

the great success our Order has attained. I was tendered every courtesy while at the main office in Toronto. The Supreme Chief Ranger and Supreme Secretary, J. A. McGilivray were tireless in showing me the methods of their business, and I am happy to state that I found the affairs of all the departments in excellent condition. One matter which I found in examining the Great Britain branch was that the membership there pay a monthly premium of about 20 per cent. more than we do here in New Jersey, or in Canada. This increase of the rate collected in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will, within two years, pay the entire expense of starting and planting the Order there, and in years to come will be a source of great profit and a valuable source of revenue to the Order in general. As to the finances of this state, I would respectfully call your attention to the report of the High Secretary, which will show you the remarkable success in this department that we have had during my term, for which I feel justly proud, and I congratulate you on it.

Before closing this report, I would submit the following suggestions for your consideration :

First.—That the incoming High Standing Committee be given full power to push forward the organizing work in our jurisdiction, and if possible to secure the co-operation of the Supreme Executive Committee in this work.

Second.—That the High Standing Committee be authorized to provide for distribution and sale, as they may think necessary, a supply of literature similar to the pamphlets now used in this state.

Third.—That the High Court present to every member in our jurisdiction, who brings into the Order at least six new members before the first of next February, a gold badge similar to those given last year.

Fourth.—That the High Court dues be increased to fifty cents per year, so that the High Standing Committee can employ competent salaried deputies to work among the weak courts in the state, and assist their members to increase the membership of the weak courts, stimulating them, and thus making them self-supporting, and a credit to the Order.

And now, brethren, permit me to thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me. In returning to your care the trust thus bestowed upon me, permit me to assure you that my desire has been to carry out the duties of the high office to the best of my ability.

While to err is human, kindly consider whatever mistakes I have made due to the head, and not from the heart.

Wishing for our Order continued prosperity, and for our brothers long life and renewed activity in their work for the I.O.F.

I am yours in the bonds of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord,

CONRAD B. BENNETT,
High Chief Ranger,
New Jersey.

The High Secretary, Bro. Jas. C. Calvert, submitted his report. It showed:—

Courts at last meeting.....	37
Courts since instituted.....	11

Total Courts.....	48
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Membership reported at last meeting...	1,815
Membership July 1st, 1896.....	3,008

Increase since last meeting.....	1,193
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The report of the High Treasurer, Bro. Arthur C. Wenzel, showed:—

Total receipts.....	\$2,603 53
Total expenditure.....	1,317 14

Balance.....	\$1,286 39
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STATE OF THE ORDER.

Your Committee on State of the Order respectfully report:—

The condition of Forestry in the State of New Jersey, especially as shown by the reports of the High Secretary and High Treasurer, is a source of great satisfaction to all who have the good of the Order at heart.

The unprecedented increase in membership, being larger in membership and in percentage than ever before, proves that the benefits of Forestry are being made known through the activity of the old members, and are receiving that appreciation which is due them.

That the earnest endeavors of the officers and members will continue your committee has every reason to believe, and they therefore report that the prospects of the Order are brighter than they have been since the first court was organized in this State.

The Treasurer's report, however, showed that in the midst of this general prosperity there were to be found instances of singular and unaccountable remissions on the part of subordinate courts.

That 10 per cent. of the moneys due the High Secretary should be unpaid at any time, is a matter showing neglect or indifference, or an impoverished condition of the delinquent courts.

This is a matter to which your committee deem it prudent to call the respectful and urgent attention of the High Court. The remedy is not suggested here, but should be before the High Court adjourns.

The statistics of the Order show that 1,193 new members have joined our Order in the past 15 months; 11 new courts have been instituted; so that we have 48 courts, with a membership of 3,008.

We heartily concur with the High Chief Ranger in his recommendation that deputies be appointed to visit the weaker courts and ascertain what the difficulties are, and devise ways and means whereby they can be strengthened numerically and financially.

There are other matters to which your committee have given some attention, but as they are of a debatable nature, and will come before the High Court for action, it is not deemed advisable to make any recommendations with reference to them.

Respectfully submitted in L., B. and C.,
CHAS. C. MCBRIDE,
Chairman of Committee.