

served in various parts of the Province, the largest gatherings being at Fredericton and Sussex. These annual celebrations do much for the Order by bringing the brethren of different localities together and enabling them to know and appreciate each other better.

The usual celebration of the 5th of November was also duly observed throughout the jurisdiction, in some places by a lecture followed by a supper and dance, and in others by a church parade and sermon, according as the majority of the brethren of the different lodges inclined to be grave or gay, but in each case whatever form the outward manifestation took the hearts of the brethren were in the right place and they celebrated according to their different pleasures the event dear to the heart of every true Orangeman and lover of liberty.

The correspondence this year has been unusually heavy and will be handed to the Committee on Correspondence.

I have not been called upon to decide any important appeals during the year, but have granted a number of dispensations.

At the last annual session of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master was instructed to take such proceedings as were deemed necessary to endeavor to secure their civil rights for our brethren of Bathurst, which rights, it was claimed, were denied them by the Catholic majority of that place, aided and abetted by the Board of Education.

The first step taken was to circulate petitions throughout the Province directed to the Legislature and praying that the matter be investigated by the House of Assembly and proper redress of the grievance granted.

These petitions were prepared in consultation with a number of the brethren, printed by Bro. Pitts at his printing office, duly circulated for signatures and were signed by, I believe, something about ten thousand persons.

After a somewhat stormy debate in the Legislature a Royal Commission was issued to the Hon. Judge Fraser (our present Governor) directing him to proceed to Bathurst and there examine into all the many complaints which are commonly known as the Bathurst School Question.

After consultation with some of the brethren I employed brother the Hon. C. N. Skinner, Q. C., as senior counsel and myself acted as junior counsel at the inquiry, and having received from brother the Rev. A. F. Thompson a detailed statement of the various matters of complaint, we put it in a