

## Quebec High Court Meeting.

Tenth Session Held at St. Hyacinthe, Sept. 8th and 9th. Three Hundred Delegates Present. The Supreme Chief Receives an Enthusiastic Welcome.

(From the *Montreal Herald* of Sept. 8th.)

ST. HYACINTHE, QUE., Sept. 8th.

St. Hyacinthe is *en fête* to-day, the occasion being the opening of the annual Sessions of the High Court of Quebec, Independent Order of Foresters. By every train up to noon to-day delegates from all over the Province have arrived, and it is estimated that there are now some three hundred delegates in attendance.

The weather is beautifully fine, and great preparations have been made by the local reception committee for the entertainment of the visitors, in whose honor the streets are handsomely decorated.

This morning Dr. Oronhyatekha, of Toronto, the Supreme Chief Ranger, arrived, and was met by the reception committee and those delegates who had already arrived, and escorted to the High Court headquarters. At eleven o'clock a procession was formed, and left the Grand Hotel, proceeding through the principal streets to the City Hall, escorted by the Philharmonic and Cercle Montcalm Brass Bands.

At the City Hall the Mayor of St. Hyacinthe, Mr. Dessaulles, Councillor Morin and others were in waiting to give a civic welcome.

The Mayor, in a few well-chosen words in French, welcomed the gathering to St. Hyacinthe and expressed his hope that the Foresters would have successful meetings. He was followed by Dr. Beaudry, who read an address of welcome in French, and Mr. H. A. Egan, who delivered a similar address in English.

The S.C.R., Dr. Oronhyatekha, briefly replied to these, thanking the friends for their welcome, also briefly reviewing the progress that the Order had made. He was followed by Peter Strathearn, a well-known Montrealer, and High Vice-Chief Ranger, and Brother Roy, High Councillor. The meeting then adjourned.

The regular sessions of the High Court opened at two o'clock this afternoon. A matter for much regret is the absence of High Chief Ranger Bro. F. S. MacKay, of Montreal, who has been taken seriously ill while in Ottawa. The officers present are:—Supreme Chief Ranger Oronhyatekha, M.D.; Peter Strathearn, P.H.C.R., and High Vice Ranger; John W. Stocks, High Secretary; A. Gosselin, High Treasurer; Dr. A. Nadcau, High Physician; F. E. Roy, High Councillor; Rev. S. Harte, E. Talbot, High Auditors; A. Bois, H.S.W.; J. J. Duquette, H.J.W.

In the regrettable absence, through illness, of Bro. F. S. MacKay, High Chief Ranger, Bro. Peter Strathearn, H.V.C.R., presided.

The following committees were appointed:—

Credentials—Bros. John W. Stocks, E. Bois, Frank H. Wildgoose, Dr. Beaudry, H. Hurst.  
Distribution—Bros. Charland, F. C. H. Bursalon, Rev. Moore, P. Piche, James Stapleton.

Finance—J. B. A. Akure, R. Reinhold, P. M. Bretan, Rev. H. S. Harte and Fuller.

New Business—Bros. D. J. McArthur, P. L. Dubert, Rev. J. Pinel, J. T. Lariviere and F. Bausch.

Memorial—Bros. O. W. Bedard, Rev. W. Robinson, A. W. M. Kelly, Rev. J. E. Choquette and G. H. Harding.

Appeals and Petitions—Rev. Bro. Hewton, Bros. A. Pelletier, James Lorne, James Skelly and Alf. Beaujean.

Constitution and Laws—Bros. Dr. Brown, A. St. Mars, F. G. Kearns, Dr. Tivalotte and Rutherford.

State of the Order—Bros. A. Gosselin, George Longley, Dr. Picard, R. W. Williams and W. H. Johnson.

Press—John Richards, Court St. Louis, Montreal; E. A. Montel, Court Ste. Helene, Montreal; Rev. R. J. Hewton, Court Lachine, Lachine; and Montarville de la Bruere, of St. Hyacinthe.

An invitation was read from the civic officials, inviting the members and delegates to witness an exhibition to be given by the Ste. Hyacinthe fire brigade. The invitation was accepted.

The following reports were then submitted:

### High Chief Ranger's Report.

ST. HYACINTHE, 8th Sept., 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the High Court of Quebec:

BRETHREN,—Allow me to extend to you all a most hearty welcome to the Tenth Session of the High Court of Quebec, and to express to you my gratitude in meeting you all as the delegates of a single and united High Court assembled, without distinction of creed or nationality, to promote the general interests of the INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS in this Province, and to work together in scattering the golden blessings which are allotted to its members.

Contrary to other societies who admit as their members only persons belonging to one nationality or creed, our beloved Order takes members into its folds without any distinction of creed or nationality, being thus enabled to fulfil one of its obligations towards its members. For, besides the pecuniary benefits offered to its members, it looks after their moral and social interests by teaching them submission to the laws of their country, which give equal rights to every citizen, respect of other people's faith, and obedience to the laws of their church. In their meetings, members of different nationalities get acquainted with one another and mutual esteem grows between them, prejudices disappear and they separate more and more convinced that we are all and each of us members of the one family, and willing to bring in our relations as members of the Great Canadian Family that concord which ought always to govern our meetings of Foresters.

### MEMBERSHIP AND COURTS.

It is with great satisfaction that I notice that the number of Foresters in this Province goes on increasing day by day, which shows the high favor in which our beloved Order is held and that our people understand its merits.

For, according to the report which was submitted to your approval last year, we then had a membership of 10,249 in this jurisdiction, while this year I can report 12,358 members, showing an increase of 2,109 members, after deducting all lapses and deaths.

The number of Courts, which was 177 last year, is now 199, or a net increase of 22 new courts, for, although 24 new courts were instituted this year, Court of the Woods, No. 3008, amalgamated with Court Agnes, No. 1662, and Court Baie St. Paul, No. 3442, was unable to repulse the various attacks to which it was subjected.