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BRANCH 81, C. M. B. A. IT CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

A Ringing Speech by Grand President John J. Hynes—A Fine Programme Rendered—Who Were There.

Monday evening Branch 81 celebrated its fifth anniversary in a most auspicious manner. St. Joseph's new hall was filled with a most appreciative audience. Among others who were present were Grand Vice-President John F. Kinney, Grand Deputy James L. Whalen, President Thomas Flannery of Branch 12, Chancellor George Messmer of 34 and Ernst of 81, Dr. J. F. Crowley of 88, Rev. T. C. Murphy of 121, Rev. F. C. Oberholzer of Holy Redeemer Church, Rev. M. J. Hargather of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Father Pingel and Richter of St. Joseph's, Police Justice Keeler, Supreme Commander Jos. J. Schueler of the Knights of St. John, and many others.

The programme opened with a finely rendered march by the Mandolin Orchestra, under the direction of M. E. Wollfe. Then President Heilman introduced President John J. Hynes of the New York State Council, who spoke substantially as follows:

"When I accepted the invitation to be present at the fifth anniversary of Branch 81, I did not expect to appear before such an immense audience. For three days past I have been in the neighboring city of Syracuse, where I accepted an invitation from the Catholics of that city to open a fair for the benefit of a great charity. Though I could ill afford the time, the position I occupy gave me an opportunity to show the C. M. B. A. stands willing, when an opening presents itself, to aid any charity. Consequently my voice is not in the trim I would like to have it.

"Members of Branch 81, you have reason to be proud on the fifth anniversary of your institution. Five years ago last night Branch 81 was launched upon the sea of life with 15 charter members. There were then 80 branches of the C. M. B. A. in New York State with a membership of about 5,000; five years has passed away and now there are 148 branches with a membership of about 12,000. It has been branches like 81 that have contributed to this increase. Starting with fifteen members, it struggled along as do all new associations, and at the end of the first year had gained five or six members. Then new blood was infused, and 81 has been constantly increasing ever since. Much is due to the indomitable perseverance of members like your energetic recording secretary, Brother Bayer. To-day the branch has about 175 members. This is, indeed, a record to be proud of. If I am not greatly mistaken, in a short time 81 will deserve the title of 'The Banner Branch of Rochester,' a coveted distinction in the Flower City.

"There are times when C. M. B. A. members are accused of self-praise. We do not deserve it. We speak of our organization, not because of pride or a desire to look down upon our neighbors who do not belong to the C. M. B. A. But we wish to incite in the hearts of those who are not members a desire to become such. We who are in it want others to enjoy the same benefits as ourselves. We wish to tell them there are benefits to be derived from the C. M. B. A. while living, as well as those to be derived by our heirs at our deaths. There is no young man within the sound of my voice who would not be benefited thereby. There are other objects to be considered the fraternal assistance they can give on the one side and the benefits they can receive on the other. They can be of great service to the world, and to the Church, and to the Society, and to the State, and to the Nation, and to the Empire, and to the Universe, and to the Kingdom of God on Earth, and to the Kingdom of Heaven above."

tally. The moral effects upon the members are many; friendships are formed and acquaintances made which have a great influence, especially over young men. A man must be a practical Catholic to be a member. The C. M. B. A. is the only fraternal organization that makes practical Catholicity a part of the contract between itself and its members. It is the only organization that demands that its members remain practical Catholics or forfeit their membership. That is part of the contract, the fundamental law of the association—the only law that cannot be altered, amended or repealed. Not only must a brother be a practical Catholic when he joins, but he must remain so. He must act in conjunction with the Church, consequently the organization exerts an effective moral influence over its members. What a beautiful sight it is to see all over this country branches in a body receiving Holy Communion. And a member must do this or lay himself liable to expulsion, unless he explains matters to the satisfaction of the spiritual adviser. To the many wives, mothers and sisters, it must be a pleasing sight to see husbands, brothers and fathers proceed up to the altar to receive Holy Communion. How many members had not for years received Holy Communion until the influence of the C. M. B. A. was brought to bear upon them. These are facts. Is it any wonder, then, we claim so much for the C. M. B. A., when it has done so much for our kind? It furnishes us the social recreation and enjoyment necessary for humanity. Another thing the C. M. B. A. has helped to remove and that is the question of nationality. We are all brothers of one family, no matter of what race we be. Then the C. M. B. A. makes men feel at home. I have only been in your city a few hours, and am now apparently surrounded by strangers; in reality I am among brothers.

