

JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY, Q.C.,

SUPREME SECRETARY.

We present this month a portrait of our Supreme Secretary, with a brief sketch of his active and useful career. Hosts of friends of the Secretary all over the continent will remember the question that they hear John A. so often propound in song:

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot?"

and will answer heartily, "The Secretary of our great Order is an acquaintance that once made you will not willingly forget." Next to our distinguished and trusted Chief, Mr. McGillivray is the best known of the members of the Executive. The duties of his important office keep him in constant communication with Subordinate Courts. His genial manner as well as his aptness of speech make him welcome at all Forestry gatherings. And the wide popularity that he enjoys, and that no one begrudges him, he has earned by courtesy of manner, worth of character, and devotion to the Order, in whose benefits and permanence he is an enthusiastic believer.

The Secretary is a comparatively young man. He was born in the township of Pickering, Ontario, Canada, on the 19th July, 1852. His father, Geo. McGillivray, came from Aberdeen, Scotland; the family belonged to Inverness, and were of the McGillivrays of Dunmaglass, the chiefs of the McGillivray clan. Mr. McGillivray's mother was a Miss Fothergill; her father represented Durham and Northumberland in the old Canadian Parliament. Mr. McGillivray enjoyed a liberal education, commenced at the public school, and carried on at the Whitby high school and Provincial University. His legal studies that were commenced with G. T. Smith & Co. Whitby, were finished in Toronto with the well-known firm of Jones Bros. & Mackenzie. He was called to the bar in 1878, and commenced the practice of his profession in Port Perry. After a year and a half's practice there he moved to Uxbridge, where he built up one of the largest and most remunerative practices in the province outside of the cities. In 1890, the Dominion Government conferred on him the distinction of Queen's Counsellor. Few men attain to this distinction at so early an age. On receiving the appointment of Supreme Secretary in 1889, he sold out his flourishing practice, and has since devoted all his time to the duties of his important office. In addition to relinquishing his legal practice, he gave up a profitable interest in a banking business in Uxbridge, as well as his interest in the "North Ontario Times" Printing and Publishing Company, of which he was the founder and president.

He became a Forester in 1881, and his promotion to the highest offices in the Order was exceptionally rapid. In 1882, he was elected High Chief Ranger of Ontario. From 1883 to 1889, he held the position of Supreme Counsellor. In 1889, he was chosen Supreme Secretary, and at the last meeting of the Supreme Court held in Detroit last September, he was unanimously re-elected to the same position.

He has had the great satisfaction of witnessing the phenomenal growth of the Order from feebleness to its present commanding strength. When he became a member 11 years ago, there was a membership of but 396, and instead of a surplus, a deficit of \$4,000. To-day he is an Executive Officer of the same Order, with a membership of 33,151; the debt of \$4,000 has been converted into a surplus of \$418,000. The pride that he takes in the Order is a pardonable one; with his experience of its principles and management, no one need wonder at his being a firm believer in its continued growth and permanence. He assures us that the work of the great organization goes on smoothly and harmoniously, and as he is in monthly communication with the one thousand Subordinate Courts of the Order, he is in a position enjoyed by no one else, to speak authoritatively on this matter. To the work of building up the Order to its present proportions, after its honoured Chief, Oronhyatekha, probably no one has contributed as much as the Supreme Secretary, and when the Supreme Court increased his salary 50 per cent., everyone agreed that the increase was deserved, and would be fully earned.

Mr. McGillivray has had considerable experience in municipal matters. He was member of the town council of Uxbridge for three years, and for the year 1890 was mayor of the town. In 1887, he contested South Ontario for the Local Legislature, and narrowly escaped being elected. Since becoming Supreme Secretary, he has declined the unanimous nomination of his party to be again their candidate. His political leanings are Conservative, and an election contest in his native county usually finds him in the thickest of the fight. But political differences never interfere with personal and Forestry friendships, and the Secretary enjoys in a marked degree the good will of those with whom he differs politically. He takes a lively interest in our "citizen soldiers"; he entered the volunteer force as a private in 1871. He is now major of the 34th Battalion.

He owns a large farm near Uxbridge, is an enthusiastic sheep-breeder; his flock of "Horned Dorsets" is known throughout the Dominion, having carried off several prizes at the last Industrial Fair in Toronto. In addition to being a Forester, Mr. McGillivray is also a Workman, Mason, Odd-fellow, a member of Mystic Circle, Knights of Honour, and Goodfellows.

Though not connected with any temperance organization, he is a total abstainer, and a consistent and earnest advocate of temperance. He is a staunch and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian Church. He was married in 1880 to Miss Button, of Uxbridge. Of two boys born to them, one, Gordon, a bright lad of six, survives. The family still live at "Jersey Dale"—their beautiful home near Uxbridge. The hospitality of the home is what might be expected from its genial and accomplished master and mistress.

As the efficient Secretary of the Independent Order of Foresters, and the trusted colleague of the Supreme Chief Ranger, Mr. McGillivray is rendering valuable service to thousands of his fellow-men—services that every member of the Order will wish to retain. His presence is welcome to every Forestry gathering, and his tall form in the circle of concord and unity, as he leads with stentorian voice in "Auld Lang Syne," is a figure that all would be unwilling to miss—and we voice a very general hope when we express the wish that he may be of us, and with us, for many years to come.