

death-blow to the work of the society in Victoria, and I believe in Australia.

Dr. Montague arrived here in May, 1901, and was heralded as a Privy Counsellor and Minister of Agriculture and distinguished politician of Canada. The only public meetings he addressed were free concerts at which the best musical talent was engaged and paid for out of the funds of the order. The only press notices were given by small suburban papers, and paid for as advertisements—the great daily press of the large cities ignoring him and his cause completely. The reception Dr. Montague received at the last public meeting (free concert given in the Melbourne Masonic Hall), was such that he declared "he never wanted to set foot in Melbourne again."

It is only now becoming known under what circumstances several members of the Parliament joined the order. The discreditable methods of management adopted by the Supreme Chief Ranger and his nominees have caused prominent members of the order to sever their connection with it and forfeit the premiums they have paid, feeling convinced that no life assurance society in the world could indulge in such reckless extravagance and remain in a solvent condition.

The Supreme Chief Ranger and his party (a large one) enjoyed themselves at the most fashionable and expensive hotel in Australia (Menzies). The banquet reported as tendered to Dr. Oronhyatekha given at that hotel, to which even the employees of the society were invited, was arranged by the management of the I.O.F., and at the expense of the order, and it was on a most lavish scale. Australians have always associated our American cousins with "tall talk," but the January Forester takes the palm, and proves that journal to be a work of fiction instead of a reporter of facts.

In Prahran City, with a population of 41,000, and in which three courts or lodges were formed and were progressing, only one court remains, with about six members; Richmond and Fitzroy and other suburbs being in the same condition. The great Dr. Oronhyatekha's arbitrary and despotic manner alienated the sympathy of many, and convinced most of the members that the I.O.F. could never be acclimatized in Australia, however vigorous it might be on Canadian soil.

Trusting you will find room in your valuable journal for the above facts in the interests of those who are endeavoring to make provision for their widows and orphans,

I am, yours obliged,

A Disgusted ex-Member.

I enclose my name and address, with the position I occupied in the Order to show that I am in possession of the true facts of the case which I have only outlined. You are at liberty to use my name if you think it desirable. I also enclose a specimen ticket, thousands of which were distributed. It is the "Welcome to Oronhyatekha."

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 24th March, 1902.

Editor MONETARY TIMES.

SIR,—At the request of hundreds of Foresters in Melbourne who have read the January issue of *The Forester* we present to you the accompanying statement of facts concerning the true condition of the I.O.F. in Australia. Every line of it is correct.

The names hereto signed are those of members and ex-members of the I.O.F., and are affixed for your protection, and as a guarantee of truth. The real facts in connection with Dr. Montagu's visit to Australia are so flagrantly discreditable that you could not possibly publish a full recital of them. If it were possible for the insurance people of Canada to accredit a representative here to gather all the facts the result would be a revelation as startling as one of Jules Verne's romances. It would be the death blow of the order throughout the world. We also send you by this mail copies of *Truth* and *Evening Herald*, which will interest you.

We are faithfully yours,

James J. Wright, 349 Fitzroy street, Fitzroy, Melbourne.

S. Bangs, ex-member Star of Prahran, chemist, 328 Chapel street, Prahran; H. C. officer, member of Committee on State of Order.

A. A. Brown, High Marshal, High Court of Victoria Court I.O.F., No. 6,000.

L. P. T. Pocock, ex-member Court City of Richmond, No. 6,032.

John P. Orr, Past High Secretary High Court of Victoria Percy Samuel Renn, Court Clifton Hill, No. 6,021.

Charles E. White, High Court Officer and ex-Inspector, and Officer of Court City of Fitzroy, No. 6,024.

J. R. Henderson, Court Southern Cross, No. 6,026.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PAPER.

The January number of *The Forester*, the official organ of the I.O.F., has reached Australia, and has been read by Foresters here with mingled astonishment and disgust. It is a fact that not within the covers of any magazine claiming to speak authoritatively have there appeared so many statements foreign to the truth. To read the speeches of the Supreme Chief Ranger and Dr. Montague (the man of many titles), it would appear that Forestry in this Commonwealth was a happy and fast multiplying family "deeply rooted in Australian soil," while on the contrary it is full of dissension, "collapsing like a pricked bubble," the machinery of our courts busy with writs against it, its chief medical officer in gaol, its ambassador extraordinary in disgrace here, and its name nauseating to the general public. . . .

SOME NOTES ON THE SEAL FISHERY.

NEWFOUNDLAND LETTER.

The Newfoundland sealing voyage this year will be above the average. Up to date eleven steamers are back from the ice, and their total catch reaches close upon two hundred thousand (200,000) seals. Of the nine others still out all except one have been spoken, and they report loads aggregating 40,000. The *St. John's Trade Review* estimates the number which will be taken by landsmen and schooners at another forty thousand (40,000), making the figures for the season's catch 280,000 seals. Owing to the delay in sailing this year, on account of the sealers' strike, the steamers struck the ice later than usual and have therefore brought in larger and better seals. Last year the average weight of the seals did not exceed thirty-nine pounds apiece; this year the average will be about fifty pounds. At this rate the 280,000 seals this year are of as much value as 350,000 of last year's seals, and taking these to be each worth \$1.25, we have the aggregate value of \$437,000.

I had the good fortune last week to be shown through one of the sealing factories, of which there are three in the island, two in *St. John's* and one at *Harbour Grace*. Immediately the seals are landed the flippers are cut off and thrown away but these are easily pounced upon by the crowd waiting around. The poorer classes of the city reap a veritable harvest at the wharves as the flippers are said to be quite palatable when properly cooked, although I have not yet summoned up courage to try them myself. The seals are then weighed (there being two tallymen, one to represent the men, another the vessel-owner), and are passed along to the skinning room. I may as well explain that by seal I mean only the pelt with the inch or inch and a half of fat adhering to it, for the carcasses are of no value and are never brought to port. The skimmers are paid three cents a seal, with a fine of ten cents if they cut a skin, and I was surprised to learn that a good man will often make as high as eighteen dollars a day. After being ground very fine the fat goes to large wickerwork vats, where it is kept at a temperature of 160 to 170 degrees (Fahrenheit, I presume), by means of steam which enters from pipes in the bottom. The oil strains through the basket-work, is cooled in the cooling tanks and finally left in shallow vats in a room with a glass roof where the sun completes the process of refining it. The residue was formerly considered of no value except as a fertilizer, but is now turned over to a Swedish gentleman, a Mr. Rissmiller, who claims to be able to extract still further oil from it by means of sulphuric acid. This treatment is at present in the experimental stage and it is questionable if oil can be obtained by it in sufficient quantities to make it pay.

Up to the present year, the seal skins have all been exported, but for some months past the work of tanning them