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Independent Order of Foresters.

Fifteenth Annual Session of the High Court Held at St. John on July 13th and 14th.

St. JOHN, July 14.

The fifteenth annual session of the N. B. High Court of the Independent Order of Foresters was called to order in the Mechanics' Institute at 10.30 yesterday morning. The high chief ranger, His Honor Judge Wedderburn, was in the chair, and the other officers present at roll call were: P. H. C. R., Wm. Kinghorn (inspector and organizer); H. V. C. R., W. J. S. Myles; H. Sec'y, F. W. Emmerson; H. T. E. P., Eastman; H. Phys., B. M. Mullin; H. D. E. Conn., E. R. Chapman; H. Auditors, J. V. Russell; Thos. Murray; H. Mess., A. W. Ebbett; H. Com., S. L. T. McKnight; H. Mar., A. Hastings; H. S. W., B. Nadesau; H. J. W., W. G. Fraser; H. S. B., W. M. Waldon; H. J. B., R. W. Mitchell; H. J. S., John Farley. Rev. Silas James was appointed chaplain pro tem. Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington, P. H. C. R., occupied a seat on the platform, as did E. J. Todd, brigadier general of the Royal Foresters.

The following is a list of the delegates from Queens and Sunbury counties: Gagetown, Jas. A. Stewart; Upper Gagetown, E. Crothers; Chipman, H. A. Ryan; Armstrong's Corner, W. H. Allingham; Welsford, W. F. Woods; Cady's, W. J. Southern; Young's Cove, E. P. Smith; Hamppstead, Isaac Vanwart; Jerusalem, H. Moore; Range, J. Delong; Narrows, C. N. Robinson; Mangerville, A. A. Treadwell; Gromoto, A. B. White; Sheffield, E. W. Chase; Hoyt Station, A. H. Worden.

When the delegates from the various subordinate courts had been admitted and received the high court degree, the H. C. R. appointed committees as follows:

Credentials—High Secretary Emmerson, Dr. Doherty, J. Stout, H. L. Squires and W. J. Southern.

Distribution—E. P. Eastman, H. C. Creed, Dr. Carter, Geo. A. Coates, J. S. Atkinson.

Finance—D. G. Lingley, J. V. Russell, W. W. Wells, M. P. P., Elwood Burr, A. P. White, Alphonse Laliberte.

Constitution and Laws—A. W. Macrae, O. P. King, W. R. Simpson, Wm. Simpson, John Betts.

New Business—Rev. J. G. A. Belyea, Albert Brown, A. J. McLean, E. H. Hoyt & H. Church.

Appeals—LeB. Coleman, M. A. Goodspeed, H. O. Ryan, D. M. Haman, R. Currie.

Reception—Wm. Kinghorn, W. J. S. Myles, Thos. Murray, E. M. Mullin, M. D. E. J. Todd.

High Chief Ranger Wedderburn delivered his address.

Inspector Kinghorn reported that he had during the year instituted six new courts, held 93 public and 13 private meetings, taken 183 oaths to the membership, and visited 19 courts and held meetings. He had visited all but 16 of all the courts in the province and had done all in his power to advance the interests of the order. He reported that on the whole he found the courts in a good working condition. The courts organized were on a good solid basis. He could have organized three others, but refused to do so until they could be firmly established. He submitted the following statement of expense, etc.:

"My actual expense account during the year has been \$454.39. I have paid other bills for the high court, which properly should not be charged in such account, amounting to \$158.96, making a total of \$613.35, which, with salary, will make the total cost to the high court the sum of \$1,113.35. As an offset to this I have organized six subordinate courts, which, giving me credit for the usual commission, would be \$480. I have secured one hundred and six applicants for membership previous to January the first, which would give a revenue in high court dues the sum of \$53 for the year. Also eighty-seven applications previous to July the first, which will give a revenue for the half year the sum of \$21.75, making a total credit of \$501.75. This would leave a balance against the office of \$611.60. Had my attention been given to organizing work rather than to stimulating existing courts I know a much better showing would be made."

After some routine work, including the submission of the reports to committees, the high court adjourned, and the high standing committee went to the depot to meet the supreme chief ranger.

AFTERNOON PROCEEDINGS

E. P. Eastman submitted the report of the distribution committee, and A. W. Macrae that of the committee on constitution and laws. These were adopted.

