

FINANCE.—J. H. Bell, J. A. McCormack, N. Fairchild, Dr. Dougherty, Jas. McKinnon.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM.—W. H. Prowse, C. A. McNutt, W. A. Johnston, W. A. Miller, P. B. Clark.

PRESS COM.—D. K. Currie, G. F. Owen, John Mollison, E. H. Duchemin, R. H. McDonald.

CONSTITUTIONS AND LAWS.—Charles Murphy, D. P. McNutt, C. W. Kielly, Dr. J. G. Toombs, Donald McLean.

ON NEW BUSINESS.—A. D. Fraser, E. H. Howatt, Rev. David Price, J. A. White, H. B. Heustis.

PUBLIC MEETING.—K. McKay, J. F. McNeill, E. H. McEachern, K. Webster, F. Adams.

The reports of the officers were then distributed and taken as read.

The High Chief Ranger said in substance :—

Another year in our history has passed away, and it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to our Annual Session, and I would ask you to join with me in thankfulness to the Supreme Ruler of all for the measure of success that has attended our efforts in the Order during the year that is now closing, which has been one of more than ordinary interest to us as Foresters, as changes of an important nature were made in our system at the recent session of the Supreme Court, which threatened at first to cause serious loss of membership. But I am pleased to have to report to you that time is proving the wisdom of those changes, and already confidence has been restored and a steady, if somewhat smaller, gain than past years have shown, is now taking place, and I have every confidence that the future will demonstrate more clearly that what has been done is right.

With feelings of deepest sorrow I ask you to remember for a moment those of our members who, during the time since last we met, have been called from amongst us to join those of our members in the Great Supreme Court above; and I know you will pardon me if I make special mention of one of whom it can be truly said that his memory will always be green in the hearts of all true Foresters. At our last session, held in Alberton, one of our acts was the passing of a resolution of sympathy with our beloved Past Chief Ranger, J. Farrer Stewart, who was then on a bed of sickness in a strange land. Almost one of the first duties that came to me after taking the office of H.C.R., was the sad one of assisting in the performance of the burial rites of our Order over the remains of that brother. I know that I voice the sentiments of every member of the High Court, as well as hundreds of true Foresters in this province and elsewhere, when I say that few, if any members of our Order, has left behind so noble a record as Bro. Stewart.

Others who have left us were Bros. McNeill, Weeks, Moore, Robins, Campbell and Morshead, all good men and true. We shall miss them sorely. But He doeth all things well. Who may be recorded at our next session as having been called away, we cannot tell. Let us do our part in our beloved Order this year as if it were our last.

I will not weary you with figures, showing our numerical or financial standing—those you will have in the reports of the other officers, but will simply say in passing I am pleased to report that during the year we have instituted the average number of new Courts, and have made a net gain of over a hundred members. By a very satisfactory

arrangement with the Supreme Executive, this work has been accomplished at a very small cost to your High Court. I regret, however, to have to report a large number of suspensions, caused, no doubt, in part by a misapprehension of the changes made at the Supreme Court session, and partly from the fact that many members, by non-attendance at the meeting of their Courts,



THE LATE J. FARRER STEWART, P.H.C.R.

grow cold and indifferent. From reports received by me from the Court Deputies, I find the average attendance to be only about 30 per cent, a very low average when we consider the interests that are involved. I, however, confess that I can offer no suggestion which would tend to improve this condition of affairs.

The changes already referred to necessitated the passing of a complete set of by-laws for the government of our High Court, and I now submit for your consideration the following :

The H.C.R. here submitted twenty-seven sections and subsections which he recommended for adoption by the High Court, the following conditions, viz.:—By our High Court making a single payment of \$3,000.00, which would secure said ward for all time to come, by an annual payment of \$200.00. For this, all Foresters, who require such, would have secured to them the great privilege of the best medical attendance and nursing that our province can furnish, in addition to which free board, washing, medicine, etc., are guaranteed. As to the means of payment of the amount as stated, I leave that to the wisdom of this High Court. One Court, through its Deputy, suggests that the High Court borrow the amount necessary to secure the ward permanently. I think you will agree with me that in view of the fact that, with one exception, all Courts in the province have dispensed with free medical attendance; and as this feature of our system is made much of by all exponents of the Order, and many have joined our Order to whom this was a strong inducement, we owe it to those members to provide in some way such benefits as this arrangement would secure to them.