

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but anonymous letters and letters in which the Manager does not consider for the welfare of the Association will not be published.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 is very much desired.

Address all communications to
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LONDON, OCTOBER 18, 1896.

The C. M. B. A. Convention Delegates at the Basilica

At 10 o'clock the procession arrived at the stately Basilica, which is also the Cathedral of the Archbishop of Ottawa. As the delegates filed through the grand portals, headed by the officers of the Executive, the great organ pealed out its welcome in solemn impressive tones. Seats were arranged for the grand officers just without the sanctuary railing, and the delegates and visiting brethren soon filled up the nave of the spacious church. After all had knelt in prayer a moment and then seated themselves, the procession of ecclesiastics began to enter the sanctuary from the vestry door on the Epistle side. First came a long line of altar boys, then a number of priests in cassock and surplice, then the servants of the mass, the Archbishop, Deacon and Sub Deacon, in vestments of gold cloth, followed by the celebrant, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Enard, Bishop of Valleyfield, in mitre of white and gold, carrying a gold crozier. When all had adored and were seated, the Bishop occupying, of course, the balditorium in piano, with his ministers standing on either side of him, Archbishop Duhamel and his Chapter of Canons (six in number) entered, the latter wearing a cappa magna of purple and crimson, like the Archbishops, but without train. His Grace made a short prayer at the altar steps and then ascended his throne, his assistants ranging themselves around him. At a signal from the Master of Ceremonies, the celebrating Bishop now approached the altar and began the mass. It is safe to say that our Conventions were never opened with a more imposing church service. The chancel of the Basilica is most richly decorated and the beautiful high altar lighted with electricity. The magnificently vested ministers at the altar, in torching with the purple and crimson of the Archbishop and his Chapter, and the black robed and white surpliced rows of priests and altar boys, all working in graceful accord, the adorned altars, the splendid music, everything was calculated to impress all most vividly, and engender that religious feeling to an exceptional degree, which is at once the solace and the joy of the Christian soul. Long indeed will the solemn pontifical in the Basilica, at Ottawa, on August 28th, last, hold a place in the memory of the privileged delegates present. The Catholic side of the Convention ceremonies could not well have been surpassed.

At the close of the First Gospel, Canon McCarthy, of St. Bridget's

Church, Ottawa, left the Archbishop's side, and attired in his purple and scarlet mantle, ascended the pulpit to preach the English sermon. He has a full, rich voice, and an easy manner. His discourse was most appropriate and very much esteemed. We regret that we could not give it in full, as it was impossible to procure the manuscript.

After Canon McCarthy returned to his place at the Archbishop's throne, Rev. Dr. Daguire was conducted to the pulpit to deliver the French discourse. Over his surplice he wore a black silk cape and hood, the insignia of a doctor of divinity.

It was 12 o'clock when the church service, with solemn Episcopal Benediction was over, and when the ecclesiastical procession left the sanctuary, the delegates again fell into line, and headed as before by their bands, retraced their steps to the Convention hall.

CONVENTION NOTES.

The local committee for the reception of the delegates at the Ottawa Convention deserve much credit. The delegates were met on the arrival of the various trains and given a hearty welcome; their stay in the Capital was made very pleasant, and they will long remember the extreme kindness shown them by their Ottawa brothers.

A feature in connection with the Reception Committee was the C. M. B. A. Bureau on Sparks street, where the delegates registered and were given all information required. This was in charge of Brother Lasalle Gravelle, who was untiring in his courtesies to the delegates.

Brother E. Edmond Lemieux, Secretary of Branch 59, acted as stenographer during the convention. He did his work well, and we can highly recommend him as a painstaking and accurate worker.

We can never forget the extreme kindness of Brother H. Boaupré, hack proprietor, who placed himself and his elegant turn-out at the disposal of the Committee during the convention. It is needless to say he was kept busy, and his agreeable manner and interesting anecdotes of Ottawa were highly appreciated.

A most interesting debate arose on an amendment, which was to the effect that any member of the Association, sane or insane, who commits suicide two years after his initiation, forfeits his benefits. Grand Solicitor Latchford, from whom the recommendation emanated, contended that the leading insurance companies guarded themselves with a similar clause against policy holders who caused their self-destruction. Others maintained that no such clause could be inserted in the constitution, as it was opposed to the laws of the land. Another objection was that members frequently became mentally deranged through the result of an accident and committed suicide, and in such a case it would be unjust to withhold the benefits to the beneficiaries. An amendment to the amendment was introduced that the period of time be limited to one year instead of two. The amendment to the amendment was lost by an overwhelming majority, and so was the amendment; therefore no new clause to this effect will be inserted in the constitution.

The report of the Committee on Laws

was presented by T. P. Coffee, Q. C., of Guelph, Ont., Chairman of the Committee. The report stated that the Committee had considered many proposed amendments by branches, the Quebec Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees. With reference to the proposed amendments suggesting a new system of representation and payment of delegates' expenses, the following propositions were submitted:

"That hereafter all delegates to conventions shall have their expenses paid by the branches they respectively represent, the allowance to delegates to be the same as now set forth in the Grand Council by-laws."

"That conventions be held triennially on or about the fourth Tuesday in August or at such other time as the Grand President and Board of Trustees decide."

