

REPORT OF Bro. Thos Elliott, S.G.P.

To the Officers and Members of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Sons of England.

A REVIEW OF THE WORK.

BROTHERS,—It is with pleasure and gratitude that I am permitted to meet and welcome you to this the nineteenth annual session of our Supreme Grand Lodge.

Toronto contains some thirty-four lodges of the Order, and those of you who may feel so disposed, will find no difficulty in making a visit to some one of them, where you will receive, I am sure, a cordial reception.

In submitting for your consideration the following official report, I think I may fairly say that the year has been, considering the financial depression existing everywhere, a peaceful and prosperous one.

From information I have obtained from other Societies, I think we may congratulate ourselves upon being able to show an increase in our membership of some 1,500 new members, when so many of our members have been called upon to curtail their expenditures.

Immediately after last Grand Lodge meeting, I had the proper certificates of appointment filled out and forwarded to the District Deputies, a list of whom will be found in the Supreme Grand Lodge report.

The meetings of the Executive have passed off with their usual degree of pleasantness, and the officers generally have extended to me a cordial support in my endeavors to carry out the duties pertaining to my office.

There has been but little disputing in the lodges, and few cases, indeed, of a serious nature have come before your Executive to adjudicate upon. The three that have been appealed to this Supreme Grand Body will come before you for the disposal of same, and all the evidence will be laid before you.

During the year there have been twenty-five lodges instituted, a list of which is embodied in my report. Nine of these, I am pleased to inform you, are west of Fort William, a majority of which were instituted by the Sup. Grand Secretary and myself, during our trip through the western lodges and territories.

Your honorable body last year granted an appropriation of five hundred dollars for the extension of the Order in the Prov. of Manitoba and the territories.

I might extend this part of my report for some length, but, as I gave an outline of the visit after our return, in the "ANGLO-SAXON," it might become wearisome; suffice it to say on this point, that I am satisfied that the acquaintance made with the brothers west, and the fund of knowledge gained, besides the spreading of the name of the Order throughout that country, by the Press—who treated us very kindly, and the new lodges instituted, has fully proved the wisdom of the course taken by your Executive.

Many inquiries are now on foot that never would have been heard of by the small sum \$500 being paid to an organizer.

Patriotism is and must be a very large feature in the extension of this Society, owing to the limited lines we are compelled to draw from, in order to increase our membership.

I might say that the name of the Sup. Grand Secretary was well known to the members in the west, but many of them were very little acquainted with any other of the Executive Officers, past or present.

There is a small increased expenditure, as shown by the Sup. Grand Secretary's returns. This is largely owing to the amount paid for printing the proposed new Constitution, the cost of which was about \$400. It will thus be seen that although the Executive was composed of members of the Order who resided some distance apart, that the management

Having gathered all the information we could, we left Toronto in September last, and commenced our journey, calling at Owen Sound, Port Arthur, Fort William, and Winnipeg, and all points where a lodge existed between that place and the Pacific coast. We met with the most cordial reception at Fort William, Winnipeg, Brandon, Calgary, Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria, in each of which places joint meetings were held and addresses given by the Sup. Grand Secretary and myself.

Vancouver and New Westminster gave us the same warm welcome that the other cities had done, and did all in their power to make matters pleasant and agreeable to us.

I have not attempted to describe in even a small measure the pleasure that seemed to possess the brothers west at seeing us. Brandon, with its juvenile lodge, turned out and gave us a warm welcome also.

I feel satisfied that the money expended, although exceeding the appropriation a little, has been well invested, and that the effect will be of benefit to the Order, in the knowledge obtained, and also in a better feeling existing between all concerned. This Society is now planted firmly in the west, and I fully anticipate a good and solid growth in that direction, that will tend to make Englishmen come together for their mutual benefit in that large and vast territory of country, to which so many are now making their way, and whose children will grow up to become the mainstay of our Dominion, in their western homes.

