

is my firm conviction that the dues have been paid in most instances by the private Lodges, to some District or County Officer, but have never reached your Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.

I have also reason to believe that the Reports, Circulars, &c., sent from the Grand Secretary's Office, have, in some instances, never been distributed by some of the District or County Officers to the private Lodges. This supineness on their part, causes a lukewarmness in the cause on the part of the private Lodges, thus neglected in many instances.

It is the same with Lodges as with private members, if allowed to get in arrears they lose that interest in the good work, and become remiss in their duty, and the Lodge soon becomes dormant or else a large number of suspensions for non-payment of dues and non-attendance is the result.

I am happy to report a vast improvement thus far in District and County returns, but there are still many defaulters. I was anxious to lay before you a complete Orange Directory of Western Ontario, but owing to press of Orange correspondence and the tardiness of the returns coming in, I am unable to do so; but it is fairly commenced, and I hope to get all the desired information with as little delay as possible. I again take pleasure in giving extracts from District and County returns.

#### The District Master of Brantford reports :—

A very large District meeting; never was in a more prosperous position; peace and harmony prevail, exemplifying the words of the Psalmist, "How pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity." We can muster from two to three times as many on the 12th as our returns show. This is on account of so many not being in connexion; but this difficulty is fast passing away, and we hope in next report to be able to say we have five times as many in connexion. We have six Lodges and another applied for.

#### The District Master of Toronto reports :—

The increase here has been unprecedented; 303 members have been added to my District the past year; large numbers of Young Britons are coming into our ranks, which I look to for further increase next year. No. 404 had, last night, fourteen for initiation, so you see the good work goes bravely on.

#### The County Master of Halton reports :—

"We are in a flourishing condition except one or two Lodges, and for them I expect improvement. There is marked prosperity in our Lodges—many are taking the higher degrees and more anxious to do so as soon as time permits. At our Royal Scarlet meeting in March, twenty were advanced. I fancy there is no better proof of zeal and interest in our cause than that afforded, when members, in numbers, desire the highest advancement. Thirteen were initiated in No. 272 in May. The increase is not merely in numbers but in men of position and influence."

#### The County Secretary of Haldimand reports :—

"It is with pleasure that I have to state that our noble Order has received a fresh influence in this County; we are again increasing rapidly, not only in numbers but likewise in respectability."

#### The Venerable County Master of Huron and D. G. M., W. O., reports :

"I have great pleasure in stating to you that my county is getting on in contentment, peace and brotherly love, which is a true omen of the prosperity of our time-honored Institution in this County. The annual district meetings in the several districts this year have all been well attended, and the best of harmony prevails amongst the Brethren; and I must say that our Annual County Meeting has been everything that could be desired—well attended, every Lodge was well represented, and all worked with a will for the benefit of our glorious cause; the best of feeling and brotherly love was manifested throughout the proceedings of the day and all well satisfied. I am of the opinion now that we are getting into working order again after the division of the County, that both South and North Huron will do better, and although we have added no new Warrants this year to South Huron, we are adding members to the several Lodges throughout the County, and the Order in every respect is getting on better; working Brothers is what is wanting to forward our great and good cause; and I could wish with all my heart, that those lukewarm Protestants who boast so much of their loyalty, could only see the object of Orangism in its purity, and know what it really is and what it has done, and is doing at the present day for the Protestant Faith, in both this country and in the old country, which our ancestors died to defend. They might be more inclined to strengthen our Orange ranks."

#### The County Master of West Lambton reports :—

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