

CANADIAN CLUB WAS WELL ATTENDED TO HEAR REV. KNOWLES

One of Best Addresses of Year
Delivered on "Signs of
the Times."

ADDRESS INTERESTING
AND INSTRUCTIVE

Rev. Knowles Will Occupy
Pulpit at St. Andrew's at
both Services Sunday.

"In Canada the poor people have as good an opportunity as the rich," said Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, speaking to the Canadian Club at the Parisian Cafe last night. "We are all investors in an enterprise which is paying dividends," he continued, "and above all we take pride in home life, which is our richest possession, not riches or fame."

Rev. Knowles spoke on the subject "Signs of the Times," and his discourse was one of the most interesting and instructive that has ever been made before the members of the Canadian Club. The attendance taxed the capacity of the cafe to the utmost, and was both representative and enthusiastic. Rev. Dr. Baker, of the First Methodist Church, opened the gastronomical proceedings with grace, after which the members present enjoyed a feast satisfactory to the digestive organs as well as providing food for thought.

President G. W. Goodwin, in introducing the speaker, remarked that he was an active parson, not a sporting one, although he played some games fairly and successfully. Rev. Knowles came back at Mr. Goodwin later in the evening. Rev. Knowles was grateful for the reception tendered him, and thanked those present for the splendid attendance. "Signs of the Times," he said, reminds me that I have an important engagement later on in the evening." It was inferred from this that the reverend gentleman was about to proceed to the 'curling rink.' "There is no city on the calendar that I would rather visit than Sault Ste. Marie," said the speaker, and he clinched the argument by remarking that he was influenced to come by the fact that Rev. Fritchard, of St. Andrew's, was actively engaged here—and that he also engaged in sports as a side line.

"A gathering such as this should maintain the esprit de corps of Canadians," said the speaker, "cultivating the national spirit." "The influence is carried on, and its tendency makes or mars a nation. Meetings such as this tend for good."

Dealing with national prosperity Rev. Knowles intimated that such was regarded from several standpoints. In some cases money was looked upon as an evidence of prosperity, and in other cases fame. "Above all these," he said, "home life and intellect predominate, and the happiest man in the civilized world to-day is the man who can boast of both."

"It is a fine thing to recognize the family we belong to and to realize just how great our legacy is," he said. "It isn't the greatest area which tends to the greatest unity or tendency to contentment." Illustrating his point the speaker touched upon Russian Empire, which apparently had more territory than it was in a position to control.

Touching upon the workings of the different systems under which the English speaking people lived at the present day, Rev. Knowles drew attention to the fact that the man who attempted to assassinate President Roosevelt, of the United States, got off with a fine of \$100. "Perhaps they looked upon it over there as a simple infraction of the game laws," he continued. "We also have a law here prohibiting the shooting of bull moose out of season." The speaker gave a serious turn to his argument by referring to the immunity of Canadian and in fact Imperial law makers from the hand of the assassin.

Rev. Knowles contended that he had spent most of his time, especially when alone, with the poor, and he believed that the poor in Canada were better housed and better clothed and fed than those of other countries. This showed the prosperity of the country under the system of Government prevailing. In his opinion the upper classes were prepared to follow the lower in regard to prosperity. It was the lower classes which set the pace on the march to prosperity or national oblivion.

"The savage in a native state is satisfied," said the speaker, "and in a certain measure it is our civilization which makes him discontented. Our pioneers were representatives of a civilized race and were cast in a mighty mold. They looked forward to the time when others would follow them, and their hopes have been fulfilled to the extent that your city is now practically the important point of the last west."

Rev. Knowles spoke of the conditions which tended to the advancement and education of the present day member of the lower class, mentioning the moving pictures and other sources of education which were available for those who desired to receive instruction, entertainment and educational facilities as well as recreation in this way. "The poorer people of Canada have just as good an opportunity of acquiring knowledge through sources as the rich," he declared. "We are all placed on an equal footing in this regard."

He referred to the difference between the people of Germany and England, embracing Canada. The people of Germany were in a sodden position, while the Canadians were not resembling down trodden cattle. Many mistakes were made local and federal legislation, but the people of Canada were happy in the knowledge that they conducted their own affairs. "What vexes us to-day pleases us tomorrow," he said, "and we as citizens have the privilege of changing our legislation as we see fit."

The speaker drew attention to the remark of Pitt before the House of Commons in England upon the announcement of the American Revolution being made. "America resists, we rejoice" my Lord," said Pitt. Here the speaker delved into the responsibility of a Canadian as regards responsible Government, and the means he had to see that he secured it.

"Men make mistakes it is true," he said, "and I have in my life time made one myself. I am an out and out Conservative, but upon one occasion I voted Grit. This is one mistake I made, and a man can be excused surely for making one mistake in his career."

