

age, in which we can all unite in singing "God Save Our King." I am firmly convinced that this is your determination and the fixed principle of thousands of loyal Canadians.

A Year of Prosperity

We cannot but mark our success and advancement as an association. Since we last met we have experienced greater progress than in the previous year. More new lodges have been organized, and more activity has been displayed among many of our private lodges. The establishment of our society in Newfoundland is the accomplishment of an effort earnestly put forth during my term of office. This opens up to us a new field of labor. We are positively assured that the infant of our beloved Order in this British Island will develop into a mighty giant of strength supporting us in all our undertakings. To Bro. Daniel MacDougall, of Glace Bay, N. S., our worthy and highly esteemed D.D.G.M., must the honor be awarded as the pioneer of the coming forces of Newfoundland, the first advance guard of which to-day we welcome into our ranks. All these have tended to increase our membership and strengthen us for the work in hand. A fuller and more detailed report of the success attained, and financial standing, will be laid before you in the statements to be presented by your Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, which will reveal to you a healthy condition in every department.

Routine Work

These duties during the year have been performed by me with an earnest desire to accomplish something that would be lasting and beneficial to the future of our cause, measuring and squaring all my acts by the rules and regulations governing them.

Many questions relative to the proper interpretation of our constitution have been referred to me. In replying to these I have honestly endeavored to give my rulings in keeping with what I considered the true spirit and letter of our constitution and laws. As usual, many requests for dispensations have been made, and only such as were in the very best interests of the lodge, as well as our Association generally, were granted.

Appeals

Two appeals against the decision of subordinate officers have been submitted to me during the year. In the rendering of judgment I have conscientiously and fearlessly endeavored to do justice to all concerned. However, one appeal has been made against my decision to this Grand Lodge, the facts in connection with this matter I have placed in the hands of the Grand Lodge for your consideration.

The correspondence attached to my duties has been greater and more trying at times, than any year during my stewardship. I have endeavored to be prompt in replying to letters that contained matters of importance needing immediate attention. Many letters received contained complaints of various kinds. In most cases these had references to misunderstandings between members and lodges. The need of very careful consideration and thought made it impossible to reply to some of these as promptly as desired.