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The Canadian Order of Foresters.

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Can a Society give \$1000 at the death of each member thereof on an annual subscription of 8c.

SHELBROOKE, I. Q., Feb. 11th, 1884.

To the Editor of THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—The following correspondence involving the above question will possibly be of some interest to many of your readers, and I therefore request its insertion.

I may mention as prefatory that Mr. L. Smith and myself were members of the Canadian Order of Foresters, but having become dissatisfied with the management of the Order we left it; and having done so, wrote to many friends here who were members, asking their co-operation to form a LOCAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY. That circular has occasioned the following letters, which will speak for themselves.

I am, Sir, Yours obedtly, EDWIN AVERY.

(COPY.)

The Right Worthy High Court of Canadian Order of Foresters. Organized Nov. 25th, 1879. Incorporated Dec. 1st, 1879. Office of the Right Worthy High Chief Ranger.

WATERFORD, Ont. Feb. 1st, 1884.

Dear Sir—I am to-day in receipt of a circular issued over the signatures of L. Smith and yourself, a thing I was really surprised to see, and I must say no more flimsy pretext for leaving the Order could be gotten up.

The whole circular from No. 1 to 5 is nothing but a tissue of false statements, false in every particular, and I challenge you, Sir, to prove any one of them true.

Such lying statements are hardly worthy of notice, and would not be so done by myself, but for the confidence and respect I had always entertained of you, although we had never met. And I am really sorry that I am compelled in justice to the Order to cancel your commission as a D. D. H. C. R., and I further order that your name be struck off the Roll of Membership, and that all claims against the Endowment fund be cancelled, and at the next annual meeting your name will be brought forward for expulsion. I am determined to stamp out all such dispositions as you and Mr. Smith have shown in this matter and for once at least, prove our business is not done in a slovenly manner.

I am, Sir, Yours truly, E. H. LONG, H. C. R., Canadian Order of Foresters.

SHELBROOKE, I. Q., 7th Feb., 1884. To E. H. Long, Esq., H. C. R. Canadian Order of Foresters, Waterford, Ont.

SIR,—On the 13th November last, at the request of Court St. Francis No. 2, C. O. F., I addressed and mailed a letter to you forwarding the name and address of the Recording Secretary of that Court, calling your attention to various irregularities in the conduct of the business of the Order complained of by them, especially in the non-receipt and misdirection of communications from the Head Office, and in the non-publication of death claims; and asking for a guarantee that the funds in hand were properly invested or applied.

To the letter you did not vouchsafe to reply.

Early in December last I wrote to you again asking for a reply to my previous communication, and enclosing a copy of a letter which I had been requested to forward to you. To that letter also you did not vouchsafe to reply, although, as the enclosure referred to has been since published in THE FORESTER there can be no doubt that you received it.

In January last I resolved to sever my connection with the order; and as we, L. Smith and myself, had been instrumental in persuading others to join, and as we recognized the utility of a Local Friendly Society, we jointly addressed a circular letter to such of our friends who are or who had been members of the Order, explaining our reasons for leaving.

It appears that some one has forwarded the circular to you, for I have now received a letter from you, dated 1st February, 1884, in which you state that the circular has reached you; that the pretenses assigned for leaving the order are "flimsy"; that the circular from No. 1 to 5 is but a tissue of false statements, false in every particular, and that they are "lying statements" which you challenge me to prove.

In accordance with your suggestion I propose to review those statements, adding such comment as may occur to me.

The statements which you object to, are as follows, headed "Reasons for leaving the Canadian Order of Foresters."

1st Reason. "Because the Executive Committee have systematically broken the Endowment Law which provides that the Endowment Fund shall be deposited in a chartered bank to the credit of the Order."

The endowment Law referred to will be found at page 45, sec. 9, of the Constitution and Laws of the Order, and provides that the endowment assessments shall be deposited in a chartered bank to the credit of the Order; subject only to cheques signed by the Chief Ranger, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Mr. G. G. Bryant was the delegate from Court St. Francis to the annual meeting of delegates in 1882, and on his return he reported that irregularities had occurred and that the money had been drawn from this fund on the signature of one of these officers only, but that such irregularity should not occur again. What irregularities have since occurred will be seen in my comments on the three next reasons.

2nd Reason. "Because it was discovered at the last annual meeting of delegates that through the negligence of the Executive Committee the then Treasurer was deficient to a large amount."

Mr. R. Davidson, of this city, was the delegate in 1883, and on his return he reported that neither was the Treasurer present, nor his accounts produced at that meeting, while he was there, though telegrams had been forwarded to him; that you had assured him the money was all right; but he (Mr. Davidson) left before the meeting was over. Mr. Bryant, of this city, was also present, and he reported that there had been a great sensation among the delegates; that a committee had been appointed to investigate the matter, and that another Treasurer had been appointed. It was afterwards announced that the Treasurer had lost the money by placing it in some unauthorized bank, and the Canadian Forester, in the issue of November, 1883, states that the Treasurer referred to had agreed to deposit the full amount of money belonging to the Order to the Credit of the Executive Committee in the Federal Bank.

It follows, then, from your own published statement, that the money of the Order had not previously been so deposited; and as the Executive Committee are responsible for the management of the Order, it also follows that it was through their carelessness that it had not been so deposited.

3rd Reason. "Because, although the Executive Committee have pretended to have recovered such deficiency, the next Treasurer declared that there was yet some few hundred dollars not recovered."

The Canadian Forester, in its issue of 1st Nov., 1883, states that "Bro. Green, true to his word, deposited the full amount due to us in the Federal Bank, to the credit of the Canadian Order of Foresters."

I have in my possession a letter from Mr. Denison, the next Treasurer, dated 19th Nov., 1883, in which he states, "True, I had not received the whole amount from Nelson Green. The only amount I did not receive in full was on the High Court account, and only amounted to a few hundred dollars."

Wherein is my statement a "lying statement?"

4th Reason. "Because on the insolvency of the next Treasurer, the funds of the Order were not then in a chartered bank to the credit of the Order."

Mr. Denison, the next Treasurer, having met with misfortunes in business, assigned his estate, most honorably resigned and placed the money in the hands of his bondsman, viz., Alderman Denison, of Toronto.

This fact is established in Mr. Denison's letter to me, above referred to, and in the Canadian Forester of November, 1883.

If, however, the funds had been deposited, as the rules say they should be, in a chartered bank, to the credit of the Order, subject only to the Cheques of the Chief Ranger, the Secretary and the Treasurer, they could not have been in the hands of Alderman Denison, of Toronto, however honorable a man he may be; and if they were not so deposited either, while Mr. Green was Treasurer, or while Mr. Denison was Treasurer, am I not justified in saying that the Executive Committee have systematically broken the Endowment Law, and wherein is my statement a lying statement?"

5th Reason. "Because no reliable statements are published as to what death claims are now due."

That this should be done has always been insisted upon by the members of Court St. Francis, and was specially referred to by me in my letter to you of the 13th November last.

That it has not been so done for some time is a matter of notoriety, and before denouncing my statement as a "lying statement," you should at least state when and where they have been regularly published.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c., EDWIN AVERY.

Highgate, Ont., 27th Febr., 1884. THOS. G. DAVY, Esq., S. Treas. I.O.F.

London, Ont.

DEAR SIR & BRO.—I have the further pleasure of acknowledging receipt of cheque for \$13.55 19 additional days of continued illness, ending on the 26th Dec. last, of which Court Dominion in session was duly notified. The prompt response of the Supreme Court, and the practical illustration in my case of the substantial benefits of the Order has added an impetus to the growth of Court Dominion. We expect two initiations next meeting, with four others on the tapis. May such a Benevolent Order grow in the land. I remain, Dear Sir and Bro., in L. B. & C., JOHN MASON.

