

At Peterborough there is every reason to suppose that the seed sown will bear fruit, and the Grand Officers will ere long be called upon to institute a Lodge in that prosperous northern town. Mr. A. V. R. Young, American Consul there, is making efforts to secure the required number that would be sufficient to warrant us in supposing, that when once started, it would be successfully established on a solid basis.

At Kingston the matter is being taken up by a competent person, who, although not a member of the Order, has conceived a favorable opinion of Pythianism, and I shall be much disappointed if, at an early date, the Pythian banner is not unfurled in that city also.

At Brockville, Belleville, Port Hope, Cobourg and other places I have made efforts to interest friends in the beauties and benefits, of our Order, and which is second to none of the great Brotherhoods that are attracting the attention of all thoughtful and worthy men of the period.

The commercial depression that has prevailed during the past three or four years is, without doubt, the great drawback to our present development. I have every reason to suppose that, ere this, lodges would have been established at Peterborough and Kingston had not the successive hard times prevented, in a large measure, the consummation of our desires and efforts.

There is one other difficulty which our Order has to contend with in forming new lodges, and will largely account for the apparently more rapid progress of other societies than our own. By the public those societies are generally supposed to be similar to Pythianism, while it is a fact they are quite dissimilar, and are organized almost, if not entirely for the purpose of effecting so-called life insurance. These institutions employ organizers and pay from fifty to one hundred dollars for each lodge instituted. The inducements offered are so great that there are many people who devote nearly all their time in working up the societies that engage them. You will observe that we have not only the hard times to contend with, but this system against which we have to contend adds to the difficulties which we have to overcome, and when fully considered we must admit that the progress we have achieved is as great as we could expect and probably equal to that of societies similar to our own.

I am informed that many of the Grand Jurisdictions in the United States have an officer known as Grand Lecturer, whose special duty it is to assist the Grand Chancellor in disseminating the great principles of our Order, either by public addresses, when deemed advisable, or by personal effort.

The members of the Grand Lodge at this Session may deem it advisable to discuss the desirability of appointing such an officer for the Grand Jurisdiction of Ontario. I am of the opinion that beneficial results would follow such action on the part of the Grand Lodge.