London Tenders Magnificent Reception to Dr. Oronhyatekha, Supreme Chief I.O.F.

Tremendous Gathering in Grand Opera House.

Joint Initiation Proves a Most Imposing Success.

Nearly 1,000 New Members Ushered Into the Order—Brilliant Addresses.

The greatest crowd which ever filled the Grand Opera House in London, and for that matter perhaps the greatest crowd that ever assembled in any opera house in the Dominion, was that which attended the joint initiation and reception to Dr. Oronhyatekha, the supreme chief ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters in the Grand last night. So great indeed was the crowd that the mayor, who was present was requested to close the doors and refuse admission to a large number of people. His worship did as requested, and police were placed on all the doors. In addition to the large number of invitations issued in this city, a large number were issued in outside places. It was no doubt reckoned by those in authority that a certain percentage would fail to put in an appearance, but they evidently did not consider the fact that London is the old home of Dr. Oronhyatekha and that London is the birthplace of the I. O. F. And the result was that every seat in the house, from pit to gallery, was occupied, and hundreds of ladies sat in the gallery; the aisles were congested with a crowd which was content to stand up for several hours. Even the stage itself was filled to overflowing with the Foresters and their friends. Conservative estimates placed the number present at about 3,000. It was indeed a striking tribute to the popularity of the sterling order and its revered and honored supreme chief ranger. Of the crowd 300 came from St. Thomas on a special Pere Marquette train, 50 came from Stratford, 50 from Ingersoll, 50 from Strathroy, and smaller parties came from other places.

987 Candidates Initiated.

The joint initiation, at which no less than 987 candidates were ushered into the order, was both brilliant and imposing. The joint initiation consisted of the initiation of Mr. Wentworth Stewart, of this city, who represented the entire 987 candidates, and the ceremony was performed by the Ladies' Guard of Honor of Toronto, assisted by Dr. Oronhyatekha. The stage was fitted up as a lodge room and decorated with British and American flags, and bunting, as were also the balconies and boxes of the house. Previous to the initiation, the Guard of Honor accorded a formal welcome to the supreme chief ranger, which was supplemented by a popular demonstration from the audience, which lasted several minutes. It was plain to all that Dr. Oronhyatekha is the grand old man of the fraternal orders of the Dominion.

During the evening the supreme chief ranger was made the recipient of two very beautiful floral offerings, one from Court Hope No. 1, city, presented by a dainty little miss, Ethel Young, and from the general committee, the presentation being made by Miss Kathleen Darch, a charming little mite in white. The doctor kissed both little girls and the crowd thunderously applauded.

Praise for Workers.

The speaker of the evening was, of course, the supreme chief ranger, and he was followed by the Hon. E. G. Stevenson, of Detroit; Hon. Dr. Montague, and several others, all of whom paid glowing tributes to the excellent work performed by the committees, who started out two months ago to

Mr. H. A. Collins,
Supreme Treasurer of the Independent Order of Foresters.

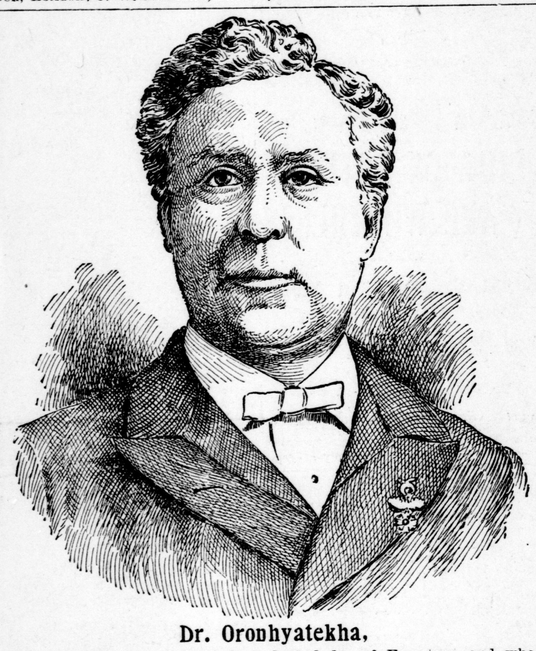
add 1,300 members to the order and succeeded in securing nearly 1,000. For the past few weeks the officers and members have been working energetically, and as stated, their efforts were crowned with great success. In the latter part of September, Bro. George A. Mitchell arrived in London, and has directed the work of the officers and members ever since. He was ably assisted by Bro. Leggett, D. S. C. R., and Bro. Charles H. Merryfield, P. S. C. R., who did excellent work in Stratford; Major Cooper, P. S. C. R., in Woodstock; Bro. W. S. G. Lidman, D. S. C. R., in St. Thomas. Bro. McPhee, D. S. C. R., and Companion Merryfield have also done excellent work. Too much cannot be said for the excellent work done here by the above, assisted by the following committee:

