

Catholic Societies.

Official Organ C. M. B. A.
All communications to this department should be addressed to Bro. T. H. Donovan.
SOUND ADVICE.

Remarks of Grand Deputy Edward J. Grant at the Installation of the Officers of Branch 12, C. M. B. A.

This appears to me to be a most suitable time to reflect for a few moments upon the past of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, and to draw from its history, if we can, practical lessons for future guidance.

You are acquainted with its origin; you have heard of the three Catholics, of Niagara Falls and Lockport, who, solicited for the welfare of those dependent upon them, wished to join a co-operative insurance association, with the intention of securing the benefits it offered to their families after they were called away.

But, being good Catholics, they asked the opinion of their bishop, before making application to join an organization whose character they knew nothing of. He advised them to try to start an organization like it, but to limit its membership to those of the Catholic faith.

They, encouraged by the suggestion coming from such a source, succeeded in making a start, but you can easily believe that it was up-hill work, and I doubt that they would ever have succeeded if that same prelate, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan of Buffalo, had not come to their assistance, with his influence, co-operation and advice.

We will not go into detail regarding the struggle for success of the organizers of the C. M. B. A., during the early years of its existence.

Suffice to say that the present state of the association, its character and its financial standing, show conclusively with what care and ability it has been managed since its organization—fourteen years ago. Upon reading the reports of the various Grand and Supreme Council conventions, one must be convinced that we have had as representatives men of character and ability, who have in the result of their deliberations shown the best of judgment and great patience, and who have at their elections made choice of officers who have governed and served the association honestly, faithfully and intelligently.

Their wisdom and foresight is proven, particularly when, in looking over our assessment notices, we are able to console ourselves that provision has been made for our relief, in case, through any unusual cause, our assessments would reach more than a certain number in any one year, by the creation of the reserve fund, which now has the handsome sum of over \$70,000 to its credit. Now, in justice to the founders, organizers and the officers who have placed in our charge an organization which they succeeded in bringing to such a complete state of perfection, is it not proper that we should seriously consider what our duties are regarding the future of this association, so that we will not be accused of being unworthy of the trust imposed upon us?

After having been engaged in a business enterprise which has been unusually successful and remunerative, is it not well to consider to what use or source we should attribute success, and ascertain if there be some hidden dangers which may overwhelm us in our success and defeat? That we exist and have existing associations has been a great blessing, but it is not sufficient. One such association of members, merely for mere to increase receive political selfish meetings they were joined for ally disappear and those who are

caucuses, and openly boasting of a certainty of election because of being a member; seeking political situations for oneself or others from a member who has been honestly elected or appointed to a responsible position, merely because they are brothers, when the applicant does not possess the least semblance of qualification for the position to which he aspires. I do not wish it understood that I consider it wrong for one member to assist another to a political office, providing the latter is capable. On the contrary, I deem it a duty one owes to another, but he can be of more assistance fraternally by doing it quietly and with good judgment.

Fortunately instances of this kind have been very rare among the members of this city. The most responsible positions here are held by members of the C. M. B. A., but they, being members of good character, have not allowed themselves, or others for them, to use the association for improper purposes. But as this thing has been done in other localities, I think it is my duty to call your attention to it, so that we may see the danger before it is too late.

I do not want to let this occasion pass without protesting against the habit some of the members have of persistently parading the subject of nationality before this organization. What right has a member to do this? What benefit is it to him? What a remarkable exhibition of brotherly love, unity and affection it is to hear members object to associating with others because of their nationality. Is it not one of the principles of our organization to disregard this old time evil? In fact, a member indulging in this, instead of being entitled to praise, as he would under other circumstances for his devotion to the land of his birth, to his mother country or his fatherland, merits the contempt of his associates.

There is another danger which will injure us greatly, if we do not use caution in confining our entertainments within proper bounds. In our anxiety, as members of different Branches, to acquire a large fund for one purpose or another, we resort to giving entertainments, to which every one, without regard to character, is apt to gain admission. The result is that after the concert or dance has been had, an odium, not only injurious to the local Branch but to the entire C. M. B. A., has been left behind. Is there no danger in allowing such transactions? Can we expect to retain the good will of the clergy under such circumstances? Can our spiritual advisers, when approached by some one asking them if this is a proper association for him to join, consistently answer yes? This association has enrolled on its books the name of an Archbishop, five Bishops and five hundred Priests. It has the sanction and encouragement of the clergy not only within its territory, but far beyond. They know the value of an organization such as this; they realize that it has done and is doing a great amount of good, and that it will continue to do so, if newly elected officers will keep the promise and obligation that you have just made, to perform and enforce the several duties pertaining to your office as prescribed in the Constitution and By-Laws, honestly, faithfully, impartially and without fear or favor.