A. M. Belding, D. G. Lingley, M. E. Grass, Geo. E. Day and Jas. A. Stewart were appointed a press committee.

Harvey Atkinson, Lt. Col. Markham, J. S. Fleming, G. G. Scovil, M. P. P., and A. C. Gibson were appointed a committee on the subject of appointment of an inspector for another year.

Dr. Oronhyateka, the supreme chief ranger, having arrived, was introduced by P. H. C. R. Creed, and welcomed on behalf of the high court by the chief ranger. The supreme chief was greeted with great applause, and was invited by the H. C. R. to take the chair and to address the members.

Dr. Oronhyateka said he was glad to meet with them and trusted that their deliberations would for the good of the order. He brought greetings from the west, and the assurance that the order never stood stronger than it does today. He had heard most gratifying reports from New Brunswick. Last month the order added the largest sum to the surplus ever added in any one month in its history—over \$70,000. The surplus is \$24 per capita, and it looks as if they were on the threshold of a reduction in the cost of their insurances. The chief discussed some proposed changes in the constitution of the I. O. F. He then instructed the new delegates in the unwritten work of the order, and added some general observations in a quaintly

humorous vein that provoked laughter and applause.

High Treasurer Eastman reported cash on hand at last report, \$1,420.08; received from high secretary during year ending June 30th, \$4,882.64—Total, \$6,302.72.

The disbursements during the year ending June 30th were as follows:

Table with financial entries: Supreme court on account, \$1,470 00; Supreme court premium guarantee bonds, 30 00; F. W. Emmerson, re-organizing courts, 655 75; LeBaron Coleman, re-organizing courts, 695 72; Salaries H. C. R., H. Sec., H. Treas., and H. Aud., 392 00; Expenses high court meeting at Camp-bellton, printing reports, making badges, etc., \$ 90 72; Mileage and expenses of officers, 246 10; Mileage of representatives, 618 10; Salaries reporters and H. J. secretary, 60 00; Hall rent and grant to local court, 35 00; Expenses of by-law committee, 1,049 92; Expenses of audit, July 1897, and April 1898, 29 86; Expenses of H. S. C. meetings, August and April, 89 89; Office furniture, safe, etc., 113 00; Refunds, 29 80; Travelling expenses of H. Sec., H. Treas. and H. Coun., 120 67; Printing, 108 75; Mission work (Dr. Mullin and Bro. Murray), 66 40; Office expenses—Rent, telegrams, postage, telephone, freight, postage, exchange, paper, twine, etc., 211 70; Expenses on account of previous years, \$5,009 75; High Chief Ranger—A. C. Gibson, 24 00; Total disbursements, \$5,633 75.

The report of the high auditors J. V. Russell and Thos. Murray said: We find total cash received by the high secretary during the term just closed and by him paid over to the high treasurer, the following amounts:

Table with financial entries: High court dues, \$2,580 86; Supplies, 708 38; Charter fees, 1,995 40; Balance on hand 14th Jan. '97, 1,420 08; Mission work (Dr. Mullin and Bro. Murray), \$6,302 72; Paid out by treasurer during year, 5,633 75; Leaving balance on hand Jan. 1, 1898, \$968 97.

The following statement shows the assets and liabilities of high court on July 1st, 1898:

Table with financial entries: Assets: Cash on hand, \$ 668 97; Supplies on hand, 477 58; Charter fees, 306 50; Amount due from subordinate courts as per statement No. 2, 3,390 84; Total, \$4,843 89. Liabilities: Due supreme court, \$2,487 78; Amount due subordinate courts as per statement No. 3, 185 12; Due Bro. F. W. Emmerson for organizing, 350 16; Due Bro. LeB. Coleman, for organizing, 198 74; Due Bro. H. C. R., as P. H. C. R., 36 75; Due Bro. Wm. Kinghorn, for salary, 10 months, \$900; for travelling expenses, \$427 83; for paid canvassers, \$131 75; for paid postage, \$7 20; for telegrams \$11 88; for paid freight, \$5; for paid hall rent, \$4 20; Total, 1,088 19; Less paid him on account, 655 75; Total, \$ 432 44.

Excess of assets over liabilities, \$1,152 90.

D. G. Lingley submitted the first report of the finance committee. They congratulated the high court that while the cash on hand is \$751.11 less than last year, the indebtedness to supreme court has been reduced to \$731.30. The supplies on hand showed a net gain of \$322.19. They regretted that the amount due from subordinate courts to high court showed but little decrease, and urged that greater effort be made to reduce the same. They recommended that in future the travelling expenses of the members of the high standing committee be shown separately in the summary as well as in the detailed statement. The report was adopted and the committee instructed to prepare a further report.

