

on record. This triennial gathering was the first to be held in the magnificent temple the Foresters have erected for themselves in the heart of the principal Canadian city, and which hall, by the way, should prove a considerable source of income."

"Information as to certain Parliamentary proceedings were then laid before the meeting, the Supreme Chief Ranger remarking that, notwithstanding they had voluntarily abandoned, for reasons he explained, the Bill they had submitted to Parliament in 1895, they had subsequently presented a new Bill containing all that was in the first Bill, and, in addition, asking:—

(1) That the Order be subjected to Government supervision and inspection. (2) To be allowed to make annual reports to the Insurance Department of the Dominion.

and which Bill passed the House of Commons and the Senate unanimously, and was assented to in the name of Her Majesty the Queen by his Excellency Bro. the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada, on the 23rd of April, 1896, under the provisions of which Act a licence was issued from the Insurance Department of Canada on 1st of May, 1896. Preceding the issue of such a licence, a deposit of \$75,000 was required. The Independent Order of Foresters immediately responded by depositing \$100,000 in Government Stocks, on which the Order receives the interest; \$50,000 in United States Bonds had been deposited with the Insurance Department of the State of Wisconsin, and £20,000 sterling with the Government of Great Britain, so long ago as 1892."

"The Supreme Chief Ranger proceeded to adduce certain facts and reasons, from which he evolved the statement that fraternal insurance, in its nature, costs less than that of many of the old line companies, and we are free to confess that it went far in support of his theory."

"We, in conclusion of this brief epitome of the proceedings, must congratulate the Order upon its successful career during the past three years, and, in view of which, we can safely endorse Dr. Oronhyatekha's anticipation of being able, should the Order's steady upward progress be maintained, and that practically goes without saying, of declaring, in the course of the very near future and from time to time, substantial bonuses."

The High Courts.

HIGH COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Court Vancouver, No. 1,328, has taken the initiation in the formation of a High Court for this Province. The Committee appointed by the members of Court Vancouver to take the matter up is doing good work, and already encouraging results are coming in from the surrounding courts. From all accounts the majority of the members in the Province are in favor of supporting Court Vancouver in the good work which it has undertaken.

HIGH COURT OF CALIFORNIA.

The High Court meeting at Santa Barbara seems to have taken possession of the city. It had been

estimated that the session would bring about 300 visitors, but about 800 arrived to test the hotel accommodation of the historic old town.

The parade, which formed in front of the Arlington, was one of the pleasing features of the opening day. There were nearly three hundred Foresters in line. J. C. Packard, chairman of the Executive Committee, was Grand Marshal. The Royal Foresters' band was at the head of the procession, followed by the Royal Court officials and their staffs, in uniform, then the High Court officers, Mayor Burke and ladies of the party in carriages. The novelty feature of the parade, which the small boy said was "just like a circus," was the Oriental Court, in grotesque costumes. The visiting delegates and the local court then came, four abreast. The parade was three blocks in length. The line of march extended down State street to Ortega, and then back to Grace church, where the great meeting was held. A large number of citizens, in spite of the unusual heavy fog, turned out to witness the parade, and to greet the Foresters at the church.

The officers of the Royal Court, with the staffs, make a very striking appearance in their rich uniforms of blue and gold, and waving white and red plumes.

Mr. Packard presided over the reception meeting and introduced Mayor Burke, who delivered an eloquent address of welcome. Among other things he said: "It is always an honor for a city to enjoy the privilege of entertaining a large body of representative visitors; but the present occasion is rendered far more important by the fact that we see in our midst a High Court of the wealthiest and most liberal fraternal organization in the world. The jurisdiction of this High Court comprises the entire State of California, and our citizens are, therefore, pleased to express their grateful appreciation for the selection of Santa Barbara for the 1898 session. We deem it our duty to acknowledge this honor with more than ordinary courtesy, for, inasmuch as the civilization of the world has advanced fifty years within the past five months, the present session shall undoubtedly be the most important in the history of the High Court."

Col. G. A. McElfresh, High Chief Ranger of California, delivered a strong address on the "Objects and Benefits of the Order," setting forth the growth of Independent Forestry, and stating that the Order was the third oldest of its kind in North America, and has 150,000 members, receiving 33,000 applications last year. It is of international importance, now having High Courts in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and continental Europe. He stated that at the last meeting of The Supreme Court it had been decided to extend the Order's field of usefulness still further, by allowing women the same beneficent rights, and providing for the formation of companion courts, of which only women could be active members. He entered at length into the methods and benefits of the Independent Foresters.

The big auditorium was filled, and that the program was greatly enjoyed was demonstrated by the continued applause.

The regular session of the High Court began the morning of the second day. High Chief Ranger of California, McElfresh, opened with a very able and telling address to the delegates that was characterized by one of those who heard it as "a magnificent speech."