

no doubt there would be a re-adjustment of the rates to enable the Order to meet, as in the past, all its obligations. He could not say exactly what the Supreme Court would do in the matter, but he had no doubt they would legislate to make the I.O.F. an Order still more to be coveted in membership. The Order was extending in the United Kingdom very successfully and had grown more rapidly in the first five years there than in the first five years in Canada. He never found more confidence or enthusiasm, or a higher class of men in the Order in Canada than he found during his recent visit to the Old Country. It was also extending in Norway, where it had been recently planted, and he expected a High Court would be organized there before the meeting of the Supreme Court. There are now eight courts in Norway and Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and France would follow, and the Order is destined to become the greatest international organization in the world. (Applause.)

#### THE WORK DONE.

The I.O.F. paid more in benefits last year than any other insurance organization in Canada. There were about 4,600 applications for membership in June, of which about 4,000 were accepted and policies issued to them. This was more than any old line insurance company, except one, had issued in the whole year past. The Order paid about \$992,000 in benefits during 1897, or over \$3,200 per day for every day, except Sundays and holidays, throughout the year.

#### THE LADIES—GOD BLESS THEM !

At the approaching meeting of the Supreme Court he trusted the ladies would be given a part in the great work of the Order. (Applause.) He trusted all the representatives from New Brunswick would go there to vote to throw the doors open to their wives, daughters and sweethearts. (Applause.) When that is done the Order will advance by leaps and bounds as it had never done before. The Supreme Chief paid an eloquent tribute to the ladies. His very interesting address was brightened by flashes of humor that were keenly appreciated.

Thomas Murray, of Sackville, High Auditor, was next introduced, and his singing of "Bonnie Mary of Argyle" so delighted the audience that he had to respond with "The Woo'ing o' It."

Mayor Sears was next called on. He paid a tribute to the Order of Foresters, and expressed his pleasure at being present to speak to them as the chief magistrate of St. John. His Worship delivered a thoughtful and very interesting address. What shall we do to be saved? is the question of the hour, not only in the spiritual, but in the material and social order. The work of the I.O.F., as he understood it, was in the direction of the solution of the problem. The principle of insurance, the benefit to the individual, to the family, and other benefits were touched upon. The Order was one of the strongest of the fraternal organizations, and he hoped that it would continue to grow and prosper.

Rev. W. B. Hinson, who was greeted with hearty applause, began in a humorous vein, and by his allusions to politicians and some other people convulsed the house. The popular Moncton clergyman was in a happy mood, and his address was heard with intense pleasure. Taking Forestry as his text, he observed that he would say three words about it. First, it stands for protection—the pro-

tection of the individual now as well as when he is 70 years old. It also relieves him from anxious care and distress of mind, in the consciousness it gives him that he has made provision for his family. Second, it is correction as well as protection—correction of the evil of selfishness, which underlies all our iniquities. The third word he had to say of Forestry was unification. The Order had a unifying influence upon the sons of men. He dwelt eloquently upon this point. In conclusion, Mr. Hinson, alluding to the work of the I.O.F. among the English-speaking people, referred amid applause to Anglo-Saxon unity. Anything, he said, that draws the British and American people closer together has the heartiest sympathy of every member of the Independent Order of Foresters. (Loud applause.) His word-picture of the Union Jack and Stars and Stripes joined in the protection of a prisoner sentenced to death in a foreign land stirred the enthusiasm of his auditors to a high pitch.

Premier Emmerson was the last speaker and was given a cordial reception. He had listened with great pleasure to the address of the Supreme Chief Ranger. He had himself been connected with the Order since its inception in this province. The Order needs no defence in New Brunswick. Its worth is too well known. He was, he remarked, in the insurance business himself. He wanted to ensure the people of the province good government. (Laughter and applause.) He wished to say amen to all that had been said in praise of the Order of Foresters.

#### THURSDAY'S SESSION.

The High Court resumed on Thursday at 10 a.m., the Supreme Chief Ranger in the chair. The report of the Committee on the State of the Order, presented by Bro. Chapman, brought out a lengthy and profitable discussion. The report showed an increase of 600 members during the year and eleven additional courts, which means that the old courts were materially strengthened rather than a number of new ones formed. We believe this to be a step in the right direction. During the discussion several questions of importance to members were answered by the Supreme Chief Ranger.

A second report of the Finance Committee brought out considerable discussion on the question of organizing courts and the remuneration to be paid organizers. The report also recommended that the following sums be paid: H.C.R., \$100; H. Sec., \$400; H. Treas., \$35; H. Journal Sec., \$20; H. Auditors, \$50; Press reporters, \$40; for the hall, \$50; and further, if the funds of the H. C. will permit, F. W. Emmerson, \$350.16 and Le Baron Coleman, \$198.74, amounts due them for organizing. It was further ordered that 600 copies of the minutes of proceedings of the session be printed.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The first business of the afternoon session was the election of officers.

Judge Wedderburn in an eloquent speech nominated A. W. Macrae, to whose labors in the interest of Forestry he made a graceful allusion, for the office of High Chief Ranger. There was no other nomination, and amid great applause the Supreme Chief declared Mr. Macrae elected.

A. C. Gibson, of Centreville, Carleton county, was unanimously elected High Vice-Chief Ranger.

Dr. W. W. Doherty, of Campbellton, was elected High Physician.