

During the period since last High Court Meeting I have made thirty-two visits to Subordinate Courts, and have been everywhere pleased with the fraternal spirit manifested. I have to reiterate the statement I made last year, that the attendance at our Subordinate Courts was not as large as it should be considering the importance of the work done there.

The Supreme Court has recognized the importance of this district, and the great things of which it is capable by appointing two new Organizers for the work here, and the members of this High Court will be gratified to know that the basis of their appointment is, that they shall be under the direction and control of the High Chief Ranger and High Secretary of this jurisdiction.

The change that has been made whereby all questions of law and all matters of controversy arising in Subordinate Courts shall be referred for decision to the High Chief Ranger of this jurisdiction, will, we believe, remove all or almost all the causes of discontent.

I would like to place on record the aid I have received in the discharge of my duties, not only from my colleagues on the High Standing Committee but from every member of the Order, and the assistance which has always been rendered to me in everything I undertook. So long as the members of the Order do their work with the same unitedness as they have done during the past year, so long will the Order increase and flourish in Ireland.

I now beg to resign into your hands the trust you committed to me nine months ago, and if I have failed to discharge the duties of the office as satisfactorily as the members might wish, it has not been for lack of effort.

Submitted in L., R. & C.,

W. GIBSON, M.D.

HIGH TREASURER'S REPORT.

This report was read by Brother James Wilson in the absence of the High Treasurer, who was unavoidably absent on business.

HIGH AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We have examined the books and accounts for the past nine months and report the same to be correct.

The Treasurer's Statement shows a balance in bank of £2 16.8, and cash in hand £3.12.6½.

The Profit and Loss Account shows a Credit Balance of £21.16.4½.

Signed JAMES WILSON } High
JAMES PURDY } Auditors.

It was resolved that the foregoing reports be sent to the Committee on Distribution.

At this point the High Court adjourned for luncheon.

At three o'clock the High Court reassembled, when the Supreme Chief Ranger, Oronhyatekha, M.D., J.P., received a most cordial and hearty reception, and on the invitation of the H.C.R., occupied the chair, and after routine business and the general business were concluded, the following were chosen officers for the ensuing term:

H.C.R., Bro. Rev. James Cregan, unanimously elected.

H.V.C.R., Bro. John McCaughey, J.P., unanimously elected.

High Sec., Bro. W. Gibson, M.D., unanimously elected.

For the office of High Treasurer, Bro. James Wilson and Bro. Baptist Gamble were nominated.

On a poll being taken, Bro. Wilson was declared elected.

High Physician, Bro. A. P. Moore, M.D., unanimously elected.

High Counsellor, Bro. W. Mehafeff, unanimously elected.

For High Auditors, the following were nominated: Bros. W. McFadzean, James Hollywood, Baptist Gamble, H. E. Carter, S. Davis, Samuel R. Howard.

On a poll being taken, Bros. W. McFadzean and James Hollywood were declared elected.

Bro. the Rev. James Cregan, H.C.R., was elected Representative to the Supreme Court.

The High Chief Ranger appointed the following officers:—

High Chaplain, Bro. Rev. C. W. Kennedy; High J. Sec., Bro. John Dunlop; High S. W., Bro. H. E. Carter; High J. W., Bro. Wm. Irwin; High S. B., Bro. H. Nesbitt; High J. B., Bro. Baptist Gamble; High M., Bro. Samuel Davis; High C., Bro. Lendrum L. Irvine; High M., Bro. Samuel R. Howard.

The following report was then submitted:—

The Committee on the Constitutions and Laws appointed by the High Court of the North of Ireland at its session on 2nd June, 1898, beg to report that:

1st. Instructions be given to the delegates from this High Court to the next meeting of the Supreme Court, to have an alteration made in the Constitution authorizing women to be admitted, on proper safeguards being secured and on a proper comparison between the rates and risks applicable to men and women.

2nd. That such an alteration be made in Rule 115 of the Subordinate Court Constitution to secure that the interests of existing courts shall not be prejudiced by the institution of any new court.

All of which we submit as a report this 2nd day of June, 1898.

(Sig ed) WM. MEHAFFEY.
H. NESBITT.
JAMES WILSON.
GEO. BOLTON.

This report was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on New Business recommended in their report that the Grand Cross of Merit be awarded to Bro. Dr. Gibson, High Secretary, for distinguished services, which was unanimously and enthusiastically carried.

On the motion of Bro. James Wilson, seconded by Bro. W. Mehafeff, the time and place of next meeting were left in the hands of the High Standing Committee.

The installation of officers was then proceeded with, the ceremony being conducted by Bro. Jas. Marshall for the Supreme Chief Ranger.

On the motion of Bro. Dr. Williamson, seconded by Bro. Rev. T. R. Ballantine, the minutes of this session were referred to the High Standing Committee for confirmation.

Bro. Rev. T. R. Ballantine proposed, and Bro. Dr. Gibson seconded, a very hearty vote of thanks to the Supreme Chief Ranger, Bro. James Marshall, and the other visiting brethren for their presence and the great interest they had taken in the proceedings of the High Court.

The Supreme Chief Ranger having replied, the meeting terminated by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen."