

Reports Presented At Catholic Women's League Convention At Georgetown

The following is the report of the National Convention of the Catholic Women's League read at the convention at Georgetown by Mrs. Frank Murray, Charlottetown, who was a delegate from Prince Edward Island.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Madam Chairman, Your Worship, Madam National President, Madam Diocesan President, Hon. Chaplain, Rev. Fathers, delegates and visitors:— A few days ago I was informed that it would be my privilege as Secretary of the Catholic Women's League of this Diocese to read to you this convention a brief outline of the year's activities. It offers an opportunity for me to convey to the members of the Catholic Women's League in this province my deep appreciation for the honor which they saw fit to bestow upon me when they elected me secretary. Although the office carries with it several duties I can assure you I have found most of my tasks very enjoyable. The trust and happiness in life comes from the satisfaction of feeling that one has rendered a worthwhile service. No one can occupy the office of secretary without feeling that she is richly repaid through her widened experiences and deepened sympathies. I feel that I have not been able to live up to the high standard of service set by my predecessors, but I can assure you that every day that has been my part have been fully made up by the support given to the League by other officers of the executive and the general rank and file of the members.

It is very gratifying to find all so deeply interested in the welfare of the League. I should like to pay tribute to our President for the ability which she has shown to carry out the tasks of her office so tactfully and efficiently. A large measure of the respect and confidence which the League enjoys is due to the wisdom and foresight of Mrs. Murray.

I feel that a review of the year's activities can best be presented by reading to you a copy of the report submitted by this Diocese at the recent National Convention held in Ottawa. The report is as follows:

Diocese of Charlottetown— Prince Edward Island

Mrs. Frank Murray, President; Mrs. H. J. Hynes, Secretary. It may be easily understood that in the brief report requested the work of each district subdivision of the Catholic Women's League in the Charlottetown Diocese cannot be dealt with separately, owing to the very creditable number of twenty-nine branches now operating. As conditions, environment and activities of all are, on the whole, very similar, a general report will adequately convey an outline of the good work being accomplished.

Our worthy bishop and clergy of this comparatively small Diocese may well be commended and congratulated on the organization of so many branches. Through a number, especially in rural districts, are handicapped by severe weather and difficult travelling during the long winter season, it is surprising how well they function. An increase in membership, however, could and should be enjoyed by nearly all the subdivisions, and it is hoped that this desirable aim may be attained.

We have no outstanding achievements to chronicle, as depression and unemployment still hinder notable undertakings. However, despite existing conditions, we are glad to report the sum of eighty-five hundred dollars (\$8,500) raised during the year. We paid National obligations and contributed to the Regina Fund but dispersed most of this amount for the benefit and relief of parish and local needs.

theless, they indirectly participate in the activities of these through committees such as Church, Hospital, Entertainment, and several others considered necessary to take care of existing needs and requirements peculiar to our parish and people.

Organization: Two subdivisions have been organized during the past year, namely, East Point and Iona. Economic conditions have a deterring influence on this, as on all matters of advancement. Only thirteen parishes, however, remain without a subdivision, and we trust that they will soon join the ranks.

Social Service and Child Welfare: Funds were raised by the different subdivisions in various ways. Amazing is the amount of good that has been done in consequence. The sick and needy everywhere received substantial help. Food and fuel were liberally distributed while clothing and other necessities if life were provided in numerous cases. Several local committees meet every week to sew, make and repair garments. Large quantities of religious literature were given to institutions. The Christmas season held its true spirit reach beyond the home circle and much charity, good cheer and comfort were bestowed on the poor and unfortunate. The children of the orphanage were not forgotten—this institution being remembered with a fair share of festive bounty. During the severe winter, Government relief, not always sufficient to ward off actual want and suffering, was supplemented by Catholic Women's League donations. Instantaneous notes of medical and nursing aid and encouraging visits made.

