

progress and prosperity of the Independent Order of Foresters in this province.

It is with this purpose in mind that we count on the active support of all our brothers.

The annual subscription is twenty five cents, sum strictly required to cover expenses in order to allow foresters to receive the paper.

We await a hearty welcome from them all, and it is animated by this hope that we inscribe as heading to the first edition of our paper: "The Forester, Vol. I, No I."

THE EDITORS.

Victor Morin, H. C. R.

We deem that we could not choose a better opening for our series of portraits and biographical sketches than in giving, in this first number, those of the founder of our Journal, M. Victor Morin, High Chief Ranger.

Our brother was born in the busy and prosperous city of St. Hyacinthe, Que., on August 15th, 1865, and will consequently reach his 30th birthday this year.

After having attended the Nuns School and the Girouard Commercial Academy, he began his classical studies in 1876, at St. Hyacinthe College in affiliation with Laval University, where he graduated as B. A., in 1884, after a complete course of studies.

He then accepted employment as clerk in the Prothonotary's office of St. Hyacinthe, preparing at the same time his examination for the study of law to which he was admitted in May, 1885, and immediately entered the office of Papineau, Marin & Mackay, notaries, of Montreal, as a student, attending the lectures at Laval University at the same time, where he graduated as LL. B. in 1888. He was admitted to the practice of his profession in the same year and opened an office as a notary in the town of Acton, Que., where he filled also the offices of Secretary Treasurer of the town and parish, and of the catholic and protestant schools. Two years later, he was offered a partnership by his former employers and came back to Montreal; he still belongs to that firm which is now known by the name of "Papineau, Marin, Marin & Fiset," and enjoys a flourishing notarial business.

Bro. Morin was made a Forester in October, 1890, as a charter member of Court Champlain, No. 663, the oldest French Court in the Order, and was elected its Court Deputy; he became immediately an active worker in promoting the principles of Forestry amongst his fellow citizens. The

French people took to Forestry with that enthusiasm they display for all good things, and the result of their work is shown by the fact that in Montreal alone they have now 27 Courts of their nationality with a membership of 2 500.

At the next High Court meeting following his initiation, Bro. Morin was elected High Treasurer; in 1892 he exchanged this office for that of High Counsellor; in 1893 he was elected chairman of the Quebec delegation to the Supreme Court and took an active part in the work of this body as a member of the Committee on Constitutions and Laws, he was found amongst other things, to fight at the head of the Quebec delegation against the admission of ladies into the Order. At the last High Court meeting, August 1894, he was elected High Chief Ranger, and on the institution of two Encampments of Royal Foresters in Montreal, last October, was commissioned Brigadier General of Royal Foresters.

To our brother the Executive are in the habit of referring most of the questions concerning the French Courts and members since a long time, as well as the legal questions concerning the Order in the Province of Quebec. Owing to his conspicuous position in the Order, Bro. Morin had occasionally to take the pen and sustain polemics in favor of the I. O. F., chiefly on questions of finances and creed, which he did always with a good result, having a good client to defend. Amongst his most important works for Forestry is the translation into French of the Constitutions and Laws and of the Ritual, which he carried out with Bro. Gosselin, D. S. C. R. in 1892. He belongs to many other fraternal benefit societies, such as Société des Artisans Canadiens Français, Canadian Order of Foresters, Union St. Joseph, Union St. Pierre, but in his opinion, the I. O. F., is the best, and he toally devotes to its interests most of the time he can spare from his business occupations.

Our Order has sometimes been attacked, for not professing any religion officially; in fact, a financial institution should not mix religious practices with its operations, but in private life our brother is a staunch catholic. He has never taken any active part in politics, but he believes in the destinies of the Liberal party.

Bro. Morin was married in January 1893, to Fannie, eldest daughter of Hon. Daniel Coté of Biddeford, Maine, but after one year's marriage, his young wife departed this life, leaving an infant child after her; and if we are well informed, our brother has already made the dear boy a Forester-at-sight.

## Chit-Chat

The FORESTER is a new born paper ushered into the world with the year 1895; it begs a place at your fire side in the months of the winter season and will rejoice if it can make you while away a pleasant hour.

The FORESTER presents its respectful greetings to each and every one of its readers; it offers them its most heartfelt wishes of health happiness for the new year and the realisation of their hopes and desires.

One more year engulfed in the ocean of time!

Are its memories such, that they will cause regret? No! Alos! No! If in one scale, we place the joys of a year and in another the sorrows and deceptions of the same period, it is most often the case that the latter tips the scale.

This is one of the reasons, why we greet so joyfully each coming year, in the hopes that it will prove more bountiful, more merciful than the one gone before.

The installation of the officers of the different Courts was accompanied this year with more solemnity and with a great deal more interest than usual. Several installations were made publicly and were followed with a lively interest by the persons present.

We cannot but approve of this public demonstrations.

They make our Order and the advantages it offers more widely known through the land.

One single month remains to those who wish to compete for the prizes offered by the High Court of Quebec. Let all take due notice. The time allotted will expire on the 1st of March.

In one of our next editions, we will publish an article on the manner of inscribing the names of beneficiaries on Policies.

The Order numbered 66,343 members on the 1st of November, 1894. Ontario had 25,694; Michigan, 7,527; Quebec, 7,101. We enrolled nearly 300 members in November and about 500 in December. Lead on Quebecers! To work! and we shall be the second High Court in the Order by the 1st of March next!

The first Financial Secretary who answered to our call is Bro. Cairns, sending the list of members of Court Sawyerville, No. 590. And the first Court subscribing is Court Lachute No. 280.