

# I.O.F. HIGH COURT AT MEAFORD

## Lakeside Town Extends a Hearty Welcome to Delegates to Independent Order of Foresters High Court.

(From our own Correspondent.)  
"Hang the banners on the outer walls,  
The cry is still, they come."

The hearty welcome promised a year ago to the High Court of Central Ontario of the Independent Order of Foresters when they were invited to come to Meaford, was right royally extended to that representative body on Monday and Tuesday of last week. The town commenced making preparations for the receiving of the guests on Saturday. On Monday the town was richly decorated with evergreens, flags and streamers inscribed with words of "Welcome" and "Good Will." Every citizen did all in his power to give the visitors a good time. The Foresters were greatly delighted with their reception and the beauty and prosperity of the town of Meaford.

Many of the Foresters arrived on Saturday, and on Monday afternoon and evening a large contingent was on the ground. On Sunday evening the local Court to the number of over 100, and the visiting brethren attended the Presbyterian church, which was filled to overflowing, to hear Rev. Alex. MacGillivray, of Toronto, Supreme Chaplain of the Order.

On Monday, Capt. Cowan, H.C.R., of Barrie, and other members of the High Standing Committee, arrived and made their headquarters at the Royal Hotel. The evening train was met by the Mayor, the town council, members of the Reception Committee, the town band and a large concourse of citizens. The streets were brilliantly illuminated, and the large delegation that arrived received a welcome that they will long remember.

### TUESDAY.

Tuesday, at two o'clock sharp, High Chief Ranger brought down his gavel and began proceedings. Nearly every Court of the 26 Courts in the jurisdiction, were represented. All of the officers of the High Court were present.

From the report of the High Chief Ranger, it appears: That the whole Order has 4506 Courts and a membership on the 31st December, last of 257,000. Central Ontario has 18,000 members, while the whole Province has 55,000. During the year, the Order as a whole paid out in benefits of various kinds over \$2,000,000, the accumulated funds at present are over \$12,250,000. The growth of the Order in Central Ontario during the year has been satisfactory, 244 applications having been received; 151 joined the great majority and their beneficiaries received \$56,665 in benefits; 113 members in the jurisdiction reached the old age limit who pay no further assessments and receive annually one tenth of their benefit.

Feeling reference was made to the death of Bro. H. A. Collins, S.T. & A.P.H.C.R. of the Order.

Bro. Cowan, in his report, paid the following well-merited tribute to Bro. the Hon. E. G. Stevenson, S.C.R.:

"I feel that to our distinguished Supreme Chief Ranger, Brother, the Hon. Elliott G. Stevenson, more than a passing word is due. We

who were present at our meeting in Midland last year recall his welcome, though brief, visit, and the splendid impression created by his frank, earnest and able address.

Since then, the manner in which he has guided the Order, administered the vast material interests committed to him, and the fearless statesmanlike way in which he has faced the question of placing the Order on a sound and permanent basis, by adopting adequate rates, prove him to be the right man for the exalted office that he holds, and a worthy successor of Oron Hyatka, the builder of the Order.

I am confident that, on behalf of Central Ontario, the home jurisdiction, I can assure our Supreme Chief of our united, loyal cooperation in any and every effort to strengthen the position and advance the interests of the Independent Order of Foresters."

The finances of the High Court are, according to the Treasurer's statement, in a healthy condition. Receipts were \$8,400, while on hand \$5,333.

The various committees were appointed by the High Chief Ranger to bring in their report on Wednesday.

At three o'clock the following address of welcome from the town was read by Mayor Horsley.

To the High Chief Ranger, Officers and Brethren of the High Court of the Independent Order of Foresters for Central Ontario:

On behalf of the citizens of the

Town of Meaford, I beg to extend to you a most cordial welcome to our town. We welcome you most heartily, knowing you represent one of those great fraternal organizations that is doing so much for the homes and families of our land and cultivating love and brotherhood among men. We recognize the great work that is being accomplished by your Order throughout not only our fair Dominion of Canada, but throughout the British Empire. Benevolence and works of charity cannot be too highly commended in any nation or among any people.

We further recommend that the High Standing Committee make arrangements to have every Subordinate Court in the jurisdiction visited at the earliest possible opportunity to the end that every member may receive a full explanation of the change in rates that come into effect on the 1st day of October, 1908."

