

The Forestry year just closed has been one of great prosperity to all the High Courts. In Central England the increase in membership was fully 80 per cent. In Southern England it was even greater than this, while all the remaining High Courts show gratifying gains. We would not be at all surprised to find the membership doubled in Great Britain and Ireland during the next twelve months.

An Artistic and Literary Souvenir.

We have much pleasure in calling attention to the publishers notice on the inside page of the back cover of this number, regarding the "*Dulce Domum*" (Sweet Home) supplement of THE INDEPENDENT FORESTER. This elegant supplement will be a fitting souvenir of the Supreme Court meeting and will mark an epoch in the history of Forestry. As it will find its way into the hands of tens of thousands of Foresters, it will be the best advertising medium of the year, and we have no doubt that the limited space that can be devoted to this purpose will be promptly taken up by members of the Order and other business men.

The Twenty-fourth Anniversary of the I.O.F.

On Friday, the 17th June, THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS will have completed the twenty-fourth year of its history. Two dozen eventful years they have been. The growth and development that they have witnessed in the I.O.F. have more than realized the highest hopes of the founders, and of the great army of those that from its inception have been working for its extension. The retrospect is a most pleasing one. All along the years the progress of the Order shows widening usefulness, and increasing confidence on the part of the public that it has so well served. The outlook was never so bright as it is to-day. Strong, united, progressive, it fears no rival.

The efforts to injure it are growing more and more futile. Opposition to it has so long been ineffective that it has now practically ceased. Foresters everywhere will observe the twenty-fourth anniversary with a light heart. The annual excursion to Foresters' Island Park will doubtless draw a larger crowd than ever. Excursions by rail and steamer will be run from a great many points. From Toronto, the extremely low rate \$1.75 for the round trip has been secured. A great many courts will doubtless participate in the picnic. Regatta and games on Saturday, the 18th. On Sunday, the 19th June, the anniversary service

will be held in the pavilion. The praise will be led by a Mohawk choir. The Chief will be at his Island Home to receive his many guests. Past experiences have testified to the cordiality of the welcome with which Dr. and Mrs. Oronhyatekha receive their thousands of friends. We confidently expect the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Order will be celebrated with greater enthusiasm than ever.

The I. O. F. is Commended for its Statesmanlike Attitude Towards United States Volunteers Who are Members.

The action of the Executive Council in issuing the following rules has been highly commended by the press of the United States. The rules show the broad international spirit of the Order, and the appreciation of the Executive of the cause that the great Republic is championing in the present conflict with Spain.

1. All members of the Order who have responded or who may hereafter respond to the call of their country, and serve in the army, navy, or militia, shall from the date of such service be classed as in the "Ordinary or Preferred" class, and shall pay the rates provided for such class in section 237 of the Constitutions and Laws.

2. All restrictions as to residence south of the 38th parallel of latitude are hereby suspended, in so far as it affects or may affect the said brethren, such suspension to continue during the time that the said brethren are so engaged in the service of their country.

3. Your Financial Secretary is hereby instructed to transfer any brother who may be in the "Hazardous" or "Extra Hazardous Class" to the "Ordinary or Preferred Class" from the date of his entrance into the military or naval service of his country.

4. All courts are instructed to immediately furnish the Supreme Secretary with the name of each brother who may enter the military or naval service of his country, giving, if possible, such further information as to regiment or ship as to enable the Supreme Officers to keep track of our brethren and to communicate with them from time to time.

A Detroit paper, referring to the above rules, asks, concerning the Order, the question, "Is it American?" and proceeds to remark:

"The good book teaches, 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' We believe this will apply to fraternal insurance societies as well as to anything else. We have heard those who oppose the Supreme Court I.O.F. howl about its being un-American until we are positively tired of it. Now, all at once, like a clap of thunder from a clear sky, to those who have heard these assertions, comes from the Supreme Court Office the decree that any and all Foresters who desire to enlist in the service of their country to fight against Spain shall have the benefit of protection the same as though they remained at home. Whether this is American or not we leave to each man to judge for himself."