Court Hope, No. 1, Messrs. William Tackaberry, John H. Hambly and J. G. Cutler; Court Dufferin, No. 4, Messrs. Henry Pratt, J. F. Hicks and O. H. Ryder; Court Victoria, No. 10, Messrs. J. W. Reynolds, W. A. Hunter and J. W. Rowlands; Court Welcome, No. 12, Messrs. Fred J. Darch, R. Gilmore and Lemington; Court Byron, Messrs. A. H. Allport, Gerry and Justin; Court Forest City, Companions Austin, Poole and Pearcy; Court Joy, Companions Pearson, Robins and Bickley; under the able chairmanship of Bro. Henry Pratt, with Bro. John H. Hambly, as secretary.

Distinguished Visitors.

At the conclusion of the imposing initiation, the tremendous crowd which had flooded in and congested the wings, and every available foot of floor space, not in the view of the auditorium, were accommodated, as far as possible, with seats at the rear of the stage, the curtain being rung down for the purpose. But there was not room for all, and the result was that hundreds of people stood in the wings or heard the supreme chief ranger speak from positions in the flies of the theater.

On the stage at the front, sat Dr. Oronhyatekha, the supreme chief ranger, and with him were seated Thos. Lawless, deputy supreme chief ranger; Sir John Carling, Hon. E. G. Stevenson, Detroit; Hon. Dr. Montague, Hamilton; R. D. Cameron, high chief ranger, Lucknow; W. A. Henderson, high vice-chief ranger, Sarnia; C. H. Merryfield, past high chief ranger, Monkton, Ont.; J. A. Davidson, past high chief councilor, Stratford; John Hambly, high auditor, London; G. A. Mitchell, superintendent of deputies, Toronto; Robt. Nimmo, organizer, Toronto; J. D. McPhee, organizer, Orillia; F. Tedman, organizer, Toronto; George Currie, organizer, Attwood; Major Cooper, deputy supreme chief ranger, Toronto; Mrs. Momson, Companion organizer, St. Marys; Mrs. Splann, Companion organizer, Sarnia; Miss Nellie Merryfield, Companion organizer, Monkton; Mayor Beck, Alds. Wyatt, Abram, Forristal, Gerry, Matthews, Greer, Greenlees, Garratt, Judd, Cooper, Becher and Stevely; the Ladies Guard of Honor, of Toronto; F. Brown, Sarnia; Richard Adcock, London; J. W. Rowland, R. O. Rider, Wm. J. Smith, E. Gaze, Thos. Cutler, Peter Elson, M. P. P.; Companion Poole, Companion Beckley, Companion Pearcey, Companion Shannon, Companion Wilmer, Companion Anatie, Mrs. McKenna, John Justin, J. F. Hickson, Albert Wagar, William Luhmin, H. J. Limmington, R. Gilmore, Henry Justin, Hugh Orr, Robt. Banes, T. E. Gaze, Mrs. T. W. Hannon, T. W. Hannon, Wm. A. Hannon and many others.



Dr. Oronhyatekha,
Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters, and who is a Former Londoner.

A BRILLIANT PROGRAMME

Accomplished Artists From Toronto and Detroit Delight Londoners.

