

ber. After taking evidence, the Railway Commission issued an order that the railway companies cease from levying tolls on cedar products, and that such products shall be added to the list of commodities which are included in the term "common lumber" and are classified tenth class in carloads. It is the general opinion of the lumber trade that the object of such discrimination against cedar products was to enable the railway companies to purchase cedar ties, posts, etc., for their own use upon more favorable terms than if they could be exported at a low rate of freight.

The rates charged for the transportation of cooperage stock formed another subject for investigation. Until recently the rate on cooperage stock from the Western Ontario mills to Montreal was 16½ cents per one hundred pounds to Montreal, both for local and export, including terminals and cartage. This rate, which was in effect for several years, was increased by the railroad companies to 18 cents for local consumption, not including cartage, and 19½ cents for export, including terminals. The evidence submitted showed that the export business was falling off owing to the increase in rates, and that cooperage stock which was formerly shipped to England from points in Western Ontario is now being shipped from mills in Indiana and Louisiana through Baltimore, New York and New Orleans, owing to the more favorable freight rates given by the American roads; also that the result of the increase had been to displace cooperage stock in favor of cotton bags at the Montreal flour mills and refineries. The Commissioners decided against the railroads by reducing the rates to 16½ cents for local consumption and 18 cents for export, including terminals. While the rates were not restored to the former basis, the cooperage stock manufacturers are satisfied with the decision reached by the Commission.

The case submitted to the Commission by the British Columbia Lumber & Shingle Manufacturers' Association was one affecting diversified interests. The manufacturers of the Coast requested that the freight rate from coast points on clear cedar and fir be made identical and that the same rate be given on these commodities from coast points to Manitoba and the Territories as is given from the mountain mills of British Columbia. The mountain, or interior, mills are given a straight rate of 33 cents on all classes of lumber to Winnipeg, whereas the coast mills must pay 40 cents on fir and 50 cents on cedar. Arguments in favor of a readjustment of the rate were presented by the coast manufacturers, while the mountain manufacturers appeared before the Commission with evidence in justification of the discrimination. The mountain manufacturers claimed that they were entitled to a lower freight rate on account of the shorter haul, the inferior class of timber and the consequent lower prices to be obtained for their product. The decision of the Commissioners is anxiously awaited.

Mr. Cuddy, of the Harrison River Mills Company, is now on the road for the Arrowhead Lumber Company, of Arrowhead, B. C.



THE HOO-HOO ANNUAL.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Hoo-Hoo Order, which was held at St. Louis, Mo., on Thursday and Friday, September 8 and 9, was one of the most important in the history of the organization. There were upwards of 500 Hoo-Hoo present. The limit of membership, 9,999, having about been reached, the important question of raising the limit was considered, with the result that a resolution was adopted extending the number to 99,999. Sentiment was overwhelming in favor of this change. Another important conclusion reached was to introduce a system of insurance into the Order. It was resolved to adopt a proposition submitted by W. E. Nichols, of the New York Life Insurance Company. The proposition in brief is to insure the members of Hoo-Hoo for any amount not less than \$999.99 without the requirement of a physical examination, provided 70 per cent. of the membership is secured. In addition, the company agrees to give the Order 40 per cent. of the first year's premiums as a joint agent's commission, the fund to go into the general treasury of the Order. It is not compulsory on any member to take insurance, and if 70 per cent. of the members do not insure, the entire scheme fails.

The report of Supreme Scrivenoter J. H. Baird showed that the receipts for the year ending September 9, 1904, had been \$28,248.36, and the disbursements \$22,101.48, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$6,146.88. There were held during the year 117 concatenations, concerning which the Scrivenoter says: "It will be seen that the American Flag will have to make a salute to the Cross of St. George, since the largest number of initiate calls to the credit of Vicegerent W. C. Laidlaw, of the Eastern District of Canada, being six concatenations with 133 initiates.

The Scrivenoter read the following communication from Jamie "Hoot Mon" Lightbody, of Glasgow, Scotland, who was initiated in Toronto May 27th, 1904, and was the first member of the Order in Scotland.

Glasgow, August 26, 1904.

When glancing over my Hoo-Hoo book
On page 13 I chanced to look
There article 4 and section 3
Asks "On 9th September where will you be?"

I'll be in Glasgow, my native toon,
Amongst the heather I'll sit doon,
And think o' the time when once I sat
On the dry kiln to be made a great black cat.

'Twas in the merry month o' May,
I think it was the 27th day,
That thro' the bed I tried to walk
And to swallow the lather I was taught.