Education and Scholarship: Education commands a great deal of general attention. Diocesan prizes were given as usual to Prince of Wales College and suitable awards were made by the Charlottetown District Subdivisions to students of St. Dunstan's University, the Convent and Catholic schools of the Diocese. Other subdivisions donated prizes to their district schools. Several contributions of books were made to libraries. The teaching of catechism has been carried on faithfully. Supervision of library books and of serial stories in the press resulted in protests from the Catholic Women's League which led to removal of the former and suppression of the latter.

St. Study Clubs: Study Clubs activities have progressed quite well. Social Service, Child Welfare and Education make such a demand on time that the work has been somewhat retarded. Two new groups were established in Indian River Parish. Interesting and instructive meetings are held at centres where groups are organized.

Sisters of Service: While we realize and appreciate the work done by the Sisters of Service in Western Canada, we find it difficult to assist them to the extent which we would wish. Our annual token of goodwill is a monetary offering which, though small, carries with it our best wishes for a successful continuation of their work.

Publicity: The majority of subdivisions are quite faithful in publishing accounts of their meetings and activities. This is good business as it encourages and helps to keep alive an active Catholic Women's League spirit.

Magazine: Our magazine circulation is not as large as it might be. This, however, is not due to lack of zeal on the part of its worthy convenor; for she has devoted much time and energy in making an extensive canvass. She is one of the pioneer promoters of our League and her fine Catholic spirit, together with her literary taste and ability makes her work a labor of love. A timely and interesting article from her facile pen appeared in a recent issue of the Canadian League.

Juniors: Since we submitted our last report, no Junior branches of the Catholic Women's League have been established in our Diocese. There is only one, Charlottetown, carrying on work at present. This is now known as the Business Girls' Unit. It has a large membership of active, industrious young women who take an important part in the business, religious and social life of the city, and who form one of its most worthwhile assets. A favorite hobby of theirs consists in contributing to the maintenance of old ladies in the Sacred Heart Home, a Diocesan Institution for the aged.

It is pleasing to note that our Catholic Women's League was represented during the early spring at a most auspicious event that will help make future history in the religious annals of Prince Edward Island. We refer to the consecration of Archbishop McGuigan at Toronto. Our President was privileged to be present at the ceremonies and in company with the Archbishop's mother was duly honored and entertained as a friend and relative of the illustrious Prelate. Congratulatory telegrams were sent to Archbishop McGuigan on his appointment to the Diocese of Regina. Funds for his consecration had two High Masses offered for the repose of his soul. This true friend of the Catholic Women's League has left to Canadian women a precious and lasting heritage in her shining example of practical Catholic action for God

and Canada. In conclusion, we thank our Bishop, our Honorary Chaplain, the clergy, and the National President and officers, for their ever helpful attitude. We also gratefully acknowledge the loyal support and whole-hearted co-operation of the League members within the Diocese. We hopefully bespeak for the coming convention wisdom and inspiration to successfully direct and stimulate the Catholic Women's League of Canada to greater and better efforts for the glory of God and the good of our country. Respectfully submitted, ADELINE C. HYNES, Rec. Secy.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Following is a report of the Fifteenth Annual Convention of Catholic Women's League of Canada, held in Ottawa June 24-28th, 1935:

Madam National President, Madam Hostess, Rt. Rev. Chaplain, Reverend Fathers, Your Worship, Officers, Members and Friends:— As delegate to the National Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, I beg to submit the following report:

The Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was held June 24-28th, in Ottawa, capital city of the Dominion, with headquarters in the Chateau Laurier.

All sessions were held in the Convention Hall of the Chateau, and were presided over by the National President, Mrs. J. Coffey, Montreal.

A business meeting of the National Executive was held on Monday morning, June 24th, when League questions were discussed preliminary to the work of the Convention. At the luncheon hour, the hostesses were the Ottawa Diocesan Executive, with Mrs. J. A. McCabe, Diocesan President, presiding. In the afternoon the National President, Mrs. Coffey, accompanied by the officers of the Executive, laid a wreath on the sarcophagus, in the Memorial Chamber of Parliament building. A reception and tea was then given in the chamber of the Speaker of the Senate with Madame P. E. Blondin and Mrs. R. J. Manion hostesses to the National President and officers of the National Executive.

