

of Rose Croix at Barrie with the designation of "Spry" Chapter, and I understand that application will be made at this session to grant it a warrant and emblems. There will be an application for a warrant for the Quebec Chapter, the dispensation for which issued before our last session; and also for the Murray Chapter at Ottawa.

Among the pleasant events of the year was the visit to America of the Ill. Secretary-General of Italy, Bro. THEOFILO GAY. Bro. GAY did not come to St. John, although he was at Boston. He paid a visit to Hamilton, met all our prominent members there, was made an Honorary Member of the bodies at that place, and delivered to the brethren an interesting address, on the condition, hopes and aspirations of Freemasonry in Italy.

In accordance with a resolution passed at our last annual meeting I attended to the duty of having the remains of our late Bro. D. R. MUNRO transferred from Roanoke, Virginia, to St. John. Mrs. Munro was very grateful for the action of the Supreme Council.

What a useful thing it would be if some effective and yet simple plan could be devised of communicating the teachings of the Rite among the fraternity, independently of the bodies which we create. I do not hope that we can successfully maintain actively working branches in the smaller communities. Our experience—both in America and in Europe—is that an enthusiastic brother may, by his energy, and in his earnestness and zeal, form a Lodge or Chapter; but, if through any circumstance his care for it is withdrawn its usefulness is likely to be very seriously affected. So much is necessary, of means, of ability, of hopefulness, to maintain a good working body, that it is not often all these conditions combine or continue in combination. Indeed we know how difficult is the task of thoroughly sustaining effective bodies in larger communities where many of the chief requisites for success are easily secured. Our laws in a sense recognize this, for, I suppose, that is one of the chief reasons why we have provided for but a single Consistory in each Province. Efforts made in some districts to establish Lodges of Perfection by enthusiastic brethren have not succeeded beyond the "Dispensation" period. And yet I can easily understand why a few brethren, in a small town or village, may desire to come together monthly, because they find it expensive and inconvenient to go to the larger centre where the "work" is effectively done. Then, too, the sense of brotherhood, the common tie of the fraternity, the almost inexpressible but conscious sentiment of being united in a world-wide society, have their influence in drawing together members in smaller places as well as in the larger ones. If our experience is against the creation of Lodges, or rather against the encouragement of new creations, in smaller places we must still recognize a want to be filled, and must hope that some simple way will yet develop itself by which the spirit and influence of the true Freemasonry will be made active where now it can only remain passive, and that brethren, who, in out-of-the-way places merely "guard the sacred fire," may become true beacons, passing from hand to hand the generous flame of the true light and of unselfish regard for the welfare of humanity.

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