

REPORT

OF THE

SUPREME GRAND PRESIDENT.

OTTAWA, MARCH 14th, 1899.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME GRAND LODGE, SONS
OF ENGLAND BENEFIT SOCIETY :

(1) It is with very great pleasure that I welcome you to this the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Supreme Grand Lodge. In doing this I am sure you fully appreciate the responsibility placed upon you as representatives of the Subordinate lodges. Realizing this I am convinced that every effort will be made to further the interest of our beloved Order. That all your decisions may redound to our credit, and that harmony and good will will prevail throughout all our deliberations.

(2) In accepting this position a year ago I did so with, perhaps, some misgivings, as at that time the financial affairs of the Society were not so favorable as those most interested in its welfare desired. But I am pleased to say my misgivings (if any existed) have been removed, and that the financial condition of the Society in all its branches is such that, I trust, will meet with general approval. The year has been full of encouragement, and the financial position of the Society very much improved.

(3) Your Executive, after due consideration in the matter of organization, decided that they would use all the means at their disposal in strengthening the weaker lodges, and as an incentive to the members to become individual organizers, decided to give a series of prizes for the lodges and members bringing in the most candidates. I am pleased to state that in some districts a systematic canvass was made of all the eligible candidates, and, as a result, a very large increase of membership in those districts. It is also gratifying to state, in this connection, that Lodge Loyalty at Aurora doubled its membership in one year, winning the first prize, also obtaining for one of its members the prize for bringing in the largest number of members during the three quarters.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

(4) I beg to report that, as far as I have been able, I have visited the lodges in different sections of the Province, and regret that the time at my disposal was so limited that I had to give up many engagements. I have, however, been in constant touch with the district officers, and I am pleased