

## New Jersey.

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE  
HIGH COURT.

SOMERVILLE, N. J. Sept., 22, '96.

The tenth annual session of the High Court of the Independent Order of Foresters of New Jersey convened at Somerville on the above date. Conrad B. Bennett, of Trenton, High Chief Ranger, presided. The High Court was called to order at 10 a. m. The roll-call of officers showed the following present, with the exception of High Marshal, High Conductor, High Messenger: Conrad B. Bennett, High Chief Ranger, 30 West State Street, Trenton, N. J. James E. Febrey, H.V.C.R., 98 Broad Street, Elizabeth, N. J. W. T. Bingham, P.H.C.R., 328 Cherry Street, Elizabeth, N.J. J. C. Calvert, H.S., 1018 Laura Street, Elizabeth, N.J. A. C. Wenzel, H. Treasurer, 128 Spruce Street, Newark, N.J. W. E. Trautwein, M.D., H. Physician, Lyndhurst, N.J. W. E. Dobbins, H.C., Burlington, N.J. Rev. Dr. Conklin, H.Chap., Frenchtown, N.J. William Yuill, H.J.S., Newark, N.J. Chas. C. Harris, H.J.W., Elizabeth, N.J. Wm. DeHart, H. J.W., Port Richmond, S.I. D. T. McCarthy, H.S.B., Elizabeth, N.J. James Patterson, H.S.B., Plainfield, N.J. Robert Muir, H.M., Jersey City, N.J. M. F. Humphrey, H.Con., West Brighton, S.I. W. J. Hibbert, H.Mes., Trenton; N.J.—Auditors: P. Seavring, Newark, N.J.; P. H. McDonald, Elizabeth, N.J.

The Chief Ranger made the following temporary appointments: Bro. Colon, High Messenger; Bro. Allen, H. J. Beadle; Bro. Mulford, High Marshal; Bro. Compton, High Conductor; Bro. Tyson, High Auditor.

The High Chief Ranger appointed the following Committees:

**CREDENTIALS.**—Bros. Wardell, Seavers, Robbins, Trepto, and Bro. Compton of Metuchen.

**DISTRIBUTION.**—Bros. Weller, Storms, Stevens, Allen, and Hurley.

**FINANCE.**—Dr. Potter, H. Von der Neide, Gallaway, Banta, and Teller.

**APPEALS.**—Voorhees, Appgar, Haywood, Morrell, and Kling.

**STATE OF ORDER.**—Bros. McBride, Buckle, H. F. Von der Heide, Clarke, and Banker.

## REPORT OF CHIEF RANGER.

High Chief Ranger Bennet delivered his address as follows:

**BRETHREN,**—It is with pleasure that I submit for your consideration my report for the term drawing to a close. In glancing back over the fifteen months that have passed since the last Session of this High Court, we find much to be thankful for. Our noble Order, whose phenomenal prosperity in previous years has given us just cause for self-praise, during these latter months has surpassed all previous records. With 97,938 members in our ranks, and our reserve fund at \$1,843,050.83, well may we feel proud of our membership in the I.O.F.

Within our own jurisdiction, wherein the depression in business has been felt more keenly than in any other section of our coun-

try, we have done ourselves proud. The records of previous years are cast in shadow by the result of good work of these fifteen months, during which 1,193 new Foresters have joined our ranks. Well done for New Jersey! May the work that has but just commenced continue with unabated zeal, until we have a court in every city, town, and borough in our good old State. As an instance of some of the courts' growths, I would cite Court Columbus, No. 920, now with a membership of 293, an increase of 90 members this year; Court Fairmount, an increase of 56; Court Childs, 55; Court South-End, 55; Court Elizabeth, 53; Court Dunellen, 25; Court Mercer, instituted this year, has, 45 members; Court Hancock, increase of 24; Court Richmond, 39; Court Somerset, 44; and Court Washington, 56.

The High Court distributed 16 gold badges as prizes to members of the different courts for bringing in new members before Sept. 1, 1895.

In surrendering the office of High Chief Ranger to my successor, I do so with the personal knowledge that, with but four exceptions, every court in our jurisdiction is active and working, and that never before in the history of our Order in this the mother state of the I.O.F., has the enthusiasm for its rapid advance been as intense as we find it at the present time. With this condition of affairs, why cannot the next Forestric year show an increase in membership at least double that of the one just closed?

This bright and pleasing picture is shadowed somewhat by the knowledge that death's visitation to our ranks during this term has been more frequent than ever before in our long history. About 16 esteemed members have answered the summons from the great High Court above. While our heartfelt sympathies go out to the bereaved families, whose cares are now practically our cares, we can but feel a joyous satisfaction in the knowledge that our esteemed brothers' membership in the I.O.F. has prevented the entrance of want among the little group left behind in the stricken homes.

The High Standing Committee have held monthly sessions, which have been closely attended by every member of the committee, thus evincing the interest they have had in our Order's welfare. At this point I desire to thank my fellow-committeemen for the valuable assistance they have rendered me in the discharge of my duties.

Since the last session of the High Court I have found it necessary to make 130 visits to the courts in this jurisdiction, and to write 610 letters on business pertaining to our Order. I have visited every court in the state, with three or four exceptions; and these latter courts have been well cared for by the other members of the High Standing Committee.

In June last, I attended the Foresters' annual picnic at Foresters' Island, Canada, on June 18th, and there made the acquaintance of nearly all the Supreme Court officers. I found the Supreme Chief Ranger, Dr. Oronhyatekha, thoroughly alive to the Order's best interest, and to him I give the credit of