

CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEES MEET IN OTTAWA

From North, East, South and West; from every state in the Union and many of our Canadian Provinces; from England and far away Honolulu they came—over 700 of them—to the Thirteenth Annual Convention of Christian Business Men's Committees held in Ottawa's Chateau Laurier from October 18-22, 1950. It was the greatest Convention ever held by the C. B. M. C. and everyone who came was loud in praise of the Ottawa Committee's handling of the many details that made the Convention a distinct success.

From Wednesday morning until Sunday evening the atmosphere was surcharged with Christian testimony, singing and prayer from business men—bankers, bakers, farmers, lawyers, accountants, civil servants, real estate men and men from almost every profession and trade—"twice born" men whose calling in life is to live for Christ and work for the salvation of souls. "Ottawa has never seen the like before. This is a most unusual Convention," said Arnold Grunigen, Jr., Investment banker from San Francisco, and President of C. B. M. C. International. "Gentlemen of the 13th Annual Convention, we are here to make good use of these precious hours together. For longer years were we organized as butter producers and hod carriers, piano tuners, Chamber of Commerce, and C. I. O.'s, Californians and Canadians, but today we meet as the fastest growing body of men organized under God to discuss our faith intelligently among those outside the fold, to demonstrate the relevance of Christian life and faith to modern life."

On Wednesday evening at 8.00 o'clock over 600 men and women—some from Ottawa, but most from a distance—met in the Chateau Ballroom to commemorate the Lord's Supper. Ottawa members of the C. B. M. C. served the Communion. Promptly at 9.30 p. m. the first of several open-air meetings was conducted by Bob Chenault, executive secretary of Detroit C. B. M. C., and director of open-air work in that city. The traffic island midway between the Chateau Laurier and the Union Station was jammed with witnessing C. B. M. C.'ers and interested passers-by to give and to hear testimony of what the grace of our Lord Jesus had done for business men. From 9.30 to 11.00 o'clock Wednesday to Friday evenings and from 12.00 to 1.00 o'clock at noon Thursday and Friday, testimonies were given, hymns were sung and 10,000 tracts—English, French and Jewish were handed out.

From open Bibles the earnest inquirers were pointed to the Lamb of God. Names and addresses were written down and follow-up work will be undertaken by local business men. Standing beside a large circular sign enscribed with the words, "Business Men Broadcasting the Gospel." Al. Capone's former henchman, George Mensik of Chicago told of the marvellous transformation that the Lord Jesus had wrought in his life. Said the Ottawa Citizen, "George Mensik is a big guy. He used to pack a '38 automatic for Al. Capone as calmly as the ordinary fella' totes a fountain pen in the office. But the cops aren't laying for him now. George is in Ottawa today to tell his story for the 13th Annual Christian Business Men's Committee International Convention. It's the story of a man who gave the gang wars and the beer-running business the go-by, to practise and preach the

Christian Gospel." The Journal put it this way, "One of Al Capone's mobsters stood up in Ottawa's busy Confederation Square last night and held a crowd at bay for 10 minutes. But George "Chubby" Mensik, the thick-necked Chicago thug who worked all the rackets from slot machines to white slavery to peddling marijuana cigarettes and served as body guard to big "Tim Murphy," didn't have a gun in his hand this time. He'd traded it in, he said, for a new weapon—the Word of God." "He got converted."

Controller Dan McCann, of Ottawa City Council and Chairman of Ottawa C. B. M. C., boomed out the city's official welcome to delegates and friends. Tears flowed freely and unashamedly as "Dan" recalled the transformation that took place one day 25 years ago in the Gospel Tabernacle when Lucius B. "Daddy" Compton preached Christ and he became a new creature in Him. That was Thursday morning when several directors gave words of greeting and President Grunigen told of the beginnings of the organization that had grown from one group in Chicago in 1931 to 237 groups in 1950. Today, in 11 countries there are 10,000 members of the C. M. B. C. "Blond, young looking Grunigen, with the thin aggressive face of a rising tycoon is no dreamy fanatic in a high tower. Successful in business, he is successful in Christianity and with him are men like R. G. LeTourneau, who bulldozed his way to top place in the earth-moving business on Christian ethics."

