

WASHINGTON.—Eleventh annual convention at Olympia, June 4-7, 1894. (Journal received October 25. Another back number!)

The date of this session had been changed in order to enable Supreme Chancellor Blackwell to be present. The fact that they had not a quorum of lodges and had to confer the Grand Lodge rank on some representatives to meet this condition of things—together with references made by the Supreme Chancellor in his opening remarks, lead us to believe that some of the "kickers" had been at work because of the change of date. Brother Blackwell's address occupies twenty-five closely printed pages of the journal and is replete with information and instruction on Pythian matters, that must have been beneficial to the membership. He was highly complimented by the lodge. Two brethren were also appointed to accompany him on his visit to the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and an appropriation made for their expenses.

Walter G. Ronald, Grand Chancellor, was an efficient and diligent officer. He visited all the lodges except one—a creditable record when it is remembered that there are eighty-one lodges in this grand domain, and that many of these were visited two or three times. And we are ready to spread the mantle of Pythian charity over the confession in the following paragraph:—

"I here desire to express my appreciation of the many courtesies shown me by all the lodges visited, and especially to the lady friends of the brothers who in almost all cases provide a bountiful supply of the best of eatables at the close of our conventions. Although provided by nature with a great ability to show my appreciation of such attentions, I must confess that as I neared the end of my round of visits my continued efforts to prove by my actions that I appreciated the good things provided resulted in my being obliged to obtain medical treatment. The diagnosis of my case developed the fact that I had eaten too much."

Such "efforts" are ample evidence of our brother's good nature. The Grand Lodge voted the sum of \$600.00 to Grand Chancellor Ronald "to partly reimburse him for services as Grand Chancellor during the year." (Will the New Hampshire Committee on Fraternal Correspondence please take notice?)

The Grand Keeper of Records and Seal reports 4,735 members, an increase of 148; five new lodges and five forfeited charter; 706 suspended; \$15,630.74 paid for relief; assets of lodges, \$137,019.64. Balance in Grand Lodge treasury, \$11,443.08. The matter of suspensions is thus referred to, showing that the opinion is becoming general as to the remedy:—

"Attention is called to the fact that the number of suspensions almost equals the number of initiations for the year. No doubt some of the suspended members have become such on account of the prevailing hard times, but when we scan the detailed reports of suspensions for the year and note that a number of our old lodges have very, very little, if any, representation on that list, while the cry of 'hard times' is heard in their midst just as strongly as it is elsewhere, we cannot but think that such lodges possess active masters of finance, who do not fail to remind members of their arrearages before they reach such proportions that the payment seems a burden, thus reducing their list of suspensions to the minimum. No other explanation of the matter seems plausible, since we know the relative conditions to be the same in both cases."

Our own lodges will do well to take note of these facts.