

united and harmonious brotherhood; that the men who seventeen years ago gave me their confidence and support and made me a ruler over them, are to-day my strongest friends and supporters; that the younger generation of Foresters who have come into the life and councils of the Order vie with the veterans in their efforts to strengthen the hands of their Supreme Chief Ranger and his colleagues on the Executive Council in all their efforts to advance the welfare of our beloved Order.

For this I am profoundly grateful, and have prayed daily that wisdom may be given me from on high to enable me to prove myself, in a measure, worthy of your great kindness and of the high trust committed by you to my hands. It only remains for me to place on record the heartfelt gratitude I feel towards all my colleagues for their wise councils and generous support and for their unswerving devotion to the best interests of the Order. No man could have had better counsellors nor more generous friends than I have had in my colleagues in the Executive Council, and it is with satisfaction that I can say, though at times we have had hot discussions in Council, I cannot recall a single unkind word therein during all the three years we have acted together.

I am sure I but express the sentiments of every member of the Executive Council when I say that the consideration and the never failing fraternal courtesy which the officers and members of the various High Courts and of Subordinate Courts have ever shown us will always be among the brightest and pleasantest memories of our lives.

Submitted in L., B. and C.,

ORONHYATEKHA, M.D.,

*Supreme Chief Ranger.*

#### THE COMPANIONS.

Rev. W. J. McCaughan presented the report of the committee appointed to examine the suggestion of the Executive, recommending the admission of the Companions. The report was as follows:

"Your committee have carefully examined the recommendations of the Supreme Chief Ranger and have studied the statistics relative to women as insurance risks, and would recommend:

"That the Courts of Companions of the I.O.F. be granted Charters by The Supreme Court, and be made a part of our great Order.

"That the active membership of Companion Courts be confined to women, while that of subordinate courts be, as at present, restricted to men.

"That the Mortuary Benefits of the Order be granted to such members of the Companion Courts as may desire them, and are able to pass the Medical Board on equal terms with men.

"That it shall be optional with the different High Courts to admit delegates from the Companion Courts within their jurisdiction."

#### THE REPORT DISCUSSED.

Judge Fitzgerald opposed the admission of the Companions.

E. J. Hiseler, of Nova Scotia, said that in his province it was thought that the admission of the Companions would increase the membership of the Order materially.

A. H. Backus said that many insurance companies declined to take risks, such as the Companions, at as low rates as males. The territory of the I.O.F. was very wide, and legislation of this sort should be considered carefully.

O. P. Stockwell, of Utica, New York, strongly championed the admission of the Companions to the Order. He believed the time was ripe for it.

#### THE COMPANIONS ARE GOOD RISKS.

Mr. Patterson, of New York, said that for 50 years the Mutual Life Assurance Company had

charged \$5 per thousand additional for female risks, but had lately reduced the charges for females to the same figure as those for males. Other insurance companies were following this example. He would support the motion.

George W. West, of Manitoba, said that he had changed his views and, with others of the Province of Manitoba, was now in favor of the admission of the Companions in the manner proposed.

#### WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ORDER.

H. C. Freed, of Fredericton, N.B., said the proposed action would add strength to the Order.

The discussion was continued by Bro. John A. McGillivray, Q.C., S.S.; McDermott, of Ontario; J. D. Clark, Ohio; Stevenson, Michigan; M. D. Ward, London, Eng.; Jenkins, Wales; McElfresh, California; Coombs, Nebraska; Dr. Thayer, California.

#### COMPANIONS WIN HANDS DOWN.

After remarks by one or two others the first section of the report was adopted by a vote of 133 to 16. The whole report was adopted by the same vote.

#### Increased Benefits.

#### RE-ADJUSTMENT OF THE RATES.

James Marshall presented the report of the Committee on Constitutions and Laws. The clause in the proposed constitutional amendment, providing for a re-adjustment of the rates, was endorsed. In reply to a question by A. W. Fraser, the S.C.R. stated that the proposed re-adjustment would only apply to new members. To a further question by Bro. Victor Morin, of Quebec, he answered that it was proposed to provide

#### NEW BENEFITS,

notably, in the line of old age pension benefits. They proposed to solve this great problem, which had been studied by master minds for many years, by this scheme of pension benefits, which would involve a re-adjustment of the rates.