

Among the Courts.

Court Hamilton, No. 170, Visited by a Trio of High Officers.

From Hamilton Spectator.

On Thursday evening, 5th February Court Hamilton, No. 170, I. O. F., received an official visit from Brother Dr. Oronhyatekha, Supreme Chief Ranger, Brother J. A. McGillivray, Q. C., Supreme Secretary, and Brother David Millar, High Vice Chief Ranger of Ontario, and did itself proud by welcoming these distinguished brethren most heartily. They were in the handsome uniforms of Royal Foresters. The preliminary proceedings took place in the society's hall on King street east, which was crowded to the doors, where a short speech of welcome was delivered by Wm. Griffith, Supreme Vice-Chief Ranger. Dr. Oronhyatekha spoke in reply, giving a concise history of the Order since its inception about nine years ago. There is a reserve fund of \$290,000, and it is rapidly increasing. About 1,000 applications are received monthly, and it has paid out over \$600,000 in benefits, principally to widows and children. The doctor claimed that the system of insurance in his society was the most correct in existence, and all the new societies recognize this fact and are copying it substantially. Brothers McGillivray and Millar also made a few remarks. The former was due a similar gathering in Toronto, and could not take part in the banquet which followed.

When the party began to reassemble in Newport's dining-room, it soon became apparent that that noted hostility would be taxed to its utmost. And so it proved. And the enthusiasm and general good-feeling prevailing were something to wonder at. Over 150 solid citizens of ambitious Hamilton were there. The menu would have tempted the most dyspeptic and satisfied the most voracious. But there were very few present burdened with stomachic qualms; the majority—the whole party, in fact—set to work with a will and covered themselves with glory.

A. L. Davis, Past Chief Ranger of Court Hamilton, occupied the chair in a most efficient manner.

He was supported on his right by the guest of the evening, Dr. Oronhyatekha, and United States Consul Monaghan, and on his left by Brother Millar, High Vice-Chief Ranger; Alex. McKay, M.P.; Wm. Griffith, Supreme Vice Chief Ranger; and Joseph Fletcher, Chief Ranger of Court Hamilton. Among the many prominent citizens present were noted Dr. Stark, A. D. Griffith, W. J. Grant, W. A. Kerr, C. D. Blachford, H. Cooper, P. Carnegie, Charles Tregenza, Charles Burdon, Oliver Hillman, W. R. Howell, L. H. Patten, Chas. Baird, Cyrus King, Dr. Anderson, J. L. Davis, T. Scott, R. V. Mathews, Wm. Murray, Frank Close, T. H. Stinson, M. L. A., Hugh Murray, Past Grand Master, A. F. & A. M., and other distinguished brethren.

The first toasts were those of The Queen and Governor-General, and these were honored with such ringing enthusiasm as hearty, healthy, loyal Canadians can bring to bear.

The next toast was that of the President of the United States. Before Col. Monaghan responded Foley Parker, of St. John, N. B., sang *Marching Through Georgia*, the company joining in the chorus with grand effect.

Col. Monaghan expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present, and paid a compliment to the gentleman at the head of the Order, whose acquaintance he had formed. He had found out from Dr. Oronhyatekha that he had a tender spot in his heart

for the United States, but while that was the fact he had yet a tenderer feeling for Canada. All men should love their own country first and best. If the President were present he would have felt honored by the applause which had greeted the mention of his name. The speaker then referred to the President's large and expensive family. There were fifty-three millions of people under his care, and took \$35,000,000 to provide food, fuel and shelter for these. Other interesting figures were also given, especially concerning the pension list, the Colonel stating that it required \$100,000,000 per year to maintain. "I personally know," said the honorable gentleman, "that there are many in Hamilton who are in receipt of stipends from our Government. The money thus obtained is a God-send to them in their helplessness." He told the story of an old man who had recently secured a pension in this city, and so happy was he over the affair that going to the Consul's house he had forgotten to ring the bell, but rushing in called out joyously, "Oh, Col. Monaghan, I've got it at last." That old man receives \$25 per month and a bulk sum of something like \$900. He spoke of the benefits of the pension system in maintaining widows and orphans, and argued that it was better for the U. S. Government to spend \$100,000,000 in that way than by maintaining a standing army, which would certainly be a menace to Canada, and would entail a vast expenditure for armament upon the latter country. He fondly hoped that the time would never come when a standing army would be required by either the United States or Canada, and that no serious differences between the two countries would ever arise. "We are one people; we have the same destiny; we have the same hopes; speak the same language and have sprung from the same family of men, and it would be a crying shame if we had any difference that could not be amicably settled by arbitration." The Colonel's speech was loudly applauded.

"The Supreme Court" was the next toast. It was received with tokens of marked enthusiasm and heartily drunk. "Toodle de-Tum" was sung in capital style by Brother Parker.

Dr. Oronhyatekha, the Supreme Chief Ranger, rose to reply and was warmly applauded. He said that he deeply regretted to disappoint the Toronto brethren, but he was not sorry that he had remained over in Hamilton. The speech of the United States Consul was well worth staying for. "I am an American myself," said the doctor, "a genuine American, and spent many of the happiest days of my life in the United States." Continuing he jocularly remarked that the reason that the sick benefits of the Order were limited to twelve weeks was because of the fact that any of the Court physicians could kill or cure in that time. He said the Independent Foresters was one of the best fraternal organizations in existence, but regretted that the white majority of the Supreme Court had decided not to admit women into the Order. He felt, however, that sentiment was growing in that direction, and hoped before long that the Courts would know the refining influence of women. He concluded by some complimentary references to the Order in Hamilton, thanked them for his kind reception and wished them all manner of prosperity.

Brother Griffith and Brother Millar also responded on behalf of the Supreme Court, and gave some interesting information about the Order in Ontario. Some 2,000 members had been added to the membership roll during the year.

The Learned Profession—Song, Dr. Anderson.