"Let us stop and look behind us. When we look upon a handsome painting, we seldom look behind the canvas and think it represents many hours of anguish and labor spent by the artist. When we look at this beautiful building and admire the architectural skill displayed therein, how many of us reflect upon the sleepless days and nights passed by the good clergymen and others interested in its erection, planning how to raise the necessary funds to pay the bills as they came in? So it has been with the C. M. B. A. While we are now admiring its influence, look behind and reflect on the early days when those excellent men who instituted the first branch and worked early and late to plant the good seed. How many weary hours were wasted from our business, to the rack of brain and body, often to the depletion of our own pockets. I hope hereafter when thinking of the prosperity of the C. M. B. A. you will remember its early struggles.

"We have now almost 400 branches with 27,000 members; we have four grand councils and branches in almost every State in the North. All this has grown from the little branch instituted in Niagara Falls twelve years ago, with but 28 charter members. From 28 feeble members in twelve years the C. M. B. A. has swelled its ranks to 27,000, and is now filled with members of all classes, helping each other, and ready at all times to respond to the calls of Charity.

"This is the association to which Branch 81 is affiliated, and no one who is a member has the slightest cause for regret. In conclusion, I permit me to express my thanks in the courteous manner in which I have been received, and to speak for you."



JOHN J. HYNES.

gratulate 81. I hope that five years from now, when you celebrate your tenth anniversary, your membership of 175 may have increased to 300 enthusiastic Brothers."

Mr. Hynes was loudly applauded at the conclusion of his remarks.

Miss Rose Sichel sang "Fruehlingsernt" in a manner that won for her a hearty encore. Miss Katherine J. Burns recited the "School Boys' Strike," substituting the names of several well-known parishioners of St. Joseph's for the original names. She was warmly applauded, as she richly deserved to be, and was forced to respond to an encore. The Mandolin Orchestra played another selection, followed by a selected banjo solo by Mr. F. H. Jones, who pleased the audience so much that he had to appear a second time. Miss Rose Sichel sang "Gypsies," and again received an encore to which she bowed her thanks. The Mandolin Quintette, composed of Messrs. E. H. Jones, F. C. Childs, G. R. Stebbins, C. Childs and F. C. Schlitzer, played "Victory March" in inimitable style.

At this point City Attorney Charles B. Ernst, who is a member of Branch 81, was expected to deliver the address in reply to Grand President Hynes. Unfortunately "Charley" was confined to his home by illness and sent a letter in which he stated he was very sorry he could not appear before the audience for half an hour. All present were much disappointed at not hearing Mr. Ernst, and sorry to learn of his illness.

Messrs. Frank C. Schlitzer and Sam. Whiting played a pretty zither and flute duet, after which Miss Katherine Burns recited Lover's "Jimmie Hoey" in faultless style. A selection by the Mandolin Orchestra closed the programme.

Afterward refreshments were served on the ground floor. Later, the C. M. B. A. members held a sort of reunion, at which old acquaintances were renewed and new ones contracted. Grand President Hynes presided, and toasts were responded to as follows:

"The Spiritual Adviser," Very Rev. Jos. Wirth; "The Press," Ludwig Lederer of the *Katholische Volkszeitung*; "Our Visitors," Matthew Rohr of Buffalo; "The C. M. B. A. in Rochester," Grand Vice-President John F. Kinney; "The Grand Deputies of the State of New York," Grand Deputy James L. Whalen; "The District Deputies," District Deputy Lehmann; "The Young Members," Recording Secretary Charles M. Bayer of Branch 81; "The Ladies," Col. Jos. J. Schueler; "Our Hosts," President F. J. Heilman of Branch 81; Chancellor E. J. Ernst read a letter from Grand Secretary Joseph Cameron of New York city, in which he expressed his deep regret at not being able to be present. A thoroughly good time was enjoyed by all, and it was late when the throng dispersed.

The officers of this flourishing organization are: Rev. Joseph Wirth, spiritual adviser; Joseph J. Schueler, chancellor; Frank J. Heilman, president; John McGreal, second vice-president; Charles M. Bayer, recording secretary; Anthony Bach, assistant recording secretary; Jno. C. Koosterer, financial secretary; Leo A. Schlitzer, treasurer; Henry W. Schlick, marshal; Jacob Hartman, guard; trustees, E. J. Ernst, Nicholas Becker and A. Weidenborner.