Rev. Knowles declared his belief in foreign labor. It wasn't a question of paying for a hand in the flesh, but for the skill and experience behind it. The skill and experience raised the price of the hand when it was placed on the market. He did not believe that a spirit of covetousness existed between capital and labor in Canada, and to support his argument recited an incident where a man had remarked that he had only had fifteen boils in his life, and only one of them was in the right place, and that was on his wife.

"In present day Canada's poor have books, electric lights, schools, etc., and if we rejoice in that we should rejoice also in the richness of the rich," said the speaker. "Years ago men never dreamed of the fortunes that were to come in Canada, and we of the present day do not comprehend the fortunes that are to come from the resources of our country." Rev. Knowles intimated that several drawbacks were conspiring to the detriment of Canada at the present time, namely the ignorance of the British in regard to Canada, the ignorance of the American in regard to Canada, and the ignorance of the Canadian in regard to Canada.

"We live to-day with our faces toward the morning," he said. "You in the Sault belong to the last west and your progress in regard to territory

can go so further. You live between two nations as it were, and you must feel the dual pulse." The speaker declared for unity among the English-speaking race, and in its geographical position intimated that the Sault was in a most important position as regards a tendency to unity. He spoke of the difficulties of the pioneers of the Dominion, and remarked that under present conditions many men acquired farms in different locations and practically made fortunes in three years. "Canadians, no matter which position they occupy, are all born rich," he said, "but many of them fail to realize the marvelous country in which we live.

Touching upon the power of character over capital the speaker referred to the influence exerted by Henry Ward Beecher in the battle for ballots between Late President Cleveland, of the United States, and Blaine. Beecher changed the aspect of things in that contest although not a wealthy man, showing that there was no more peril in wealth than in any other form of power. In his opinion wealth was responsible, during the present day, in the building of a nation. Three things, however, were essential—concentration, self control and economy, as well as morality. He attributed the fact that to an adherence to the conditions mentioned above.

"We have never flashed the light of the gospel on a country which did not show improvement," said the speaker. He spoke of the universities established in the west, showing the ease with which the educational institutions were now being secured in comparison with the times when the country was in a pioneer state. "It is wealth that is responsible," he said. "These institutions are fostered and protected solely through the wealth behind them."

Rev. Knowles was surprised at the vast fortunes now being made in this country, but believed that in the not distant future they would be multiplied. Wealth was a good servant but a poor master. "We are living in a critical time in this way," he said, "in that we, as Canadians, are just starting to use money, and that it is like an edged tool. Wealth, however, concentrated in a high sense, cannot fail to bring results."

The speaker dwelt upon the conditions in England, and remarked that he would devote 100 votes if he had them, to cause the emancipation of those who were living in the motherland under what he described as a yoke, as the result of tradition. "Did God make the land for the peers or the people," he said with considerable emphasis. "The people of England have been all too slow in throwing off the yoke." Labor did not envy capital its money, but on the contrary its pride and arrogance.

Rev. Knowles was not a strict believer in the adherence to any particular policy or creed as long as such tended to the public good. He was not discussing the religious or political side of the question at all. "Look at my friend President Goodwin, of the Canadian Club," he said, "a power for good in the Episcopal Church. His religious enthusiasm is worth remarking." Upon the remark being applauded Rev. Knowles remarked that he either did not know what he was talking about or that the merriment was unseemly. Continuing he stated that "many even married, but eventually graduated into the Presbyterian Church."

In a serious strain the speaker remarked that one of the highest products of the church of Canada today, of whatever denomination, was the care that was being taken of the poor. "We are following the principal of which Calvary was the climax," he said with considerable feeling.

Concluding his address Rev. Knowles intimated that the Sault was one of the most romantic as well as one of the most influential centres in Canada, and it was impossible to estimate just how far its influence would be felt at the present time or in the future. "One can never tell where one's influence will end," he said. "Where one influence ends another will begin. This applies to Canada and the motherland. While in England I feel myself drawing close to the Imperial fire-side, and the whole English speaking race." Touching upon the contribution for naval defences the speaker stated that in his opinion it was not a matter of what we gave to the Empire, but what we are to the Empire. He also touched upon the conditions which overthrew the late federal Government, and stated that while one Government was defeated and another supplanted it, the fact was apparent that all interested realized that "our destiny was homeward," and all were striving to that end.

"We scorn all titles in Canada except the title of manhood," he concluded. "Canada has no conception of what awaits her. We must lay a foundation of Imperial life, and thank God that he never has forsaken our flag."

President Goodwin closed the meeting by thanking the speaker for his reference to the President's activity in the church, and for the applause which had greeted the announcement. It was his last appearance as President of the Canadian Club, and he was grateful to the members and the club as a whole for the support and assistance which had been tendered him during his term of office.

The National Anthem was sung and the meeting dispersed.