

THE CANADIAN

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Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada

And mailed to members on or about the 10th of each month.

Members are invited to send us items of news or information that will be of benefit to the Association. Communication upon subjects of interest to C. M. B. A. members will always be welcome, but anonymous letters and letters where the Manager does not consent to the signature of the Association will not be published.

Correspondence will please remember that copy must reach us before the 10th 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 S. R. BROWN, Editor and Manager, Conte Block, Dundas Street, London, Ont.

LONDON, FEBRUARY, 1898.

EXPENSES OF CONVENTION.

Branch 145, Toronto, Ont., at the last convention presented the following scheme for reducing expenses of conventions:

That conventions be held every two years. That the representatives to the Grand Council shall be from districts and not from branches.

That the branches be arranged into districts, having regard for the geographical situation of said branches.

That said districts shall contain, as near as possible, a membership of 200 or 400.

That each district membership of 200 send one delegate to the Grand Council.

That the basis of such membership shall be taken from the Grand Secretary's books as at Dec. 31, previous to the meeting of the Grand Council.

That a committee be appointed by the Grand Council, whose duty it shall be to arrange the districts upon the basis of the lists handed them by the Grand Secretary.

That as soon as the committee reports, the Grand Secretary shall send to the Deputies a list of the branches in their jurisdiction whose duty it shall be to call a district convention for the purpose of electing a delegate as well as giving instruction.

Each branch shall have the power of sending to such convention three delegates, but only one from each branch shall be allowed to vote.

Each delegate shall be allowed to cast as many votes as there are members in good standing in his branch as per certified list from Grand Secretary.

The convention should elect a chairman and secretary, each of whom shall certify as to the result of the ballot, which certificate shall be forwarded by the Deputy to the Grand Secretary.

In the cases of branches situate in the North West and scattered districts the necessity of holding district conventions can, if necessary, be avoided by conducting the elections through correspondence by the Deputy, who can send to each of the branches in his district a list of all the eligible men for representative. Each branch can send under seal to the Deputy a ballot for their candidate.

A committee appointed by Branch 145 to bring in a report to show how the plan was workable, presented the following:

Your committee beg to report having met and proceeded with the work consequent upon the acceptance of their last report. The committee have conferred their attention to the disposition of branches within the Province of Ontario, and have to report that the location of branches seems to them such

that the system outlined in their previous report appears easy of operation. The divisions which are hereinafter suggested are such as have suggested themselves to your committee, but there is little which would make the selections indicated of an arbitrary character, and your committee can readily believe that there might be other considerations than these they have taken into account, enter into a final allocation of represented districts, when these districts may be made up by the committee of the Grand Council having the matter in hand.

Here follows the list of districts so selected as has to your committee appeared wise:

Table with 3 columns: Br. No., District Name, and Members. Lists districts like Windsor, Amherstburg, and others with their respective member counts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor:

Nothing succeeds like success, and in no sphere of life is success more dependent on individual effort than in branch work. It would seem as though all the work of the branch devolves largely upon the faithful few, and then we wonder why our meetings fall short of interest that we could reasonably hope for them to bring forth.

The crying need of the hour is how to secure a good attendance at our meetings, and that brings to surface the subject of these thoughts—individual effort.

If every brother member would make himself a committee of one to bring at least one indifferent member to the branch, each and every meeting night, we would soon have our hall filled to overflowing. After we get the attendance the next aim is how to hold it. I am of the opinion that, with the exception of nights when we have extra work, the routine work should be short and concise, and then devote remainder to the good of the order, under which kind "individual effort" should play its most important part. There might be lectures or readings on the history of our order during its varied career down to the present time, essays, debates, recitations and music. The branch hall should be a school for the improvement of its members; and in what way could we benefit one another more than by contributing our mite of talent for the edification of those to whom we are bound by the ties of unity, toleration and charity.

There must be unity of action on the part of individuals in the branch or our work will return to us void. There should be no jealousy, no striving for place, but submission to the will of the majority. We should elect officers, and then give them our individual support, by our attendance and heartfelt interest in the work. Let us remember that a house divided against

itself must certainly fall. So much for unity on the part of our brothers, which, together with the practice of toleration and charity, we may ever prove our allegiance to the cardinal principles of our noble order, which teaches us the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; and now that the year 1897 has just closed, let us make a resolve to do our own individual duty in the branch, and we shall soon find our heartfelt wishes fulfilled beyond our highest expectations.

Yours fraternally,

E. J. KNIGHT,

Grand Deputy, County Perth. Stratford, Jan. 14th, 1898.

BRANCH 145, TORONTO.

The following notes from the address of Brother J. D. Warde, reviewing the work done during 1897, may prove of interest to other branches:

The excellent rule laid down four years ago and since concurred in by the branch, of having an annual change in the occupant of the presidential chair, has again been observed, and I have much pleasure in welcoming as my successor the gentleman who for the past year has so capably filled the office of Financial Secretary.

Before, however, stepping up to the calm and comfort of the Chancellor's chair, I may be permitted to look back at what we have done during the past twelve months "in advancing the objects for which we are banded together." On taking office as President I had the pleasure of setting before you certain propositions which I hoped would result in increasing the usefulness of the branch. The first of these propositions was to make our meetings more interesting, by providing some attraction for the members at the second meeting in each month. Carrying out this idea we have had during the past twelve months the following readings:

- Old Savarin.....Bro. O'Connor
Judge Haliburton's Life.....Bro. Day
Christmas Carol.....Bro. Miller
Island of Crete.....Bro. Ward
On Insurance Companies.....Bro. Kernahan
The Governor of St. Kitts.....Bro. Leonard
The Fratelles of the Legal Profession Bro. Day
House Boat on the Styx.....Bro. Leonard

We held on 16th of March last an open meeting, to which all members of sister branches were invited and where an address by Rev. Father Ryan on "The objects and aims of the C. M. B. A." was followed by an admirable lecture on Canadian History by the Hon. G. W. Ross. The branch also took an active part in the annual picnic and in the reception to the Grand President and Trustees and attended sermons in St. Michael's Cathedral in March and in St. Patrick's in November.

The second proposition was that it should be the duty of every member to increase our number and that a list of those so procuring new members be hung in the branch hall as a constant reminder. This list shows that ten new members were introduced during the year and we lost three members through removal to other cities. The gentlemen who have left us were amongst our most energetic members, and we hope that in the pursuit of fortune they will not forget the branch where, though absent, they are still affectionately remembered. We have continued the plan of crediting members' accounts with fifteen cents for each meeting attended and I am glad to say that the full number of twenty-four meetings was held and were better attended than ever before. The payment of the Financial and Recording Secretaries has also been adopted,

not to assure better work from these gentlemen, but to recognize in some small measure our appreciation of their labors on our behalf.

The gallery of Past Presidents' portraits has not, I am sorry to say, been completed, but I hope it will be soon. We have, as you may see, secured an admirable picture of our Grand President, whose acquaintance we had the pleasure of making during the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees. In conclusion I thank you most heartily for your attendance during the year, for the assistance given me in conducting the business of the branch and for the kindness and courtesy which I received at the hands of every member of Branch 145.

SERIES OF OPEN MEETINGS SUCCESSFULLY INAUGURATED.

Branch 26, Montreal, Que., inaugurated its series of open meetings on the 17th of January, and the event proved a most enjoyable one. The handsome hall of the branch was well filled. President M. Eagan presided, and beside him on the platform were Bro. Martin Callaghan, Grand Deputies C. Daudelin, P. A. Boucher, J. J. Costigan, and T. P. Tansley, Chancellor John H. Feely, A. D. McGillicie, T. J. Finn, Patrick Reynolds, L. E. Simoneau, Thos. W. Nicholson, M. Sharkey, Dr. Daudelin and others.

President Eagan opened the proceedings by an address, in course of which he extended to all present a hearty welcome. He also gave a resume of the history of the association from its foundation by the late lamented Vincent Ryan, Archbishop of Buffalo, N. Y. Rev. Martin Callaghan, spiritual adviser of the Branch, gave an eloquent address on "The aims and objects of the association." He pointed out its grand features, which showed it was founded on a solid basis, both religiously and financially, and thus its career had been most prosperous.

Grand Chancellor Finn likewise made a most interesting address, as did also Bro. Dr. Daudelin.

Chancellor Joseph E. Morrisson made a most practical address on the financial standing of the association, and the manner in which its affairs were conducted. He gave in detail the cost of membership, and compared the same with the cost of membership in similar associations, much to the advantage of the C. M. B. A.

The following programme of music, etc., was gone through: Piano solo, Miss Maggie O'Byrne; quartette, Messrs. J. S. Shea, W. Cox, P. Shea, and J. Deegan; recitation, Miss Bessie Milloy; song, Mr. Jas. S. Milloy; violin solo, Master J. J. Shea; piano duet, Miss B. Hardy and Miss A. Roy; comic song, Mr. G. P. Holland; piano solo, Miss Maude Collins; song, Mr. W. Cowen; song in character, Mr. W. Hennessy; song, "Happy Days," Mr. J. S. Shea, with violin obligato, by Master Shea; Miss Nellie Shea presided at the piano.

At the close of the meeting, a vote of thanks to all who had taken part was moved by Deputy Costigan, seconded by Bro. Reynolds, and was unanimously agreed to.

C. M. B. A. BANQUET.

The Members of Branch No. 235 the Guests of Rev. Father McKeenan.

On the evening of the installation of the officers of Branch No 235, for