

NOVEMBER 6, 1921

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

HUNDRED DELEGATES MEET IN LONDON FOR THE FIRST DIOCESAN CONVENTION

London Free Press, October 26. Formally welcomed to the city by Mayor E. S. Little in a brief address at the opening of today's session over one hundred delegates, from all parts of the Diocese of London, gathered in St. Peter's Parish Hall this afternoon for the first diocesan convention of the Catholic Women's League.

"My message to you is to start something," said Mrs. McCann in her presidential address this afternoon. "This may sound like slang, but it fits the case. Go back to your homes and tell your husbands that the years gone by were for the men; that 1921 and the years to come are for the women, who will show by their good works the benefit of organization."

Outlining the social service and child welfare activities, which are to be the keynote of the new diocesan league, Mrs. McCann enjoined the delegates to "arrange first aid classes, hold baby clinics, see that poor children have lots of milk, take up child welfare, educate the mothers, join your neighbors in establishing a library, save some erring girls, look after immigrants, visit the hospitals, help the poor and needy, organize Girl Guides, visit the schools, provide social opportunity for the girls, and so on."

REGISTER ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN. "The first and immediate work that faces our league is to get all the Catholic women, whether members of the league or not, on the voters' list," Mrs. McCann said. "Committees should be organized in every parish and should not cease their activities until every Catholic woman is registered."

Referring to the organization of the diocese, the president pointed out that although begun only last February, 88 organized subdivisions are represented at this first convention. "All this organization has been accomplished without one dollar of expense save bare traveling expenses," Mrs. McCann said. "One of my greatest pleasures while organizing was meeting so many of our French-Canadian members," the president continued. "I will never forget their kindly welcome. While in Toronto I urged in the strongest terms that part of our reports in the Canadian League be printed in French and, although my motion was turned down, there is a strong agitation now going on which may result in having some pages printed in French in the near future."

As practical work for the immediate future, the president suggested the formation of parochial committees, for the assistance of pastors, particularly among the women and children of the parish and in the hospitals. "I would strongly urge that child welfare be taken up and that experts be secured to give lectures on this important subject," the president said.

Locally, it was explained, hospital visiting had been taken up and a certain sum laid aside each month for comforts for the patients, while generous assistance is being given needy families, and classes in physical culture for both adults and children have been found most beneficial. "Let me conclude with the words of Cardinal Gibbons," Mrs. McCann said. "Expect great things of ourselves, our fellow women, our country and our God."

LADY BECK. The president referred feelingly to the death of the late Lady Lillian Beck. "Many of us have had the pleasure of being associated with her in the work of the Red Cross, Byron Sanatorium and other work for the welfare of her fellow citizens," Mrs. McCann said. "Lady Beck was a wonderful leader and organizer, and none of her co-workers could ever say that she asked them to do work she would not undertake herself. In all the Catholic works of charity she was a keen sympathizer and a generous contributor. She needs no monument to keep her alive in the hearts of the citizens of London, but I would ask our resolutions committee to prepare a resolution expressive of our deep sympathy with Sir Adam Beck and Miss Marion Beck."

MEET PROTESTANT WOMEN WORKERS. A happy augury for the first convention of the Catholic women of the Diocese of London was the luncheon arranged at the Tecumseh House yesterday in honor of the delegates to the Catholic Women's League convention, taking place in this city yesterday and today. The hostesses were the members of the London subdivision of the league, with Mrs. B. C. McCann, presiding over the pretty tables, which were decorated most charmingly with snowy mums.

Mlle. Guerin of Montreal, president of the Dominion Catholic Women's League, was warmly welcomed by the delegate guests. "I claim French origin, and I am proud of it," Mlle. Guerin said. "I claim origin, too, from that little beloved, troubled country, Ireland, but Canada is my country, the only country in the world, the greatest country in the world, and it is the women of Canada who can make it holy as well as great."

The singing of the Marseillaise was a gracefully spontaneous tribute from the delegates to their distinguished officer, whose brief address was followed by greetings from Mrs. W. H. Loverney, president of the Hamilton subdivision, and treasurer of the Dominion League; from Mrs. Margaret Jones, of Montreal, executive secretary, from Mrs. Kentleton, of Toronto, provincial organizer of the league, and from Mrs. Allen McLean, of Toronto, a former active worker in this city.

