

The Convention of 1906.

ONTARITZI.—This was the euphonious Indian name of that pretty sheet of sparkling water that lies nestling in the lap of the mother of all mountains—the Laurentians. As we sat on the broad verandah of the hotel and looked across the lake to the towering heights, painted in azure blue by heaven's master hand, unconsciously our lips freed the expression of our heart—

"Be this my home till morn's fair star
Stoop earthward and shall beckon me;
For surely Godland lies not far
From these green heights and this blue sea.
My friend, my lover trend this way;
Not far along lies Arcady."

The early French settlers were of a more devotional spirit than the pioneer Indian—beauty and grandeur to the former found its response in devotion, and the greatest honor that could be paid to this inland sea was to give it the name Saint Joseph, their patron saint.

Lake St. Joseph Hotel, the rendezvous of the Agency Convention of the Sun Life of Canada, was reached on Wednesday, August 29th. It would have been cruel to have convened the representatives immediately on their arrival, so the management wisely left until the afternoon the consideration of business matters. The first business session was under the direction of the Company's honored president, Mr. Robertson Macaulay, who in an address to the staff reviewed the excellent position of the Company, giving particular attention to its investments. He explained the policy of the Company regarding investments, and as a result of its conservative policy the Company was as strong relatively to its liabilities as any company on the American continent. After the president's address the meeting took on a conversational character, and question and answer occupied the whole afternoon. The following day was given over to sight-seeing, when the party

visited historic Quebec. Many of the representatives had never before been within the walls of this fortress city. Interesting as the city is at any time, it was especially interesting on account of having in its spacious harbor two French cruisers, a German gunboat and the first class battleship H.M.S. Dominion.

We do not know whether the Agency Department arranged for this extra sight. They, however, well-timed the visit, for shortly after the arrival of the party the French warships steamed out of the harbor. The party returned to Lake St. Joseph in the afternoon somewhat weary. After a short rest the business of the Convention was again taken up. The Convention banquet on Thursday evening was the climax of the Convention from the Agency Department standpoint, for at it plans were made for a four months campaign before 1906 goes into history.

Mr. F. G. Cope very gracefully acted as toast master. Seated at his right was President Macaulay, and on his left Vice-President S. H. Ewing. After the usual courtesies to the King and President of the United States, the toast of the evening, "Our President," was proposed by Mr. W. A. Higinbotham, of Philadelphia, in a rousing speech. He said:

Our genial Superintendent has publicly warned me that five minutes is the outside limit allowed speakers to-night. This would hardly be long enough for some speakers, but on this particular occasion I feel that you will tolerate even me for this brief period in my humble attempt to fittingly honor one whom we all honor, respect and love. In rising to respond to the toast of the evening, I do so with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret, pleasure in being so highly honored by your committee in asking me to propose the President's health, yet, I cannot but regret that one more eloquent and able to present to you his very many admirable and sterling qualities had not been assigned this pleasing duty. I do not intend to address you at length, even if I could. My time is fixed by a higher authority, still I am sure you will not grudge the time I may take in prefacing