

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS: A RETAINABLE STORY OF ITS PROGRESS

A Great Fraternal Order Strengthened and Made One of the Biggest of Its Kind in the World.

Supreme Chief Ranger E. G. Stevenson, at a Big Banquet, Tells a Wonderful Story of Progress—A Large Attendance From All Parts of Canada and the United States.

As a token of sincere regard for his work in the fraternal world, for his guidance of an immense organization, the Independent Order of Foresters, through the slough of despair, placidly and on a basis of solvency, and making that order one of the biggest of its kind in the world, the leaders of Ontario's business, commercial, political, social and religious life, met at the Temple building Thursday night to do honor and render a complimentary banquet to the Hon. Elliott G. Stevenson, Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters.

Prominent public men also came from western Canada and the Pacific States to take part in the celebration, as well as large delegations from middle western and States and states south of the Great Lakes, and each with the other in their demonstration of loyalty and affection for their chief.

Four hundred and fifty men in all were assembled in the large banquet hall, the decorations of which were superb. Over the head table, at the back of his successor, was hung a life-size painting of the late Venerable Dr. Ornohyetka, who passed his reward just seven years ago, which was adorned with Union Jacks and the Stars and Stripes.

The tables were tastefully decorated with clusters of red carnations and pink roses. An orchestra, which rendered musical selections during the banquet, was hidden by a huge bank of exotic plants.

Those present at the head tables were:

Some Who Attended.

Major Beatty, M.P., London; W. J. Douglas, F. W. Ellis, F. W. Harcourt, K.C.; H. W. Hoyle; R. S. Gourlay, W. F. Maclean, M.P.; C. Mayor Oliver; John A. Paterson, K.C.; Bishop W. D. Reeve, George P. Scholfield, President of the Standard Bank; Rev. Byron Stauffer; Lieut.-Col. Curry, M.P.; John R. Robinson; Sir John Willison; Thomas Wood; J. Brantford; M. McWhinney; Alfred Miller, London; A. L. Malone, Hon. Robert Jaffray; Claude Macdonell, M.P.; J. F. MacKay; W. K. McNaught, M.P.; W. J. Vale; Victor Morin, L.L.D., Montreal; George E. Scroggie; Hon. W. H. Hunter, M.P.; Col. N. F. Paterson, K.C.; F. W. O'Flynn; Frank Glass, M.P.; J. E. Atkinson; W. P. Gundy; Dr. James L. Hughes; J. Castell Hopkins; A. F. Jones; J. A. Medland; E. T. Essery K.C., London; George H. Smith; N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.P.; W. Banks; Samuel Rangan; Dr. Hamilton; C. Sam. Sharpe, M.P., Uxbridge; R. J. Ball, M.P.; Hanover; Dr. G. H. Elliott; Mayor Cowan; Barrie; C. H. Merryfield; London; Alex. Coulter; Keeper of Seals, Knights of Pythias; W. F. Chapman, B.A.; Mayor Bush; Port Hope; Dr. J. C. Clouston; Senator Kerr; Controller McCarthy; Controller Simpson; John Macdonald, Municipal Improvement League; F. J. Darch, Supreme Secretary; R. Mathison, Supreme Treasurer; J. D. Clark, Dayton; W. H. Hunter, Supreme Counsellor; Dr. T. Millman, Supreme Physician; Dr. Hughes, High Chief Ranger, Winnipeg; Dr. G. M. Schaubel, High Chief Ranger, Illinois; Henry Rochon, Montreal; W. H. Moorhouse, High Chief Ranger, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.; J. S. E. McEann, Kingston; W. H. Snider, High Chief Ranger, Port Hope; N. Greenwood, High Chief Ranger, Stratford, Ont.; M. L. Higgins, High Chief Ranger, New York; H. Chapman, High Chief Ranger, western New York; Hugh Thompson, High Chief Ranger, eastern New York; W. T. Bingham, Dr. Clawson, High Physician, New Jersey; C. W. Mingle, High Chief Ranger, eastern Pennsylvania; W. C. Heverley, High Chief Ranger, western Pennsylvania; F. C. Day Clark, Assistant Supreme Physician; Rev. A. Macgillivray; C. A. Stone; S. Martin; George A. Mitchell; Controller T. L. Church; E. J. Hearn, K.C.; R. J. Niddrie, M.D.; George L. Wilson; Alex. Stewart; Hon. Thomas Crawford.

Rescuing the Order.

