

deficit which for several years had existed. All conceded it to be one of the most enthusiastic and profitable conventions ever held in that Domain. I was Royally received, and everything was done to make my visit pleasant and enjoyable. I was repeatedly assured that they would take hold of the situation with renewed vigor, and endeavor to improve their condition financially and otherwise. No better, no more enthusiastic Pythians can be found anywhere than in British Columbia. My stay was a continual round of pleasure. Speaking of the membership in Canada generally, the Supreme Chancellor says: My heart has been touched not alone by the earnest labor of these brethren for the good of the Order, but by their patriotic devotion to our republic in the trying days through which we, as a nation, are passing. The flag of Great Britain is dipped to the Stars and Stripes of our glorious Union—floating side by side in Lodge rooms, on parades and on the public buildings. Political divisions there are, but the Anglo-Saxon people to-day are one in heart in the war that is being waged for God and humanity. The Mother Country and her child stand side by side. It augurs well for the hope we have ever cherished that this Order should become the first and foremost fraternal society on the North American Continent.

In regard to the Pythian press he says:

During the past two years, I have been a subscriber to all the journals published in the interests of Pythianism. So large a number of our brethren have entered into this field of Pythian labor that I have been solicitous for their future, and have watched with no little interest their zeal in disseminating the principles of Pythianism and giving to the membership information and knowledge of the grand onward march of our Order. I have been amply repaid for both the time and expense. The progressive American push and enthusiasm that is characteristic of the Order itself has found expression through the Pythian press. The editors of many of these journals have received but small compensation for their labor of love, and many times have continued their publication at a loss. Indeed, I think we will look in vain through the whole field of journalistic enterprise to find a paper that declares a very large dividend to its owners.

Every subordinate lodge should become interested in the Pythian journal of its Domain. If there is but one published, the Lodge should see to it that the members' attention is called to the necessity of maintaining a publication and solicited to encourage, aid and support it. The lodges can well afford to subscribe for many copies, and see to it that on each convention night a goodly number are on the desk of the Keeper of Records and Seal for distribution to the brethren who do not feel able to subscribe or have not become interested in the Pythian press. The more of these journals that find their way into the homes and firesides of the land, the more knowledge will be received and greater interest manifested by those not members of our Order in its grand onward march. All honor to our brethren who have been undaunted by failures and want of interest and support by our membership, and without hope of reward, have gone on in their labor of love, trusting in the future to receive that support and encouragement to which their sacrifice and industry entitled them. That the Pythian press is a power-

ful factor in disseminating the principles of our Order, no one will deny; that it has accomplished much and has before it a vast field of usefulness, we all admit.

No civic organization in this or any other country is represented by so able a corps of editors or more publications than our own. They are entitled to our grateful remembrance and loyal support. I am under lasting obligations to many of these papers. Often have they brought sunshine into my office after the long and weary journey. The ideal Pythian paper is the one that sees ever before it the divinity of brotherly love, and gives to its readers an exemplification in every page, sentence and thought of the principles we inculcate. With such a standard ever before them and a field of labor without bounds, with proper assistance and encouragement, their usefulness cannot be measured. Here's to the success of the Pythian press!

The Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal's report was confined (as it should be) to facts and figures, presented in such a manner that all may obtain any information that might be desired from that office. Touching on the state of the Order, he reports:

The total number of subordinate lodges, Dec. 31st, 1897, was 6,683; total number of members thereof on same date, 468,269, a net gain during the calendar year of 46 lodges, and a net loss of 1,022 members, and a net gain during the years 1896 and 1897 of 179 lodges and 3,730 members. It will be noted that we sustained a net loss of membership during the past year, the first since 1878, but when we take into consideration the depressed financial condition of the country we should congratulate ourselves that the loss is not larger. We have done as well as any of the fraternity organizations and better than most of them.

- 1 Minnesota.
- 2 Maine and New Hampshire.
- 4 West Virginia.
- 5 Georgia and North Dakota.
- 7 Massachusetts and Vermont.
- 9 Colorado.
- 10 Ohio and Oklahoma.
- 12 Michigan.

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