

with the readiness which on all occasions they were prepared to serve the Order, and to a very large extent fill the place which, under more favorable circumstances, I should have done personally.

DOMINION INCORPORATION.

(5) The expressed opinion of the Supreme Body at its last annual session in regard to the procuring of a Dominion Charter being so pronounced, I took the earliest opportunity to impress upon the Executive the desirability of taking prompt action in this direction. After due consideration of the matter, the Executive decided to take steps to procure the same. Without losing any time, in company with the Supreme Secretary, I visited Ottawa. The House was then in session, and though the time for making application for Private Bills had expired, through the courtesy of the Private Bills Committee, we were allowed the privilege, which was done at once, advertisements were immediately sent to the Gazette and other provincial papers. Petitions were sent to all the members of Parliament. No time was lost in getting everything into shape. I visited Ottawa accompanied by the Supreme Secretary and the Solicitor several times, and embraced every opportunity to further the passage of the Bill through the House. Mr. Bertram, the member for Centre Toronto, introduced the Bill, and from the time the Bill was read the first time, its severe handling by the Committee on Banking and Commerce till its third reading no effort was spared to secure its passage through Parliament. As far as the House of Commons was concerned, after a very hard struggle we succeeded in carrying the Bill through. It was then sent on to the Senate, and, much to our surprise, the Bill was thrown out, so that our efforts were, to a certain extent, unsuccessful. The chief, and I may say the only cause of its rejection was the feeling that our rates were not high enough, that if we were prepared to increase our rates according to a scale prepared by the Inspector of Insurance, then they were willing to pass the Bill. This we felt we could not do without the sanction of this Supreme Body.

The cost of this action, while considerable, I do not think will be considered extravagant.

(6) I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable aid and assistance which I received from Bro. Fred Cook and other members of the Ottawa District. I also ask this Supreme Body to place on record its thanks for the hearty and generous support given by all members of the House of Commons who stood by us during that eventful time.

(7) I understand that a large section of our members are of the opinion that we should renew our application and make another effort to obtain a charter. Without in any way wishing to discourage this idea, I am of the opinion that, in view of the fact that the Government has signified its