

DISTRICT OF WEST YORK

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge Loyal True Blues, now in session assembled:—

Most Worshipful Sir, Sisters and Brethren—I beg leave to tender you my third annual report as D. D. G. M., for West York.

I regret that I cannot report very prosperous conditions in this district as a whole, for while we find one lodge in a very prosperous condition we find another just the opposite and gradually going out of existence altogether; as for the cause I am at a loss to fully explain. I think there are many reasons that could be reasonably given as having had a tendency to stay the progress that should be the lot of such an association as ours; some of which I might make mention before closing my report. There are at the present time seven lodges representing the district, last year there were eight, and that number remained until March 10, 1905, when an amalgamation was effected upon which, results are to be seen.

Victoria Coronation No. 1.—The oldest Lady Lodge, with Sister Mrs. Brooks in the presiding chair, has not made the progress which the efforts of the mistress entitled the Lodge to. One thing which seemed to have had a bad effect was when the new Benefit Rates came into force; some of the members would not give it the consideration it deserved and thereby dropped out of the Lodge entirely.

Maiden City No. 7.—This Lodge is certainly in a very bad condition the members of which seem to show but very little interest in it, and some none whatever. I am given to understand by some they have not had a meeting for about six months. I have gone four times in succession to their lodge room on their meeting night (which is once a month) and have not found anyone there. It is too bad that such conditions exist. I am also given to understand that some of the members are paying the assessments direct to the Grand Secretary and have been for some time. I think that something should be done in the matter, some of the members have complained to me that though they claim to be straight on the books still they are unable to participate in all the benefits, not having had the semi-annual for a year cannot visit any other lodge. I suppose it must take all the money they pay in to meet expenses, and likely carry members they should not. I think this matter should be looked into by this Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary, no doubt, can give some information as to their financial standing with the Grand Lodge.

Eldon Lodge No. 9.—This Lodge is working under a charter granted in March of this year and is a mixed Lodge, being an amalgamation of Lady Eldon No. 9, and Diamond No. 59, male Lodge, and, although some members of other lodges felt at the time that the amalgamation should not be allowed, and were prepared to dispute the action taken as unconstitutional, I can see no clause in the constitution to forbid the same, and am firmly convinced that the amalgamation is in the interest of the association, it was a means of saving to the association members who would otherwise have left it altogether, for, I might say the members of Diamond Lodge were considering disbanding, as they