Formal Opening

On the evening of Monday June 24th, the formal opening of the National Convention took place in the ball room of the Chateau Laurier, with an attendance of over nine hundred members and delegates. Representative of a membership of over thirty thousand, in the seven hundred and sixty-three subdivisions of the League in Canada, the attendance went on record as the largest yet to be accorded an Annual Convention of the League, and the largest attendance at any Convention of women's organizations held in Ottawa. Distinguished representatives of Church and State were on the speaker's platform, as well as representatives of various fraternal societies. Cardinal Villeneuve and the Apostolic Delegate, with regrets that they were unable to be present. Numerous letters and telegrams conveying greetings were received from Bishops, clergy and members throughout Canada. The report of the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Landry, Calgary, was heard with admiration for the efficient manner in which she had fulfilled her numerous duties. A summary of the work of all the Sub-divisions throughout Canada was given by the Executive Secretary (pro tem) Mrs. Madeline Murphy of Montreal. On presentation of this report the assembly stood in prayerful silence to the memory of the late Miss Jones.

The report of the National Convenor of Finance showed that during the past year the sum of \$196,100.40 had been raised and expended locally for Parish and Diocesan needs, less than 5 per cent having been used for National objectives.

At the luncheon hour the speaker was Reverend R. J. McKenna of Bathurst. Father McKenna said he thought that the reason for the moral force of the League was solely because the members are women, "for," said he, "in a good woman her virtue is the barometer of the virtue of the world." Individually, we should be the greatest moral force for good in the world. Representing as we do, the greatest organization of Catholic women in the New World, and though woman is first and foremost queen of the home, her duty extends beyond, to society, to help in the betterment of artificial civilization. In the afternoon the reading of National reports were continued, which I shall briefly outline.

Extended Greeting

On behalf of the Federal Government Honorable C. H. Cahon, Secretary of State, extended greetings to all. In referring to our work as a National body, the Honorable speaker said that every government needed the intelligent and sympathetic understanding of women, the present social problems, having for all Canadian women a deep interest. "and," said he, "you have helped in many ways in finding the solution." Speaking as a representative of the English-speaking Oblates, Reverend Joseph Scannel, O.M.I., newly elected Provincial, told of his work in England with our sister organization, and saying, the work you are called upon to do is the noblest and grandest that any Christian can undertake. Speaking on behalf of Toronto, and also to fourteen greetings were extended by His Worship Mayor P. J. Nolan, who presented the National President with the "Key to the City." Greetings were brought by representatives of the various Fraternal Societies, viz: Federation of Convent Alumnae, Federation of French-Canadian Women, Canadian Historical Association, and Ottawa Council Knights of Columbus. Appreciation to the greetings was expressed by Mrs. J. E. Owens of St. John, N.B. In her inaugural address, the National President, Mrs. J. Coffey, reviewed the work achieved by the League during the past fifteen years. "The strength

of our membership and recorded achievements," she said, "has contributed in many ways to the National life of Canada, sponsoring orderly action in place of personal sentiments, and strengthening the bonds of faith and charity."

In 31 Dioceses

The League is now established in thirty-one (31) Dioceses throughout the Dominion, with seven hundred and sixty-three (763) Subdivisions. During the past fifteen years, the sum of \$2,350,000 has been raised, and \$1,858,591 has been expended for local needs, for it is an established principle of the League that parish and home work come first. There has been wonderful assistance given to our missionary work, the sum of \$55,282.00 having been contributed to the Sisters of Service. The League has pledged itself to assist the Regina Fund for the period of five years, already the yearly quota of \$1000 has been contributed to assist this burdened Diocese. Mrs. Coffey made touching reference to the great loss and grief to the League occasioned by the death on March 21st last of Miss Margaret Jones, who for fifteen years had been the efficient National Executive Secretary and Editor of "The Canadian League," our national organ, on Tuesday morning, June 25th, delegates and members attended the Convention Mass in Notre Dame Basilica and received Holy Communion in a body. The celebrant was Most Reverend J.G. Forbes of Ottawa, who bestowed the Apostolic benediction, while Right Reverend Felix Couturier, O.B.E., Bishop of Alexandria, preached a most inspiring sermon, explaining in inspiring language our duty as home builders and members of the Catholic Women's League, to keep our womanhood on that high pedestal of dignity and respect which modern and pagan practices threaten to undermine.