Greetings to the league delegates were also presented by Mrs. T. E. Leonard, president Women's Canadian Club; Mrs. E. B. Smith, president local Council of Women, and regent Municipal Chapter I. O. D. E. E. Mrs. John Stevely, president Sanatorium Aid Society, and Mrs. J. P. Betts, provincial commissioner Girl Guides; Mrs. Betts referred particularly to the recent gratifying decision to have two Catholic committees of guides formed in this city. During the luncheon Mrs. Ed. Wyatt sang several delightful solos.

WOMEN IN THE FIGHT. "If women would only undertake to fight the devil and all his pomps and works it would go hard with the devil," said Mlle. Guerin, Dominion president of the Catholic Women's League, in a brief address to the diocesan convention delegates at luncheon yesterday.

"I agree with His Lordship Bishop Fallon that London is on top," Mlle. Guerin said in a pretty tribute to her hostesses. "It was worth while coming all the way from Montreal to attend this convention."

"I wish your children could learn more about Canadian history," Mlle. Guerin went on, "especially more about the French side of Canadian history, about the delicate, high-bred French ladies like Jeanne Mance, who went bravely pioneering through the Canadian forests in their little high-heeled shoes."

"We make ideals," Mlle. Guerin said, "and our ideals should be as high as the cross on the pinnacle of our church, and our eyes should never fall below the light that shines from it."

PRactical QUESTIONS DISCUSSED. The election of Mrs. B. C. McCann as first diocesan president of the Catholic Women's League in the diocese of London was greeted at the morning session of the league convention with sustained applause from the delegates and members. Mrs. McCann has been instrumental in the formation of the Catholic League in this diocese and the delegates refused to allow any other name to stand for the presidency.

Mrs. McCann's executive includes: Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, honorary president; Mrs. Dunn, Chatham, first vice-president; Mrs. Meehan, St. Thomas, second vice-president; Mrs. Trotiere, Belle River, third vice-president; Mrs. J. B. Leech, of this city, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Cleary, Windsor; Mrs. Dawson, Sarnia; Mrs. Brophy, Woodstock; Mrs. Fleming, St. Marys; Mrs. Bohan, Logan Township, Miss Le Boeuf, Tilbury, and Mrs. John MacDonald, Brussels, councillors.

FAVOR MOTHERS' CLUBS. The proposal to form a Home and Social Club, or Mothers' Club, in each parish where the Catholic League is organized met with general approval when presented by the resolutions committee, and was the center of an interesting discussion. Recommended, because of the "need for further co-operation between mothers and teachers and as a step towards developing activities along the line of girl guide organization, library interest, etc.," the matter of a more careful selection of juvenile reading matter was particularly emphasized.

WOULD PROVIDE COUNSEL. In connection with a resolution referring to the establishment of juvenile courts in centers not already supplied, it was recommended that the league get in touch with any Catholic cases, adult or juvenile, and if necessary provide counsel for the cases.

Mrs. Lovering, of Hamilton, had some interesting things to tell of the Big Sister movement in this connection, stating that in her city organization of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish churches had been found most satisfactory. "The juvenile magistrate will suspend a girl for her first offense, if there is a Big Sister there to take charge of her," Mrs. Lovering said. The Hamilton president also suggested that in the smaller centers members of the league might undertake to be present in the courts where juvenile cases were to be tried.

VARIED ACTIVITIES URGED. Mlle. Guerin, of Montreal, Dominion president, had something to say with regard to the resolution urging "that the executive in each subdivision appoint a voters' list committee at once, to provide for the registration of Catholic women voters and for instruction as to the intelligent use of the ballot," a resolution which also carried by popular vote.

"We have talked, and talked about the suffrage," Mlle. Guerin said, "and now we are face to face with it, and the Holy Father has enjoined us to fulfil our right to the franchise as a sacred duty. The league must remain nonpartisan,

but what may we not demand (very humbly of course) from any Government, when we can go to them and say 'we have half a million Catholic women behind us.'"

Agreeing with the resolutions committee that a "regular distribution of milk among the school children during the morning session would be beneficial in counteracting the evils of malnutrition, and would aid in the conservation of child life," the convention decided to recommend to the Dominion executive the appointment of a diocesan representative on the Dominion committee on child welfare soon to be established. Through this committee it is hoped to take definite steps along this line, and also towards the appointment of Catholic school health nurses, to cover certain districts where there are two large centers.

An important resolution recommended to the Dominion executive that a proportionate number of pages in the Canadian League be printed in French, in view of the fact that many of the parishes in Western Ontario are wholly French. Mlle. Guerin explained this point in French to a number of the delegates, her address in the French tongue forming an interesting item on the morning program.