I have endeavored during the year, to the best of my ability, to try and obtain a knowledge of the standing and working of this Society, and I feel satisfied that it is almost impossible, not to say impracticable, for the Sup. Grand President to become much in touch with the lodges and members of the Society in one year. The Order covers a large territory, reaching, as it does, from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, and numbering now nearly two hundred lodges. I think it is advisable that the Sup. Grand Secretary should devote his whole undivided time to the interests of the Order, and I have in this report made suggestions with a view to this change, which I am convinced, after careful consideration, is necessary.

This Order is to-day carrying a larger amount of benefits for its members, and has attached to it more financial responsibility than many of our sister societies which are much more expensively managed. The time required from officers of your Executive, in order that they may obtain even a crude idea of the workings of the Order, and to keep in touch and connectedly carry the different facts of interest from one meeting of the Executive to another, and properly understand the requirements of each case, is much greater than many of the members of this Grand Lodge are aware. Knowing this, I feel justified in recommending the changes in the Executive office I have referred to in another part of my report.

USE OF THE SOCIETY'S NAME. I think the time has arrived when this Supreme Grand Body should settle the matter as to whether the name of this Order is to be used in connection with what may be termed outside branches of the institution. If this lodge decides to allow its name to be used in connection with any institution of a monetary or any nature, it should at least require that a quarterly financial statement, properly audited and certified to, should be made to the Executive, during the recess of this Grand Body, and by them referred to

and brought before this Supreme Grand Lodge, at its regular session. The wisdom of allowing the name of this Order to be used in connection with the institutions referred to above is open for considerable discussion, and demands careful consideration and immediate attention and decision.

JUVENILES. The Juvenile branch of this Order is one that does not receive that fostering care which is its due, and that might be bestowed upon it by the senior portion of this Society. I feel satisfied that if properly looked after and encouraged, the Order would be well repaid in the future by the strength it would derive from the membership derived from this source.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGES. I found the question of establishing Grand Lodge throughout Manitoba and the Northwest provinces had been agitated in various subordinate lodges, but there was a great difference of opinion as to the advisability of establishing the same. I feel satisfied that owing to the distance apart of the localities in which subordinate lodges may be instituted in that country of magnificent distances, that it would be well to leave the matter to a great extent in the hands of the lodges themselves, with the privilege of allowing them to petition the Supreme Grand Lodge for the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge or a District Grand Lodge, the latter to be composed of any number of lodges that would be sufficient in strength, whether existing in one province, or conveniently located for the establishment of such District or Grand Lodge, regardless of boundary.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE. I have endeavored during the year, to the best of my ability, to try and obtain a knowledge of the standing and working of this Society, and I feel satisfied that it is almost impossible, not to say impracticable, for the Sup. Grand President to become much in touch with the lodges and members of the Society in one year.

Although, in a large measure, the Supreme Grand Secretary is held responsible for the proper carrying out of the work in the Executive office, still, I am of the opinion that any change in the staff of that office should not be made without first consulting the Executive, and all names of parties applying or receiving appointment in said office should be first submitted to and receive the sanction of the Executive, who should fix the salary for the persons employed and the manner of paying same.

The Ontario Statutes provide that the Auditors of the Beneficiary accounts shall be independent persons, or persons not members of the Beneficiary Board. Clause 178 of the Constitution ought to be so amended as to provide accordingly and be consistent with the Provincial Act of Ontario.

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Seve DAUGH AIM The De ent Socie honouabl lishwom health at 50 years, to educa ciples of learn to benevole dear me care for iversity, r one of o mains to EXTRA Rule 3 institut twelve m of Engl have m members Sons of and ever ed numb who mus Rule 7 this Ord before th 50 cents i dates shu mention members to join a 15 to 25 to 35 to 45 to Charter shall no twenty-f within o may be g The be and med bers are benefits Full ben twelve m benefits 13 weeks per week dollars to benefit n the Gran We ar Society i Any inf tion of r given by five offic FRANK MRS. C LEONA Ad JOS ALD Da Rose of H Hall Bell each mo T. Wayne Princess 4th Mon ington Visitors Sarah No Queen Vi ion, mee Rebecca each mo B. Butten Princess Thomas on 1st Visitors J. Leach, Princess in Sher fourth always Mrs. Edd; Burla CI R Ask you Dominic Pills. S boxes se safe and and her of Six c return n plain en PI Fr APES, Finest H 155 B