Walter C. Laidlaw was the Snark,
And among others who did take part
Were Clarence Ten Eyck and Jamie Cain—
Oh, Lord, they nearly turned my brain.

At "Low Bridge" and "Step High" I did my best
Not a second would they let me rest
Till I had kissed the cat on the sacred spot
And found my eyesight I had got.

Let this be known both far and near,
Hoo-Hoo has given me a prosperous year.
Luck attend the Annual on 9th September
Is the wish to all from the only Scotch Member.

I enclose a wee bit sprig o' heather,
Let bonds of friendship never sever,
Join Britain and America, president and king.
"God bless them both," come let us sing.
Not Robert Burns

The reading of the poem elicited much applause.

There was no contest for the Supreme Nine except for the office of Snark of the Universe, for which Chas. D. Rourke, of Petersburg, Ill., and Frank N. Snell, of Milwaukee, were nominated. Mr. Rourke was successful by a vote of nearly two to one. The other officers elected were:

Senior Hoo-Hoo—John S. Bonner, Texas.

Junior Hoo-Hoo—A. C. Ramsay, St. Louis, Mo.

Bojum—George V. Denny, Savannah, Ga.
Scrivenoter—J. H. Baird, Nashville, Tenn.
Jabberwock—A. H. Potter, Portland, Ore.
Custocian—E. S. Boggess, Clarksburg, W. Va.
Arcanoper—W. C. Laidlaw, Toronto, Canada.
Gurdon—Gardiner I. Jones, Boston, Mass.

It was decided to hold the next annual in Portland, Oregon. Perhaps Toronto in 1906.

HOO-HOO FUNCTION AT SARNIA.

There was a great gathering of Hoo-Hoo in Sarnia on Friday, September 2nd, and a number of kittens were added to the black cat family. Great Snark W. C. Laidlaw, of Toronto, was present to look after the kittens. Mr. Charles Hadley, of Chatham, was also in evidence. Mr. J. M. Diver, the oldest Hoo-Hoo in Canada, was in charge of the local arrangements, which was a guarantee that everything would be carried out in proper style. Mr. Geo. Belton, his first lieutenant, lent charm to the occasion and assisted in the proceedings, while Mr. Findley McGibbon was a whole host in himself. The afternoon was spent in looking round the town and in arranging for the evening's proceedings, the cats and kittens riding to the sawmills on a tour of inspection in the Hoo-Hoo cab, which consisted of a stick of timber from the Cleveland-Sarnia Saw Mills Company measuring 20 inches square and 41 feet, six inches long, with a foot rest along each side consisting of a 3 x 9 inch joist 41 feet in length.

Two teams of draft horses from the mills, decorated with flags, hauled the big stick, which contained 1,383 feet, and was mounted on four heavy wheels.

The proceedings took place in the C.O.F. hall. About sixty pur-blind kittens were introduced into the



mysteries of Hoo-Hoo, among them being Chas. Mackenzie, S. P. W. Cooke, A. D. Morrow, P. L. Patterson, A. S. Hill, Jas. Murdoch, W. F. Cameron, C. E. Stoady, F. J. Loughhead, F. F. Pardee, J. J. Shortreed and W. M. Hood, of Sarnia; and D. A. Leitch, of Ridgetown.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies the party adjourned to the Vendome Hotel, where an elaborate banquet was held.

The following poems were contributed by a local composer:

9 LISTEN 9

Sarnia the town of Saw-mills and Lumber,
Awaited with joy the Hoo-Hoos this year.
Ra! Ra! for Sir Kittens, Huzzahs without number,
Nothing must mar our good will or good cheer.
In tales of adventure may the Kittens excel,
And may fellowship reign till they bid us farewell.

9 9 9 9 9

Who can be purlike, also bold,
Who can a funny tail unfold,
To make your blood run hot or cold,
THE KITTENS.

Who when he lies, lies very fair
Of Rats and Mice and midnight scare
Of hunting birds of species rare,
THE KITTENS.

The Black Cat blandly watches all,
Sir Kittens big and Kittens small,
And winks an eye at stories tall,
OF KITTENS.

The black cat supplied by Mr. Diver was, as may be inferred from the illustration, a creditable production of the Hoo-Hoo deity.

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. W. C. Laidlaw, of Toronto, who, at the recent annual meeting of the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo at St. Louis, Mo., was unanimously elected to the position of Arcanoper. Mr. Laidlaw is the first Canadian to be honored by election as one of the Supreme Nine.