

Orange Mutual Benefit Society of Ontario West.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the R. W. The Grand Master and Members of the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West.

R. W. SIR AND BRETHREN—I have great pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report of the Orange Mutual Benefit Society, and in so doing I would offer my congratulations on the steady progress which we have made during the year.

Our membership roll has been increased by 204 new members, and 30 more new names are ready to enter on our books; while the deaths have only numbered eight, or about one in every one hundred members on our list.

At an Executive meeting held on November 17th, 1887, after mature consideration, it was decided to increase the rates then paid as commission to our agents, in the hope that by giving them sufficient remuneration to make their engagements without loss of time or means, that the agents would be enabled to prosecute our work and assist in increasing the membership.

I am of the opinion that in addition to the efforts of our agents, the Masters of our various Lodges could create a great interest in our work by making the Mutual Benefit department a part and parcel of the routine work at their meetings, and by continually referring to the benefits to be derived therefrom.

The Provincial Government of Ontario have introduced a measure dealing with the Friendly Societies now conducting business in the Province. After a careful examination of the principal clauses, I am enabled to say that we should experience little or no change or difficulty in conducting our work under it. As matters now stand we have a separate and distinct account for each member; he is notified direct of all assessments, remittances and arrears, and cannot be declared out of membership without full notice to his last known P.O. I think, however, that we should have a Friendly Societies' Act passed by the Dominion Parliament, so that its operations might extend, as do our members, over the whole Dominion. In connection with this matter I would urge the appointment of a committee to act in conjunction with committees from other bodies now seeking such legislation.

The Auditors' Report, which will be submitted, will show the financial position of our department, and that the most rigid economy has prevailed, and a surplus in both branches.

I am, very sincerely yours,

ROBERT BIRMINGHAM.

TORONTO, March 13, 1888.