

of the Lodge ordering an assessment upon the members, and its refusal to 'abate the assessment in respect to him. My decision being adverse to the appellant, he has further appealed to this Grand Lodge, and the matter is now in the hands of the Committee on Appeals, and, as it will in due course come before the Grand Lodge, I have abstained from further entering into discussion of the matter here.

NEW LODGE.

It was my most pleasant duty to institute Border Lodge, No. 8, at Milltown, on the 9th day of April last past, and instal the officers elect. This Lodge means soon to take rank among the strong Lodges in this Jurisdiction. Starting with a charter membership of thirty-one on April 9th last, it has increased its membership until now it has fifty within its fold, all good Knights and true, with much good material on the way, and the work is crowded through as fast as it can be attended to.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than the steady and healthy growth of our Order in this Jurisdiction, and the progress it has made during the past year. The Subordinate Lodges have all worked earnestly and harmoniously, some more successfully than others, with the result that our membership has increased one quarter and is composed of the very best men in the different localities.

The disposition of all has evidently been to obtain the best men, whose characters and qualities are such as should be received within our portals, and whose position socially cannot fail to raise our Order in the opinion of the world, and make the Lodges powerful moral forces in the communities where they exist.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

My professional duties during my term of office have prevented my visiting the Lodges as I should have wished, yet I visited each Lodge officially at least once, and have much enjoyed my visits. I have experienced great kindness and courtesy at the hands of the brethren in each Lodge, and fully appreciate what they have done for me. I can commend the work in most of the Lodges, and speak in praise of the attendance in all, as to the most of them the time of my visit was unannounced, and I found them when they were not made up for the reception of a Grand Officer.

In some of the Lodges the Ritualistic work was not well executed, seemingly from an acquired looseness in performing the same, which is more easily adopted than dropped. This, of course, should not prevail, as each officer in a Lodge should feel that to him was committed a sacred trust, and that it was his duty faithfully to perform