

From the Founder to the Builder.

The Nestor of the Order Looks Back from his
72nd Birthday.

SYRACUSE, Dec. 20th, 1899.

Oronhyatekha, M.D.,

Supreme Chief Ranger, I.O.F.

MY FRIEND OF EARLY YEARS, AND NOW MUCH ADMIRER AND ESTEEMED BROTHER,—To-day, God in His infinite mercy, has allowed me to pass the 72nd milestone on the road to the "far beyond," "from whence no traveller returns," and yet, while I feel the weight of years, I thank my Creator that I possess the "five senses" as keen as when I was 21 years old. How long this will last, is only known to Him, who "holds our lives in the hollow of His hand;" but I feel this, and know, that when the "summons shall come," I am prepared to meet the Almighty, to whom I have dedicated every Forestric act of my eventful life, as the great history of our Order, of which you are the author, fully shows; and as all of my addresses since clearly prove, as well as my private life, with those who know me best, will bear witness. If I erred, it was human, caused by inexperience; if I offended, it came from impulse, not from design; and when offended, my heart was ever open to forgiveness of an "erring brother." If I have an enemy, he made himself such, not relishing my "conscientious duty" performed for his welfare, and in the interests of our beloved Order, to which my every act was pledged. No Forester knows that better than you do, who knew me in my most active Forestric life, and with whom I counseled in the early years, and to whom I still cling as the Order's greatest benefactor, and I am proud to acknowledge to-day, and as I have done on all public occasions, that were it not for the fidelity, the fertile brain the pluck and herculean labors of Dr. Oronhyatekha, our venerated Supreme Chief Ranger, the I.O.F. would not now be in existence. The oldest members know this, the youngest members should never forget it. It is true that he chose able assistants, he never chooses any others, and always gives them due credit, but our history and all the records prove that he was, since 1880, the re organizer, the promoter, the director, designer, and builder of the Independent Order of Foresters in the States, the Canadas, and in Europe, until it has eclipsed the oldest fraternal societies on record, for its protective surplus revenues, and for its perfect insurance system, which gives more benefits to the insured, at the smallest cost, than any other mutual benevolent association in two hemispheres. I started to address you, brother, in the first person, have done so also in the second person, and am back now where I started, and will close by saying that we 160,000 Independent Foresters wish you health, long life, and prosperity, that you may still continue to build up our great Order; to protect and increase our millions of surplus, that the brethren, their widows and orphans, may still promptly receive, as time demands, their rights and benefits with no delays, and with the same unbegrudging hand, and, I assure you, until my latest breath, your old friend, the undersigned, shall continue to pray, "GOD BLESS DR. ORONHYATEKHA."

In L. B. and C.,

A. B. CALDWELL, P.S.C.R.

Supplementary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Death of a Well-Known Brother.

Bro. F. F. Raitt, the well-known grocer of 80 North Park Street, Victoria, died very suddenly about 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, Dec. 16, while proceeding home in company with Mr. P. McTeigh. The only intimation his friend had that he was even indisposed was a few minutes previously when he had mentioned in a casual sort of way that he felt unwell.

Bro. Raitt was a man apparently in the best of health right up to the time of his death. He was a native of Bathurst, New Brunswick, and when he first came to this province engaged for a time in ranching on the Fraser River. He subsequently removed to this city, where he manifested considerable interest in public affairs, and was on several occasions a candidate for municipal office. It was understood that had he lived he would have been a candidate for office at the forthcoming municipal elections.

The body was removed to the morgue on Saturday night, and this morning an inquest was held on the remains, the usual verdict of death from natural causes being returned. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

Bro. Raitt was a member of Court Cariboo, No. 743, located at Cariboo. His sudden death took place on 16th Dec. The papers covering the claim reached the Supreme Court offices on 27th Dec., and the check covering the Benefit Certificate was sent to the Financial Secretary of Court Cariboo on 28th Dec. Comment is needless.

CALIFORNIA.

Court Buena Esperanza Addressed by the High Chief Ranger.

In response to a personal invitation sent out by Court Buena Esperanza, I.O.F., a large number of guests were greeted at the edge of the Forest (lodge room) by members of the fraternal order and welcomed into the session chamber last meeting. The occasion of the large number of invitations sent out was for the purpose of getting outsiders interested in the Order.

High Chief Ranger of California, Col. G. A. McElfresh, of Los Angeles, was present, and after being formally introduced by Chief Ranger Geo. W. McIntyre, delivered a convincing argument on the merits of the fraternity he represented.

Following his remarks an invitation was extended to any who might wish to come in to the Forest, and as the initiation fee was temporarily disposed of, eleven applicants were the result of the special inducement.

All present were then led into the banquet room where an elaborate spread was in waiting. The sumptuous feast was heartily partaken of and when all had finished, cigars were served and a smoker indulged in while the Chief Ranger entertained the jolly assemblage with mirth-provoking after-dinner talk. Chief Ranger McIntyre acted as toastmaster in a very efficient manner, and many responses were made.

The new candidates were then escorted back to the lodge room and after taking the obligation of the Order were declared Foresters.