

Brother E. Allen, the High Court was reduced to the Subordinate Court Degree.

### High Chief Ranger's Report.

#### *Brethren of the High Court of New Jersey :*

I extend to you a cordial greeting and bid you a hearty welcome to this the fourth Annual Meeting of this High Court. Through the goodness and mercy of our High Chief above we have been spared another year, and we are now met to consider the past and plan for the future.

The time for which I was selected to preside over this honorable Body is very nigh its close, and soon another brother will fill the position I now occupy.

Thus we are reminded that the years are rapidly passing and with them our individual opportunities for good. For months during the past year I have suffered from neuralgia in my head to such an extent as to almost entirely unfit me for the duties of the office.

During the year I have made several visits to each of the Courts in this jurisdiction, except Court Delaware instituted last summer at Florence, N. J., by the Supreme Chief Ranger.

Had an opportunity occurred I should have been glad to have made a visit to this Court to encourage and assist them in their good work. I have no doubt but the pleasure of such a visit would have been enhanced from the fact that this Court is located where some of my boyhood days were spent near half a century ago. My visits have been pleasant, the officers and members of the several Courts having on all occasions treated me with courtesy and respect. I am glad to report harmony and good feeling among the members, and the Courts steadily growing.

Last spring, through the earnest and persistent efforts of Brother John Worrall, then a member of Court Elizabeth, No. 1, material, sound and solid, was brought together for the formation of a Court in Jersey City, and on 22nd April with the assistance of a few of my associate officers and members of some of the Subordinate Courts I instituted Court Onward, No. 553, with forty-seven charter members, all of which subsequently passed the Medical Board.

I have had one application for a dispensation to hold a meeting on Sunday to initiate candidates in order to get them in within the time allowed by the Executive Council for competing for premiums. While I commended the brethren for their zeal in procuring members, I felt that I could not grant their request and I gave them a few reasons which I considered sufficient to justify me in such refusal: (1) That it was a matter of conscience with me that I did not approve of unnecessary work or business on Sunday; (2) that I did not believe the Supreme Chief Ranger would sanction or countenance any such transaction, and further, that Foresters made at a meeting held on Sunday, their certificates of membership and endowment, as well as the records of the meeting must all bear the date of that Sunday, a fact that would in no wise enhance the popularity or respectability of the Order. Brethren, if I erred, it was an error of the head not of the heart.

In my official capacity I have tried to do my duty, to deal justly and act honorably with each Court in the jurisdiction. That I have failed in some instances I do not for a moment doubt.

A word or two concerning the several Courts:

Court Elizabeth, No. 1, is in a very fair condition. They have captured a number of strangers in the forest and taken them. Its finances have been considerably reduced, in relieving sick and disabled brothers, their families and in assisting to defray funeral expenses of those who have been called to their reward.

Court Washington, No. 44, has made several accessions to its membership, is in good working trim and in a flourishing condition.

Court Richmond, No. 234, has been favored with an efficient corps of officers, and the work done by them has been fully up to the standard, as exemplified in this jurisdiction.

Court Progressive, No. 254, is located among the very strongholds of benevolent organizations, and its most enthusiastic and energetic members have to struggle hard to make now and then a conquest, but they have the grit and will succeed.

Court Lafayette, No. 344, bears the palm in New Jersey, the members remove their coats, roll up their sleeves and work with a will that is equaled by few and excelled by none. Their initiatory service is rendered in the most impressive manner that I have ever seen, and during the year they have exemplified it on a large number of candidates.

Court Onward, No. 553, is just seven months old to-morrow, it is healthy and strong, its creeping days are past and it now walks erect with steady strides, bidding fair to overtake and distance some who reason their age by years.

I cannot speak of Court Delaware from personal observation, but expect to hear a good account of it during this annual meeting.

I would call your attention to the fact that no special effort is being made by this High Court to spread the principles of Independent Forestry outside of our several Courts or to increase the number of Courts in this jurisdiction.

If the Order is appreciated by us as it should be, if we believe it to be one of the best, if not the best of all, let us not appropriate to ourselves all its benefits but rather seek in some way to make them known and have them enjoyed by others.

I would recommend that measures be taken by the High Court to have as large a portion of this State as possible canvassed by a suitable organizer or proper State Deputies appointed by the High Chief Ranger, with the view of instituting Courts wherever practicable, with the understanding that should they fail, after earnest and persistent efforts, that a certain percentage of their expenses would be paid by the High Court.

I would recommend that the per capita tax to this High Court be fixed at 50 cents a year, payable in advance, one-half on or before 1st January and the balance on or before 1st July.

This to some may seem a large amount, but it is less than one cent a week for each member. If the High Court is satisfied to remain contented, to know that it is the smallest and least influential High Court on the roll, with no ambition to add to its members or increase its usefulness, then the present per capita tax of 15 cents a year may be sufficient to meet its expenses.

I would also recommend that the annual meeting of this High Court be held either in September or October, as the weather is generally more pleasant in those months than it is in November.

In closing I desire to thank my associate officers and all brothers who have in any way assisted me in the discharge of my duties as High Chief Ranger. I trust that my successor will have your united support and hearty co-operation in his endeavors to acceptably fill the requirements of the office.

Submitted in L., B. and C.,

ELWOOD PHARES,

High Chief Ranger.

### High Secretary's Report.

ELIZABETH, N. J., 21st November, 1890.

To the H. C. R. Officers and Representatives of the High Court of New Jersey:

BRETHREN,—I herewith submit my report for the year ending 20th November, 1890:

#### Statement No. 1.

##### STATE OF THE ORDER.

Number of Courts 1st July, 1889.....	5
" " instituted to 1st Sept., 1890.....	2
Total .....	7
Number of members 1st July, 1889 .....	449
" " initiated to 1st September, 1890 ..	202
" " suspended " " ..	14
" " died " " ..	3
Total membership " " ..	625

#### Statement No. 2.

##### DETAILED RECEIPTS FROM SUBORDINATE COURTS.

Name of Court.	No.	Per cap. tax.	Supplies.	Totals.
Elizabeth .....	1	\$22 80	\$1 98	\$24 78
Washington .....	44	12 90	4 55	17 45
Richmond .....	234	20 65	6 07	26 72
Progressive .....	254	6 45	7 14	13 59
Lafayette .....	344	18 45	4 93	23 38
Onward .....	553	.....	4 00	4 00
Watertown (N. Y.) .....	465	.....	53	53
Totals .....		\$71 25	\$29 20	\$100 45

#### Statement No. 3.

##### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand last report .....	\$100 60
For per capita tax .....	71 25
" Supplies .....	29 20
" Charter fee, Court Onward .....	100 00
" Royalty on Court Delaware .....	5 00
	\$306 05

##### EXPENDITURES.

Supplies from Supreme Court .....	\$62 14
Salary of H. Sec., postage, expressage, etc. ....	22 24
Expense of office of High Chief Ranger .....	5 80
Transportation to High Court, rent and incidental expenses .....	97 75
	\$187 93
Balance on hand .....	\$118 12