Mr. Fred Darch made a splendid chairman, and delivered a short and pithy address. He said there were but few occasions in his life which gave him as great pleasure as the present—the magnificent joint initiation, and the splendid reception to Dr. Oronhyatekha, who has done so much to build up one of the grandest institutions in the world. On behalf of all the Foresters present, he welcomed the doctor back to London, and referred to the great gathering as a fitting tribute to a grand chief. He then introduced the programme of the evening.

The programme was one of the most artistic and brilliant ever carried out in London, and it was received in the manner it deserved by the vast audience. Each artist's efforts were heartily applauded, and encores were the order of the evening. Indeed, it was the verdict of all that the Foresters' programme was one of the most delightful ever enjoyed by Londoners, and praise was lavished unstintingly upon those who had brought the affair to such a happy consummation.

The first number was a solo by Miss Nellie Aston, "If I Were a Rose." Miss Aston is one of Toronto's most charming and accomplished vocalists, and her splendid voice was heard to the best advantage by the great crowd. The applause which rewarded her brilliant effort was loud and long, but owing to the length of the programme she was compelled to deny the audience an encore.

Mr. Harold Jarvis, the eminent Detroit vocalist, next favored with "Hearts of Oak," and his splendid voice did full justice to the piece. So great was the applause that he was compelled to respond with an encore.

He was followed by Mr. Donald McGregor, of Toronto, who, in a very artistic manner, rendered "The King's Cavaliers," earning a great burst of well-deserved applause. Later he sang a duet with Mr. Jarvis, "The Battle Eve," and a solo, "The Macgregor Gathering," and he scored a signal triumph in each case, as did also Mr. Jarvis in the brilliantly-rendered duet. Only too infrequently are such excellent vocalists heard in London. Miss Aston also favored with a couple of other numbers, and Mr. Will J. White, in character sketches, especially well put on, delighted the large audience. The accompanist was Mr. W. A. Bluethner, of this city, who played the piano in his usual artistic manner, and added greatly to the success of the fine programme.

PRESENTED WITH AN ADDRESS

London Extends Cordial Welcome to Dr. Oronhyatekha.

After the chairman had introduced Dr. Oronhyatekha to the audience, Bro. John H. Hambly stepped forward and read the following address of welcome to the supreme chief ranger:

Oronhyatekha, M. D., Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters:

Dear Sir and Brother,—It is with no ordinary feelings of delight and pleasure that we greet you this evening, and extend to you on this pleasant occasion our warmest welcome to this city, where you formerly resided, and where you first engaged in the great work of fraternalism, which we may justly call your life-work.

We not only welcome you to our Forest City, but congratulate you on the measure of health and strength which an all-merciful God has given you. We, with the members of this great order the world over, watched with intense anxiety the condition of your health a year ago; and now, with profound gratitude to the Almighty Restorer, we acknowledge his goodness and mercy in restoring you to health, and fitting you for the great and arduous duties of your office in connection with the work of our fraternal order.

True, you are surrounded by an able and efficient staff of officers, but we are sure that they would be amongst the foremost in giving you credit for having brought our noble order to its present marvelous position of usefulness, and it efficiency for the alleviation of human want.

With indomitable courage and unflagging zeal, you piloted the ship of Independent Forestry through the vicissitudes and trials of its infant struggles. There are some amongst us still who can recall the time when you undertook the reorganization of the order—days when the clouds hung black over us, and our future was far from promising—days when evil prophets and not a few, either, predicted the early death and burial of the new institution. True, in those days, the membership was but 360, with an indebtedness to face of $4,000, and it seemed indeed as though the prophecies might become true. Had the leader and organizer of the new-born institution been a man of less skill, less energy, less determination and less courage than the one who was then, and is still, the supreme chief ranger, and whom over 225,000 loyal Foresters today delight to honor as their S. C. R., it might indeed have been otherwise. We can recall the days when, without other remuneration than the consciousness of knowing you were engaged in a great and good cause, you went up and down throughout the country, laboring and toiling in the interests of the widows and fatherless children, as well as on behalf of your less fortunate and suffering brethren. Surely, if there be a man in our broad Dominion today who may justly feel proud, you, sir, are the one. From the tender, struggling weakling of 25 years ago, you have been spared to guide the destinies of Independent Forestry, until today you see it one of the strongest of all the fraternal institutions in the land. With a membership of 225,000, and after paying out to widows, orphans and other beneficiaries over $18,000,000, there is still a magnificent reserve fund of over $8,015,000. Few living men, if any, have been so highly honored, and with one united voice this vast assemblage offers you, sir, their heartiest and most sincere congratulations.