Details of the morning session included a brief address from the president, referring to the work of the Girl Guides soon to be undertaken in the Catholic Diocese of London, and including some interesting suggestions for work in the subdivisions, which she thought could cover prizes in the school for Empire Day essays as a means of stimulating patriotic interest.

A gift of roses to the president from Mrs. E. B. Smith, president of the Local Council of Women, was a graceful tribute from a sister organization.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY OF CANADA

TRAVELLING FOR CHRIST

A WESTERN MISSIONARY'S NOTES CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

IV.

At this point, as the stage directions would say "Enter Father Louis." He is the other missionary on this line, and in his way, he is just as well known as Father Pat. When at home (which isn't often) he occupies the other half of the shack, and shares the kitchen, which is, as it were, neutral territory. Not that the two shake hands at war, but because the comings and goings of the two good men are not simultaneous. I heard of a French pastor, during the War, whose quiet presbytery was so disturbed by the movements of two chaplain guests that he pinned a notice to their doors, directing them "To come in and go out, please, at the same time, now and for evermore." All that notice needed, by the way, was the word Amen at the end. With or without it wouldn't have the slightest effect on our two brave missionaries. They come in and go out at all kinds of times, and neither one disturbs his neighbor. Father Pat is pretty much on the main line of the railroad, and is dependent upon its fickle humors, while Father Louis has the branch line, and follows up the twigs, to pursue the simile, on "Shank's pony." I am afraid the simile is a bit mixed, but I trust, as the classics say, that you will "gather me" all right. In any case he does come back occasionally, and, on the Monday evening we returned from a walk to find him placidly consuming the prunes which we had thoughtfully cooked under the porridge in the morning! That is Father Louis all over. He is invariably placid, always pleasant and serene—even after a ten-mile walk with the suit-cases which contain his chapel, his portable confessional, his pictorial catechisms, and last, but not least, his wife. In his letter article, by the way, is used during the armistice period of catechism lessons, with good effect. For twenty-four hours we were all together, and drew up our plan of campaign. There were also various temporalities to be thought of, such as the buying of eggs and butter for the long winter, for we have no housekeepers other than the good "church ladies" who sometimes come into the shack and give it the "once-over."

On the following day I set out for Jasper Park. The brief train journey was more bumpy than ever as we crawled into the Rockies, but it was very delightful to wake up the next morning, and find a fresh sifting of sugar-like snow on the mountains. We have here at our disposition a tiny chapel-house provided with the help of the Catholic Extension. On this week-day visit I did not use it, however, as the I. C. S. car standing on a siding was an ideal place in which to celebrate the Holy Mysteries. It was good to see an "engineer" get up off his knees, and board his engine fifty yards away to begin his responsibilities for the day.

On Saturday I bade a temporary farewell to my kind host, and proceeded to Lucerne, B. C., the furthest point of my district and its low-water mark as far as convenience is concerned. The little railway village, picturesquely built upon a causeway between two

lakes, has no church of any kind Catholic and Protestant alike have the use of the little school house, and of a bell which sometimes, alas! falls upon unheeding ears.

Having secured an apartment in the rooming-house, I was lucky enough to meet a picnic party from Jasper, and, with them, to enjoy a delightful lunch on the lake shore. Then I made my pastoral visitation, and erected my altar as best I could and a table eked out with soap-boxes. I found that I had forgotten my crucifix, but the blackboard and chalk being just behind the altar, I was able to design one which would, I hope, have satisfied the requirements of Baldesechi.

I then met one of my parishioners, and had my supper with him at the lunch-counter of the railway "beauty," after which I returned over the diggings and piled into bed.

The next day was beautifully fine. The fresh air and the autumnal tints made one feel very optimistic as I rung the chapel-bell. The response to my invitation was, for several good reasons and as many bad ones, pitifully small. Serverless and almost congregation-less I stood at my improvised altar, and sang my Mass all alone as best I could. Over the rest of the day I had better draw a veil. I went over the pastoral visit once again, and heard all the good reasons for non-attendance as well as the bad ones. My heart ached for these poor scattered Catholics, cut off from all that could remind them of the faith which they still profess in the face of indifference and opposition. Let us hope that some day the long arm of Catholic Extension will reach out to Lucerne the lovely, and help to build on the shores of those delightful lakes, a little chapel which may gather in the faithful and, please God, some of the unfaithful too.

