

## High Chief Ranger's Report.

## OFFICERS AND DELEGATES:

BRETHREN,—Pursuant to the Constitutions and Laws of our Order, I respectfully submit my report as your High Chief Ranger, and invite you to join with me in returning thanks to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for the manifold mercies shown to us during the past year.

It is with a feeling of sadness that I call your attention to the death of one of my associates on the High Standing Committee, our late Bro. Sylvester Roe, M.D., of Brooklyn, who was elected High Physician at our last session in Albany. Bro. Roe returned to his home after the session of the High Court feeling poorly, and was confined to his bed for several months. He became sufficiently convalescent to venture from the house, but suffered a relapse from which he never recovered. His death occurred at his home in Brooklyn, on the 7th day of May, after an illness of eight months.

We have added another successful and prosperous year to our record.

Forty-three courts have been instituted in this State during the year, thirteen of which were instituted by the Supreme Court and thirty by the High Court. This is a decided change from previous years, and reflects credit upon the able manner in which the organizing work has been carried on by our High Secretary, who has demonstrated this year, more than any previous one, that by a concentrated effort in this line of work more good can be accomplished and better results attained. Ten more courts have been instituted during the past year than in the previous year, and I feel it my duty to accord the praise to our efficient High Secretary for his untiring zeal which has crowned this work with success.

I have made forty-nine official visits to different courts, addressed twenty-three public meetings, installed the officers of nineteen courts, instituted nine new courts, dedicated one hall to the uses of the Independent Forestry, presented the Grand Cross of Merit, at the request of the Supreme Chief Ranger, to your Past High Chief Ranger, Bro. Wm. F. Morthorst, attended one Forester picnic, and was present, in my official capacity, at the opening of the Temple building in Toronto.

The question of finances should receive your more careful consideration at this session. Last year we decided to pay the expenses of one delegate from each court. A doubt has arisen as to our ability to pay the mileage and *per diem*, as called for in our By-laws, on the income we receive. Of this we will be better able to judge when we hear a report from our mileage and *per diem* committee. If our income is not sufficient to meet this expenditure we must adopt some remedy. I know that too little provision is now made for the visitation of Subordinate Courts by officers of the High Court.

The remedies that suggest themselves are simply these:

- 1st. To increase the High Court dues.
- 2nd. To reduce the allowance to delegates, or
- 3rd. To legalize biennial sessions.

The necessity of either of these propositions will be made apparent to you when you realize that one-half or nearly so of our present surplus funds will have been consumed in defraying the expenses of this annual session.

In considering this matter we must lay all selfish motives aside and legislate solely for the best interests of the Order we represent. It is with great

confidence that I place this matter in your hands, believing you will do it justice.

Being constantly in touch with the High Secretary has greatly facilitated matters which have required our joint attention, and I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable counsel and courteous attention always accorded me, and, like my predecessors, feel it my duty to compliment the High Court in having selected a High Secretary of such generally recognized trustworthiness and efficiency. I also desire to express my thanks for the assistance I have received from the different members of the High Standing Committee. The most perfect harmony has prevailed. I also desire to express my thanks to the Supreme Chief Ranger and associate officers for all courtesies extended to me in my official capacity. I could not be forgetful of the warm reception and cordial treatment that I have received from the different members and courts where I have visited, and I bespeak for my successor the same fraternal treatment.

It is with feelings of thanksgiving that I surrender into your hands the great trust you placed in my charge one year ago, and may God, the searcher of all hearts, protect us in health and enable us to still further progress in our great work of Benevolence.

Submitted in L., B. & C.,

CHAS. A. KENDALL,

High Chief Ranger.

## High Secretary's Report.

To the High Chief Ranger, Officers and Representatives of the High Court of New York:

BRETHREN,—United, successful, prosperous and loyal, we again assemble for the regular transaction of all business deemed necessary for the proper welfare of this High Court, and in all our proceedings let brotherly love be distinguished as one of the crowning virtues of the Order we are called here to represent.

Notwithstanding great business depression, forty-three courts have been instituted during the year, thirty of which we have instituted ourselves, making ten more courts instituted than were during the same period of the preceding year. Our increase of membership is in the same proportion, having added 2,342 members during the past year, making a gain over the increase of the year previous amounting to 630.

The pleasant rivalry between the various High Courts continues one of those features of our labors that is truly exhilarating, and this spirit should permeate every member and throughout every High Court. We have arrived at a point of success wherein the High Court of New York has to its credit the fact that it is now the fourth High Court in the Order, in the point of membership, and has been monthly the first High Court in the Order during the past ten months in accepted risks with but one exception. Those who have been active in High Court matters since the beginning of the Order in the State of New York can but look upon the results in this State as simply marvellous.

The results of our business principles, in the management of the affairs of the High Court, has placed our finances in a much better condition than formerly, as you will note by reference to report relating to "assets and liabilities."

The many acts of fraternal courtesy extended to me, and the hearty co-operation by the High Chief Ranger, has been a source of great assistance, for which it affords me especial gratification to be thus