Nor are we forgetful of the last great and noble work you have undertaken, the erection of a home for the orphan children of our deceased brethren, a home where fatherless children may be trained, educated and sent forth to fill such positions as God may call them to. Thus you have spent your strength, your intellect, and your energy, in building up this now world-wide society of Independent Forestry, which scatters blessings along its entire pathway.

We again extend to you our heartiest and most warm congratulations on the marvelous success of your labors. As an evidence of our appreciation of your work and this visit to our city, we present to you this large class for initiation, all of whom have passed the medical board. We appreciate your kindness in coming to this meeting. We are sure your presence and your words will help on to still further success the good work in this district. In conclusion, we humbly pray that our Heavenly Father may bless, preserve and spare you for many years of future service, and that you may see the order, which you love so dearly go on by bounds and leaps, prospering daily in its efforts for the benefit of humanity. And when your work here below is done, you may enter on your reward above, and receive from the God of the widow and the orphan the "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord."

On behalf of the Independent Foresters of the London district,

EVANS DAVIS.
HENRY PRATT, Chairman.
JOHN H. HAMBLY, Secretary.

DR. ORONHYATEKHA'S ADDRESS

Brilliant Effort of the Supreme Chief Ranger.

Upon rising to speak, Dr. Oronhyatekha was greeted with round after round of applause, and he was compelled to wait some time for a hearing. He said:

Brother Foresters, Ladies and Gentlemen—It is, indeed, a pleasure to me to be once more in the city of London, and it is a special gratification to be able to address the citizens of what I consider my own city. I am glad to note that this audience is largely composed of ladies, for when an order has the sympathy of the ladies its success is assured. The kind address which has just been tendered me was all too flattering, but one thing was said which I heartily indorse, and that is that the Independent Order of Foresters is in a flourishing condition. When I see all the cities and countries in which the order is planted, I cannot

Mr. J. A. McGillivray,
Supreme Secretary of the Independent Order of Foresters.

but feel proud. Like the Irishman, who, when asked what he would be if he were not an Irishman, replied that if he were not an Irishman he would be ashamed of himself, so I would feel ashamed of myself tonight if I were not a Forester, and, I may add, if I were not an Indian. It is because I am an Indian that I became a Forester. In 1878, when Court Dufferin was organized, and I became a chartered member, there was a rule that forbade the admission of Indians, and the supreme chief ranger granted a special dispensation in my case. That was the beginning of the breaking down of all barriers. The section in the rules forbidding the admission of Indians was soon removed, and now our doors are open to all nations and creeds. The chairman said I was going to give you a resume of the history of the order, and it must be a short one. The order was founded in 1874 in Newark, New Jersey, and shortly afterwards was introduced into Canada, and in 1878 I became provincial high chief ranger of Ontario. In 1879 a great misfortune befell the order. The supreme treasurer stole $10,000 of our funds. This nearly destroyed the order, and nearly all of the members on this side of the line seceded and formed the Canadian Order of Foresters. But some 196 of us remained true to the old order. We believed that the secretary's defalcation was an accident, for which the executive could not reasonably be blamed. In 1888 the order probably reached the lowest ebb in its history. The high secretary resigned, and the high treasurer refused to act. There was one advantage, and that was that the executive was harmonious. (Laughter.) But it was a disadvantage, to have the treasurer coming to me whenever there were any bills to pay. In 1881, when the supreme court in the United States changed its name to the United Order, we decided we would not change ours. We held a great meeting, and decided to reconstruct the supreme high court. We had just $3 88 in our treasury. So if you leave out the consideration of our debts, we might say we were not bankrupt. Notwithstanding the defalcation of the secretary a few years before; notwithstanding the fact that the Canadian order were appealing to the patriotic spirit in order to draw Canadians into its ranks, we began the work of rebuilding. Only one court in the United States, Court Elisabeth, in New Jersey, joined hands with us. It was a bitter struggle, I was often told I was a fool and was attempting the impossible. Nevertheless our order grew and prospered, although at first very slowly. It took three years to accumulate the first $10,000 of a reserve, and eight years to get $100,000. It took us thirteen years to get together $1,000,000, and we made this million our password and kept going ahead.