South Woodlee, Feb. 7th, 1884. DR. ORONHYATEKHA, Esq., S.C.R.

DEAR SIR & BRO.—You will find enclosed fifty cents. Please send me the FORESTER for one year. Send January paper.

Yours in L. B. & C., JACOB MITCHELL, P.S., Court Forest, No. 63, South Woodlee, Ont.

Retrospect.

A year ago last August the Supreme Court met in Hamilton, at its second Annual Session. The Order, as then constituted, was but a year old, and though thus only in its very infancy, the foundations of the Order had been so well and firmly re-laid, that even then it gave evidence of a vigorous manhood in the near future. We numbered

at that time a little over a 1000 members, having increased during the year from a little band of about 400. At this session, Towe, Supreme Treasurer, was defeated for re-election, while McElheran was defeated for the post of H.C.R. of Ontario. These two worthies were both residents of London, and, with a few sympathizers, taking advantage of the temporary absence from the city, of the Supreme Chief Ranger, set to work deliberately in an organized attempt to destroy our Order. To accomplish this nefarious work they did not hesitate to utter and circulate the most unblushing falsehoods. Of course, their principal attacks were directed against the Supreme Chief Ranger, as the man, who, more than any other, stood in the way of their preference in the Order, as they thought. The Supreme Chief Ranger, on his return to London after an absence of two weeks, found the excitement among the London Courts at white heat. He promptly suspended the ringleaders from the Order, pending the meeting of the Executive Council to investigate the charges he laid against them. As soon as the Constitutional time had elapsed the Executive met and examined the evidence submitted, and, after due consideration, unanimously confirmed the suspension of Towe, McElheran & Co. Their reply was that they had not been tried before an impartial tribunal, as the whole executive was as bad as the "d—d Injun." Whereupon the High Court of Ontario was called together, and, after a painstaking investigation, not only confirmed the suspension and by a unanimous vote expelled the recreant Brothers. At this time the Executive of the Canadian Order of Foresters—whose principal mission would seem to be to assail and decry the I.O.F.—made an offer to take over into their bosom any or all of the Courts and members of the I.O.F., but the Supreme Chief Ranger, Towe, McElheran & Co. also issued a circular, which the then H.C.R. of Ontario, Bro. McGillivray said contained more falsehoods in the same space than any document he had ever met during his years of experience as a barrister, and years before that, as a law student. Among other things it was stated that the I.O.F. in London was dead, that within a month there would not be a baker's dozen left, and that no amount of "clap trap Indian talk could resurrect it," etc., etc. The R.W.H.C.R. of the Canadian Order of Foresters also issued a solemn manifesto, which we gave in full in the FORESTER of Oct., 1882, and in which he declared that the aforesaid circular meant death to the I.O.F., under the leadership of Dr. Oronhyatekha. Our number, it is true, were by the rectum reduced to a little over 500 good and true men, while the C.O.F. claimed over 3000 members. According to the official organ of the Canadian Order of Foresters in the March issue the receipts for January on Endowment Account was \$1492, and as they collect 50 cent. a month from each member for this fund, it follows that they had not in January last 3000, but 2964 members, while the Independent Order of Foresters in the same time has grown from a little band of some 900 members to 2261 members, that is to say that, while the C.O.F. had not made any advance, its successful and vigorous rival, the I.O.F., has nearly trebled its numbers, and has increased its balance in the bank from \$1145.07 to \$13,638.76, as will be seen from the statement elsewhere to be found.

Statistics.

We have enrolled on our Register 93 carrying \$3000, and, therefore, representing \$279,000; 209 carrying \$2,000, equal to \$418,000; and 1,959 carrying \$1,000 each, or an aggregate of \$1,959,000—grand total of \$2,656,000. Only two deaths have occurred in the \$2,000 and \$3,000 classes since the Supreme Court was organized, viz., the late Bro. Dr. Morden, \$3,000, and the late Bro. McLaws, \$2,000