On a discussion of the question of arrears of subordinate courts to high court, the supreme chief said that if his attention were directed to the fact that delegates were present from courts in arrears it would be his duty under the constitution to refuse to recognize those delegates as entitled to sit and vote as such.

It was pointed out by A. M. Macrae and the high secretary that this high court had always been disposed to be lenient in that regard, though always striving to get the subordinate courts to pay up. The high secretary pointed out that the enforcement of the section would be something of a hardship.

Mr. Coates of Kent county spoke on the importance of a strict medical examination for candidates seeking admission to the order, and his remarks were strongly endorsed by the supreme chief.

Col. Markham directed attention to the fact that the street car excursion was due to start at exactly five o'clock, and the high court accordingly adjourned, to meet at 10 this morning.

The delegates took three open cars at the head of King street and made a complete circuit of the line. They enjoyed the trip immensely. It occupied about one hour.

A public meeting was held in the Institute in the evening when able addresses were delivered by Dr. Oronhyateka, Rev. W. B. Hinson, Mayor Sears and Premier Emmerson. His Honor Judge Wedderburn presided and the chair.

Str. Johns, July 15.—The high court resumed its session at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, the supreme chief ranger, Dr. Oronhyateka, in the chair. The minutes were read and approved.

The supreme chief announced that as the next session of the supreme court it was proposed to make twenty the minimum number of charter members for a new court.

Replying to question, chief said that if a court decided to carry a brother, his insurance in that case was just as good as if he paid the assessments himself. It was a donation to him by the court and became his property, and the assessments were as much paid by him as if he paid out of his own pocket.

The finance committee recommended that the following sum be voted:

High chief ranger, \$100; high secretary, \$400; high treasurer, \$35; high journal secretary, \$20; high auditors, 50; press reporters \$40; hall, \$50.

Also that if the funds permit the sum of \$350.16 due F. W. Emmerson, and \$198.74 due LeBaron Coleman, for organizing be paid during the year. Also that 600 copies of the minutes of the session of the high court be printed.

AFTERNOON PROCEEDINGS

The first business was the election of officers: High Chief Ranger—A. W. Macrae. High Vice Chief Ranger—A. C. Gibson.

High Physician—Dr. W. W. Doherty. High Counsellor—Ora P. King. High Auditors—Thos. Murray and J. Russell.

The following five were elected delegates to the supreme court which meets in Toronto in August: W. W. Wells, M. P. P., J. S. Fleming, G. G. Scovil, M. P. P., Dr. B. M. Mullin, William Kinghorn.

The following appointed officers were named by high chief ranger: High Chief Ranger—P. G. Snow, H. Chap., G. J. Clark, H. S. W., R. A. Borden, H. J. W., D. Baird, H. S. B., A. E. Pearson, H. J. D. B., H. M. S. M., J. A. M., J. A. H. C., Albert Boone, H. Mess., H. J. S., John Farley.

For the work of installation the supreme chief appointed Hon. E. R. Emmerson, supreme marshal, Wm. Kinghorn, supreme conductor, and Lt. Col. Markham supreme secretary. The election and appointment were duly installed by the supreme chief and the acting supreme officers named. In such able hands the ceremony was very impressive.

The fixing of the date of the next annual meeting was, on motion, left with the high standing committee, with a suggestion that the convention be held in St. John's to be considered in that connection.

W. S. J. Myles paid a warm tribute to Judge Wedderburn for the able work he had done as high chief ranger during the past year, and moved that he be recommended to the supreme court for the grand cross of merit.

Rev. J. G. A. Belyea seconded the motion. The supreme chief endorsed what had been said by these brothers, but pointed out that the judge had received the distinction years ago for his high services to the order.

Mr. Myles then moved that a committee be appointed to prepare a present some suitable testimonial to Judge Wedderburn.

Rev. Mr. Belyea seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted. The supreme chief appointed as such committee the high chief ranger, high secretary, high treasurer, Lieut. Col. Markham and W. S. J. Myles.