At the conclusion of the feast Toastmaster E. W. J. Owens, M.P.P., rose and proposed the health of King George V. and President Woodrow Wilson, which was responded to by the singing of the National Anthem and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Mr. Owens, amid cheers, declared that the celebrations were a tribute which any man might be proud of. "Mr. Stevenson has had many trials, but fortunately he has been able to guide the order through trials and tribulations, and place it on a basis of complete solvency," said he. "May we continue to have this distinguished leader as our guide, philosopher and friend. The I. O. F. has done utmost good for the poor widows and orphans, therefore we should make some extra effort to make the order even more stronger numerically." (Applause.)

He then called upon Mr. R. J. Niddrie, M.D., to read and present an address expressing the order's appreciation of Mr. Stevenson's fidelity toward its interests and progress. It reads as follows:

Address to Mr. Stevenson. To the Honorable Elliott G. Stevenson, Supreme Chief Ranger, Independent Order of Foresters.

Another Stevenson.—It is fitting at this time that we, representing as we do to-night many of the High Court jurisdictions in the Independent Order of Foresters, should tender you our best wishes for the coming year, which we hope will be for you and your colleagues as pleasantly successful as the year 1913 was honorably strenuous.

The older among us can remember the many years of this now powerful and stable order, the hand-to-mouth existence of a slender band of members, and we can also remember the steps by which the Order gradually increased in numbers and in influence until it has reached the second stage of legal recognition by the Governments in whose territory we have been established. With the recognition of the fraternal system came responsibilities to make fraternal insurance safe and sound for the dependents of the members. It has fallen to your lot to bear these responsibilities for us and we thank you for your six years' labor as Supreme Chief Ranger.

At the outset of your administration you were confronted with many difficulties, but you have met them successfully.

Of a continuance of this support I can confidently assure you. For you have been the very heart of the struggles of the Order, proud as we are in the Queen City of Ontario, proud as we have been to see our Chiefs recognized by the Government as men of public eminence, we are to-night prouder still of the work that has enabled us to fulfil the first and basic obligation of an insurance fraternity, the obligation of solvency.

Signed on behalf of the Committee, "E. W. Owens, K.C., M.L.A., Chairman," "R. J. Niddrie, M.D., (Secretary)."

Ovation to Mr. Stevenson; Strong Address in Reply.

Seldom is the subject of a demonstration given such an ovation as Mr. Stevenson received as he rose to respond. Vociferous cheering lasted several minutes and ended with musical honors.

Mr. Stevenson said in part:— I thank you very sincerely for your kind and generous words and I assure you that had it not been for the many and continued evidences of your confidence and loyalty and support of the active men of your society the important work you have referred to in your address as accomplished would not have been possible of accomplishment.

As earnestly as I have striven to serve our society and its membership—services rendered at considerable sacrifice of health and strength—I realize how futile would have been the efforts made to place our society in the proud position it occupies to-day as one of the very few fraternal societies on an actuarially sound basis without the sympathetic support and encouragement of a greater portion of our membership.

It is nearly seven years since the late lamented Ornohyetka was called to his reward, and almost at the moment that he answered the summons of the grim reaper came the report of the Royal Commission making radical recommendations for our society to be taken into consideration by the Government in regard to the interests of our membership and the public by placing our society in a position where it could be hoped to carry out its promises to its membership and other beneficiaries.

Accompanying the report of the Royal Commission was a proposed bill which was recommended should be enacted as law. The provisions of this bill, so far as it affected our society, were withdrawn upon a pledge made by the executive officers of the society, and a deputation waited upon the Minister of Finance, composed of leading members of the Order gathered from every Province within the Dominion, that we would at the earliest date possible do whatever might be found to be necessary to place our society on a sound basis.

Responsibilities that were not then realized devolved upon those of us who had to take up the burden of meeting the requirements of the Government and discharging our duty to our membership and the public.

I say, to the public, as well as to the membership, for the reason that the solicitation of the public to continue their confidence in our society and manifest it by aiding it in increasing its membership involved an obligation upon our part to see that those who should thus be influenced to entrust the protection of their families to our society should not be disappointed in finding in the end that their contributions for the protection of their families had been absorbed in meeting obligations to those who had long before become members, but who had from the beginning paid unsafely for the benefits promised them.

Contributions Were Inadequate. It has been a source not only of regret but of sincere sorrow that in working out the result that has been accomplished, bitter disappointment had been brought to many of our members, who were unaware that their contributions had been inadequate.

