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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS REALIZED IN WINNIPEG

Ramifications of Great Catholic Order find Root in the Canadian West—Pioneer Council Established in the Metropolis—Instituted with Beautiful Ceremonials, Notable Social Functions and High Enthusiasm—American Delegation Assists—The Programme.

With all the solemnity and ceremony of their inspiring ritual, and with social functions which made the event a really notable and imposing Catholic demonstration, the Winnipeg Council of that truly great organization known as the Knights of Columbus was duly inaugurated on Saturday of last week. The task of organizing and establishing the Council here had been entrusted by the supreme officers to the Council of St. Paul, Minnesota and, right well did they accomplish it. In the morning at 11 o'clock a special train from St. Paul, which reached the city over the Soo Line, brought a very strong and most representative delegation of the members of the St. Paul Council, and accompanying them were Knights from Minneapolis, Duluth, Chicago, and several points in Wisconsin.

The train was made up of six new sleeping cars fresh from the shops and making their first run, with two sumptuously appointed dining cars and a baggage car. There were about 150 Knights on board, accompanied by about twenty-five ladies, and they were met by a committee of local Knights who conducted them to the hotels secured for their accommodation. Later in the day a large contingent of Knights arrived from Fargo, Grand Forks and other points, some came in from the west and some from the east. Every State in the Union was represented and there were altogether nearly three hundred knights here from various points attracted by the importance attached to the establishment of this the first Council of the order in the Canadian west, and anxious to participate in the event which all recognized as destined to have great results from the point of view of the Knights of Columbus. Manitoba hall had been secured for the occasion, and here were gathered the local candidates to the number of about ninety. The visitors at once repaired to the hall and the institution proceedings were immediately commenced, and with a short intermission of half an hour continued the whole of the day, the large class of candidates being greatly impressed with the dignity, solemnity and impressiveness of the ceremonies. In this connection it may be stated that all the newly made Knights declare that though they had formed the very highest opinion of the organization fondest anticipations fell lamentably short of the reality, and they are unanimous in stating that the initiation proceedings, in their beauty, their impressiveness, their thoroughgoing devotion to Church and Faith, and their development of Catholic principles and practices, are most inspiring and in the highest degree calculated to have an enduring and beneficial effect on those who are privileged to participate in them.

The Banquet

In the evening the whole party to the number of upwards of 400 sat down to a most sumptuous banquet served in the dining hall adjoining Manitoba Hall.

Dr. E. W. Buckley, State Deputy of the order at St. Paul, presided and acted as toastmaster and was supported at the head table by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, Rev. Father Reardon, of St. Paul's seminary, Hon. D. W. Lawler, Grand Knight of St. Paul Council, Prof. J. A. Hartigan, St. Paul; T. D. Deegan, Grand Knight of Winnipeg Council; Leo A. Ball, Grand Knight of Duluth Council; Father Cahill, O.M.I., Father Cordes, O.M.I., Father Cherrier, N. Bawlf, Dr. J. K. Barrett, and F. W. Russell.

The first toast on the list was that of "The Pope," which elicited a most eloquent speech from the Archbishop, in which he spoke of the loyalty of Catholics to the head of the Church, the centre of that unity which is so essential and which is so characteristic of the aims of the Knights of Col-

umbus. He highly eulogized the order and heartily welcomed it to his diocese.

His Grace received an ovation at the close of his powerful address, his eloquence and his expressed sympathy with the Knights of Columbus evidently appealing with great force to the visitors from the south.

The toasts of "The King and the President of the United States" were then honored with demonstrations of loyalty and the fervent singing of the national anthems.

"Christopher Columbus" was the next toast, and it was responded to by Hon. D. W. Lawler in a speech

Current Comment

We cheerfully give up much of our space to the Knights of Columbus, who made such a splendid showing here last Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the well known organizing ability of the local Grand Knight, Mr. T. D. Deegan, everything went off, not only without a hitch, but charmingly. Even the weather seemed to have done its best for the occasion in the way of dazzling sunshine and genial but not excessive warmth.