Business Session

The business sessions of Convention opened at nine thirty a.m., with the entry of the National President and Executive, and the raising of our flag by O.W.L. Girl Guides in attendance. The League prayer was recited and Convention opened by the President, Mrs. Coffey. Roll call was answered by (7) seven National Officers, twenty-five (25) National Councillors, (13) thirteen National Convenors, ten (10) life members, ninety-three (93) District Sub-division delegates, seven (7) accredited Diocesan Alternates, seventeen (17) accredited Diocesan alternates and eighty-one (81) visitors, making a total of two hundred and fifty-three (253). Rules of order were read and Convention committees appointed, followed by the reading of Convention correspondence. Acknowledgment was made through Government House for a message of congratulation which had been sent to Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary on the occasion of their Silver Jubilee. Greetings were received from Cardinal Villeneuve and the Apostolic Delegate, with regrets that they were unable to be present. Numerous letters and telegrams conveying greetings were received from Bishops, clergy and members throughout Canada. The report of the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Landry, Calgary, was heard with admiration for the efficient manner in which she had fulfilled her numerous duties. A summary of the work of all the Sub-divisions throughout Canada was given by the Executive Secretary (pro tem) Mrs. Madeline Murphy of Montreal. On presentation of this report the assembly stood in prayerful silence to the memory of the late Miss Jones.

Child Welfare

The report on Child Welfare showed the past year to have been a very busy one, trying to meet the demands due to unemployment, and in developing means and methods of doing the greatest service to those in need in all communities. Touch is kept with the Provincial Governments through representation in Children's Aid Societies and National Welfare organization. The very title of Sisters of Service seems to have a special appeal to all members of the C.W.L., and it is interesting to report that there are now sixty-four (64) professed Sisters and sixteen (16) novices and postulants. In existence thirteen (13) years, there are now fourteen (14) home-centres of the Order, the last being opened in Regina and called the Nativity Catechetical Home.

A summary of the work done by these zealous workers in the Western Mission fields shows that ten thousand (10,000) schools were reached by correspondence and thousands of children instructed in Christian doctrine. Thirty-five thousand one hundred and seventy-one (35,171) beds were provided; one hundred and four thousand, two hundred and ninety-one (104,291) meals were served, and employment found for one thousand four hundred and ninety-eight (1,498). Several of the Sisters

spoke four languages and this is indispensable in meeting foreigners. Two of these Sisters from the House in Ottawa were present at this session, and expressed appreciation of the invaluable aid the League has rendered their work. Conforming to the expressed wish of the Sisters of Service, their home will now be known as "C.W.L. Girls' Residential Club."

Travellers' Aid and Immigration

Reports were given by convenors of Travellers' Aid and Immigration, who told of the work at railway centres and ports of the Dominion. In this activity, the League works hand in hand with the Sisters of Service, and the comfort and assistance given thousands of passengers and new Canadians can well be understood.

Following the presentation of Scholarship report, it was decided to change the ruling regarding distribution of fund. Formerly this was a two thousand dollar (\$2000) scholarship, extending over a period of four years, and already four young ladies have received their B.A. degree through being scholarship winners. Under the new ruling, which comes into effect next year, for a period of two years (successively) to the girl student standing highest in senior matriculation examinations in each of the nine provinces of the Dominion. Reporting on Education, the Convenor said that during the year forty-seven (47) books had been donated to Public Libraries, and the sum of eight hundred and twenty-seven (\$827) had been given in cash prizes to stimulate the work of education in schools and colleges throughout Canada. The work done by each Diocese in the cause of education was enumerated by the Convenor.