Many have been found who appear to have been unable or unwilling to recognize that what had been done in the way of imposing additional burdens upon them was necessary. Apparently, they have only been able to see that we had a large and increasing accumulation of assets,

and they closed their minds to the consideration of the other side of the question—the extent of the society's obligations and how they were to be provided for. When careful consideration of the situation was a simple one. As at December 31st, 1912, we had in hand twenty million dollars of accumulated funds and two hundred and forty million dollars of obligations that all had to be provided for within the lives of our 340,000 members. To meet these obligations we had this \$20,000,000 in hand. We could count on the interest so we earned on this accumulation and upon the premiums that would be paid by our members.

These items constituted everything that would be available to meet our \$240,000,000 of obligations, and when we took stock in an intelligent and scientific manner, we found that instead of having \$20,000,000 in hand, we should have had \$45,000,000, and that with this sum and the interest we could pay by our premiums to be paid by our members, we could just meet our obligations as they matured, according to our society's mortality and disability experience.

It was further ascertained that all of the deficiency existing in our assets, as compared with obligations, was created by the inadequate contributions of members that joined our society before 1899, and that those who joined after 1899 were paying in full for the benefits promised them and their beneficiaries. The difference in the situation of members who joined before and after January 1, 1899, resulted from the fact that, as the result of legislation by our Supreme Court in 1898, a new table of rates, largely increased in force prior to that time, came into force, but the table of rates was, unfortunately, only made to apply to those who joined after 1899.

Having made a pledge to the Government to take steps to make provision that would enable the society to meet its obligations, and the members we set about to do this by employing competent actuarial assistance and establishing a statistical department that would enable us to ascertain the exact mortality and disability experience of our society.

A Deficiency of \$25,000,000. When this work was completed it was, as indicated, found that there existed a deficiency in our assets, as compared with our liabilities of \$25,000,000—a deficiency that had to be provided for unless the society was to be permitted to drift into slow liquidation and in the end disappoint thousands of our members and their beneficiaries.

After the actuarial results referred to had been ascertained we spent long and anxious days and weeks and months in endeavoring to work out a plan that would make the burden that had to be imposed upon those whose inadequate payments had created this condition as light as possible, with the result that all who had part in deciding in the plan that was best to be adopted was best in the interests of all concerned, having in mind the necessity of once and for all time placing our society upon a sound basis.

The situation that I have outlined ought not to have been a surprise either to our membership or the public. Our society for upwards of fifteen years has been conducting its business in Great Britain, and under the laws of Great Britain, every insurance company and society is required to file quarterly with the Board of Trade a valuation of its liabilities.

December 31, 1907, was the date when such a valuation had to be filed, and when this valuation was filed it showed that there existed at that date a deficiency in our assets as compared with our liabilities of \$55,000,000.

Assessment Rates Inadequate. Complaint has been made that in the plan adopted we discriminated against the old members, and in fact the deficiency referred to in this connection was created by the fact that it was necessary to provide for should have been covered by assessments spread over the entire membership instead of being levied against that portion of the society whose inadequate payments had created the deficiency.

In this connection the fact must be borne in mind that the society in 1898 when it adopted its new and increased table of rates, and assessments consisted entirely of what are now commonly spoken of as the old members.

It was recognized that the rates of assessments in force up to that time were inadequate, else there would have been no need of putting into force a table of assessments increased in such rates of assessments.

The representatives of the membership recognizing the inadequacy of the rates then in force made provision that only those who should thereafter join should pay the inadequate rates then adopted, and that those who up to that time had constituted the society, should continue to pay the inadequate rates before then in force.

A Fraternal Fund. In view of this it seemed inequitable that those who thereafter joined in paying the increased rates of assessment and adequate rates of assessment should be later burdened in making provision in whole or in part of the inadequacy of the payments made by those who had joined before 1899. It was nevertheless recognized that there was an increased burden imposed upon the survivors of the members who joined before 1899 in that the deficiency existing was created in part by the inadequate contribution of those who had deceased, and whose beneficiaries had received full payment of the benefits promised them. To equalize this it

was provided in our legislation recently adopted that the \$25,000,000 should be transferred from the accumulations of the payments made by the members who joined after January 1st, 1899, and that for all time in the future there should go into a fraternal fund to relieve against the so-called old members the interest earnings above 4 per cent. upon the accumulated funds of the post-1898 members, as well as upon the accumulated funds of the pre-1879 members.