Having called the attention of the officers to their several duties, I would consider my duty but half performed, did I not allude to the duties of members generally, duties due by them to the officers and the association. Before an applicant is allowed to enter the session room, he is asked, among other questions, if he is willing to obey the laws, rules and regulations of the association. We have all answered yes. Of course we are willing to do most any thing good, but in some cases that is the end of it. We find that after having been admitted some members still possess that willingness, but the act of doing as they promised has become conditional; they will do it, but they want to make their own rules in regard to the manner in which it should be done. After having been admitted into the room, and before we take the obligation, our attention is called to the symbols of

the association, we are told that the characters inscribed thereon, are emblematic of Brotherly Love, Unity and Affection.

One sometimes thinks that our symbol possesses a supernatural power, from the manner in which some members become imbued with those three virtues.

Their love is so strong, that it would excite a mother, wife or sweetheart to feelings of envy, but for the fact that their love lasts only so long as you are united with him in his schemes, and agree with him in his ideas. If you should oppose him, he will show an affection for you certainly very affecting.

After that the candidate takes upon himself the obligation, that he will not knowingly defraud the Association or any of its branches or members.

Is it not defrauding the Association, to advise an applicant, when making out an application, not to insert plain, honest names of diseases, that were the cause of the death of some member of his family, or to insert the words "Don't Know" instead of truthful answers to the questions? You fear that the applicant who, for some reason or another, you are anxious to have elected, will not be admitted if those questions are answered truthfully.

Is not that defrauding the Association, on your part by giving such advice, and is not a member guilty of fraud in gaining admission under such circumstances? It is your solemn duty to give to the Association the benefit of all doubt in such matters.

Are you not wronging members in advertising their faults or shortcomings? We all have faults, we all are liable to make mistakes, but the trouble is some members do not seem to know that the object of this Association is to improve the mental, moral and social condition of its members. They imagine it to be a medium through which they can show their ill natures, their contemptible selfishness and their love for creating scandal, by holding up to public contempt the faults of other members.

You promise to faithfully obey and observe the provisions of the Constitution, and the mandates of our supreme and grand officers, and the orders of the Branch or its officers, and to use due diligence in becoming acquainted with the laws of the Association. It is certainly a duty that you owe the Association to become acquainted with its constitution and its laws. How can you be satisfied that the officers of your branch and of the Association are observing the laws in the conduct of their office, when you know nothing of such laws. Sometimes a chairman mistakes the position to which he was elected, and instead of considering himself a servant of the branch, placed in the position for the purpose of carrying out the wishes, as expressed by the majority of those present, assumes the position of an autocrat and a dictator. If a motion does not suit his view, he will not recognize the mover nor put the motion. You protest, but it avails not, for he gently gives you to understand that he is the chairman. Now if you understood the laws of the Association, such an officer would not dare to persist in assuming such attitude. If he does you being acquainted with the constitution, would have resource to the medium provided for the correction of such abuses.

It is the duty of every member to be thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the association, so that when called upon to serve as an officer, he will be qualified and competent to do so.

You promise to faithfully obey and observe the orders of the Branch and its officers. Are you keeping the obligation you made by refusing to obey the orders of the Branch, as they are made by the majority of members present at a meeting? Is it proper that, because the majority of the members have declared that their wishes are opposed to yours, that you should jump up, abuse the officers and members who voted against you, and then demand a withdrawal card, so that you will be able to join some other branch, and create disharmony there? or, perhaps, rally your friends around you and start a little association of your own?

Officers and members, I sincerely hope that you will consider these remarks in the spirit I have made them, namely, for the good and welfare of the association. It was not my intention to reflect upon any officer or member personally, but knowing by observation the habits and practices indulged in by members, not of one Branch alone, but of a number of them, to be as I have in this rather imperfect manner pictured them; I considered that it was my duty to call the attention of the members to these practices and mistakes, with the hope that the result would be more brotherly love, greater unity and stronger affection.

In conclusion, I would prevail upon the members to endeavor to increase the membership of this association. Particularly would I prevail upon the younger members to interest themselves in this noble work. Solicit applications from men of good character, ask your friends to join, so that they will be able to derive the same great benefits enjoyed by you. You will thereby show your appreciation of the efforts made by the organizers, and those who have labored so diligently for the Association since its existence. And if you are permitted to live to an old age, with what satisfaction you can refer to the work of your early days. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that through the performance of your duty, many a family has received in the most critical period the comforts and benefits offered by this association. You will know that through your example in obeying the rules and proceeding to church with your fellow members to do your Easter duty, many a young man has remained true to the principles and teachings of that grandest of all organizations—the Holy Catholic Church.

