

ed, headed by the Souris band, and marched to the hall.

Mr. J. H. Bell, of Court Avondale, and Illustrious Commander of Prince George Encampment, acted as Marshal, carrying the sword of the Royal Encampment. The High Chief Ranger and Deputy McKie were conveyed to the hall in a carriage drawn by a matched span. The High Orators, Revs. J. M. Withycombe, and E. Gillies were also in the carriage.

The first session opened in the B.I.S. hall at 4.30, Dr. Robertson, High Chief Ranger, in the chair.

The following officers were present:

P.H.C.R., John M. Clark; H.C.R., Dr. H. W. Robertson; H.V.C.R., Kenneth McKay; H. Sec., L. U. Fowler; H. Treas., John H. Bell; H. Phys., Dr. A. E. Douglas; H. Coun., Charles Murphy; H. Auditors, H. D. McEwan and A. D. Fraser; H. Orator, Rev. E. Gillies; H.S.W., H. B. Huestis; H.J.R., J. A. McCormac; H.J.S., Jno. Molison; H. Organist, J. W. Sutherland; H.M., M. Whitehead; H.C., J. H. Gill; H.S.B.I., I. T. Reid.

The following officers were appointed *pro tem.*—

H. Mess., J. H. McLean; H.J.B., R. B. Auld.

The officers absent were W. A. Johnstone, H. Mess.; Geo. McKenzie, H.J.B.

The following members were appointed Committee on Credentials:—

L. U. Fowler, B. B. Stevenson, Chas. Beairisto, Jno. J. Ryan, Jno. J. McDonald.

After conferring of the High Court Degree upon upwards of fifty delegates, the High Court was reduced to the Subordinate Court Degree in order that all members of the Order might take a seat.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:—

Distribution.—Dr. J. G. Toombs, Arch. Currie, W. H. Beers, Frank Gallant, T. H. Smith.

Finance.—E. S. McPhail, T. C. Baker, R. A. Elliott, R. T. Moase, and Dr. Wm. H. Dogherty.

Appeals and Petitions.—John H. McLean, Dr. D. T. McKay, A. J. McNeill, Geo. E. Hooper, and W. G. Sutherland.

Constitution and Laws.—Jas. E. Birch, Artemas Moffatt, R. H. Campbell, Gordon Glover, and Jas. McKinnon.

State of the Order.—Rev. J. M. Withycombe, G. W. Cameron, Murdock McLeod, D. B. McLellan, M.P., Jas. Tait.

New Business.—I. R. Prowse, J. S. Wedlock, Dr. G. P. McDougall, W. D. McIntyre.

Mileage and Per Diem.—D. P. McNutt, B. P. Clark, R. H. Montgomery, Hugh M. Campbell, R. B. Auld.

Press.—D. K. Dobie, J. B. C. Baker, E. H. Duchemin.

Public Meeting.—David Reid, John R. Bowness, A. E. Smith.

The High Chief Ranger then read a report, of which we give the substance, which was referred to the Committee on Distribution.

Officers and members of the High Court of P. E. Island:

BRETHREN,—As High Chief Ranger I welcome you to this our seventh annual session. One year ago when you saw fit to elect me as your High Chief Ranger, my feelings at the time were mingled—proud that so many of my brethren held me high enough in their estimation to cast a ballot

for me, and fearful of my inability to fill the very responsible position of High Chief Ranger of this High Court, I.O.F.

The year has passed away, and I have found no cause for anxiety. Peace and harmony have prevailed throughout the whole jurisdiction, and we have had a great deal to be thankful for, and I would ask you to join with me in thankfulness to the Supreme Ruler of All for the great measure of success that has attended our efforts during the past year, as it has been one of the most prosperous in our existence. We have had a net increase in membership of one hundred and eighty-nine.

#### NECROLOGY.

While we rejoice in meeting in this our annual session, we find our hearts touched with sorrow when we remember those who have gone from our ranks into the great unknown. This High Court mourns the loss of one of its honored members, Bro. George F. Owen, P.H.V.C.R. We will sadly miss him—he was a useful and energetic member of this High Court and Court Ferndale, and his place will not be easily filled. We also mourn the death of Bro. Malcolm McLeod, of Court Prince Edward.

The South African war, which was a just and righteous one on the part of Great Britain, causes us to mourn the loss of two of our brave volunteers—Bros. Alfred Riggs and Roland Taylor—who were members of Court Avondale. This Court mourns the loss of their Past Financial Secretary, Bro. George D. Davidson; Courts Great West, Leunox, Chautauqua and St. John, mourn the loss of Bros. Craig, Vessey, Covey and Seaman—all good men and true. You will see by this that our death rate has been higher the past year than for several years.

#### DEPUTIES.

During the year I have commissioned the Deputies for the several Courts that recommended new ones.

I also commissioned Bros. James R. McKie, of Court Avondale, Rev. D. Price, of Court Westmoreland (on the eve of his departure to his native home—Wales), also Bro. G. W. W. Cameron, as D.H.C.R.'s. Bro. McKie has taken much interest in the work of our Order. The others, I have no doubt, will give a good account of themselves in the interests of the Order.

#### VISITATION.

Your High Standing Committee arranged a plan for each of the Subordinate Courts to pay a fraternal visit to some other Court during the winter months. The condition of the roads during the winter prevented, in a large measure, the program from being a success; but when the visits were made much interest was taken, and I would recommend that the same be continued the coming winter.

#### ADVERTISING.

This High Court at the last session voted a small sum for advertising, and your Executive have expended that in a way they considered would do the most good.

We were all of the opinion that the Order must be kept before the public and your High Standing Committee, at their own expense, maintained an ad. in the *P. E. Island Magazine*.

I would suggest that the Supreme Court be asked if they intend to spend any amount in advertising during the coming year in this jurisdiction,