Of the existing accumulation of \$20,000,000 \$6,000,000 belonged to the members that joined before 1899 and \$14,000,000 belonged to those who joined since 1899, and inasmuch as we were earning a fraction over 5 per cent on the investment of our accumulated funds, the 4 per cent of the \$14,000,000 belonging to the post-1898 members, amounting to \$148,000 per annum, goes to the fraternal fund referred to for the relief of the so-called old members.

Mr. Stevenson rejoiced in the presence of the representatives of so many prominent citizens, whom he gladly addressed on the merits of the Order. He continued:

Powerful Agency For Doing Good. Our society is considered, and is a great society and a powerful agency for doing good to mankind, but in membership and the extent of its obligations it is insignificant as compared with the aggregate membership and obligations of fraternal insurance societies generally.

Statistics show that at December 31, 1912 \$10,000,000 has been accumulated in insurance within the Dominion of Canada, and 397 within the United States. The former had a membership of 869,090 the latter a membership of 9,865,000, a combined membership of 10,734,000. The former, the Canadian societies, had an insurance in force of \$596,604,000, and the American societies \$9,472,232,000, a total of insurance in force of \$10,068,836,000, and that the combined assets of the Canadian societies amounted to \$5,034,011,000, and the combined assets of the American societies to \$163,232,000,000.

It will thus be seen that as against obligations that will have to be provided for during the lives of the present membership aggregating \$10,068,836,000, there was accumulated assets amounting to \$10,068,836,000, or less than two per cent. of the obligations outstanding, and while the membership of the Independent Order of Foresters represented only two and a half per cent. of the entire membership of insurance in force, the amount of their accumulated funds amounted to ten per cent. of the entire accumulated sum, and then was \$25,000,000 short of what was necessary to provide for its obligations.

When it is considered that this membership of 10,000,000 has undertaken to provide protection for through this \$10,068,000,000 of insurance in force for practically fifty million women and children and that this fifty million women and children will be protected for their future necessities or comforts and that adequate provision exists for maturing this protection, the situation really becomes appalling.

Put Them on Sound Basis. I must not be understood as attempting to minimize the importance of fraternal insurance societies, for I recognize that they are among the greatest agencies available for improving conditions and protecting the families of wage-earners throughout this and other countries. I do, however, desire to impress upon everyone the importance of having such societies that are doing so much good placed upon a sound basis so that they may continue the splendid work they have been doing, for notwithstanding the imperfections, the outlet they have to state disbursements to the widows and orphans of beneficiaries of members of these societies—a total exceeding 2,156,000,000, a sum largely in excess of the combined public debt of the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and the Independent Order of Foresters has done its share on this beneficial work—it has to December 31, 1912, disbursed in benefits \$41,900,320.49.

It will have served my purpose if what I have said shall enlist the interest of some of those who may be influential in bringing about the needed reforms in connection with the financial status of these societies.

Now on Sound Basis. So far as the fixing of the financial status of our society is concerned, our work is finished. We have a society one hundred per cent. sound, able to meet all legitimate calls upon it with respect to its obligations, present and future.

We must for the future look forward not backward, and with united effort endeavor to make it even more useful than it has in the past. I assure you that our society will have my earnest endeavor to advance and protect the interests of its members wherever resident, and I pledge myself in the administration of its affairs to recognize no lines of division as between men who revere the Union Jack and men who revere the Stars and Stripes, but one common brotherhood united in one great international society.

High Praise for Order and Mr. Stevenson's Work. Sir John Willison, who proposed the toast to the Parliament of Canada, at first referred to the work of our society, and then to the work of our honored guests. "I have never yet met a man whom I have greater regard for than Mr. E. G. Stevenson," said he. "His achievements are beyond compare. To have placed this order beyond such a satisfactory financial basis is an accomplishment worth while." (Cheers.)

FINANCIAL MATTERS

PRODUCTION OF A YEAR IN THE COBALT CAMP.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works Turned Out More Engines Than Ever Before—A Concern to Apply For Incorporation at Ottawa.

Toronto, Jan. 9.—In a financial survey of the year in the Cobalt, Benjamin Hughes, of Cobalt, has the following:

"The following table shows the estimated production of the chief performers in the Cobalt marathon of 1913 as compared with 1912. The total for 1913 is estimated for the last month of the year, and in one or two instances the last two and three months:

Table with 3 columns: Mine, Gross ounces, 1913, Gross ounces, 1912. Rows include Nipissing, Conings, La Rose, McKimley-Darragh, Buffalo, Kerr Lake, Crown Reserve, Cobalt Lake, O'Brien, Sen. Superior, Beaver, Temiskaming, T. & H.B., Tregway, Penn. Canadian.