The high court last year had voted to recommend the then retiring high chief ranger, William Kinghorn, for the grand cross of merit. The supreme chief ranger yesterday decorated Mr. Kinghorn with the jewel and pronounced him a chevalier of the order. The number of chevrons of the order is limited to one hundred. The chief paid a warm tribute to Mr. Kinghorn and congratulated the high court on having honored so worthy a member.

Mr. Kinghorn responded, but the feeling aroused by the chief's eulogy and the ringing applause of the house rendered him unable to do more than express his thanks in the briefest manner. The delegates to the supreme court, W. C. Sussex was chosen as next place of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Stewart of Victoria county, thanks were voted the St. John brethren for courtesies extended.

On motion of Judge Wedderburn, seconded by Hon. Mr. Emmerson, both of whom made eloquent reference to the services of the press to Forestry, thanks were voted to the press of the province. The transportation companies were also remembered, on motion of H. C. Creed.

It was decided to increase the mileage allowance to delegates to four cents per mile for one delegate from each court. The report of the reception committee, submitted by William Kinghorn, was adopted.

Regarding indebtedness of subordinate courts to high court, the high chief ranger gave notice that in order for representatives to be recognized at next high court, the high court dues from their courts must be paid. He also called the attention of the delegates to the supreme court to the fact that in London he had given notice of motion to have Toronto made the permanent place of meeting of the supreme court. They might be disposed to press that motion.

The high court was formally closed. It was one of the most interesting, harmonious

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ous and business-like annual sessions of the high court of New Brunswick that has ever been held.

Scotchtown.

July 18.—Haying has been commenced in this section. In many sections on the highland an insect called by some a "weevil," is destroying the grass.

Many persons celebrated the 12th at Newcastle where an orange celebration was held. Teams of all descriptions were seen to wand their way toward Newcastle about five o'clock in the morning. They were all well loaded, some new bugles and rope yarn harness, others with new harness and carriage built in Noah's time and which is a relic of the ark.

The root beer furnished by some of our young men sold very rapidly among the pleasure seekers. Many of the inhabitants of this place were presented with a sample of this renowned liquid and was pronounced extra.

Miss Esty Carle had a very narrow escape from being severely injured and probably killed. Had it not been that assistance was near at hand to rescue her from her perilous position, she would have went dashing over the embankment on the rocks below. The shock was slight. One of our young men had his horse badly frightened by the howls of children which were close at hand, and caused it to suddenly exit from the road giving the occupants a bad scare.

The Orange celebration at Fredericton was something grand. The treaman's festival in the evening was a grand success.

Mr. Stephen is refitting his house on the Earle property. He expects to reside here during the winter.

Miss Briggs of Lakeville Corner is despatching a few days in this section and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore on Sunday.

Mr. Ward Hunter and sister arrived home last week after a few days of a visit with friends in York Co.

Schr. Maud discharged a cargo of boards and shingles at Douglas harbor last week.

Miss Allen has returned to Douglas Harbor after making a visit to friends and relatives at her former home, Scotch Lake. She expects to reside at Scotch in the future.

Mr. J. C. Hunter and bride arrived by star. May Queen on Wednesday last. They were reminded during the evening of the fact that war still continues to rage by the bugles sounding and the sharp crack of the guns. About one hundred shots had been fired when the happy made their appearance and invited the warriors (as it were) in to join them in a treat. A very pleasant evening was spent and Mr. and Mrs. Hunter received the many felicitations of friends present. The bride looked charming as always has

been the case. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are very highly esteemed by all who know them. They have the best wishes of the writer and the people in general.

The committee of the 1st July celebration assembled at the residence of Mr. Wm. Hunter on Thursday evening last to present his daughter Laura with a beautiful watch as a token of their appreciation of her services as organist in the Methodist church. Mr. Stephen Colwell made a very appropriate address in presenting the watch. He expressed the sentiments of the people in general by saying that Miss Hunter was deserving of even more than this for the very efficient manner in which she has untiringly filled the position of organist in the Methodist church at Scotchtown. She has occupied this position for about 18 months and has not missed a Sunday. Miss Hunter very feelingly replied, thanking the people for their kindness.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 9.—General Miles sailed yesterday for Santiago on the rail, with the Sixth Massachusetts. The General had little to say except that he hoped troops would be hurried to support General Shafter.

PORT SAID, July 9.—Six of the Spanish ships have arrived here on their way back to Spain.

It is expected at the navy department that the onslaught on the forts at the entrance to the harbour of Santiago will begin to-day.

July '98!

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