

FINANCES.

As you will be able to judge by the report of the High Treasurer, our finances are in a very flourishing condition and we still have a good surplus deposited in the bank.

During my term of office the expenses have been larger than usual owing to the salary paid to the High Inspectors and to the sums spent in mission work. Naturally those expenses increase as the membership and the number of Courts increase; moreover, competition between benefit societies is growing keener than in the past, which causes more travelling before being able to strike on a locality where a new court can be established.

I consider that the costs of organization and of inspection could be decreased if the High Standing Committee were to choose and appoint themselves the organizers and inspectors instead of getting them elected by the High Court.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year I have taken part in several public demonstrations, in my official capacity, where I had to speak in the interest of the Order.

I must specially recall the banquet given by the Foresters of the District of Quebec, at which sat amongst the guests the Chief Justice, Sir L. N. Cascault, several members of the Provincial Legislature and other prominent men of Quebec, the procession in honor of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria's Jubilee, at Montreal, which is by far the grandest demonstration in which the Foresters ever took part and in which they were preceded by a beautiful car bearing a moose and other emblems of the I.O.F., the meeting of the High Courts of Ontario East and Centre at Foresters' Park, at Deseronto; the meeting of the High Court of Central Ontario, and the formal opening of the Foresters' Temple, at Toronto, an imposing ceremony of which I shall keep an everlasting souvenir, and at which your humble servant was one of the few speakers called to address the thousands of Foresters and strangers present, an honor which I attribute to this High Court.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding these remarks, I take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the High Court for the generous assistance they have given me for the promotion of Forestry in this Province, and the members of Subordinate Courts for the noble work they have done during the year just lapsed, leaving you the sole judges of my work as High Chief Ranger, with the firm conviction and the satisfaction of having done my duty to the best of my ability.

F. S. MACKAY,
High Chief Ranger.

High Secretary's Report.

St. Hyacinthe, September 8th, 1897.

To the High Chief Ranger, Officers and Members of the High Court of Quebec:

BRETHREN,—Time has moved us on another year, and by the blessings of a kind Providence we are permitted to meet for the first time in this beautiful centre of industry, surrounded by a large and wealthy farming community.

With three large city courts of brother Foresters to welcome us at this our tenth annual session in this the sexagenary Jubilee year of her gracious Majesty Victoria by the grace of God Queen and Empress. . . .

PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

After a careful consideration of all the difficulties met with in the work of the Order in this Province during the past year, we are much encouraged by the renewed interest members are taking in the work, and the material aid they are as a whole lending in forming new courts in their own neighborhood, and at its close we congratulate ourselves on having had a year of unusual progress and prosperity.

Number of members last report, 10,249, in 177 courts.

Number of members in present report, 12,358, in 209 courts.

Court of the Woods amalgamated with Court Agnes, No. 1662.

Net gain for the year, 2,109.

FINANCES.

A careful perusal of Exhibit No. 4 and the report of the High Treasurer will show that our finances continued to remain in a healthy condition. It is encouraging to note that our total assets over liabilities amount to the handsome sum of \$7,406.73, which is \$130.76 greater than a year ago, notwithstanding the large expenses of the current term.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would strongly recommend this session of the High Court to draw the attention of subordinate courts to the prevailing laxity that exists in the matter of remitting semi-annually their High Court dues. These dues, we think, are collected with the June and December assessments, and it is hard to understand why it should in many instances be two or three months later before they reach our office.

Of the assets of the High Court \$6,092.86 is in cash deposited in various banks, showing a most healthy condition of the finances.

The growing condition of the Order in this Province has necessitated me since last February to devote my whole time to its interests, and this, no doubt, is something for you, brethren, to rejoice at. And now, as we meet in fraternal council with one another, we trust that the several courts which we represent will be greatly benefited by our deliberations, and that when we return home we will do so more fully resolved to continue scattering golden blessings amongst our fellowmen by disseminating far and wide the principles of Independent Forestry.

Respectfully submitted in the bonds of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord.

JOHN W. STOCKS,
High Secretary.

High Treasurer's Report.

St. Hyacinthe, September 8, 1897.

To the High Chief Ranger, Officers and Members of the High Court of Quebec, I.O.F.:

BRETHREN,—The following is the tenth annual statement of the financial standing of this High Court, ending on the 24th of August, 1897, which I take great pleasure in submitting for your earnest consideration.

The receipts of last year showed a balance deposited in the several banks of \$6,364.96, whilst this year the balance amounts to \$6,092.86, the total receipts for the same space of time having been \$7,762.25, and the total expenditure \$8,034.35, thus showing an increased expenditure of \$272.10.