A Million a Year.

Today we are adding a million to our reserve every year, and a million is too insignificant among Foresters to be taken as a password. As you have been told, our $3 88 has now grown to $8,035,000, and we are adding to it at the rath of $90,000 per month, notwithstanding the fact that we have paid out nineteen millions of dollars in benefits. Just try to estimate what good this immense sum has done to widows and to orphans, and in helping the poor to keep their children from the streets, from the poorhouse, ay, and from the prisons. If you can estimate this, you can get a grasp of the work this institution has done for mankind.

It was a long time before the ladies were admitted to the order. A great many objections were made to them. Some said that if we admitted them we might as well dispense with all the secrecy in the order. (Laughter). Others asked how we were going to get at the right age of the ladies when they joined. (Laughter). But today there are 20,000 ladies in our order and they do 20,000 times more work than the same number of men. Why, they talk all the time about the order, and that is just what we need. We need publicity and we are lamenting today that our enemies can no longer find any reasons for attacking us, for it acts as an advertisement. (Laughter). What has happened since 1881? I will not inflict any figures on you except in making an instructive comparison. Look at the record of six leading Canadian insurances companies and compare it with ours. In 1896, they secured 18,317 policies, while in the same year the I. O. F. got 36,316, or just double the number obtained by the whole six together. The expenses at the same time of these six companies was $2,878,000, while those of the Foresters amounted to $547,000, or not quite 10 per cent of the other, while at the same time we were getting just twice the number of policies. But it might be said that it is the amount, not the number, of the policies, that count. The same six companies in the year 1903 took in $25,700,000, while we took in $29,685,000. (Applause). This shows you something of the vast extent of the operations of this order. So far in this month of November we have enrolled 32,000 members, and to them must be added the 987 which were enrolled tonight. We are doing a vast work. We have our courts in every part of America, Scandinavia, France, Ceylon, Belgium, Honolulu and all the world over. We pay over $7,000 a day in benefits, and yet, as has been said, we are adding $90,000 every month to our reserve fund. In the year we added only 3 per cent to our obligations and at the same time we added 19 per cent to our assets. We have the very best of actuaries. Our head actuary in England, who came to us from one of the large insurance companies in the States, asserted, over his signature, that the order was financially sound and was doing a greater work than any insurance company could hope to do. Among our many benefits is the fact that every Forester has the right to free medical attendance. Why, instead of paying the doctor a large sum for merely looking at your tongue, the doctor in our order pays $1 a year for the privilege of attending the members. And our mortality rate is steadily decreasing. In 1880 it was 10 in the 1,000, in 1901 6.66 in the 1,000; in 1902, 6.60, and in 1903, 6.46 in the 1,000. If we continue at this rate we shall soon have no deaths in our order at all. The death rate in the world is 20 in the 1,000, so that the 987th candidate that we initiated tonight will die only one-third as often as if he had remained outside the order. Millions are saved to our members in the shape of medical fees. There are dozens of other benefits to be obtained by becoming a member of the I. O. F., but as it is getting late I will leave it to my colleagues to tell you something about some of them. I have touched on but a few. I once more say that I am extremely grateful for your kind address. And I want to prophesy that our system of insurance will one day be that adopted by the masses of the people. I will ask this great gathering to help on the good work of the order. (Thunderous applause).

WAS BORN IN MIDDLESEX

Hon. E. G. Stevenson Addresses the Great Gathering.

