

Since our last Annual Communication, dispensations have been granted for the formation of fourteen new lodges, which I can strongly recommend to your consideration. The most careful enquiry was made as to the advisability of authorizing the formation of these lodges, and it was only after satisfactory information was received respecting the necessity for lodges in the locality named, the ability of the brethren to maintain them creditably, and the capacity of the officers named to conduct them efficiently, that the dispensations were issued. These are as follows:

1. Elgin Lodge, at St. Thomas, County of Elgin.
2. