

THE INDEPENDENT FORESTER with its new dress has been received with greater pleasure than ever. Congratulations, Bro. Macgillivray.

The brethren in Detroit have made great preparation for the High Court meeting and it promises to be the most successful in our history.

The public meetings held by the High Chief Ranger in November, December and January have counted, as the applications for this month show.

Owing to circumstances entirely beyond our control we have had to postpone the date of taking first place, and we have fixed the date at June 30th, 1898.

1897 was a banner year in Forestry in Michigan and by the time the Supreme Court meets we will be able to say, "We are coming, Chief Oronhyatekha, 15,000 strong."

250 representatives at the High Court meeting in Detroit. A most imposing army representing 12,000 members. We extend fraternal greetings to the Foresters of the world, and may the blessings of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe descend upon them, may success, happiness and prosperity be with them, and may the banner of "Liberty, Benevolence and Concord" be landed on the pinnacle.

The court at Portland initiated eight members on the 12th ult. The officers were publicly installed by M. M. Callaghan, H.C.R., and A. A. Weeks, State Organizer. Good fortune did not come singly to one of the newly-initiated members. The day following his initiation a son came to gladden his home. The boy is to be named "Forester." May he live to be High Chief Ranger of Michigan.

Court Freeport, No. 1986, held a public installation of officers on the evening of January 14th. Bro. M. M. Callaghan, H.C.R., assisted by A. A. Weeks, D.S.C.R., performed the interesting ceremony. Both the distinguished visitors gave addresses. A short musical and literary programme filled in a very pleasant evening. Supper followed. Court Freeport initiated 15 members within the last six weeks. More are to follow. The court is determined to be one of the best in the State.

Maine.

Maine sends her New Year's Greeting to all Foresters.

Forestry matters are again working smoothly and vigorously in the Pine Tree State.

The outlook for the year is very bright, notwithstanding the set-backs of the past few weeks.

Court Patten, No. 3672, by unanimous standing vote, conveyed the thanks of the brethren to Bro. Thos. Clarke, D.S.C.R., for valuable services rendered the court in bringing in members, and by instructing the officers in their work.

Court Silver Ash, No. 3331, Hainesville, has received the cordial thanks of Bro. L. L. Wiers for many acts of kindness shown him during a long illness, and court and brother thank the Supreme Court for the prompt payment of his sick benefit of \$92.00.

The High Chief is determined that 1898 shall mark a decided increase in growth of Independent Forestry in Maine, and has been heard to remark, that those fellows in the other jurisdictions who are fighting for first place want to look out, for he is after their scalps.

Bro. M. L. Rosen of Court Penabrent begun the new year by taking unto himself a wife. The bride was Miss Kamnisky, of Bangor. The wedding was on January 2nd, at the Synagogue in Bangor, and was largely attended by the many friends of both parties, who wish them happiness and prosperity.

Since the return of the H.C.R., Bro. Scott, from his visit to the beautiful home of the Supreme Court at Toronto he has been kept exceedingly busy in disposing of a half month's accumulation of business and in attending the installations of officers of many of the courts.

The first staff of officers installed by the High Chief in the new year was that of Court James G. Blaine, of Bangor. He was assisted by the H.T., Bro. Spaulding, who acted as H. Marshal. Many friends of the members of the Court were present and witnessed the installation and listened to remarks by Bros. Scott and Spaulding. A very pleasant musical programme was carried out, after which all partook of an oyster supper which had been prepared by some of the brothers in their upper hall.

On Jan. 6th, accompanied by Bro. C. E. Rackliff, of Old Town, the High Chief, proceeded to Kingman, where he installed officers of Court Sylvan Dale and addressed a large and enthusiastic meeting of Foresters and their friends, of which both were numerous. Other courts would do well to pattern after Court Sylvan Dale. Remarks were also made by Bro. Rev. H. Hudson, C.R.-elect, and Bro. Somerville, Phys., also by the Rev. J. D. Thomas, a visiting brother from Court Maguerrawauk, at Calais.

The next evening, Jan. 7th, the High Chief, assisted by Bro. Spaulding, installed the officers of Court Industry at So. Brewer.

Bro. Frank B. Dole, H.J.W., occupies the chair for the ensuing term, which is a sufficient guarantee that the Court's affairs will be well and ably administered.

The following Tuesday, Jan. 11th, the officers of Court Passacumkeag were installed, and on the 14th the officers of Court Orono.

The High Chief is also booked for several other installations and public meetings, and altogether it would seem that Independent Forestry is moving along very briskly.

Illinois.

To the Editor this jurisdiction is very much like a sealed book.

We have just received our first copy of *The Foresters' Gazette*. Thanks.

From official reports we glean that for January the applications number 110.

A member of Court Independence sends us an interesting communication, the substance of which is: "Honor the fraternal principle; help the unemployed to employment; the destitute relieve; for the penniless, pay their assessments; be a brother to your brother." So mote it be.

From Peoria, where we have three courts (possibly more), we learn that Bro. A. E. Stevenson, H.C.R., was entertained by the ladies of Court Peoria. They very hospitably invited the brethren of Courts Glen Oak and Ford. A very select programme was rendered and a very enjoyable evening spent.