
College Chronicle

The Retreat

The annual retreat for the students opened here on February 13, and ended Sunday morning, February 17. The retreat was conducted by Rev. W. McCullough, C.S.-S.R., of St. John, N. B. At the opening exercises Father McCullough explained the purpose of a retreat, its necessity, and the means whereby we can make it fruitful. In the first conferences he stressed the all-important matter of concern to us, namely, the salvation of our immortal soul. He set forth in a clear and concise manner what we must do to attain the supreme goal and emphasized prayer and the Sacraments as the effective means of attaining it. His sermons on vocations and on the devotion to Our Blessed Mother were listened to with rapt attention. Finally, on Sunday morning a solemn Te Deum was sung after which the Papal Blessing was bestowed.

The students followed the different exercises with seriousness and observed in detail the rules prescribed, all of which goes to show that the retreat was an unqualified success.

Philosophers' Day

On Thursday, March 7, the Philosophers celebrated the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Patron of all Catholic Schools and Father of Catholic Philosophy.

The day was fittingly begun with the celebration of High Mass by Rev. Gavan P. Monaghan, Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy. The Missa de Angelis was rendered by the choir of Philosophers.

At nine o'clock in the morning the Seniors and Juniors clashed in an exciting game of hockey. Both teams began play determined to win, but the hopes of the Seniors were almost shattered when shortly after the face-off their opponents scored.

The Seniors soon again gathered vim and impetus, but despite their utmost efforts, they were held back by their opponents, who had the edge of the play throughout. The game ended 3-0 in favor of the Juniors.

At one o'clock the Philosophers assembled in the dining-hall and sat down to a sumptuous banquet. After ample justice had been done to all the delicious viands, the following toasts were proposed by the Toastmaster, Raymond Hughes, and responded to in this order:

The Pope and the King.

The Church—Rev. Gavan P. Monaghan.

The Day we Celebrate—Wilfred Keefe.

Our Country—John Gillis.

Our University—Jerome Fay.

Our French Brethren—Lionel Verreault.

The Press—Gerald McGuigan.

The Ladies—James H. Keegan.

Between toasts vocal solos were rendered by James Keegan and Hazelton Gillis, also a piano solo by Euclide Gaudet.

The Rev. Rector, the Guest of honor, addressed the gathering, after which a vote of thanks was tendered the Bursar, Rev. F. McQuaid, and the good Sisters for the trouble they had taken in preparing this excellent banquet. After the singing of Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King, all repaired to the Chapel where the celebration was closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

DEBATES

St. Thomas Literary and Debating Society

The first meeting of the Society after Christmas Holidays was held on January 30. This was an open debate. A number of short but creditable extempore speeches were delivered on various subjects chosen at random. This form of debate furnishes valuable practice in public speaking and should be encouraged. A man is often called upon to speak in public with little or no preparation, and it is on such occasions that his tact and ability are put to the test.

At this meeting the Moderator, Rev. G. Monaghan, tendered his resignation. Father Monaghan had been Moderator for several terms and his resignation was regretted by all. His arduous duties as Secretary of the Alumni Association claim so much of his time that he felt it was impossible to attend our meetings. Rev. Father Mullally has been appointed to replace him.

On February 6 the second meeting was held. James Keegan, vice-president, occupied the chair. The subject was, "Resolved that modern civilization is more perfect than ancient civilization." The speakers for the Pro side were Elmer Pineau and Matthias Hagan, and for the Con side, Earl Dalton and Louis Doyle. The debate was declared a draw. A declamation by Wilfred Keefe and a five-minute speech by F. Rooney were enjoyed by all.

On February 20 a meeting of the Society was held to consider the advisability of organizing a Mock Parliament. It was decided that, on account of the lateness in the season, it was better to continue with the regular debates.

"Resolved that the works of nature are more pleasing than the works of art" was the subject of the debate held on February 27.

For the Pro side the speakers were Hazelton Gillis and Fred Cass, and for the Con, Wilfred McCardle and Norbert Bradley.

The Pro side won.

James Lynch gave a declamation and Robert Curran, a five-minute speech.

At the meeting of March 6 the subject debated was, "Resolved that the practice of installment buying is detrimental to the best interests of a nation."

Merritt Callaghan and Arthur Hughes upheld the Pro side, Austin Murphy and George McCormac, the Con.

The Con side won.

A five-minute speech was given by Gerard Mullally, and a declamation by Mark Greenan.

The St. John's and St. Augustine's Societies

The great number of debates held by the St. John's and St. Augustine's Societies prevents us from reporting them at length. The former under its capable Moderator, Rev. Walter McGuigan is doing excellent work. The St. Augustine's Society is fortunate in having an energetic and painstaking Moderator, Rev. J. C. Pitre. The speeches, especially by the junior debaters, are generally short, but enable the members to give better attention to quality and delivery.

Harold Goodwin and James Coyle will be representatives of the St. John's Society at the Oratorical Contest in Charlottetown.