

efforts should be directed to maintain and increase the success, prosperity and usefulness of our grand order.

I regret that not so much has been accomplished, during the past year, as I had hoped, still thanks, in a large measure, to the other members of the High Standing Committee, our High Court is placed upon a better footing and can now enter the race with some hopes of success.

In July last, we numbered but nine Courts in our jurisdiction having a membership of about one hundred and fifty. We now have twenty Courts and a membership of about three hundred and fifty. In this connection our thanks are again due to D. S. C. R., Bro. Clarke.

It is pleasing to note that our Order is steadily increasing. The reports in the FORESTER show that our membership and the balance to the credit of the Supreme Court have increased fully fifty per cent. during the past year.

The reports of the High Secretary and High Treasurer, and that of the Auditors will be laid before you, and to which I invite your earnest consideration.

I would recommend that, for the future, subordinate Courts be visited annually, either by the H.C.R., a member of the High Standing Committee, or by a Provincial Deputy, appointed for that purpose.

I would also suggest that Court Deputies be notified to make semi-annual reports to the H.C.R., under Sec. 53 (3), of all matters appertaining to their individual Courts.

These measures, I feel convinced, would result in increased interest on the part of Subordinate Courts, and tend to the advancement of the Order in this jurisdiction.

In conclusion, permit me to return sincere thanks to the Officers and members of the High Court for honors conferred and courtesies extended, and to assure them that the recollection will long linger in my memory.

Submitted in L. B. and C.,

ROBERT S. MASTERS,
H.C.R.

Bro. A. V. Wade, H.S., presented his annual statement.

HIGH SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the High Chief Ranger, Officers and members of the High Court of Nova Scotia.

BRETHREN:—Another, and eventful year in the history of our Order in Nova Scotia has been rolled into the past. By the merciful dispensation of Providence, we are again permitted to greet each other in our annual fraternal assembling together, for the purpose of transacting the business and fulfilling the requirements of our noble institution for another season.

The year just closed has been signalized by great prosperity in the economy of our High Court. Our financial affairs are in the most healthy condition; our roll of membership, since the last annual session, has been swelled by the acquisition of more than one hundred per cent. to its numbers; and, with but two exceptions, the state of our Order generally throughout the Province is of the most flourishing character. During the past Forestric year, there have been reported to me by the Deputy of the Supreme Chief Ranger at present working in our jurisdiction, the institution of eleven new Courts. They are as follows:—Courts Stellar, Westville, Hopewell, Mayflower, Lansdowne, New Glasgow, Picton, La Have, Royal Jubilee, Relief and Kinburn.

One of the exceptions referred to is that of Courts Ivanhoe and Londonderry. These are far in arrears, and almost defunct. I have

had extensive correspondence with the officers of these Courts in endeavoring to revivify them, but all efforts in that direction, apparently, have been productive of no beneficial results. Whilst adverting to these particular Courts, I desire to draw the attention of the High Court to the fact that I have found, during my incumbency as High Secretary, that there is a growing tendency in certain Courts to sever from our jurisdiction and become members at large under that of the Supreme Court; and I am credibly informed that this movement is not at all discouraged by the Supreme Executive. I regard this as one of the principal causes of the languishment of Courts Ivanhoe and Londonderry, and, if persevered in, will retard the prosperous working of our High Court. This is the other exception.

Appended hereto, I submit for your consideration my financial statements for the Forestric year ending June 30th, 1887.

It will be noticed, by reference to statement No. 2, that the liabilities of the High Court over-reach its assets by \$10.00; and if the amounts due from Courts Ivanhoe and Londonderry be not realized, this deficit will be increased by \$53.00 more; yet taking into consideration the almost dismembered condition of the High Court, and the lifeless manipulation of its financial matters prior to our last annual meeting, we have abundant reason to congratulate ourselves that the outlook is so bright and re-assuring.