"Output in 1912 was negligible. These figures comprise only the principal producers in the little ten square miles of Cobalt, the core of which is the Nipissing and Cobalt Lake."

Hudson's Bay Land Sales. London, Jan. 9.—The Hudson's Bay company reports receipts from land sales to the amount of £112,300 for the quarter ending December 31st, as compared with £97,200 for the same period in 1912.

A decrease, however, is noted in the last nine months, there being only £327,000 receipts as compared with £582,200 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Baldwin Locomotive. Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—The Baldwin Locomotive works has issued the following summary of its business in the year just closed: During the year 2,025 locomotives were constructed, as against 1,618 for 1912. Of the number 1,811 were for use within the United States and 214 were for export to foreign countries. The average number of men employed throughout the year was 15,813. At the present time about 11,000 men are carried on the rolls.

New Mortgage Company. Ottawa, Jan. 9.—The British and French Canadian Mortgage Corporation, Limited, will apply for incorporation at the next session. The amount of capital stock will be \$2,000,000. The provisional board of directors will be all Toronto men.

Coal Production. Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—Pennsylvania, as a producer of coal, broke all previous records this year. According to advance statistics, announced to-day by the Geological Survey, the combined production of anthracite and bituminous coal in the state probably will amount to 267,000,000 short tons.

Enormous Capitalization. Montreal, Jan. 9.—According to the London "Stock Exchange Year Book" the actual number of companies in the United Kingdom has increased from 37,287 in 1914 to 60,754 in 1913, and the total paid-up capital now amounts

to the enormous sum of £2,425,740,857.

Financial Notes.

Ten Canadian companies increased their annual rate of distribution of profits during 1913.

It is reported in Berlin that the Prussian Empire is arranging for a big loan at an early date. In 1890 there were 8,635 savings bank deposits in the United States. In 1911 the number had grown to 9,507,185.

It is understood that the city of Vancouver shortly will be floating £200,000 five per cent loan at 91.

Security National bank of Minneapolis has declared an extra dividend of 4 per cent, making the total dividends paid for the year 20 per cent.

Authorized capital of the Martin-Bennett Asbestos Mines, Ltd., has been increased from \$1,500,000 to \$2,464,000.

The executive committee of the Lawyers' Mortgage company added \$250,000 out of its profits for 1913 to the surplus yesterday, making the capital and surplus \$8,750,000.

Mrs. Constance G. Clemons has become a partner in the New York Stock Exchange firm of Gardner & McClave. She takes the place of her late husband.

It is expected that Sir Max Aitken will sail for Canada to take personal charge of the Venezuelan Ore company affairs. The interest on the million dollars of outstanding bonds has not been paid.

J. F. Morgan says he intends to remain a director of the Steel Corporation, but his membership on bank boards will be dependent on construction of directors' liability clause of the Currency law.

Hon. Nathaniel Curry, president of the Canada Car and Foundry company states, that starting on January 7th and for some months to come, only half as many men will be employed in the freight car shops of his company as were employed this last year.

An appeal to man's reason may be more effective than an appeal to his pocket book.

In the beginning the devil is always satisfied with week day services.

Say your town is a good one, and then help make your words come true.

Life would not be worth a farthing without the plan for to-morrow.

Tuition rates in the school of experience often prove exorbitant.

The optimist always carries a big load of cheer and good feeling.

We Offer ONTARIO TOWNSHIP DEBENTURES TO YIELD 5 1/2 per cent. ONTARIO TOWN DEBENTURES TO YIELD 5 7/8 per cent. WESTERN SCHOOL DEBENTURES TO YIELD 7 3/4 per cent. WRITE FOR LIST Brent, Noxon & Co. Canada Life Bldg.

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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL AND CORPORATION BONDS Capital Paid Up \$1,000,000 Reserve Fund 500,000 HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO MONTREAL BRANCH E. R. WOOD President E. C. NORSWORTHY Manager G. A. MORROW Vice-President J. A. McQUESTON Secretary E. R. FERCOCK Vice-President Canada Life Building, Montreal, Que. W. S. HODGENS Manager LONDON (Eng.) BRANCH J. A. FRASER Secretary H. G. WALLACE Manager J. W. MITCHELL Treasurer Austin Friars House, 2 Austin Friars, London, Eng. A. L. FULLERTON Assistant-Secretary DOMINION SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED ESTABLISHED 1891. 25 KING ST. EAST. TORONTO. LONDON, ENG. CANADA LIFE BLDG. MONTREAL.