

tion is becoming one of considerable importance, and any means towards an affiliation of the two sister institutions should be encouraged by this Grand Body. I ask for further instruction on this very important subject.

In compliance with resolution passed at last Grand Lodge session, (see printed proceedings, page 37), I called, as early as possible, a committee from the various Lodges in Toronto, to take charge of the arrangements for the semi-centennial celebration, in the city of Toronto, last June. I am pleased to report that under the chairmanship of the R. W. G. V. P., Bro. Thos. Hastings, the grandest display and parade of Englishmen Canada ever saw was witnessed during that celebration.

By virtue of the adoption of a new law relating to Funeral Regalia, I procured, as early as possible, a large supply, which has been purchased by our Lodges.

In compliance with resolution passed at last Grand Lodge session, (see printed proceedings page 35), I summoned as early as possible the Toronto Committee on the Endowment Scheme to perfect arrangements for commencing this department, this work was at once undertaken, and handed over to the Finance Board, who put into active operation on the third of June the Beneficiary Department, a supplementary report on the Beneficiary will be presented to this Grand Body.

In compliance with general laws I notified all Lodges desiring amendments to the Constitution, and issued sessional papers as per Constitution. I regret that the mistake in the date of calling the Grand Lodge meeting caused some misunderstanding, on issuing the Credentials the mistake was corrected.

By virtue of the adoption of the report of the Committee on Correspondence, (see printed proceedings page 34), I forwarded to District Grand Lodge Officer, Bro. Spence of South Africa, the vote of sympathy recommended by this Grand Body.

I am pleased to report that on the 22nd of April, 1884, I received from D. G. L. Officer, Bro. Spence, his official report, with fees, returns and balance of account owing Grand Lodge, with the request that the financial year of that district should close on the 30th of September, instead of the 31st of December, to enable him to report in time for the Grand Lodge meeting, the suggestion was considered wise and practicable, and Bro. Spence was duly notified, and I am pleased to say that a full and complete report of the South African district from Bro. Spence has been received and will be laid before you. Bro. Spence's report is worthy of the fullest consideration, his review of the state and condition of that district is full of interesting information, and has only to be read to be appreciated, he enters largely into the obstacles and difficulties over which they have had to contend, but his manly and loyal sentiments demand our warmest sympathy and approval. For the better working of his district, a series of amendments are proposed and submitted for the approval of this Grand Body. I highly recommend a careful perusal of these several communications.

I am pleased to report that during the year six Charters for new Lodges have been issued.