

the remote district of Algoma. And the organization is pushing forth well at present in the Prov. of Quebec, there being in that province 73 chartered associations besides a number not yet reported by the organizers who are now busy at work. Ten' counties have organizations and there are 4 county associations.

Many of the associations that became defunct at an early stage through disappointment in not reaping the immediate financial rewards in commercial trade that were made to glitter before their eyes by some of the early organizers, since becoming more acquainted with the real aims and objects of the order have reorganized, and it would seem that most of the others, if not all, could be induced to do so if some means were provided for good skillful organizers or lecturers to visit such associations as many among themselves are putting forth an earnest effort to revive again and by a little aid might be successful in their endeavor.

As to the finances, as a detailed statement will, I presume, be submitted with the Auditors' report of all receipts and expenditures a summary will suffice here:

Total receipts.—Cash last audit, dues and sale of supplies.....	\$16949 54
Disbursements.—Expenses Officers, Lecturers, official organ, printing, etc..	10420 59
Balance cash on hand to date	\$ 6528 95

A comparison with last report will show an increase in receipts of nearly \$2000 while the average expenditure for the same length of time—10 months—not including expenses of delegates and official organ (which were incurrences by Grand Association) is less than the previous year by nearly \$1800.

In nearly every department, consistent with the advocacy of the order, the expenditure has been curtailed, showing that as experience is gained and the work of the order systematized the expenditure is reduced. The printing and officers expenses were somewhat increased by the action taken in the late election campaigns. But as the spider seemed to hang over King Bruce's head and the eyes of all the country upon it with the dubious watchword "Will he win or lose it?" the significant victory with its inspiring effect has doubtless more than repaid any expenditure incurred therein, while South Lanark triumphs in very much increased vigor for her expenditure. It must also be remembered in comparing the expenditure of the present with that of the past year that those for last year were for ten months whereas those for this year are for 14 months—nearly one and a half times as long. Also that the receipts of dues are upon a basis of 5 cents per member this year instead of 6 cents as it was last year.

But although by careful watching and rigid economy with all (for I can assure you brethren your Board has seen many a combat between *need* and *economy*) and with the reduction of the rate of per capita tax to about 1-6 of the amount of dues and some special expenses we are still able to show an increase in balance on hand; and notwithstanding being in full sympathy, as shown in the Secretary's report a year ago, with the expression of the very respectable financial report of last year that "no more should be collected from the members than is necessary for the successful carrying on of the work of the order" and the non-desire for accumulations in the hands of the Grand Officers, yet seeing that a very important conflict is just upon us and upon the achievements in which no doubt to a very great extent depends the successful accomplishment or ignominious defeat in a still greater, at a later date and as the expenditure will necessarily be much increased in the preparation and distribution of literature and in lecturing throughout the Province it would seem that it might be well not to make any material alterations in the financial resources of the order at present to cripple the hands of those at the helm. For there can be no economy in the sparing of effort with its accompanying expense—only prudence and judgment in distribution—in such an hour, would we gain the near approaching highest ambition of our order—the election of representatives from among the ardent toilers of the land, whose hearts burn with an honest conviction of the needs of our homes and country, to seats within our legislative halls.

As to the forms of supplies and other equipments, these are being modified as improvements suggest themselves and necessity demands to keep pace with the advancement of the order until now scarcely any of the original forms are in use, while as exper-