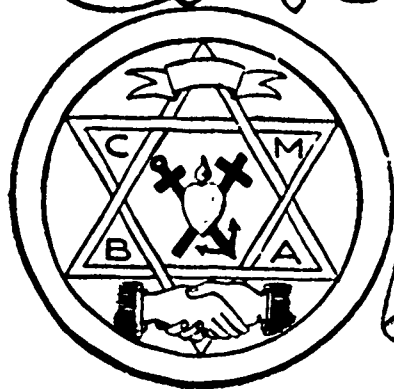


The CANADIAN



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ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

NOTES.

Branch 71, of Montreal, will celebrate its anniversary in March by the holding of a grand open meeting.

Chancellor Walsh, of Branch 147, Toronto, is at present a resident of Montreal.

The Convention meets in August, and it is time for our branches to be up and doing if they wish to make a good showing in increasing membership.

Brother Joseph Battle, of Branch No. 24, Thorold, Ont., has been honored by being elected Mayor of that town for 1898. At a recent meeting of said branch a resolution congratulating him was unanimously adopted. We hope to see Brother Battle chosen to fill a still higher position in the near future.

Branch 26 of Montreal is again leading in the van of good example. The branch has arranged for a series of open meetings during the winter season. By this means the branch hopes to largely increase its membership. The first of these events was held on the evening of Monday, 17th January, and was a success. Several applications, was one of the results of this meeting.

There is not a member of our Association but knows of a friend or relative who should be a member and would be one if the effort was made, but alas no effort is made to bring them into the ranks. This is not as it should be; it is never too late. If, brothers, you have not done your duty in this respect in the past, wake up, go to work at once, spread the advantages you yourselves enjoy, do your duty, act up to your obligations. Our Association is second to none in stability; make it by continued effort second to none in membership.

Grand Deputy Brother J. Hourigan, of Dundas, installed the officers of

Branch No. 286, Oakville, Ont., at the first regular meeting of the branch in January. After the installation, the members and a large number of their friends assembled at the International Hotel, where a banquet was tendered to the Grand Deputy and visiting Brothers. Rev. Father Burke, who was the chairman, delivered an address congratulating the members on the success of their first annual social and dwelling also on the advantages of a membership in the C. M. B. A. He was followed by Grand Deputy Hourigan, President Reynolds, Bro. Manty, of Scranton, Pa., and others. The gathering was decidedly a grand success.

Calgary Branch, No. 126, gave a progressive euchre party on January 19th, in the Alexander Hall of that city, open to the members and their families. About 50 attended. Play started shortly after 9, and continued till 11:30, when an adjournment was made for supper, which was provided by the members' wives. The prize winners for the euchre were: Ladies, Mrs. McKivett; gentlemen, Bro. A. McDonald. Ladies' booby prize, Miss Leo; gentlemen's booby prize, Bro. H. Dennehey. After supper dancing was participated in for a short time, when about 10 o'clock the party broke up, those present having spent a very enjoyable evening. This is the first occasion this branch has celebrated in this manner, and judging by the success which has attended their first effort it is likely the event will become an annual one.

Branches are too apt to forget their interest in the convention. They often feel their duty is performed when they have elected their representative and at the 1st meeting after his return listen to the splendid entertainment the convention city afforded their delegates.

The branch, by virtue of its representative, is the unit at the convention. The delegate is but the mouth-piece of the branch: and it is the duty of the different branches to discuss during the next few months the work that

will be taken up in convention, and farther to impress upon its delegate the fact that he is sent to express, not his own views, but those of his branch. Meetings from this forth should be well attended and the general workings of our splendid Association carefully and thoughtfully discussed.

Branch 126, Calgary, N. W. T.

The installation of officers of the above branch took place in their new hall on the 11th Jan., when a resolution was unanimously passed tendering a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring President, Bro. Mapielon, for the valuable services rendered by him to the branch since its inception in Calgary and particularly for the good work performed by him during the past year, whereby he succeeded in doubling our membership. Calgary branch feels that no individual branch of the C. M. B. A. can claim such a distinction.

The prospect for the present year is exceptionally good, so much so that the officers have every reason to believe that the record will again be broken and the membership up to one hundred.

NEW BRANCH.

Branch No. 270 was organized on January 1, at St. David de L'Auberliere, Que., by Rev. P. J. Montreuil, Organizer. The following is the list of officers: Spiritual Adviser, Rev. H. Desjardins; President, Charles N. Velleux; First Vice, Louis Couture; Second Vice, Napoléon Lamontagne; Recording Secretary, Almar 2^e de la Contagne; Past Rec. Secretary, Arthur Robitaille; Financial Secretary, J. Jean Lamontagne; Treasurer, William G. G. G.; Marshal, Antoine Hal; Grand, Cyprien Lamontagne; Trustees, Charles N. Velleux, Auguste H. Javel, Rev. N. Desjardins, Joseph Philippe Lemelin and Joseph Hall.

THE UNITED TORONTO BRANCHES

Attend Divine Service at St. Patrick's Church.

That the Catholics of the City of Toronto have nothing but good will for the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada was shown by the vast congregation that assembled on the 25th ult. at St. Patrick's church, Wellington street, for the annual church parade of the city branches of the association. The members met at the hall on Metcalfe street, and marched in a body to the church, arriving there about 7:30 o'clock. On their arrival they marched in two deep, and occupied the centre pews at the front of the church. The attendance was the largest yet had at any church parade and the

members presented an imposing appearance as they took their seats. Among those present were Grand Trustee P. J. Rooney; Grand Deputies Kernahan, O'Leary and J. D. Warde, Chairman of the Local Advisory Board.

The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean McMan, who chose for his text Psalm 139, and part of verse 2: "Serve the Lord with gladness." "Man, he had been created to serve God, and as a remuneration for so doing he would receive a crown and a kingdom in Heaven. They were in duty bound to serve God. When God had created man He decreed that all of man's actions should tend toward Him. He decreed that man's actions should tend toward God, and as a river naturally runs to the sea, so man should overcome all obstacles in the service of God. Man had been created by God after His own image. He had fitted him with will, understanding, and intellect. The intellect was given that he might understand the study of truth; the memory that he might recall God's goodness toward him, and the will that he might imitate the Master and do His will at all times. God did not create man because He needed him, for He could have lived for countless ages without him. The Gospel of the day told of the great tribunal on the last day. If they did their duty they need not fear on that day.

The reverend gentleman then spoke of the willingness with which Christians left this world. About the only pang they felt was when they were obliged to leave beloved ones behind unprovided for. The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association had been organized to alleviate just such suffering. They provided the beloved ones of their deceased brethren, and thus enabled them to depend on something more substantial than the good charity of the world. The society was prospering. It had started from a small beginning, like the mustard seed in the parable, and it was becoming a mighty tree. The blessing of His Grace the Archbishop, and the good will of the various pastors, gave prominence to its future success.

Concluding he urged upon them the necessity of conducting the institution on strictly business principles, and charged them to abide by the by-laws of the constitution. He also spoke of the good to be derived from a co-operation with the church.

The musical vespers sung during the evening, under the direction of Signor Diavoli, were excellent, and a substantial collection in aid of the poor of the parish was taken up.