

The Grand Master read his Report of the past year, which was on motion ordered to be received and handed to a Committee to distribute same to the several Committees.

GRAND MASTER'S REPORT.

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, I. O. O. F. :

BRETHREN. —Another year has been added to the past, and for the twenty-fifth time the Grand Lodge of British Columbia has been called together to review the work of the past twelve months and legislate for the future.

In beginning our labors at this time, we cannot but feel grateful for our present condition and satisfied with the great progress our Order has made within the quarter century just closing since the institution of this Grand body, and we must be strongly reminded that this prosperity is mainly due to the wisdom and devotion of good and true men within our Order, many of whom have passed beyond to their reward; and that it is left to us to carry on the good work begun by them. Let us hope that we shall be able to continue advancing the spirit of Oddfellowship in our glorious province, and let us direct our best energies in that direction on this occasion, remembering that our Order is progressive in its character and that our legislation must be of a nature fully abreast of the times. Let us not fail to work harmoniously in our deliberations and in all our acts to strengthen the bond of unity between the scattered Brotherhood in our jurisdiction. With this fixed purpose before us, and ever acting on the grand principles of our Order, we need have no fear for the future, but may safely look forward to a time when the influence of Friendship, Love and Truth shall unite all mankind into one great Brotherhood.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

During my visits through the jurisdiction I found that general prosperity prevailed. In most places Lodges own their halls, and their enterprise in some instances in this direction may possibly lead to embarrassment and loss, especially in the less solid mining towns in the interior, and the Lodges should be very careful how they invest their funds.

I am pleased to be able to report an increase of forty-four members in the Subordinate Lodges to 31st. December, 1898, and accord-