

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welcome, but anonymous letters and letters which the Manager does not consider for the welfare of the Association will not be published.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 brevity much desired.

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LONDON, AUGUST, 1890.

CONVENTIONS.

Before another issue of THE CANADIAN will see the light the Ottawa Convention will be recorded among the events of the past. It is timely, then, that in this number we should ask the delegates and all concerned to ponder seriously on the business about to be transacted.

The holding of our Conventions is a matter of great moment to the organization. It is the time when its destinies are shaped, when those who are charged with the administration of our affairs, in the interim, are called upon to render an account of their stewardship, and when every question that makes for our welfare comes before us for criticism and supervision.

And having in view the great expense entailed, we cannot afford to regard our Convention lightly from a financial aspect.

Our Conventions, in a word, form the great stepping-stones by which we climb either to failure or success.

If, therefore, our meeting is to be of any material benefit to us, as an association, it should aim at improving the condition of our members, socially, financially, numerically, at spreading the light of the organization, widening the bounds of its influence, and ensuring its permanency and stability.

How is this to be done? Along what lines can we work to promote the welfare of our members? What errors, if any, have we fallen into in the past? How can we avoid these in the future? These are some of the questions that ought to occupy the minds of our delegates from now till we meet at Ottawa. If there be any among us who look forward to the Convention as a holiday jaunt, we say to them, in all candor, they might far better remain at home. The Convention forms an important era in our history, and we want serious, thoughtful men — men who are alive to the gravity of their positions, who have given time and care to the advancement of the great work, and whose presence, whose advice, will add to our advancement and prosperity. Looking back on the history of our Conventions we trust we will be pardoned if

we give expression to the thought that we have not at these meetings accomplished all we would desire. Time has been squandered, and consequently expense incurred, in debating constitutional points of little consequence, in aimless discussions, in useless fault-finding — sometimes, indeed, in personal bickerings. Questions of this sort should find no place in our deliberations. By all means allow the fullest and freest discussion where such will be fruitful of good results. Let us discuss how we can increase our membership, how we can keep down our assessments, how we can increase our reserve fund, how we can in any way promote the welfare of the Association, how we can bring happiness and security to the thousands committed to our care, and the inducements and attractions we can offer the countless others rapping at our doors for admission.

It is not that we have any reason to complain of our standing in the community, of our financial position, or of the growth we have made, that we write thus. In all these respects we occupy an enviable position. But we must remember that the more we increase, the greater becomes our responsibility, the greater is the charge laid upon us, and the more we must struggle — in season and out of season — to maintain our prestige, to be faithful to our trust, and to guard our bark aright.

Now, let every man who attends the Convention take this home to himself. He must consider himself as a plouger in a sacred mission, and he must bring to the prosecution of his work all the enthusiasm and unbounded energy characteristic of those who, engaged in a great cause, cease not their labors till the day is won.



Peter Joseph Rooney, Grand Trustee,
C. M. B. A. of Canada

The subject of this sketch, Mr. P. J. Rooney, Grand Trustee of the C. M. B. A. of Canada, comes of good old Celtic Irish stock, although he was born in Glenluce, Wigtonshire, Scotland, on April 8th, 1852. He received his early education at the

parochial school, where he made rapid advance in his elementary studies, and at the age of 14 years was apprenticed for five years to the retail dry goods business, and, having faithfully discharged the duties called for by the terms of his indentures, he determined to try his fortune in Canada, where he landed, in 1871. Having a due sense of the keenness of the battle of life in the New World, as well as of the advantage of a thorough business training, he entered St. Michael's College, Toronto, where he completed his commercial course, capturing the first prizes and graduating with the highest honors. Then the real, practical work of his commercial career began, for he entered the employ of his kinsmen, the well-known wholesale importers of silks, linens and woollens, the Messrs. N. & F. Rooney, Toronto. His first position in the firm was that of entry clerk, from which he rapidly rose to the head of one of the leading departments. And so punctual and efficient was he in the discharge of all his duties that the firm deemed him worthy to represent it throughout the provinces, and it was in his 24th year that he took the road, a calling in which he has been very successful and which he pursues to the present day. When Mr. Rooney first went out on the road he was considered one of the youngest travellers representing any wholesale firm in the city; Bro. Rooney proved himself a very diligent searcher for orders, and, having once obtained them, he took particular pains to see that they were scrupulously filled; and by his straightforward conduct he gained the favor and confidence of his customers and of his employers too, and to-day Brother Rooney is well known and respected in commercial circles and by mercantile men in every city and town between Quebec and Windsor. In his frequent journeys up and down the country he never forgets the interests of the C. M. B. A., and many of its branches bear testimony to the benefits derived from his kindly visits and practical instructions. While not one of the Association's oldest members, he is entitled to rank as one of its most zealous workers.

In July, 1890, he connected himself with Branch 15, Toronto, first as auditor, in which capacity he put the finance department in good shape. In the second year the confidence and trust of his fellow-members lifted him to the position of first vice-president and in the year following he was made president.

Still higher honors awaited the worthy brother, for in 1894 he was elected a delegate to the Convention in St. John, N. B., and there duly elected a Grand Trustee, an office he still holds.

This circumstance naturally gave deep satisfaction to Brother Rooney's wide circle of friends, but especially so to the Toronto members, who were pleased at the mark of confidence bestowed upon their trusted fellow-townsmen.

Apart from Brother Rooney's other qualifications for the position he holds in the Association, when occasion demands it he can fluently voice, on the public platform, his thoughts in relation to the aims and objects of the Association, and his well-reasoned words produce good results.

In concluding this sketch of our able brother, we think it may interest

members of the C. M. B. A. to know that Brother Rooney married, in 1885, Miss Minnie Gormaly, daughter of Mr. Wm. Gormaly, Superintendent of the Union Station, Toronto, and that in his happy home at 60 Spadina avenue he finds the bliss and contentment which his worthy helpmeet provides for him, and there, with his devoted little ones growing up around him, he can shelter himself from the fatigues and vexations which the outside world inflicts upon those who have to mingle in its unceasing struggle.



Thos. P. Coffee, Esq., Q.C., Chairman
of Committee on Laws.

Bro. Coffee, Chairman of the Committee on Laws, is a charter member of Branch 31, Guelph, which was formed in 1882 by the late Rev. Father Dumortier, S. J., and after having filled various offices in the gift of his branch, including that of president, was first elected a delegate to the convention at Montreal and then again at Hamilton, when he was elected a member of the Grand Council Committee on Laws. This Committee appointed him its Chairman, and when re-elected at St. John was again elected Chairman of the Committee; and it will be his duty to preside over the Committee during its deliberations at the Ottawa convention to be held this month. Bro. Coffee has always been an industrious worker in the C. M. B. A., and has done a great deal to build up a large branch in the Royal City of Guelph.

He is a graduate of the Guelph Collegiate Institute, after leaving which he entered as a student-at-law at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was admitted to practice as a solicitor and called to the bar in 1882. Bro. Coffee at once commenced to practice his profession in his native city, where he has, by his industry and personal worth, obtained a prominent position in the province. He has been the senior member of the firms of Coffee & Coffee; Coffee, Field & Coffee; Coffee, Field & Wissler, and is now the senior member of the firm of Coffee & Buckingham, practicing at Guelph. He was lately created a Queen's Counsel by the Dominion Government.

In public life he has been most active, and has been nine times successively elected a member of the City Council of Guelph, in which capacity he has served as chairman of all the most important