Society News on Page Five.

Are you acquainted with these two fellows? Do you know where their office is? If not, it will pay you to find them.

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4 lbs. Milk Crackers, 25c.	5 " Decorated and Baking Powder, 90c.
15 lbs. Washing Soda, 25c.	1 " pure Ginger, 25c.; 5 lb. box 90c.
5 lbs. best Gloss Starch, 25c.	1 " Pepper, 25c.; 5 " " 90c.
4 pkgs. Corn Starch, 25c.	1 " Mustard, 25c.; 5 " " 90c.
4 lbs. English Currants, 25c.	1 " Cinnamon, 25c.; 5 " " 90c.
4 lbs. Carolina Rice, 25c.	1 " Cloves, 25c.; 5 " " 90c.
3 lbs. New Valencia Raisins, 25c.	1 " Allspice, 25c.; 5 " " 90c.
3 lbs. New Prunes, 25c.	1/4 lb. Nut Megs, 20c.
6 Blue Boxes Matches, 25c.	
1 pkg. 2,400 Parlor Matches, 20c.	
5 lbs. Oatmeal, 25c.	
5 lbs. Rolled Oats, 25c.	
2 Clothes Lines, 25c.	
6 bxs. Shoe Polish, 25c.	
1 doz. Stove Polish, 25c.—1 doz. pkg. Carpet Tacks, 25c.	
	MOLASSES AND SYRUP.
	1 Gal. New Orleans or Vanilla Drip Syrup with a jug free, 55c.
	5 gal. keg New Orleans, \$2.50.
	5 " " Vanilla Syrup, \$2.50.
	10 " " of Syrup or Molasses, \$4.50
	5 " " Porto Rico molasses, \$2.00. (No charge for kegs.)
	TEAS.
	2 lbs. broken leaf Japan Tea, 25c.
	Premium Japan, 35c. or 3 lbs. \$1.00. Equal to any tea sold by Dealers for 50c.
	Finest Green or Black Tea, 50c. or 2 1/2 lbs. \$1.00. 10 lbs. at 40c.
	COFFEES.
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	Ceylon Java, 30c.
	O. G. Java, 30c.
	Good Ground Coffee, 15c.

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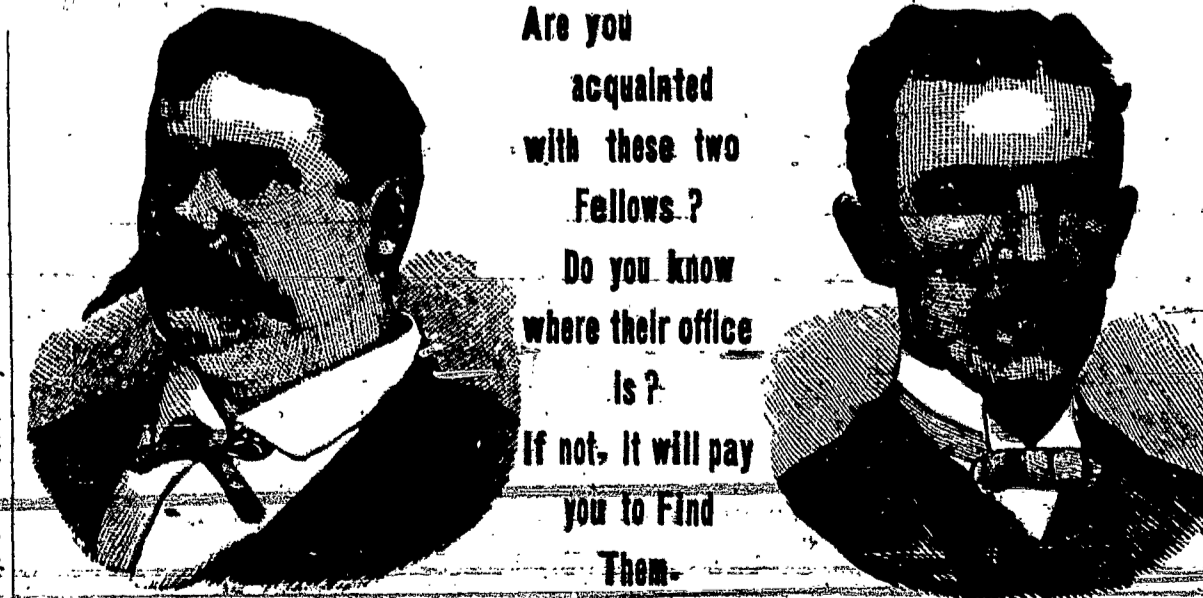
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