

The High Chief Ranger will install the officers of COURT GRAND MARSHALS on the evening of Jan. 6th, and the officers from the court at Bay Mills will probably be present and be installed at the same time.

The editor is advised by the High Chief Ranger that reports have been received from about one-third of the courts in Michigan on the question of biennial sessions, a little more than eight out of ten having voted in favor of biennial sessions up to date.

COURT SAGINAW, of Saginaw, W. S., reports an increase of from six members to 107 since last meeting of the High Court, while COURT TRAVERSE, of Traverse City, now has a membership of 175, an increase from 75 since last meeting of the High Court.

The place of meeting of the next High Court has not yet been decided, and no selection will be made until after Jan. 1st, when a meeting of the High Standing Committee will be called at Port Huron or Lansing to select the place of meeting. Indications point to the selection of either Lansing or Saginaw.

An inspection of the vote on the question of biennial sessions, as far as reported, is interesting. Nearly every court that has been visited by the State Organizer and had the benefit of his work, or which has held public meetings, has voted in favor of biennial sessions. Upon the result of the vote will probably depend in a very large measure whether or not the High Chief Ranger will again make a recommendation in favor of biennial sessions.

The court at Vassar is one of the most successful and prosperous courts in the State, and they have recently added nearly every member of the local band, and the name of the band will now be changed to 'The Foresters' Cornet Band. In celebration of this event, a public meeting will be held on the evening of Jan. 28th, at which the High Chief Ranger, High Secretary and High Treasurer will each be present. The Millington Foresters will attend in a body.

A net gain of 1,512 in the membership in Michigan, from Jan. 1st to Oct. 1st, is a record of which the Order in Michigan, as well as its chief executive officers, may well feel proud; this is within 20 of the banner year of Forestry, from 1890 to 1891, when the increase during the year was 1,541. The increase during October, November and December ought to be at least 100 per month, which will make the net increase for the year 1812, the greatest increase of any year since the High Court was organized, and the largest percentage of increase in any one year, excepting the year 1891.

High Court of New York.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 7, 1896.

To the Officers and Members of Subordinate Courts in the State of New York, Greeting:

BROTHERS: Pursuant to By-laws of the High Court, Article IV., you are required to comply with its provisions as follows: "Section 1. The High Court dues, payable by each Subordinate Court, shall be at the rate of fifty cents per year for each beneficiary member in good standing upon its roll, which shall be payable in advance: one-half on the first day of January and one-half on

the first day of July, and shall be transmitted by each Financial Secretary to the High Court with the semi-annual return to the High Court."

Second subdivision of Section 146 of the Constitution also requires to be forwarded to the High Secretary of the High Court immediately after the first of January and July of each year, "the semi-annual returns, Form No. 25, together with the High Court dues."

Chief Rangers should personally superintend making these reports, that no error or omission may occur.

Courts not having proper blank forms in stock will make requisition therefor as per provisions of By-laws, "Article V., Section 1. All supplies used by the Subordinate Courts shall be purchased of the High Court, through its High Secretary, as provided in Supreme Court rules." Section 2. "No Subordinate Court shall order supplies from the High Secretary in any amount less than the sum of one dollar, and in each case the cash must invariably accompany the order for supplies." (For price-list of supplies see monthly issue of FORESTER.)

Your especial attention is directed to the foregoing provisions of law, that you may give these matters your immediate attention and avoid the necessity of executing Section 169 relating to suspension of courts.

The Supreme Court clearly defines its intention regarding these matters, and in any case where courts fail to comply on or before the fifteenth day of January, 1897, the said failure will work their immediate suspension.

Eleven courts have been instituted in this jurisdiction since July 1st, 1897, and strenuous efforts are now being made to push the work more thoroughly throughout the State. Organizers are solicited in every part of the State, and good commissions offered.

While the High Standing Committee is endeavoring to spread the Order in the State, we hope that each court and each individual member thereof will use his best efforts toward increasing the membership of his own court.

With your cordial support we are in hopes to make this eclipse all previous years. We are confident that our Order is second to none, and it bids fair to become the greatest institution of its kind in the world.

Seek good, healthy men, free from the habit of dissipation, and do all you can to increase the membership of your court.

We therefore urge upon the members to use all diligence possible towards the further advancement of our Order both as to increase of membership and quality of the risks selected.

Your attention is directed to Section 139, Article 2, for the time designated when delegates to High Court shall be elected.

Kindly send to Bro. C. R. Fitzgerald, High Secretary, all matters of interest pertaining to the Order, for publication, that may happen from time to time in your court or regarding any of your members.

Extending to the members of your court every good wish for the approaching season, we have the pleasure of remaining,

Yours in L., B. and C.,

CHARLES R. FITZGERALD,
High Secretary.

CHARLES A. KENDALL,
High Chief Ranger.