

Bros. Oliver Crase, H. S., McLaren, H. T., Gregg, D. S. C. R., Dodds, H. A., and several others were present to bid me welcome, and to cause me to forget at once that I was thousands of miles from home, a stranger in a strange land. Fraternity more than any other agency is doing a great work in making one people of two nations. At the Butler House I was the guest of the brethren during my stay in Seattle. In the evening at an informal, but extremely pleasant reception, I had an opportunity of meeting a large number of the brethren of this growing city of the far West, and of discussing with them the bright prospects of the Order in the State. Next morning I had the pleasure, under the guidance of Dr. Newlands, of seeing a little of what its citizens claim as the commercial metropolis of the State. The claim, I understand, is disputed by Tacoma and one or two other places. The city is beautifully situated on a number of natural terraces, and commands a fine view of Puget Sound. Just now it is like all western cities passing through a period of depression. All whom I met are sanguine as to its great future. One of the marked characteristics of the West is its splendid optimism.

At TACOMA, on the 23rd inst., the second communication of the High Court was opened in due form in Foresters' Hall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Bro. Dr. Davies, H. C. R., presided with dignity, fairness, and I might add, imperturbable good nature. The attendance of delegates was good, only a few of the more distant courts being unrepresented. The reception accorded your representative was most cordial. A very gratifying interest was manifested in the proceedings, and the way in which the business was conducted highly creditable, especially when it is remembered that the High Court was only organized a little over a year.

On the evening of the first day of meeting a public meeting of a social nature was held. The Hall was too small to accommodate the large number that attended. A select musical and literary programme was rendered in the early part of the evening, and I gave a short talk on the fraternal aspect of the I.O.F. Ice cream, fruit, cake, etc., were served in great abundance. This was followed by a function for which I did not wait, but where my kinsman, the S. S., would be quite in his element, and where indeed you might yourself tread a stately measure. The business was concluded the second day at six o'clock. Assisted by Bro. Gregg, I duly installed the officers for the current year. They enter on their duties enjoying the thorough confidence of the High Court. I am very much mistaken if they do not make for themselves a record that will be highly advantageous to the Order and creditable to themselves. The receipt of a fraternal message from the High Court of North Dakota in answer to one sent created great enthusiasm, and the allusion to yourself in it was greeted with hearty cheers. After the adjournment of the High Court I met in conference with the High Standing Committee; gave them such hints as I could from my ex-

perience of the work in Ontario, and noted some suggestions for your consideration.

On the evening of the second day I addressed a public meeting. The attendance was fair, and the sympathetic attention with which I was heard was all that I could desire. The press of Tacoma gave considerable space to our proceedings, and my address was very fully reported in the *Ledger*. pressure of work and limited time prevented me from seeing much of the city. I was assured that Seattle was not in it compared with Tacoma, but on that point it is fair to state that Seattle holds an entirely different opinion. I will not undertake to judge between them. As far as hospitality is concerned they are "both in it." I was well used, and when I left on Saturday for Victoria, having been escorted to the boat by Bros. Forsyth, H. V. C. R., and Wannacott, H. M. I carried with me very pleasant memories of my brief sojourn with my brethren of Washington State.

Unfortunately the prevalence of forest fires obscured the beauty of what the brethren assured me is the most picturesque State in the Union. The glories of Mount Baker and the varied beauties of the Olympic Range, I was told, cannot be imagined, and must needs be seen to be appreciated. The wealth of the state is great, and its development is only in its infancy. I must believe that the people so quick to see the great possibilities of the state only need to know INDEPENDENT FORESTRY to place it in the very front of fraternalism.

The steamer *City of Kingston*, that plies on Puget Sound, between Tacoma and Victoria, had for me a pleasantly familiar name. At Seattle I had a short interview at the dock with High Secretary Cruse and High Treasurer Doods and an afflicted brother who is a "fit candidate for the ranks of the disabled." My sail through "the finest salt water inlet in the world" resulted in the destruction of another of my ideals. In fancy I always saw the Pacific, as a sunny sea, canopied by a soft, blue sky; the breezes were always balmy and the prospect ever changing but ever pleasing. Alas for my ideal. In the atmosphere fog and smoke struggled for the supremacy, both so utterly bad that you did not care which won, and instead of the spicy breeze you had an ill-tempered north-west wind that made an over-cast welcome.

VICTORIA, the capital of British Columbia, was reached at six p.m. At the dock I had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Dr. Campbell, an old Ontario friend, and like myself a native of the county of Simcoe. Bro. King and two or three others were there to bid me welcome on behalf of the Foresters of the most English city out of England. Victoria is "beautiful for situation," and if not the joy of the whole earth, the legitimate pride of every citizen. On the evening of Saturday I met the two courts in their beautiful hall. The attendance was not large, but thoroughly representative. Many of the brethren are away from the city. Some in South Africa, some in Alaska, Rossland, etc. The possibilities for rapid growth in British Columbia