"That only branches organized before first January preceding the date of convention and having at least 25 members in good standing shall be entitled to representation, this not to apply to branches already in existence."

The discussion of these amendments occupied most of the afternoon and the whole of the evening session. The "pros and cons" were intelligently discussed, but when the amendments were voted upon each one was lost.

The Ladies' Local Auxiliary held a reception in the Russel House. The visiting ladies, wives of the delegates, were about thirty in number. They met the local members of the Ladies' Reception Committee in the Russel House drawing room and formed acquaintances. Mrs. F. McDaughall, head of the Ladies' Reception Committee, introduced the Ottawa ladies to the visitors. The Ottawa ladies gave a very successful informal reception and musicale in the Russel House parlors. The reception lasted until almost midnight, nearly all the delegates attending after the conclusion of the business of the evening session. Fully four hundred people were present. The programme of the musicale was excellent and consisted of quartettes by Messrs. Breton, Mathé, Des Rivieres and Gauthier; piano duet, Dr. and Mrs. Valade; songs, Mr. John Clarke; song, Miss Richardson; recitation, Miss Tessie O'Reilly; piano solo, Prof. Tremblay; song, Mr. J. Caldwell; vocal duet, Mr. and Mrs. Trudel; song, Mrs. J. A. J. McKenna; song, Mrs. L. Laframboise. Four juvenile C. M. B. A.'s acted as pages at the reception and musicale. They were Masters Frank and John O'Meara, Master Phil Harris and Master Eddie O'Connor. Master Willie Wall acted as usher. Mrs. McGarr proved an efficient piano accompanist. Ice cream, coffee and cake was served in the hall adjoining the drawing room. The Ladies' Reception Committee consisted of:

- Mr. F. McDaughal, Chairman.
- Mrs. E. A. Mara, Secretary.
- Mrs. J. A. MacCabe
- Mrs. E. Connors
- Mrs. J. C. Enright
- Mrs. L. Laframboise
- Mrs. McCann
- Mrs. M. O'Leary
- Mrs. M. O'Farrell
- Mrs. A. Thibeault
- Mrs. Jno. O'Meara
- Mrs. A. R. Parent
- Mrs. D. J. Harris
- Mrs. J. O'Reilly
- Mrs. J. Casey
- Mrs. E. J. O'Connor
- Mrs. Aulin
- Mrs. J. A. J. McKenna.
- Mrs. Latchford
- Mrs. S. E. O'Brien
- Mrs. J. Slater
- Mrs. S. Lelièvre
- Mrs. J. Casault
- Mrs. T. Martin
- Mrs. P. Cassidy
- Mrs. R. Steckel
- Mrs. Jno. Martin
- Mrs. A. Warnock
- Mrs. Fleury
- Mrs. J. N. Rattey
- Mrs. A. Hunter
- Mrs. W. Kearns
- Mrs. M. Casey

The Committee in charge of the musicale consisted of Mesdames Laframboise, McKenna, Lelièvre and McCann.

"We are delighted with the manner in which our Ottawa friends have entertained us," was heard on every side.

It was a great Convention!

WHAT THE PRESS OF OTTAWA SAID.

What the passenger train would be without the locomotive, such would the C. M. B. A. be without the guiding hand of the Grand Secretary, Mr. S. R. Brown, of London, Ont. He is a valuable and very efficient officer. The work of the Grand Secretary is manifested in the progress the association has made.

W. J. McKee, M. P. P., Grand Treasurer of the C. M. B. A., is a resident of Windsor, Ont., where he carries on an extensive lumber and planing mill business. He is the present representative of North Essex in the Ontario legislature. He is connected with a number of the leading monetary institutions of the west, and has been Grand Treasurer of the C. M. B. A. for ten years.

Hon. M. F. Hackett, of Stanstead, Que., and J. L. Carleton, of St. John N. B., were nominated for the Grand Presidency. Mr. Carleton retired in Hon. Mr. Hackett's favor, and that gentleman was unanimously elected. In thanking the delegates for the honor bestowed upon him he made one of the best speeches of the whole convention.

Mr. A. R. Parent, secretary of the reception committee of the convention, became identified with the C. M. B. A. in 1892, when Branch No. 176 was organized. He was one of its charter members; was elected Secretary of the new branch and has been its Secretary ever since. He is also Secretary of the Advisory Board of the city and Secretary of St. Jean Baptiste society, Ottawa. Mr. Parent holds the rank of major in the 51st battalion.

Mr. Bernard O'Connell proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for gracing the proceedings with their presence. Mr. O'Connell delivered a characteristic speech full of fun. He said the idly Ottawa ladies have a "Cupid's dart in every wrinkle," and the younger ladies have, "Most ravishing beauty." He also added that he wasn't given to flattery. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion, and it was carried, the delegates rising and singing "For they are jolly good fellows." All this took place when the ballots were being counted.

The French contingent furnished the music last evening. "The Royal Canadian choir will sing hymn 165," said Mr. Cooke, of Amherst, N. S., and immediately the Quebecers started the Marcellaise. They were fine singers and contributed several selections. Mr. Renaud, Hooper's lawyer, is the possessor of a magnificent tenor voice, and acted as "choir" leader.

Votes of thanks were accorded Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, the mayor and corporation, the local committee, the press, the ladies, and the retiring President, O. K. Fraser, after which the installation