VI. My return to Edison was uneventful. Father Pat has left long ago for his long journey to the north. Father Louis has been in again, filled one up with good advice, spiritual or temporal, and left me finally to the silence of the house. For the past few days I have been trying, with the help of a few good parishioners, to "beaver board" its draughty interior. It is hard to keep up one's enthusiasm for carpentering though, when the great business of cooking and washing up three times a day gives one all the manual labor that is necessary. To vary the monotony, one can, of course, run down to the store to buy a can of Boston beans, or see whether the mail has at last arrived! But, on the whole, there are many lonely hours, and I want the readers of the "Catholic Register" who have had the patience to read these lines, to have the kindness to remember, in their prayers for priests, those especially who occupy the outposts of the Faith. I hope also that priests who minister and people who worship in beautiful churches (with steam heat in the winter) will remember the coldness and the poverty of the many Bethlehems which our Divine Saviour will inhabit this next Christmas in the West. Clad in the vestments which "Extension" sends us, we cannot fail to pray for you before our humble altars. Do you, dear readers, pray for us, and continue to help as you have done in the past.

THE LECTURE GUILD

The Lecture Guild list of speakers suitable for Catholic Colleges and School, Social and Religious Societies, Clubs, Banquets, Conventions, Commencements, etc., has made its third annual appearance.

This year it is a very compact little volume of twenty-four pages that may be easily slipped into an ordinary envelope.

The Advisory Board remains the same, with the exception of Miss Clare Cogan, the founder of the International Catholic Alumnae Association. As she has joined the Dominican Tertiaries at Maryknoll it has been necessary to accept her resignation.

The lecturers include the best in the country and the subjects are well up to date. There are new lecturers as well as new subjects.

Among the Europeans are Mr. Cathal O'Byrne and Miss Annie Christich. Mr. O'Byrne whose volumes of poems, The Lane of The Thrushes, and The Grey Feet of the Wind, preceded him and are already out of print, comes to sing as well as talk about the Folksongs of Ireland.

Miss Christich, who has an Irish mother, during the War raised funds for eight hospitals in her native country Serbia by lecturing in

England. At the Convention of the N. C. C. W., Father Jos. Husslein, S. J. in his address on Women's Influence in Moulding Public Opinion, spoke of the valiant work she had done in that field in the International Congress of Women in Geneva. She has letters of recommendation from Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary, Cardinal Bourne, Cardinal Logue, Cardinal O'Connell, and Archbishops and bishops too numerous to mention, and from the religious of the many convents in this country in which she has spoken.

The Lecture Guild will gladly send free its list of speakers, and also any information desired in regard to lecturers, their rates and dates. This information, however, varies so, depending on time, distance, and the lecturer, that it is impossible to give it without specific information as to what lecturer or lecturers might be desired and approximate dates. For any information desired address, Secretary of The Lecture Guild, 7 East 42nd Street, New York City, N. Y.

FATHER FRASER'S CHINA MISSION FUND

There are four hundred million pagans in China. If they were to pass in review at the rate of a thousand a minute, it would take nine months for them all to go by. Thirty-three thousand of them die daily unbaptized! Missionaries are urgently needed to go to their rescue.

China Mission College, Almonte, Ontario, Canada, is for the education of priests for China. It has already twenty-two students, and many more are applying for admittance. Unfortunately funds are lacking to accept them all. China is crying out for missionaries. They are ready to go. Will you send them. The salvation of millions of souls depends on your answer to this urgent appeal. His Holiness the Pope blesses benefactors, and the students pray for their daily.

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BRITISH HOME OFFICE

MAKES VICENTIAN'S BIG BROTHERS OF BOYS

London, Oct. 1.—Under a warrant from the Home Office, which in England corresponds to the Ministry of the Interior, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in London took over, some short time ago, the after-care of Catholic lads who found their way into the police courts. Of these particular lads, it is said that this was generally their first and last appearance in court.

But placed under the care of one of the Vincentian probation officers, the boys are clothed, fed, sheltered, and suitable employment is found for them at the earliest opportunity. During the past statistical year one hundred such cases have been taken in hand by the Vincentians in the diocese of Westminster.

Some 400 Brothers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have now volunteered to take a direct personal interest in these young probationers, through the London conferences which extend over something like forty districts.

Of the lads thus taken in hand, some have been equipped with a seaman's kit and have taken to the sea. Some of the younger ones have been placed with foster parents in practically every instance. Of the rest, the boys are dealt with in a manner that is consistent with their future welfare and happiness.

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