

Supreme Chancellor Ward was incapacitated by his injuries from being present at the session, and his duties were admirably discharged by Supreme Vice-Chancellor Shaw. The morning session was chiefly devoted to the admission of new Representatives and the conferring the Rank of Past Grand Chancellor on those entitled to that honour. Of the latter fifty received the Rank at one time, and others at intervals during the session.

There were present all the living Past Supreme Chancellors; all the officers, save Supreme Chancellor Ward; and Representatives from fifty-one Grand Jurisdictions.

The Reports of the Officers were satisfactory. The Supreme Chancellor reported universal harmony prevailing; also a wonderful increase in membership. Since last session death had removed Justus H. Rathbone, the Founder of our Order; Samuel Read, the first Supreme Chancellor; Adolph Brandt, Supreme Representative of Georgia; Wm. Berry, Supreme Representative of Connecticut, and John C. Nott, Supreme Representative of New York.

Two universal appeals for aid were made to the Order: one on account of the yellow fever in Florida, and the other on account of the Johnstown, Penn., flood. Response was prompt and generous in both instances. The yellow fever fund amounted to \$13,697.04, and the Johnstown calamity fund reached no less a sum than \$32,534.69. The Grand Lodges organized during the term were in Vermont, British Columbia, Indian Territory and North Dakota. Dispensations to confer the three ranks for a sum not less than six dollars were granted to Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, South Carolina, Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia.

By the Report of the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal, it appears that on December 31st, 1889, there were 3,724 subordinate lodges, and 263,847 members, a gain of 33,522 in one year, an average increase of 107 daily, for each week day. On the same date the aggregate amount in the treasuries of the Grand Lodges was \$115,952.03, and in those of the subordinate lodges \$1,755,203. The amount paid for relief during the year reached the magnificent total of \$789,455.53, while the investments made aggregated \$139,117.05. The subordinate lodge assets amount to about \$3,500,000. The cash assets of Supreme Lodge amount to nearly \$40,000.

A matter of deep regret to your Supreme Representatives, but one they feel it their duty to call attention to, is that in 1889, for the first time in years Ontario's membership is reported as diminished. Of forty-seven Grand Jurisdictions all but three made gains, ranging from Ohio with 5,532 to Arizona with eleven. Of three which lost membership, Ontario is at the end of the list with a net loss of 28, and last but one in percentage of loss combined with actual loss. Her percentage of loss is placed at 2.88, while the highest percentage of gain is South Carolina with 47.97 per cent. Men and brethren shall this occur again? Don't blame Grand Officers or any-