

Warden. A man of large human sympathies and kind heart, Bro. Flewelling was always held in high esteem by the community. He was the leading spirit of the settlement in which he lived, and which his enterprise largely contributed to build up. Honored by the people of King's County with their confidence, he represented them in the Provincial Legislature, serving them faithfully, as he did the whole Province, as a member of the Government, and as Surveyor General—the duties of which office he discharged, as he did every position of trust he held, with marked fidelity. It will be a proper tribute to the worth of our deceased brother to dedicate a page of our records to his memory.

The reports of the Board of General Purposes and of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer will show the Craft in this jurisdiction to be in a satisfactory condition. If we are not making as rapid progress in increase of members and in wealth as some of the more ardent of our brethren would desire, the returns will show that there is a healthy increase; and that there are no discordant elements at work to disturb the harmony that should be the great characteristic of all Masonic bodies. The Grand Master or the Board has not been called upon to settle any important disputes between lodges or members, and we can all heartily exclaim "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Grand Lodge will find that in the year its finances have been managed with the usual rigid economy. Although the amount received by the Secretary fell below the receipts of the previous year, the balance on hand has been very slightly reduced, while a payment of \$500 has been made on the subscription of Grand Lodge to the stock of the Masonic Hall Company.

Where advice has been asked by lodges or brethren on any question, it has been freely given, through the Grand Secretary; but I have made no decisions of particular importance to the Craft generally. In one case, where an enquiry was made as to whether a brother could hold office in a lodge of which he was not a member, an answer was returned in the negative, for although there is no constitutional enactment on the subject, it would seem to be opposed to common sense to allow a brother to be an officer where he was not a member; and the absence of any regulation might be taken as a proof that no regulation was thought to be necessary. Of course, the case of a Tyler, who is a serving brother, and whose duties are entirely different from those of any other officer, is entirely exceptional, custom as well as necessity permitting one brother to serve many lodges. In another case, the Grand Secretary advised a lodge that it was contrary to sound Masonic policy to initiate in 1875, without a fresh ballot, a person who had been accepted in 1871. The reasons are obvious. In that number of years many persons might be initiated into the lodge who would not be willing to receive the candidate, whilst, in the four years his own character and habits might unfortunately have undergone changes which would unfit him to be made a Mason. Every lodge by its by-laws ought to provide that a candidate neglecting to come forward within a reasonable time after his election, should have his election set aside. A lodge asked whether it could rent its lodge-room to another society. Of course, with the control of the property of private lodges the Grand Master has no power, or even desire, to interfere; but the enquiring lodge was advised that the interests of the Craft would be best served by reserving its lodge room for its own exclusive use. I am aware that in some places throughout the country, lodges cannot help a common tenancy with other societies, and in some places where Masonic halls have been erected by the joint action of the lodge and the community, the lodge room is used for various purposes. It should be the aim of every lodge, however, to secure as soon as possible, its own room for its own exclusive use. A lodge enquired whether objection would be taken to its holding a "Masonic Gift Enterprise," in aid of its Hall fund. The Grand Secretary fraternally advised the lodge to abandon the idea, as the whole feeling and spirit of the Craft is against undertakings of this kind—and they have been positively condemned by many Grand Lodges. The advice was at once acted upon in the most commendable spirit by the lodge—a circumstance that I note with pleasure, for the burden entailed upon it by the fine hall it is erecting is very great, and the "Gift Enterprise" seemed a very easy way of financing. A lodge was also advised that a native of this Province, who had resided many years in California, and returns on a short visit to his friends, is to be regarded as a sojourner merely.

In the matter of granting Dispensations to advance brethren at the shortest time allowed by the Constitution, I have endeavored to be fully satisfied that the circumstance justified the use of the power vested in the Grand Master; and where not satisfied I have refused the request.

Questions continue to be put to the Grand Secretary as to the physical qualifications of candidates, notwithstanding the clear and unmistakable utterances of Grand Lodges on this matter. I trust I may be pardoned in quoting "in this connection," a decision of the Grand Master of New York, M. W. Bro. E. E. Thorne, as showing the practice