Hon. E. G. Stevenson, of Detroit, who next addressed the audience, declared he was coming very near to his old home when he came to London, because he was born in Middlesex. (Applause.) He said that when there was a silver-tongued orator to begin with, and one to end with, he would not try to make a speech, but would tell some facts about the great institution, the I. O. F. The speaker paid a tribute to Dr. Oronhyatekha, saying that that gentleman had given his life to the work of the order. It gave the doctor more pleasure to pay out money than to take it in. Some orders said that the old people should not be protected, but that their children should look after them. The Foresters, however, felt it their duty to protect the old, to continue to give the old-age benefit, and the total disability benefit, no matter what others thought. Were his hearers going to join an order which was curtailing the benefits of the aged? In many institutions the age line was being drawn, the cry being for the strength and sinew of youth. But the Foresters believed not only in helping children and widows, but also the old people. The speaker then went on to tell of plans, which were in process of preparation, for homes for orphans and destitute children. The guest of the evening was working on this project, and also on the plan of a home for the aged and infirm. The speaker considered these two things as the crowning achievement of a man who had devoted his life to the benefiting of mankind.

"You have no right to be drones in the hive," continued the speaker, "and you should do all in your power to build up this great philanthropic order, and to do good to your fellow-men."

The speaker then thanked his audience and resumed his seat amid great applause.

HON. DR. MONTAGUE

Pays Glowing Tribute to the Supreme Chief Ranger.

Hon. Dr. Montague was the next speaker, and he heartily congratulated the officers and committee upon the splendid success they had achieved as evidenced by the very large number initiated and the magnificent gathering before him. He said there never was an occasion upon which the supreme chief ranger was happier than last night. He never forgets, said Dr. Montague, that it was here the I. O. F. was born, and that it was in this district he and the order with him achieved a first success. Among the many reasons for the success of the order was the commanding personality of its supreme chief ranger, whom all Foresters and all citizens of Canada delighted to honor. During the many years in which he has presided over the destinies of the order, success has been its watchword, and he voiced the wish of all when he declared that it was his earnest desire that Dr. Oronhyatekha might be spared many years to fill his present position. Speaking to Foresters in particular, he said that the order is one of which any man may well feel proud—an order which has not an unkind feeling or an unkind word or act for anyone. He told the newly-initiated brethren that in joining the Foresters they had joined hands with over 220,000 men in all parts of the world, all of whom are working for the common good of all. And the old Western Ontario jurisdiction stood away ahead of any and all others in the organization. He said, too, that when all the figures were in for the month of November it would be found that the district of Western Ontario, the birthplace and cradle of the order, contains fully one-quarter of the members of the order. And this in the district where Dr. Oronhyatekha is known best.

The High Chief Ranger

High Chief Ranger R. D. Cameron addressed the gathering briefly. Among others things, he said he was glad to be given the opportunity of congratulating the newly-initiated members, and of thanking the committees who had worked so hard to secure new members the past two months. He spoke with pride of the $8,000,000 surplus of the Foresters, and said it will be there to help the widow and the orphan when all present were dead and gone. He compared Dr. Oronhyatekha's work in Canada to that of Dr. Barnado in England—a man who has devoted his life's work to the helping of the widow and the orphan. He was loudly applauded when he sat down.

Merit Rewarded.

It was well on toward midnight when the gathering broke up, but before they dispersed, a number of pleasing presentations took place.

Dr. Oronhyatekha called upon Bros. R. Butler and Guillemont, both members of Court Hope, No. 1, of this city, and presented the former with a check for $300, and the latter with a check for $100. The checks represent the old age disability benefits to which these members are entitled. Gold watches were also presented to Bros. William Tackaberry, W. E. Ryckman, James Bryant, and Companion Mary E. Metler, as a reward for their indefatigable efforts in behalf of the order.

The presentation over the vast audience arose and sang "God Save the King," and the audience dispersed.

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Between Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax and the Sydneys, with connection for Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland,
BECAUSE
Its Dining and Sleeping Car Service is unequaled.
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51 KING STREET EAST.

The Dublin corporation is said to have passed a resolution "prohibiting soldiers walking in the main streets."