Father James M. Reardon's magnificent sermon, which we publish word for word in our editorial pages, contained climaxes so telling and so fervidly delivered that one felt the audience was itching to break out into applause and was restrained therefrom merely by the majesty of the Holy Presence. This discourse will be treasured by the Winnipeg Knights of Columbus as a masterly exposition of the ideals they should ever keep in view.

INAUGURAL SERMON OF REV. J. M. REARDON, B.A.

Masterly Exposition of Ideals of the Knights of Columbus—Delivered at Solemn High Mass attended by Visiting and Local Members at St. Mary's Church on Sunday last—An Eloquent Discourse—The Text in Full.

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of justice, and take unto you the helmet of salvation; and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph. vi. 14 & 17.)

In every age of Christianity the Catholic laity have been the bulwark and hope of religion. To them the Church has looked for co-operation and support in all her undertakings: upon their loyalty she has depended in her endeavors to accomplish great things for God and for humanity. In times of persecution and peril their unswerving filial devotion has sustained her in her

armor for the purpose of rescuing the Holy Sepulchre from the domination of the Islamite, and thereby rendering it safe for pilgrims to visit the scenes and localities hallowed by the presence of the Saviour of mankind. These were the days when faith and chivalry made Christian nations rise as one man to protest against the indignities heaped upon their brethren by the infidel rulers of the Holy Land, and when it needed but a word from the Sovereign Pontiff to evoke from the lips of tens of thousands of his devoted children that sublime cry of self-immolation, "God wills it; God wills it." The Crusaders girded on their swords and signed their persons with the symbol of redemption in token of their willingness to die if necessary, in order that the holy city of Zion might be liberated from the grasp of the desecrating Saracen; and for two centuries the combined armies of Christendom marched to the East buoyed up by the hope of placing the Cross of Christianity above the crescent of Mohammedanism.

Such was the enthusiasm of these

Knights of Old

that difficulties were overcome and obstacles surmounted which would have daunted less devoted souls, and were it not for the human passions and selfish ambitions which animated their leaders the garlands of victory would, no doubt, have been entwined round their banners and the rich fruitage of their self-sacrifice would have become the heritage of posterity. Though they failed to attain the primary object of their mission they, nevertheless, exerted a most beneficial influence on their day and generation. The Crusades were a public demonstration of the power which the Church was able to exercise over her children. They proved that she could inspire men of every rank and condition of life with such devotion to her welfare that, at her bidding, they left home and country and, on a foreign soil, bared their swords and shed their blood in protest against the encroachment of her enemies. Thus they taught men to place a higher value on the unseen blessings of heaven than upon the fleeting possessions of earth; to follow the dictates of an upright conscience inspired by God and to rely upon strength from above to energize and sustain them in their struggle for the triumph of right.

Thus, apart from the social and industrial benefits conferred upon the western world by this contact with the civilization and refinement of the East, the Crusades insured the triumph of Catholic ideals and principles. They quickened the faith of the individual, strengthened his hope and broadened his charity. They dealt a deathblow to the spirit of irreligion in its incipient stages and opposed a barrier to the advancing hosts of rationalism. They were, in brief, a practical, public attestation of the eternal truth that God reigns and that the Church's mission is divine.

Had a similar wave of enthusiasm swept over Europe two centuries later it is not improbable that the religious upheaval of those days would have been nought but an episode in the history of the Church, and that Catholicism would now be enshrined in every heart which throbs for Christ and His kingdom. And were a movement of similar import and suited to present conditions inaugurated in our own day, who could estimate its value as a factor in the work of social, political and religious development? Who would venture to say that the evils which now beset humanity and which cry to heaven for redress would not disappear as the gourd of Jonas which withered in a night. Where shall we find the stout hearts and sturdy faith which must characterize the twentieth century crusaders—the men, who by their intelligent zeal and Christlike devotion to duty

OFFICERS OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL No. 1107, WINNIPEG



