

chairman for several years. He has also been a delegate on several occasions to the Synod of the Church of England, of which he is a zealous member.

Bro. Backus takes a practical interest in the political affairs of his country. His sympathies are with the Conservative party. He has served the West Elgin Conservative Association as secretary for two years, and is at present serving his fourth year as president.

Bro. Backus joined the Order in 1883. The following year he was delegate to the High Court, when he was elected High Counsellor. The writer first met him in Kingston in 1889, when he occupied the vice-chair, and gave active assistance to Bro. Milne, who was H.C.R., in maintaining order in what was a decidedly lively meeting. He has been a member of the Supreme Court since 1884. For 13 years he was C.R. of Court Elgin, Aylmer, and at present is Treasurer. Long and varied experience in office should fit the High Chief of Ontario eminently for his important duties. The only other society in which the brother takes an active interest is the Masonic.

Bro. Backus belongs, like all his predecessors in the chair, to the noble army of Benedicts.

That the term of office of the present High Chief of Ontario will be a successful one no one will doubt. He brings to the discharge of his duties marked ability and ripe and varied experience. It is also his good fortune to enjoy the full confidence of the brethren of his jurisdiction, former colleagues and the Executive Council. Enjoying the honor of being at the head of the first High Court jurisdiction in the Order, every Forester will wish him success in maintaining and extending the prestige of the Mother High Court. For himself, every member of the Order wishes continued prosperity and usefulness.

High Auditor Merryfield is doing some good work, as well as Bro. Woodiwiss, General Deputy H.C.R. of Kingsville.

The Official Organ is a welcome visitor throughout this jurisdiction, and is spoken of as the most complete fraternal magazine published.

Bro. Backus, H.C.R., long and varied experience as a High Court officer will doubtless tell in the building up of the membership in the West.

The prizes offered by the High Standing Committee are being contested for in a most active manner, and are engaging the attention of many in friendly strife.

How is this? The mother High Court is *third* among the Ontarios! Only 49 applications for September. The west will put a 0 at the end of the figure some month before the year is out.

The High Standing Committee have set out with a fixed determination to make a grand record this year, and with the general interest and good feeling which pervade the whole jurisdiction, the prospects are of the very brightest.

The annual sermon to the members of Court Empress, Smithville, was preached by Bro. Rev. A. Macgillivray, of Toronto, in the Presbyterian Church there, on the 17th October. The church platform was beautifully decorated with plants and flowers. The congregation was large. At the close of the service the court met in their room, thanked the preacher and voted \$10 to the Foresters' Cottage at the Muskoka sanatorium for consumptives. Court Empress has set a good example.

The High Chief Ranger desires to thank the many members of the Order that have written him expressing their kindly feeling and intention to actively assist in making this year's work a record-breaker throughout the jurisdiction.

The brethren of Court Springfield took advantage of the occasion of their town's civic holiday, and entertained the locality to a most enjoyable picnic at Mr. Nigh's woods. H.C.R. Backus drove over from Aylmer in the morning, bringing with him High Treasurer Rev. Archdeacon Davis, and the Rev. Bros. Kimball and Livingstone, of the Baptist and Methodist churches respectively, who, with the Rev. Mr. Vale, of Springfield, were the speakers for the occasion. The only unfortunate people in the locality that day were the absent ones.

The members of Court Oak Leaf, No. 62, at Wheatley, entertained the Foresters of Essex and Kent Counties to a grand picnic on the 15th of September. Out-door games and sports of all kinds, and platform speaking, made the day most enjoyable. High Chief Ranger Backus came down from the west with Supreme Treasurer Collins in the morning, and Rev. J. H. Courtenay, H.V.C.R., arrived during the afternoon, and were the speakers for the day, assisted by local talent. The H.C.R. took advantage of the occasion and visited the Foresters of Leamington, and reports the courts visited as a credit to any Order and as typically up to date.

### Central Ontario.

To the front for September.

Ninety-four accepted applications. Not so many, but more than East or West.

Court Zeal, Toronto, has enjoyed the services of Bro. C. C. Whale for a few days. The membership has been considerably strengthened.

Bro. Dr. Niddrie, H.S., has received a very cordial and fraternal letter from Bro. A. Morel, Provincial Secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters, acknowledging his telegram conveying the greetings of the High Court.

Bro. Dr. Niddrie, on the occasion of his marriage was "timed" by his friends in Toronto. The handsome marble clock that strikes the hours on the Doctor's mantel will remind him and his wife of the good will of his Forestric friends.

Courts Israelite and Prosperity are among the most active courts in the jurisdiction. Initiations every meeting. The former was visited by the Supreme Secretary and Bros. Lawless and Harper, the assistants of the S.C.R., during October.

### Eastern Ontario.

We thank the FORESTER for a good report of our High Court meeting.

As nothing has appeared since High Court meeting we must first of all congratulate ourselves on the success of our meeting. It was harmonious and in every way a success.

Something happened to us in the month of July, and we were not in the race to any extent, but we managed to make up for it in August. For September we are second. Turn about is fair play.

Bro. G. W. Potts, who has been doing excellent work for the High Court in establishing new courts,