

He has always been found an all-round man of wide views and abundant sympathies, who looks at things from many standpoints, and who has realised that goodness and truth are not confined within boundaries, nor exhausted by individuality. (Appl.) He has the happy knack of looking upon the bright side of life—and takes a large discount off gossip. (Ltr.) He has been known to speak better of his neighbours than some folk would say they deserved; and the standard by which his judgment is usually formed is the goodness of his own heart. (Appl.) The position of this Court is a leading one—in fact, the leading one—with compliments to Court Kilmarnock, who will perhaps find that a stern chase is a much longer one than is generally imagined. (Ltr.) The membership of the Irvine Court is 56, which shows a gain of 40 per cent. during the last three months. The sums which have been insured range from £100 to £1000, and the total amount reaches £19,200. (Appl.) The rates of the I.O.F. are considerably less than the Old Lives Companies—this being attributable to the fact that business is done by Subordinate Courts instead of paid agents. The insurance effected by the Order of Foresters makes provision for those who are left behind, and Old Age and Disability Pensions. With regard to the Old Age Pensions, great interest is being taken in the country regarding this matter. Writing to a prominent member of this Court, Mr. Orr-Ewing, M.P., in reply to a communication sent him on that subject, says:—"I do trust it may be possible to find a solution of the Old Age Pension scheme by working in conjunction with the Friendly Societies. At first, I know the Friendly Societies looked rather askance at the idea, but I think now that the idea is gaining ground that this way is the most likely, and probably the soundest method of dealing with the question in future." Now, the I.O.F. is not one of those societies which looked askance, because it actually has both an Old Age Disability Scheme and an Old Age Pension Scheme, so that it ought to be the duty of this Order to bring under the notice of our legislators and others interested in the subject the advantages to be derived, in order to aid them in finding an easy solution of the problem. (Appl.) You know there is a failing amongst many chairmen that they don't know when to stop—(laughter)—but as there have been special circumstances on this occasion, I trust you will pardon me if I have taken up too much of your limited time. (Appl.)

Brother J. Marshall, S.D.S.C.R., General Manager of the Order for Great Britain, then presented the banner in a speech setting forth the progress of the Order.

Brother Armour thanked the Chairman for the flattering way in which he had referred to him, and the kind words which had fallen from Mr. Marshall. In the name of the members of Court Irvine he had very great pleasure in accepting the beautiful banner which, he was sure, would be highly appreciated, not only by present but by future members of the Court. It would prove that Court Irvine took a deep interest in the welfare of the Order, and that the Order took a deep interest in the welfare of Court Irvine. (Applause.)

The banner, which is made of blue and red silk, contains the following inscription in gilt letters:—"I.O.F. Honor Banner held by Court 'Royal Irvine,' No. 2051, 1896-7." In the centre there is a very finely executed painting of a moose's head.

The jewel presented to Brother Armour is a fine

specimen of the goldsmith's art. On the back it bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Brother R. Armour by the High Court of Scotland for zealous services as late High Chief Ranger, 1896-98."

IRELAND.

High Secretary, W. Gibson, M.D., writes as follows:

BELFAST, 30th December, 1898.

To the Editor of THE INDEPENDENT FORESTER,  
Toronto, Canada.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I enclose you a letter received from Mrs. McDowell acknowledging the receipt of a cheque in payment of her husband's claim.

Might I ask that you insert a copy of this in the next issue of THE FORESTER, as I think it would do the Order some good here.

The annual social meeting of the I.O.F. in Belfast will be held in the Exhibition Hall, Botanic Gardens, on Thursday evening, 9th February. The Reverend George R. Buick, D.D., L.L.D., has kindly consented to take the chair. We are also to have a lecture by the High Chief Ranger in the Y.M.C.A., Major Hall, on February 1st, entitled "A Trip to Canada."

Forestry is going ahead very rapidly in this jurisdiction. This evening we had a meeting in the Chambers, and initiated eight new members for the various Courts. By the newspaper cuttings sent to you, you will see that new Courts have been established in Newry, Coleraine and Monaghan. These are promising to be very strong Courts of the Order in the north of Ireland.

Fraternally yours,

W. GIBSON, M.D.,

High Secretary.

BELFAST, Dec. 30th, 1898.

Dr. Gibson.

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of cheque for £600 in payment of my late husband's insurance, and beg to express my gratitude for so prompt payment of same.

With every good wish for the success of your Society, I am,

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET McDOWELL.

WALES.

INSTALLATION AND PRESENTATION AT NEWPORT.

Monthly meeting of Court Uskside, No. 2035, of the Independent Order of Foresters, was held at the Beaufort Cafe, Newport, on Monday evening, Jan. 16th. As usual at the first meeting in the new year, the officers elected at the December meeting were installed by Bro. Hyett, Swansea, High Chief Ranger of Wales. The installations were: C.R., Bro. Robert Fry; V.C.R., C. H. Thomas; R.S., A. G. Witts; F.S., F. Pickett; Treasurer, J. Martin Wood; S.W., T. G. Jones; J.W., W. A. Watkins; S.B., C. West; J.B., A. Nuttall; P.C.R., Jos. Sykes; Chaplain, G. W. Jones; Physician, Dr. R. J. Paton; C.D.H.C.R., H. J. Pillinger.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the officers and visiting brethren adjourned to another room, where they were joined by a few friends. In addition to those already named there were Bro. Wilkinson, Cardiff, High Secretary for Wales;