

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY, TORONTO.

In another place we publish a brief historic sketch of that well-known and philanthropic society, St. George's of Toronto, well-known as an actuator of patriotism and loyalty to the mother land, well-known for its kindly benevolence and for the many members of prestige who figure in its ranks and who assist in diffusing the good influences and lofty purposes to be met with in the society. True to itself, its aims are noble. It has at heart those objects dear to Englishmen, and in its endeavours to perpetuate England's greatness it has made for itself a name that shall last while its works shall, and judging by the annual increase of such, and the efficient manner in which they are carried out, that time is in the dim and uncertain future.

The charitable department of the society's work has been visibly effective, and many have received succor, but for whom would probably have had more hardship to endure. It is a happy thing that such institutions exist where the needy can be supplied. According to the annual report the financial and numerical footing of the society is at high tide. It could not be otherwise, for an order with such principals to inculcate, and that commands such an extensive and charitable work as the Toronto St. George's Society has done, never fails.

Among the objects in which it intends to render effectual aid is that of "bringing questions affecting England and Englishmen more to the front." Owing to Englishmen's inherent independence his natural tendency is opposed to unity and in this the danger lies. Then we are thrust to the background by the less deserving, but more united bodies, who invariably manage to come out first best. By taking cognizance of this and acting unitedly, certainty of success is assured and Englishmen may have first place, as they deserve in an English Empire. Under the capable guidance of the officers who at present officiate, and being piloted by the enterprising and indefatigable president, Mr. George Musson, there is every prospect of this term marking a successful epoch in the history of St. George's Society of Toronto.

LOCAL GRAND LODGES FOR S. O. E.—The agitation in favor of Local Grand Lodges has for some time been brewing. The necessity of this or some movement of a similar nature at least, is evinced by the fact that lodges in the farthest east and west cannot be represented except by the unsatisfactory manner of proxies. If the Grand Executive will not provide ample assistance to delegates coming from distances then there can be no alternative for those lodges but to appoint a place for sub-head-quarters and convene together that they may consider the betterment of the lodges in their provincial jurisdiction. It is not expected that anybody, be they ever so strong, individually can arrive at the best without a general conference of the whole, when consideration can be given to the lodges, not only as individual lodges but as a great and progressive order, whose strength is acknowledged and who is making rapid strides forward. In adopting new and beneficial plans, sees in every advance the ultimate still further ahead, which leaves room for the rising members of the society to expand and develop not only themselves but the great national order of the Sons of Englishmen.

In the particular question of Provincial Grand Lodges, Manitoba, as on many occasions, is leading. What the western brethren have put their hands to has generally proven a success and there is no danger of this being otherwise. At the last meeting of the Winnipeg district the matter was discussed but laid over for the next. Sentiment

was strongly in favor of turning that district meeting into a Provincial Grand Lodge, and it need occasion no surprise if such a change comes to pass.

The newly garbed Record has just come to hand. It is more of a credit to the Sons of England now than previously, but for the sake of the society we hope that it will soon reach its anticipated thirty-two pages. However, the old saying is, "Rome wasn't built in a day," so let the members be patient, for in the future The Record may be able to pay for itself and then don't you see they are going to give you a splendid paper. At present enjoy the modest eight you've got, with thanks.

Mr. Blasdale, whose interesting paper on the "Advance of Omdurman," which was read at the last meeting of St. George's society, Toronto, and caused such favorable comment, has compiled some interesting facts about the work of the society, which we publish under the heading, the "History of St. George's Society." Mr. Blasdale is one of the most indefatigable and enthusiastic workers in the society, he is a first-rate Englishman and a good Britisher. And whether by his earnest effort or subtle and racy pen he is certainly doing much to build up that magnificent institution of which we are so justly proud.

Several important history making gatherings were held in Ottawa last month, among them: "The Dominion Rifle Association," which was largely attended by prominent military men.—"The Empire League," presided over by Col. Denison of Toronto, important speeches were made by ministers of the Crown also by Sir Charles Tupper, Col. Denison, Dr. Parkin and others.—"The Officers Association of the Ottawa District," when Capt. C. F. Winter, Adjutant of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, read an original paper upon—The Evolution of the Canadian Army.—Dr. Parkin, Principal of Upper Canada College, gave a lecture in Knox Church to a large audience on "Our Ocean Empire." The ideas propounded by Dr. Parkin were new, and convinced his hearers of the benefits conferred upon the colonies by England being "Mistress of the Seas."

THE GEORGIAN BAY AND OTTAWA SHIP CANAL.—A cable has just been received announcing that a syndicate has been formed in London to construct the Georgian Bay and Ottawa Ship Canal, and it is intended to begin the work at once and finish it within three years.

The Dominion syndicate capitalized at £50,000 will undertake the work of building the canal. Mr. McLeod Stewart who is now in London will return to Ottawa on April 29th. The syndicate also aims to develop the electrical, pulp and mineral resources of the district along the route of the canal.

The syndicate is one of the strongest ever floated in London. Sir Edward Thornton is chairman and others associated with him are Mr. Iver of the Gunard Company; Jones of the Elder, Dempster Line, and many others. The consulting engineer is Sir Benjamin Baker, while Lord Kelvin is consulting electrical engineer. Sir H. H. Fowler ex-secretary for India is solicitor. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain will be asked for an Imperial subsidy.

'The paint on German toys is not good to suck.'

Made in England.

Little girls and little boys,
Do not suck your German toys,
German soldiers licked will make,
Darling baby's tummy ache.

So for Children we should try,
Only English toys to buy;
Though to pieces they are picked,
English soldiers can't be licked!