeting Bishop McFaul and the national delegates. The sisters held meetings each day during the week, and made amendments to their constitution and ritual. Mrs. Mary McLaughlin was chairman of committee and constitution, and Miss Jennie O'Hara, of Parkburg, W. Virginia, and Katherine E. Sheridan, of Randolph, Mass., secretaries of the same. Chairman of Committee on Ritual, Mrs. Marie Harvey, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Hannah M. Lewis, of Grand Rapids, Mich., secretary. The Bishop advised the auxiliary to establish their own national board. Our condition as he expressed it, being incomplete, saying to us, "You are a body with somebody else's head on your shoulders." The committee on resolutions were appointed as follows: Mrs. Hannah M. Lewis, of Michigan, chairman; Katherine E. Sheridan, of Massachusetts, secretary; Miss Anna Farrell, of Kansas; Mrs. Kathryn Flood, of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Eleanor McCann, of Connecticut; Miss Jennie O'Hara, of W. Virginia, and Mrs. Katie Norris, of Montana.

She submitted the following: "Resolved—Whereas, we the women representing the Ladies' Auxiliary of America being assembled here to further the interests of our noble order.

Resolve, that we tender our thanks to the Rt. Rev. Bishop McFaul for the zeal he has displayed in our behalf and we trust it will be an impetus to encourage us in the good work; also to P. J. O'Connor and James E. O'Sullivan, for the prompt and courteous manner in which they discharged their duties pertaining to the Ladies' Auxiliary; and to the A. O. H. of America to which society we are proud to be an auxiliary."

Resolve, that we extend to the sisters and brothers and citizens of Trenton and to Mayor Sichel and Mr. Katzenbach a vote of thanks for the hospitable manner in which we were entertained."

Resolve, that we call upon the President and Congress of United States of America to show themselves worthy descendants of American ancestry in denouncing the Anglo-American alliance, and we call upon the American Celt to vindicate the honor of our race, and to show the world that the Irish race down-trodden by England can be a mighty factor in preserving the country in its present crisis as it ever has been in the past."

Among the State presidents were Mrs. Harvey, of Pennsylvania; Miss Dolis A. Sullivan, of Massachusetts; Mrs. Bernard Ward, of West Virginia; Miss Mary O'Halloran, of Michigan; Mrs. E. McCann, of Connecticut; Miss Farrell, of Kansas; Mrs. Morris, of Montana; Mrs. Hoar, of New Jersey; Mrs. Leahy, of Wisconsin; the State secretaries, Miss Katherine E. Sheridan, of Massachusetts, and Miss O'Hara, of West Virginia.

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