One short year ago we formed only nine Courts in good standing, with a deficit of about \$140.00, not having a dollar placed to our credit against Supreme Court account since the institution of the several Courts which primarily composed and established the High Court in Nova Scotia, and with the then gloomy prospect of probable annihilation as a High Court. To-day, how different the position! We now stand with a balance sheet second to none among the Provincial High Courts; we have placed to our credit on Supreme Court account, during the past year, the sum of \$99.00, and we have doubled the number of our Subordinate Courts. These facts, therefore, coupled with the estimate that the probable receipts for the current half-year will amount to \$150.00, ought fully to warrant the assertion made in my report at the special session held at Truro, in January last, to the effect that I would, at the next regular annual session, be in a position to submit such a statement as would satisfy the most sanguine expectations.

The correspondence during the past year has been very extensive, considering the small number of subordinate Courts then in operation under our jurisdiction. A portion of this correspondence, I regret to add, was unavoidably written in a tone which I earnestly hope it may never again be the painful duty of the Secretary to have occasion to employ.

We render thanks to a merciful Creator for the unbroken circle of our fraternity in this Province. The grim spectre, Death, has not been permitted to assail our ranks since we last assembled in regular session, and there is no sound of mourning in our midst.

I wish gratefully to acknowledge the kindness displayed, and the ready and willing assistance afforded me by the High Chief Ranger as well as others of our brothers in office. I desire, also, to extend my heartfelt thanks to the officers of subordinate Courts for the kindly treatment I have experienced at their hands in my endeavor to bring order out of the chaotic condition into which High Court finances and affairs had fallen at the period when I was honored with the trust

which I have striven faithfully and conscientiously to fulfil.

Respectfully submitted in L., B. and C.

ALAN V. WADE,
High Secretary.

Chambers of High Court,
Kentville, July 13, 1887.

NO. 1.

Statement showing the revenue of High Court during the Forestric year ending, June 30th, 1887.

| No. | Name of Court. | Supplies. | Cap. Tax. |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 56 | Hopewell | | 9 50 |
| 102 | Acadia | 1 04 | 41 00 |
| 103 | Blomidon | 1 34 | 8 00 |
| 104 | Ivanhoe (in arrears) | 20 | 10 00 |
| 105 | Londonderry (in arrears) | | |
| 108 | Hiawatha | | 18 00 |
| 109 | Evangeline | 1 10 | 18 00 |
| 115 | Admiral Digby | 22 | 13 00 |
| 119 | Bear River | | 12 50 |
| 122 | Sissiboo | 32 | 24 00 |
| 124 | Stellar | 3 89 | 10 00 |
| 110 | Westville (in arrears) | | |
| 209 | Mayflower | | 5 00 |
| 213 | Lansdowne | 5 | 9 00 |

\$12 16 \$178 00

Cash from A. Davison,

72 95

250 95

Total Cash received

\$263 11

NO. 2.

Statement showing Liabilities and Assets of the High Court of Nova Scotia on the 30th June, 1887.

LIABILITIES.

Amount due Supreme Court, \$244 07

ASSETS.

Cash in Treasury \$110 72

Amt. due from Court Londonderry 28 54

" " Ivanhoe 24 44

" " Hiawatha 1 23

" " Westville 7 54

" " Acadia 1 60

Furniture and Supplies 6 00

\$234 07

Liabilities over Assets

10 00

\$244 07

A. V. WADE, High Secretary.

The High Treasurer, Bro. H. S. Dodge, then submitted his annual report.

HIGH TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the High Chief Ranger, officers and members of the High Court of Nova Scotia, I. O. F.

BRETHREN:—I beg leave to submit the following report viz:—

RECEIPTS.

Jan. 12, Balance in Treas'y \$ 64 84
June 30, Amount received from H. Secretary 118 32
\$183 16

DISBURSEMENTS.

Jan. 13, By order No. 4, expenses of Ex. Com. to special session at Truro \$29 60
June 30, By order No. 5, bal. High Secy's salary \$37.50 stationery 60c., postage, telegrams etc., \$4.74 42 84
72 44

Balance on hand \$110 72

Submitted in L. B. & C.,

H. S. DODGE, High Treas.

Kentville, N.S., July 13th, 1887.