

of the Supreme Court: We, the Mayor and representatives of the Town Council of Barrie, take the opportunity of presenting to you in this form a recognition of the honor it bestows upon us, and the pleasure it affords us to extend to you our sincere and hearty welcome into our midst.

We would fain hope and believe, with pardonable pride, that our town and its surroundings challenge the admiration of all visitors, and when we say that you are standing upon historic ground we feel that our pride is justified. This whole district, as you well know, is pregnant with incidents in Canadian annals. Its history dates back to the period when civilization first found foothold in Canada. Its pioneers and their vigorous and valiant successors have been among Canadian patriots and heroes, as well as the country's brightest and best men.

We are not here to-night, however, to review history or indulge in reminiscence, but to give greeting to the leading representatives of an Order which to-day ranks foremost among the benevolent fraternities, with its Courts upon both hemispheres, its membership many thousands and its reserve fund (the true test of the solidity of a mutual benefit association) away up in the millions. The motto of your Order, Liberty, Benevolence and Concord, embraces a trio of the loftiest and noblest sentiments bearing on human relationships, and which those without your circle have good reason for knowing are signally honored and exemplified.

The pecuniary benefits apart from the social and fraternal aspects of Independent Forestry are such as cannot fail to commend the Order to the thoughtful consideration of those desiring to make insurance provision for themselves or their dependents. We regard your noble Order not merely as a potent factor in the amelioration of human woes (as are well-conducted insurance institutions), but as a powerful agency in promoting fellowship and fraternity and bringing nearer the day when universal brotherhood shall reign. The Royal Foresters have shown themselves to advantage, let us say; their trumpet band and drill manoeuvres have appealed strongly to the musical taste and military spirit of this community, while their manly bearing and brilliant uniforms must possess special charms for the fair sex, who (may we say it?) have fallen quite in love with the gallant corps. We shall not, we feel assured, be deemed guilty of invidious distinction, if in our greeting to the Foresters, we pay a warm tribute to the head of the Order, Dr. Oronhyatekha, whose master mind and magic touch are evidenced on every hand in the growth and progress of Independent Forestry. He revived it when it was in a moribund state; he infused new life into it; his grandly unique personality has all along been one of its great mainstays, and we believe he is worthy of all the credit and honor that can be bestowed upon him by his fellow-Foresters.

Again, gentlemen, we bid you a thousand welcomes to Barrie, and trust that you will bear away with you happy and lasting recollections of the town and its people. Signed on behalf of the corporation: S. M. Wells, Mayor; Joseph Rogers, Chairman R. C.; Wm. C. McLean.

DR. ORONHYATEKHA.

The Supreme Chief was given a rousing reception, and when he advanced to reply to the address the auditorium re-echoed with the cheers of the

audience. He began, but the renewed applause drowned his remarks, and he had to wait for several minutes before the enthusiasm abated. He then said: "I accept the cordial civic welcome which we have received as Foresters. When the Major told me that the welcome was not only sincere, was not only from the heart, but that there were a hundred thousand of them it thrilled my own Irish heart. (Laughter.) Were I to use my native tongue in replying I am afraid I would emphasize my remarks by embracing him. But there are two eyes looking down on you at this moment from the Supreme Court. My gallant and distinguished colleague, the Irishman (Mr. Collins), and myself, the Indian, are the two eyes. And as we look down into your kindly faces I may as well tell you that my colleague is the orator of the Supreme Court, and therefore I shall have to leave to him the duty of telling you of our high estimate of your unbounded hospitality, of the beauty of your town, of the loveliness of its women and the chivalry of its men.

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER.

After citing several amusing occurrences in connection with his former visits as well as his present visit to Barrie, Dr. Oronhyatekha, referring to the Independent Order of Foresters, said: "The Order is now becoming well known upon two continents, and yet it is only in its infancy. It would be a crime for me to endeavor to follow out and explain all the different and varied advantages of this great Order; it generally takes me two hours to do so, but to-night I am limited to fifteen minutes, and so cannot tell you all the good points in our Order which appeals to the people for sympathy and support.

"In the first place, we give free medical attendance, and when I tell you that the Order has over 4,000 Court physicians, who are entrusted with the care and the lives of our members, you can understand the vast amount of good that is being done by the I.O.F. in this one department of its great system of giving varied benefits. Indeed, the material benefit, if you put it in dollars and cents, given by this department alone, is almost beyond computation. But I may be talking to an audience that does not appreciate medical attendance." The speaker here told of how the doctor's fees vary according to locality. He compared the fees generally charged in Toronto with those that he had been told were charged in a province down by the sea. He thought if the doctors charged anything near what they did in Toronto, his hearers would understand how bills would run up when a man is lying upon his back for any length of time. But a member of the I.O.F. could be sick a whole year and have no doctor's bill to pay.

MORTALITY DECREASING.

Continuing, the Supreme Chief said:—"In 1881, the year before the Order was reorganized, and when it came under Canadian management, the death rate was 10.03 in the thousand. A few years later we reduced the mortality to 6.40 in direct opposition to the mortality laws of fraternal societies. In 1892 the rate was 6.25 and in 1893 it was further reduced to 5.47. Indeed, the rate was being reduced so rapidly, notwithstanding the increase in our age year by year, that we came to the conclusion that there would soon be no deaths at all in the Order. (Laughter.) But we confess it has not been entirely realized. But if you will compare these figures with those of