A fellowship luncheon followed the opening session and 700 men partook of the Chateau's bill of fare while testimonies and Gospel songs rang through the corridors of that luxurious hotel.

The day meetings of the Convention were given over to business, discussions on how to organize a C. B. M. C., and improve existing ones. The evening meetings were jam-packed with over twelve hundred interested friends. Messages were given by Jim Barnes of the Ford Motor Co., Detroit, and young Richard Woike of the John Adams Henry organization, New York City. Jim Colville, also of New York, was song leader. The pianists were Lois Mulligan Cavey and Harry Brown, of Ottawa.

On Friday morning, Donald MacDonald, executive secretary of Chicago headquarters, gave his stewardship account and recommended for approval a financial budget of \$33,325 for 1950-51. Members pledged \$10,000.00 from the floor, the balance to be raised by membership fees of \$5.00 and by donations. A unique feature of this organization is that the directors and officers do not receive one cent to remunerate them for their expenses in connection with the Convention. Said President Grunigen: "It is a case of 'more mileage with less gas' than any organization I know."

On Saturday evening 1150 members and their friends attended a banquet and then listened to testimonies from the directors of C. B. M. C. I. to round out a very successful four days. Sunday morning services in some 40 Ottawa and District churches were given over to Business men. George Mensik spoke at Fifth Avenue Church in the morning. Scobie Memorial Church, Westboro, had a speaker morning and evening. The ministry of these men was much appreciated. In several instances it is known that there were definite conversions and a strong desire expressed to be more effective soul winners. The testimony

of these men in the press and over the radio cannot be evaluated. Only eternity will reveal the true impact the Convention has had on Ottawa—yea, on the continent and the world. One newspaper commented, "No smoke clouds billow over the Convention halls or the hotel room bull sessions, for not one of them smokes. There's no "dropping-up to my room for a pick-me-up" because there isn't anything stronger than apple juice in or out of sight. They just don't drink. Yes, there are women—but their faces carry no sign of lipstick, rouge, mascara, powder, artificial eyelashes or pencilled eye-brows."

The Lord willing, the next C. B. M. C. International Convention will convene at Toledo, Ohio.

C. B. M. C. sponsors Youth for Christ Rallies, jail work, Gospel signs, radio broadcasts, tract distribution, open-air work, etc. It is non-denominational and welcomes every man who loves the Lord and the souls of men.—The Holiness Era.

REMARKABLE RELIGIOUS GATHERING

PRESBYTERIAN LIFE asks this startling question: "Have you ever attended a Bible Class in which 2,000 people sat with Bibles on their knees? Have you ever heard 35,000 young people recite the Twenty-third Psalm together? Have you ever joined with 180,000 Christians singing "A Mighty Fortress is our God?" This is just what happened at Essen, Germany, last August. For months Protestants all over Germany were preparing for this great church convention, which was called "Evangelischer Kirchentag 1950." All who called themselves Christians were invited to come to Essen, the city of questionable fame from the millions of guns that were built there; a city which, today, resembles the crater scenery of the moon because of the bombs that were dropped on it during the war. For five days people assembled to witness for the Prince of Peace. Every day of the great meeting began with a Communion Service, attended by thousands; and this was followed by an hour of intensive Bible study, in groups averaging one or two thousand. The theme of large study groups was "Save man; his freedom, his family, his faith." Evening services were led by Church leaders from all over the world, and closed by evening prayer. The final sermon, preached by Praeses Wilm, head of the Westphalian Church, closed with these words: "One of our pastors a few years ago was thrown into a concentration camp. Day by day he witnessed for his Lord by giving a word from the Bible to his fellow prisoners, although it cost him more torture from his guards. Finally, he gave his life for his testimony. What will you give?"

—EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN.

IN INDIA

"The missionary outlook for India is brighter than ever before," writes David H. Johnson, general director of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission, who is now visiting the fields of his mission in India. He reports that the people are now more receptive and willing to listen to the Gospel and that large open-air meetings can be held with sustained interest and without antagonistic observance. As to Pakistan, the situation is not so bright. There are indications of efforts being put forth to make it a land of Moslem faith only.

—D. Carl Yoder.