

The Independent Forester

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The High Courts.

HIGH COURT OF CENTRAL ONTARIO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The meetings of this body at Owen Sound on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 21st and 22nd, were of unusual interest owing to the presence of the Chief himself both at the public meeting in McLaughlin Park and as an active but impartial participant in the sessions of the High Court. When it was known that Oronhyatekha would be present to be seen and heard, numbers of the neighboring farmers hitched up and drove into Owen Sound, so that with these and the 300 delegates added to the citizens, Poulett street took on a decidedly metropolitan aspect. Owen Sound, while not a convenient central spot for this jurisdiction, well repaid our visit both by its attractions and its genial hospitality. We felt that we got more than we gave. The delegates investigated and admired in the Liverpool of Canada its harbour, its scenery and its parks. During the intervals of the business of the High Court they went hither and thither, according to temperament, some visiting Eaton Bros., up-to-date improvements where the genial and affable foreman explained the mysteries of malting; while others took a greater interest in what the address of the acting mayor termed the "excellent moral and educational institutions, administered by good and pious clergymen and a well-trained staff of High and Public school teachers."

The meeting house at McLaughlin Park unfortunately proved inadequate to contain the enormous crowds that two steamers kept pouring into that charming resort. The anxiety of the people to hear and see the Chief and the extraordinary hold he kept upon his audience though following orators very well known in Canada and the United States corroborated the popular estimate voiced by the mayor of Owen Sound when he said:

"I also recognize your Order has one great force that similar institutions have not had, and that great force is the man who for many years has been at its head. Canada has produced many great Canadians, but Oronhyatekha occupies a position in the field of fraternal insurance, the peer of them all, and is recognized as one of the great men that the Dominion of Canada has produced."

Nothing captivated the audience and especially the fair sex more than the way Oronhyatekha mingled serious information about our progress in all parts of the globe with the most inimitable drollery and the most delicate badinage.

Proceedings of First Day.

MORNING.

The following standing committees were appointed:—

State of the Order—Rev. W. J. Hewitt, Severn

Bridge; W. Hamsden, Eden Mills; W. J. Umphrey, Udon; W. J. Henry, Toronto; W. Bikley, Morristown.

New Business—J. F. Armstrong, Millbrook; James Constable, Toronto; C. C. Speight, Acton; J. A. Oliver, Fort William; W. J. Langworthy, Port Arthur.

Mileage and Per Diem—Thos. Doyle, Newmarket; E. Y. Parker, Toronto.

Memorials—John A. McGillivray, Uxbridge; Wm. Ritchie, Newcastle; Rev. G. J. Burns, Strathavon; R. L. Adolph, Owen Sound; W. Waites, East Toronto.

Credentials—Dr. R. J. Niddrie, Creemore; T. Bell, Toronto; J. F. Johnston, Owen Sound; A. E. Wilson, Garden Hill.

Pres.—R. L. Mortimer, Shelburne; A. T. Hunter, Toronto; Rev. Dr. Caswell, Meaford.

Distribution—E. S. Dummie, Toronto; P. E. Ritchie, Toronto; A. E. Talmor, Cooksville; M. Peal, Rockwood; J. E. Tovell, Guelph.

Finance—A. Steward, Toronto; W. J. Ard, South River; J. D. Evans, Islington; Rev. A. McGillivray, Toronto; J. D. Smith, Baysville.

Appeal and Petitions—H. J. Spence, Patterson; J. W. Kennedy, Georgetown; Henry Roberts, Brampton; J. Adams, Elora; C. H. Collins, Toronto.

Constitution and Laws—D. Ormiston, Whitby; D. Urquhart, Toronto; W. J. Douglas, Eglinton; L. K. Murton, Oshawa; Chas. Kelly, Uxbridge.

The Report of the H.C.R. Bro. G. L. Wilson shows such a record of progress that we shall be pardoned for giving our readers a few extracts. He says:—

5. When you elected me to the highest office in your gift I determined to do my utmost to assist in securing the best results from the resources placed at our disposal. While past years of our High Court have been successful, one of my greatest pleasures to-day is to be able to present to you a report showing that success is still crowning our efforts, inasmuch as 1,646 new members were added to the roll during the year, being an increase of 158 over the previous year, while the Treasurer's Report shows \$2,549.36 on hand, being also an increase in the surplus of \$816.05 over last year's Report. The High Court is to be congratulated upon the substantial gains made in membership and finances.

6. It will also be noticed by the Secretary's Report that the same number of Courts are in arrears as last year, viz., 36, but I am pleased to add that the indebtedness is only \$177.57 as compared with \$362.82 last year, being a reduction of more than one half.

7. While the above excellent results have been obtained, you will note by the Treasurer's Report that the expenditures have been kept well within the appropriations made for the different depart-