It was adopted by a unanimous standing vote and ringing cheers for the I.O.F. and Supreme Chief Ranger, the Hon. Elliott G. Stevenson. A telegram from the Supreme Chief Ranger regretting his inability to be present and extending his best wishes to the High Court was read and suitably acknowledged.

The following officers were elected: High Standing Committee: Past: High Chief Ranger, Alex. Cowan; High Vice Chief Ranger, Clarence Bell; High Secretary, R. J. Niddrie; High Treasurer, Alex. Stewart; High Physician, J. T. Smith; High Counsellor, George Albery; Auditors, A. N. Smith and R. H. Cuthbert. Appointed officers: High Orator, Rev. Scud-aniore, H.S.W.A. Fisher; H.J.W. S. A. Egan; H.S.B.; Wm. Johnson; H.L.B.; A.R. Williamson; H. Marshall; A. B. Hatchett; H. Conductor: Chas. Kelly; H. Organist, I. D. Keachie; H. Messenger, J. W. Peacock; Asst. H. Messenger, J. W. Peacock.

We are constructing a large Municipal building for the Municipality which we trust will be in keeping with the needs of our growing town. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000 and will contain an Assembly Hall and Opera House capable of accommodating 800 persons, besides municipal offices, Council chamber, public library, and a platform for market or assembly hall, with accommodation for several hundred persons.

We beg to extend to your order the invitation to lay one of the corner stones on the Municipal building, which stone we have provided bearing the initial letters of the Order and the present year of grace.

In conclusion we trust that concord may characterize your session and that you will feel entirely satisfied with the accommodation we have endeavored to provide for you.

We trust that you will in the near future again honor our town with a High Court Session when you will receive a renewal of our welcome.

Yours obediently,

J. W. Horsley,  
Mayor of Meaford.

Meaford, August 18, 1908.

After the Mayor had read his address he presented Alex. Cowan, H.C.R., with the key of the Municipality.

The key was about three feet long and was suitably inscribed with mottoes of welcome.

The key was a most original one and brought forth three hearty cheers from the 300 delegates assembled.

Bro. Rev. Alex. MacGillivray, at the request of the High Chief Ranger, replied. He thanked the Mayor for the welcome, and expressed appreciation of the kind words said of the Order whose work was its justification. He complimented the town on its beauty, civic pride and manifest prosperity. An address of welcome from the local Foresters—that number 123—was presented by Bro. Albery, C.R., and responded to suitably by F. J. Hart, P.H.C.R.

The report of the Finance Committee was being considered when the Mayor arrived to accompany the High Court to lay the corner stone of the fine new town hall at 3 o'clock.

The High Court, headed by the town band, marched to the public square, where one of the corner stones of the new municipal building was laid with appropriate ceremonies by Bro. Alex. Cowan, H.C.R. Bro. Cowan was presented with a beautiful silver trowel, suitably inscribed, by Mayor Horsley. The proceedings were witnessed by a great number of people from the town and adjoining country.

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no meeting, but enjoyed the entertainment provided for them by the town band and a couple of songs from Bro. J. D. Keechie.

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carnival on the lake which proved a most unique and entertaining spectacle.

**WEDNESDAY.**

On Wednesday morning at nine o'clock business was resumed. After the Finance Committee was disposed of, the report of the special committee dealing with the re-adjustment of rates of old members, was submitted by Bro. Rev. MacGillivray, who fully explained the changes made, as follows:

"That the adoption of a new scale of rates to be paid after the first of October, 1908, by all mem-

bers who joined prior to 1908 is in the best interests of the I.O.F. and essential to its continuance on a sound and permanent basis."

"That as a High Court, we unanimously pledge ourselves to abide by the action of the Supreme Court. That we will loyally co-operate with the Supreme Chief Ranger and Supreme Executive in their every effort to maintain on a strong and permanent foundation thereby ensuring its combined and increased usefulness."

"We further recommend that the High Standing Committee make arrangements to have every Subordinate Court in the jurisdiction visited at the earliest possible opportunity to the end that every member may receive a full explanation of the change in rates that come into effect on the 1st day of October, 1908."

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