Top Row—Dr. A. G. Meindl, A. J. H. Dubuc, L. Villeroy, F. W. Russell, L. Cardinal, H. H. Cottingham, O. Marris, Physician, Advocate, Trustee, Recorder, Warden, Lecturer, Outside Guard
Middle Row—D. Smith, J. E. O'Connor, T. D. Deegan, J. K. Barrett, L.L.D., J. J. Callahan, Trustee, Dep. Grand Knight, Grand Knight, Chancellor, Secretary
Lower Row—Norman J. Lindsay, J. Bernier, St. J. Langford, Treasurer, Trustee, Inside Guard

of exceptional power and eloquence. With splendid oratory he briefly sketched the career of the intrepid discoverer, the motives which led him to start on his perilous voyage, and the religious principles and zeal which sustained him in his great undertaking. He pointed out the lessons which all Knights of Columbus should learn from the devotion and courage of their great patron and leader, and, speaking of the proceedings of the day, he paid a generous and glowing compliment to the intelligence, patriotism and Catholic vitality which distinguished those who had that day been initiated into the ranks.

Mr. T. D. Deegan then gave the toast of "Our Guests," speaking of the gratitude of the local Knights to the visitors for coming here in such large numbers to instal the Council. In well chosen words and with great feeling he accepted on behalf of the Winnipeg Council the mission which had been given them of fostering and propagating the principles and teachings of the order in the city and the Canadian west, and he expressed his conviction that the Knights of Winnipeg would be found worthy of the great trust that had been reposed in them, and that they would be faithful and true to the important obligations they had that day taken upon themselves.

Rev. Father Reardon responded in a speech glowing with burning eloquence and held the breathless attention of all present with a most fervent peroration on the glories of the two great

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A kind correspondent, while sending us from far away Gaspe on the eastern shores of the Dominion a clipping from Marie Corelli on the Spanish royal match, writes: "It was written by a novelist whose name is Corelli—had not she better be called Gorilla?—who attacked the much abused Princess Ena. Would not Miss Gorilla sell her soul to Old Nick if she had a chance? It is all sour grapes with her. I hope all the evil thinking wretches will be disappointed when the happy day comes of the wedding." Although this language is not precisely parliamentary, yet it is far less lurid than the diatribes in which Marie Corelli delights, and the allusion to "The Sorrows of Satan" is sufficiently transparent. Fortunately, no sensible person cares a row of pins for what Miss Corelli thinks. None but imperfectly educated readers, who have not a dream of the canons of literary criticism, find anything to praise or admire in the more recent productions of her prolific but extremely vulgar pen. Age seems to increase the sourness of her temper and to intensify the many faults of her feebly forcible, epithet-ridden style.

At the time we wrote these comments last week it had been announced that the funeral service for the late General of the Jesuits, the Very Rev. Luis Martin, would take place on Wednesday of this week. But the departure of Archbishop Langevin for Montreal on Sunday necessitated a change of date, as His Grace expressed a wish to officiate on

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conflicts and enabled her to detect the silver lining of even the darkest cloud which cast its shadow across her pathway. Under the leadership and inspiration of the hierarchy Catholic laymen have done noble work in the past and the horoscope of the future indicates that in the twentieth century of the Church's history still greater deeds will be expected of them than they have yet performed, greater reliance than heretofore placed upon them in the task of disseminating the gospel of Christ's kingdom and greater perfection demanded of them in the work of harmonizing their lives, even to minutest detail, with their professions of practical Catholicity.

In order that the Church in this modern age may fulfil her mission of teacher and thereby exert over all that supreme spiritual influence which alone can elevate and refine human nature, there must be a manifestation of zeal and activity on the part of her children such as the world has not witnessed since the days when the Crusades evoked "one of the most glorious triumphs of Christianity."

The Middle Ages are memorable in the history of the world not only because of the great men who in every sphere of human thought shed lustre on their annals, but because of the heroic deeds for God and His Church which they chronicle. 'Twas during these ages of faith that the religious enthusiasm of the Catholic laity reached its culmination. These were the days when the inspiring eloquence of Peter the Hermit roused Europe to put on its

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