

the necessity of securing a clause in the Local Election Law, similar to that in the Law of the Dominion, prohibiting the opening of taverns and the use of intoxicating Liquors on polling day.

Moved by Grand Scribe, seconded by Wm. Murray, that this suggestion be referred to the Committee on License Laws: passed.

Grand Scribe read the following report, which was referred to the Committee on State of the Order.

GRAND DIVISION ROOM, HALIFAX,

October 28th, 1874.

Grand Worthy Patriarch and Brethren:

The progress of our Order during the quarter now closed is less noticeable than for any other Season of the year. The Summer and Autumn are such busy seasons that many strong Divisions have very indifferent meetings, and some are compelled to suspend their meetings for a time. We cannot compare this quarter's work with the work of last winter, but when placing the corresponding periods of last year side by side with this, there is every cause for encouragement.

The returns with per capita tax paid for the past quarter were laid before our Committee on F. & A., from 77 Divisions last year there were returns from only 52 Divisions. The per cap. tax paid in from these 77 Divisions is \$305, an average of \$4 from each Division; last year the amount from the 52 Divisions was \$155, averaging \$3 from each. These figures show the Divisions on the whole to be larger and better managed so far as business goes, as well as more numerous than last year. Altogether 106 Divisions have sent in returns for this quarter; a larger number than for any other quarter of the year. This argues well, when so many Divisions are thus early in the Season in good working condition for the winter's campaign.

The figures and statistics taken now from the returns give only partial results which are not satisfactory. All the returns coming in up to the time of sending the Journals to press are incorporated in the large Tables of Statistics, and here we find the most reliable figures of our standing and prosperity. But these are not exact, for it is an unpleasant fact that some of our best Divisions sometimes let a quarter slip by without sending in a report at all. You will agree with me in saying the sooner such carelessness is removed the better for the Divisions and for the Order.

In computing our available force we can count a membership of 9760. Over 3000 persons joined our Order during the year—upwards of 1000 in the Divisions organized and resuscitated—and our losses by expulsion, resignation, &c. while large, leaves us the standing as above stated. The receipts for the quarter are satisfactory. It is a delightful privilege accorded me to inform the Grand Division that we are clear of debt, and have nearly \$200 cash in hand and almost double that amount due us from Subordinate Divisions, as may be seen from the statement presented of balance due this G. D.

Almost my first official act last year was to put my name with the G. W. P. to a note of hand for \$350 which the Executive after mature deliberation considered it advisable to borrow to enable us to keep up, rather than disturb the invested funds in the Building Society. This course was approved at the Session in January last. When borrowing the money we did not expect to repay it till our shares in the Building Society should be matured; but as the year rolled on and the outside debts were paid off there arose a probability of removing all our liabilities—which has been done. Last week the note was lifted and the Grand Division stands free from the burthen of debt which to the amount of over \$600 rested upon it a year ago.