The Junior League has now fifty-three (53) Sub-divisions with a growing membership, and shows an active participation in various League work, viz: lay retreats, social welfare, Study Clubs and Girl Guides. In reporting the work of the Business and Professional Women's Unit, which has formed several new sub-divisions last year, the Convenor stressed the need of more Social Service workers, and suggested also as appealing and profitable lines of endeavor for business girls, designers for home decoration and radio broadcasting. The pleasant interlude was given by the Ottawa Juniors and Business Girls' Unit, who were hostesses at a delightful garden party at the summer home of Mrs. L. N. Poulin, Britannia Bay, a summer colony about seven miles from Ottawa. The program for the evening of June 26th featured an address by Captain the Reverend W. L. Murray, M.C. and Bar, of Campbell Bay, who held a very notable record among the padres who served overseas.

Ideals of the Family

"The Ideals of the Family" was the subject of Father Murray's address. He showed clearly that without the spiritual life the family becomes extinct, and so the nation. Speaking of ruthless Soviet Russia, in endeavoring to wipe out Christianity, he said: "One does not have to be a prophet to foretell that any nation which attempts the reconstruction of society by wiping out of existence such a fundamental unit as the family, is doomed to ultimate failure." Continuing the program, which had for its basis "The Family," addresses were given by Mrs. W. J. Quinn, Ottawa, Mrs. M. A. Ronan, Antigonish, and Mrs. D. H. Hay, Regina, their respective subjects being "The Child," "The Parent" and "The Teacher."

This program was an inspiring one, and a rare educational treat, made so by the excellent speaking ability of the speaker, and the addresses which appear in the different numbers since Convention.

On June 26th at nine a.m. the program called for the presentation of Diocesan reports from the thirty-one (31) Dioceses organized. The reports of necessity were condensed, but the facts of their outstanding activities were evident. The amount of work done in the field of Education, Social Welfare, the Mission, Immigration, and the many and varied activities of the League, would be a revelation to anyone not familiar with the work of our organization. Archbishop M. J. O'Brien, Honorary Chaplain of the League, who was present, commended the members on their achievements. He felt that delegates should be fired with an enthusiasm as he was, in seeing the expansion that existed and the vast amount of good accomplished by combined effort.

Closing Social Event

The closing social event of the National Convention was the banquet on Thursday evening, which was given in the ballroom of the Chateau Laurier. Members and friends of the League to the number of six hundred and sixty-four were in attendance, including distinguished members of the clergy and laity. Mrs. J. A. McCabe, Hostess President, presided and gave a cordial welcome to the guests, outstanding among whom were: Their Excellencies Archbishop Forbes, Ottawa; Archbishop O'Brien, Honorary National Chaplain and Bishop R. H. Dignan, North Bay, Ontario. Following grace, which was pronounced by His Excellency Archbishop Forbes, a prayer was offered for Pope Pius XI. The announcement was made by His Excellency that this was being done at the expressed wish of the Pope, rather than the customary toast, this being the first time that the prayer had been offered in Ottawa. The toast to "The King" was proposed by His Excellency Archbishop O'Brien, who paid tribute to Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary, saying "The British Empire is blessed with a splendid King and Queen, and their subjects are fortunate in living under such good authority." Bishop R. H. Dignan spoke in brief complimentary terms of the accomplishment of the League throughout Canada. Mrs. J. Coffey, National President, gave an address entitled "Fifteen Years in the League's Footsteps."

symposium presented by these gifted young ladies was a living and speaking tribute to their high intellectual attainments. At four o'clock in the afternoon the delegates were driven to Meach Lake, in the Laurentian Hills where they were guests of Mrs. Ambrose O'Brien at her beautiful summer home, set in an almost inaccessible spot in the mountains, the hours spent in this delightful home proved a much needed and enjoyable relaxation from the strenuous business of the Convention. Here we viewed the rugged and majestic beauty of nature and brought away with us a mental exhilaration through the magic of placid lake and wind-filled pines. The evening was devoted to additional intellectual attainments. 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