

[Oct.,

1890.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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have been added to, and our financial standing improves. The receipts of the Secretary-General's office last year were larger than in any year preceding. We have increased our permanent investments by the purchase of an additional one thousand dollars debenture of the Landed Banking and Loan Company, without impairing our ordinary Bank balance for current needs; and, above all, so far as I can observe there is throughout our membership a very hearty and cheerful feeling.

Acting upon a suggestion made last year the Secretary-General has prepared a complete inventory of all our property, and this can now be carried or added to from year to year.

Warrants have been issued as ordered by Supreme Council last year to Quebec Lodge of Perfection at Quebec; to Ottawa Lodge of Perfection at Ottawa; and to Royal Oak Lodge of Perfection at Kentville, Nova Scotia. Dispensations have been issued during the year to open a Lodge of Perfection at Amherst, N.S. to be styled Cumberland Lodge, a Chapter of Rose Croix at Quebec, with the title Quebec Chapter; and a Chapter at Ottawa, Ontario, to be called Murray Chapter. All of these bodies start with fair prospects, and in the hands of the energetic brethren who have charge of them will render good service to the cause of humanity.

In January last I was able to be present at the annual re-union of the members of the Rite in this City of Hamilton, as was our Ill. Past Gd. Commander, Bro. Hutton, and attended all of the meetings of the bodies here. Although at the time there was a general prevalence of *la grippe*, the number of members present was large, and the object of the re-union was most successfully accomplished. Scarcely any words of praise would be too warm in which to declare my appreciation of the manner in which the rituals were rendered. All of the appointments and fittings were appropriate to the work to be done, but these were as nothing compared to the skill and effectiveness displayed by the brethren who had the work in hand. It was all an intelligent rendering of our degrees by men who understood them and felt their meaning, and who could convey their impressions of them to others. The effect was increased by the thoroughness of the musical accompaniments. Aside altogether from the importance of these re-unions as teaching those who desire to learn the real meanings of the degrees, they are most beneficial in bringing members together from different parts of Canada, and enlarging our personal acquaintanceship each with the other. To the members of the Rite here a debt of gratitude is due by all who witnessed their work, and participated in the social meeting which followed it.

A few weeks later I consecrated the Ottawa Lodge of Perfection and installed the office-bearers. There was a full attendance of members, and they then had almost all of the paraphernalia necessary for the full working of the degrees, much of it of the very best character. In their presiding officer, Bro. BUTTERWORTH, the Lodge has a most earnest and faithful brother, and he has the hearty support of an intelligent body of Masons.

In accordance with the desire of the Supreme Council expressed at the session of 1888 and at that of 1889, I paid a visit to British Columbia recently in