John J. Hynes, Grand President of the New York C. M. B. A., is 35 years old and a native of Buffalo. He graduated from the public schools with high honors, and entered Bryant & Stratton's business college. It was not long, however, before he changed his mind and entered upon the study of law. For seven years, while pursuing his legal studies, he was chief of the engrossing department in the Erie county clerk's office. Upon admission to the bar, he resigned that position and entered upon the practice of law. In January, 1887, he was appointed to an important position in the Buffalo corporation counsel's office, which position he still holds, and in which he has gained an enviable reputation for the able manner in which he has discharged his duties. In 1879 and 1880 he represented the largest ward in the Board of Supervisors. He was one of the organizers of the McMahon corps, Buffalo's crack military organization, and served for two years as its commander. He was active in the inception of the Land League, and served as secretary of Branch No. 1, and later of Branch 2 of Buffalo, which he represented at the Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago conventions. He frequently delivered brilliant lectures in behalf of the Irish cause. He joined the C. M. B. A. as a charter member of Branch No. 8 of Buffalo, in July, 1878, and since that date has taken a very active interest in the association. He has represented Branch No. 8 in every Grand Council, and invariably has been a member of the most important committee of that body. He has for several years been one of the representatives of the New York Grand Council in the Supreme Council, and in that capacity has materially assisted in framing the wise laws by which this splendid organization is governed. He was unanimously elected Grand President of the New York State Grand Council at the Auburn convention, August 9, 1888.

Mr. Hynes is an earnest and eloquent speaker, and one that never tires his hearers.

NOTES.

Long live Branch 81. It was a great success. Frank Hauss looked happy. Bro. J. P. Leinen was a most efficient stage manager. Every one admired the new hall. Its acoustics are simply perfect. The fair sex had an able champion in Col. Jos. J. Schueler. The ushers were most polite and obliging. All visiting brethren enjoyed themselves. Bro. E. J. Ernst has our thanks for his kind invitation. Secretary Charles M. Bayer's services to 81 were not overrated by Grand President Hynes. Grand Deputy Whalen's speech was a very witty one and filled with humorous hits at various brethren present. Brother Lederer referred in his speech in pleasing terms to the *Catholic Journal*. Thanks, comrades. Too bad that Brother Charles B. Ernst could not have added his always entertaining remarks to the programme. There are some orators in

Slavery and the Social Question, the Things that Need Special Attention. According to an interview in the *New York Herald*, the Holy Father recently said he had a great tenderness for all who live in America, Protestant and all. "Under the constitution religion is perfect liberty and is a growing power in America the vicar of Christ is respected; but it is not always so in Europe. Here there are in countries those who have nothing but hate for the head of the Christian world and offer insults to the Holy See. "These are times of social unrest and impending disorder. There is a power that can deal with the anarchist, socialism and discontented organized religion, which will restore morality to society. The result of efforts which have been made to throw aside Christianity and live without it can be seen in the present condition of society—discontent, disorder, hatred and profound unhappiness. I have studied how to bring about change, and while I live I will labor to relieve the world of this terrible confusion. The suffering and helplessness of the working people are sources of great anxiety and grief to me. Their troubles have been largely due to the enemies of Christian morality, who want to see Christianity ended and mankind returned to paganism."

"There are two things in the world at present that need special attention—slavery and the social question. I abolish slavery I have established colleges and am sending out missionaries into Africa and wherever men are in bondage. The true way to free them is to educate and Christianize them. An enlightened man cannot be enslaved. For that reason I devote the energies of the Church to the spread of knowledge among the poor savages. Humanity must come to teach these unfortunate and save them from slavery. "The social question can only be solved by increasing the morality of the world. While Christian nations governed there was no such condition of affairs as we see to-day. But the efforts to destroy religion have done the evils which are agitating society. The social troubles cannot be cured unless mankind comes back to the same principle. But if the faith of Jesus Christ and His church continues to attack and revile the religion which teaches correct morals and has civilized the world, these disorders will increase and overwhelm them."

His Holiness spoke with emotion about his desire for the disarmament of Europe. "The existence of these vast armies is a source of displeasure and sorrow to the Holy See. The military life is injuring hundreds of thousands of young men. It surrounds them with violent and immoral influences; it crushes all their high spiritual life and tends to harden and degrade them. These armies are not merely full of spiritual perils, but they drain the countries of wealth. So long as Europe is filled with soldiers so long will all this labor be withdrawn from the soil and the people will be overburdened with taxes to support the system. The armies of Europe are impoverishing the population."

The American Catholic University at Washington, D. C., announced it will confer no "honorary degrees" on all who receive degrees. They earned them by scholarship. Monsignor Capel has been in California for some years in connection with the California ranch.