

frank, outspoken manner. We hope he will in the future as in the past continue to show the same strong traits of character. The members of this Committee residing in Michigan can assure the officers and representatives of this Supreme Court that the Foresters in this jurisdiction have full confidence in his ability as an Executive Officer, and will give him and the Supreme Executive Council their loyal and earnest support. We feel confident that disloyalty to the Order, either in Michigan or elsewhere, will not secure much of a foothold while the present Supreme Chief Ranger holds his present position.

The attention of your Committee has been called to the legal difficulties in the way in some States, preventing active work been done there and while the matter has not been referred to this Committee in a formal way we nevertheless believe it would be proper for us to report thereon. We therefore take the liberty of offering the following preamble and resolution, and recommend their adoption:

*Whereas*, some Superintendents of Insurance have virtually ruled that the Independent Order of Foresters cannot legally transact business in certain States unless they comply with the laws governing regular Life Insurance Companies and

*Whereas*, it would require in such cases a deposit of one hundred thousand dollars with the State treasurer to comply therewith, and

*Whereas*, we do not concede that this association is a regular Life Insurance Company but a fraternal beneficiary organization, the same as our sister societies, with the same Lodge system and working under a ritual, and hence exempt from the provisions of the insurance laws, and

*Whereas*, we believe that the Independent Order of Foresters should be admitted and allowed to institute Subordinate Courts in every State where other kindred societies are admitted under the statutes governing fraternal beneficiary organizations, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Supreme Executive Council be, and they are hereby, instructed and authorized to employ competent legal counsel in any State where such difficulties are raised, and take steps to bring the question before the Courts with a view of reaching a decision which will determine the legal status of the Independent Order of Foresters within such jurisdictions.

N. S. BOYNTON, *Chairman*,  
W. W. STOCKWELL,  
Geo. G. VANDALSTINE,  
H. H. APLIN.

Representative J. T. Carson presented a minority report against the admission of the ladies.

On motion of Representative Geo. A. Harper, seconded by Representative R. Gilray the consideration of the majority and minority reports were left over until the disposition of the report of the Special Committee on admission of women into the Order.

Representative Geo. A. Harper, chairman of the Special Committee appointed to consider that clause of the Supreme Chief Ranger's Report relating to the admission of women into the Order, presented a majority report of that Committee recommending the admission of women as follows:

*To the Supreme Chief Ranger, Officers and Representatives of the Supreme Court:*

Your Special Committee to whom was referred the overture from the High Court of Ohio that women be admitted as beneficial members of this Order beg leave to report as follows:

That we recommend the admission of women as social or beneficiary members, at their own option, to the Order, but in separate Courts.

G. A. HARPER,  
R. G. MONROE,  
DAVID MILLAR,  
PETER STRATHEARN.

Representative E. W. Buckley, M. D., presented a minority report against the admission of ladies.

The consideration of this report brought out to the fullest extent the arguments on both sides, and when the vote was taken to adopt the majority report it was defeated by 81 nays to 34 yeas.

Major N. S. Boynton's report was then taken up, and on consideration was adopted, except so much as refers to changes in the Constitutions and Laws of the Order, which were ordered to stand as a notice of motion for the consideration of the Supreme Court at its next session.

Colonel W. W. Wharry presented the second report of the Finance Committee which was adopted.

Representative N. F. Paterson, Q.C., chairman of Committee on the State of the Order, presented the report of that Committee as follows:

*To the Supreme Chief Ranger, Officers and Representatives of the Supreme Court:*

Your Committee on the State of the Order beg leave to report:

That it is with feelings of unbounded gratitude to an all wise Providence we contemplate the wonderful degree of prosperity which has attended our beloved Order during the two years just closed as evidenced in the statistical record contained in the reports of the Supreme Chief Ranger and Subordinate officers presented at this session.

Your Committee, whilst aware that a substantial portion of the increase of membership is due to the activity and zeal of officers and members of High and Subordinate Courts, in their opinion by far the major portion of such increase is due to the energy of the Supreme Executive and its officers, but especially to the Supreme Chief Ranger whose love for the Order, untiring activity in promoting its welfare and far more than ordinary executive ability displayed in the management of its affairs have in one short decade raised it out of the slough of despond with an unparalleled degree of advancement to the proud position it occupies to-day.

#### ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENT BENEFITS.

Your Committee in considering the suggestions of the Supreme Chief Ranger that the endowment benefits be raised to \$5,000 availed themselves of such information as they could obtain, and learned that there are several fraternal organizations operating in the United States and Dominion of Canada which offer such benefits. At present about one member in twenty of our Order has availed himself of the \$3,000 endowment benefits.

Your Committee recommend that the question first be submitted to the several High Courts and their opinions thereon obtained.

#### WEAK AND INACTIVE COURTS.

Your Committee in considering the recommendations of the Supreme Chief Ranger respecting weak Courts have been made aware that the High Court of Ontario has salaried officers whose duty is to visit weak Courts, and that great benefits have resulted to the Order in consequence. That the High Court of Quebec at its recent session made like provision.

Your Committee regard it as one of the inherent prerogatives of the Supreme Executive and High Standing Committees to send officers in the interest of the Order to visit and assist weak Courts, but if any doubt exists as to such your Committee recommend that to remove the same it be now declared that such powers are so vested in the aforesaid bodies.

Your Committee do not recommend the extending the power to make a Forester at sight beyond the present provisions of the Constitution, believing that such power should be sparingly exercised at all times, and then more as a compliment to men of prominence than as a means of increasing the membership.

Your Committee do not recommend the adoption of the suggestion of the Supreme Chief Ranger as to the disposition of initiation fees of those made Foresters at sight or brought into Subordinate Courts by Supreme or High Court officers.

#### EXTENSION OF THE ORDER.

Your Committee in considering those clauses of the report of the Supreme Chief Ranger, referring to the extension of the Order beyond the North American Continent, concluded the gravity of the question to be so great as to warrant them in suggesting the question should be considered by the Supreme Court in session, they not seeing their way to make any further recommendation. Your Committee, however, would refer the members of the Supreme Court to Section 4<sup>th</sup>, Sub-sections 1 and 2, which, in the opinion of the members of the Committee, preclude the extension of the Order to New Zealand and Australia without amendment to