

GRAND LODGE DEGREE.

The Grand Lodge Degree was then conferred upon Bros. C. McRae, Rev. R. B. Laidley and Rev. I. W. Williamson.

On motion the Grand Lodge was reduced to the Subordinate Degree, and it was decided that the regular sessions be in that degree.

On motion it was decided that all resolutions be reduced to writing, and that the rules of Roberts' Digest govern the business of this Grand Lodge.

A motion to adjourn till 7 p. m. was lost.

A short recess was then taken.

On reassembling the following Committees were appointed:—

Distribution—Bros. S. Gough, G. D. Brown and R. B. Laidley.

State of the Order—Bros. J. G. Brown and R. Williamson and Sis. Verge.

Mitlog—Bros. S. Gough, J. G. Brown and L. Hall.

Politics' Action—Bros. J. N. Evans, I. W. Williamson, J. Isbister and A. R. Amble

REPORT OF THE GRAND CHIEF TEMPLAR.

The Grand Chief Templar then read the following report

Sisters and Brothers:

It gives me pleasure to greet you in Annual Session, to review the past and wisely plan for the future. A year ago the Royal City was in ashes, but with courage and perseverance, we see how quickly and well it has been rebuilt, and we sincerely congratulate the citizens on their energy.

2. I regret that I cannot report greater progress in Lodges and in membership. Our last Session was held just after the Plebiscite, when we had won a great victory: and our people have rested on their oars, looking to Ottawa for the promised legislation. I have spoken at a large number of public meetings and have visited many of the Lodges, and would have visited others could I have secured the co-operation of such to fix dates and arrange for meetings.

3. We hoped to have had help from the R.W.G.L. with a lecturer and organizer during the year, but, for lack of funds, they could not assist us. I strongly urge that the Grand Lodge plan for a worker for at least two months this fall or early winter, even if we have to make sacrifices to do so. For thirty years our Order has been doing missionary work in the Province, and there never was greater need than to-day for such work.

4. The I. S. Lodge met in Toronto in June—a most successful Session. The report showed a gain of 40,000 members for the two years. Grand Lodges are given increased powers. The advance the Order is making in Europe is really wonderful—we have over 100,000 members in Sweden alone. We were very much pleased that our Brother, G. F. Cotterill, of Seattle, was elected R.W.G. Coun. In August we were favored with a visit from the R.W.G.C.T. Joseph Malins, of Birmingham, England, who addressed public meetings in Vancouver and Victoria, to the great delight of the people. Two years hence will be the Jubilee of our Order, and it is purposed to raise a Jubilee fund of one million dollars for Temperance work.

5. The next regular Session of the I.S.L. will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in June, 1902. The Grand Jubilee Special Session in the State of New York in June of 1901.

6. As temperance people, who accepted in good faith the Plebiscite from the Government at Ottawa, and believed their word—that they would be guided by the majority as recorded at the polls—I must say that I for one, have been deceived. The pledge has not been fulfilled. The former Government were in office for eighteen years with a strong majority at their command. They gave us a "Royal Commission." "Royal Commissions" have been called the cemeteries of reform proposals for the real object of a Government in appointing a "Royal Commission" is not to initiate, but shelve legislation. Both parties are guilty of misleading the Temperance hosts. As Prohibitionists we ought to oppose any Government, any candidate that will refuse to recognize and respond to the demands of the people as expressed by Plebiscite. And I would urge the friends of Prohibition in every