

Zeta Lodge, No. 410, Parkdale.

This lodge has 39 members on its register; average attendance 21. The W. M. exemplifies the entire work, and he and the Wardens and Deacons, are indefatigable in their zeal. Their work is absolutely perfect in every particular and will stand the scrutiny of searching criticism. The books of both secretary and treasurer are kept in a business-like manner. The hall is leased, is commodious and well furnished. The furniture is worth \$800 and with the jewels is insured for \$1,000. An inventory of the furniture is kept outside the lodge building. The assets are \$1,200, liabilities nil. There are no members in arrear. The prospects of the lodge are bright. A portion of the suite of rooms is occupied as a club, reading room and library, and every week in the winter months the officers meet and rehearse the work. The reading room is also open to the members. It is an excellent feature, and has gone a long way to cement the friendship of the brethren. This lodge, taking it in all the work, and its method of transacting business, is probably the best worked in the district.

Richmond Lodge, No. 23, Richmond Hill.

There are 33 members on the register, and the average attendance is 12. This is one of the oldest lodges in Ontario. The W. M. is a passable worker, and can give the three degrees, but the work of the Wardens is below average, that of the Deacons poor. The secretary's books are kept fairly well, but the formula in the model minutes is not followed. The hall is owned by the lodge, is suitable, in good condition, and is valued at \$4,500; is insured for \$3,000 in the Western Insurance Company. The furniture is valued at \$250, and is insured for \$200. The longest period any member is in arrears is three years. The assets are \$4,750, the liabilities \$400. The W. M. claims that the future of the lodge is hopeful. In the past it has suffered from various causes. Masonry flourished in this locality in the early years of this century, but the enthusiasm of youth seems to have departed. Some years ago perfect harmony did not exist between some of the members, and I fancy this feeling to a certain extent cooled the ardour of the membership. The W. M. with a little attention has not the slightest trouble with the work, and if his officers would meet with him occasionally, fair exemplification could be given. With lodges, however, at Thornhill and Richmond Hill, I do not think that the progress in this locality will be marked.

Vaughan Lodge, No. 54, Maple.

This lodge has a membership of 44, with an average attendance of 13. The W. M. opens and closes in all the degrees with about average correctness. The W. M. was unable to give me the E. A. or F. C., but

gave me a selected portion of the M. M., which was fair to middling. The wardens' work was passable; that of the deacons' weak. The books of the secretary and treasurer are in good condition. The cash is paid over promptly and deposited in a P. O. savings bank. The hall is owned by the lodge, is suitable, in good condition, and valued at \$1,800, insured for \$1,400. The furniture is valued at \$600 and insured for \$400. An inventory is kept outside the lodge room. There was about \$75 on the books as arrears at date of visit. Ten members are in arrears over one year, eight over two, two over three, one over four, one over five, four over six. The assets are about \$2,500; liabilities nil. The work of the lodge would be advanced if the W. M. devoted time to rehearsal with the officers. With a lodge at Thornhill, nine miles distant, and at Richmond Hill, four miles distant, I do not see any great hope of rapid improvement. The W. M. explains that business prevents him taking an active part in lodge work.

Markham Union Lodge, No. 37, Markham.

There are 17 members on the register, and the average attendance is 7. The W. M. is a P. M., who through having his attention occupied in business is rather rusty, and without preparation could not exemplify the work. The opening and closing of the three degrees were very crude, could not have been more so. On the occasion of my last visit I had to wait, after making a special trip from Toronto, from eight till ten o'clock at night to get a perfect lodge, and then I had to send into the highways and byways to seek for craftsmen. The lodge seems to have fallen to pieces in its work. There was no meeting in August, Oct., Feb., March, April, and were it not for visitors there were only three meetings in the year with enough members of the lodge to open. The secretary's books are in a lamentable state, badly kept; could not be worse—craft records and official letters lying about the desk, and not in one single instance spread on the minutes, such as they are. I regret to write this, as I hold in high esteem both the W. M. and secretary, but it would be better if the charter were given back than that such a state of affairs should continue. The hall is owned by the lodge, is valued at \$700 and insured for \$400. The furniture is worth \$150, and is uninsured. The assets are \$850 and liabilities \$300. I felt much disheartened with my visit. Personal difficulties have, I am afraid, crept into lodge matters, and a strong and bitter feeling has existed amongst some of the brethren. There are only four or five of the brethren residing in the village. Others live in the country, and do not attend, and as a brother informs me hundreds of dollars of dues have been lost to the lodge in years past from want of prompt collection. The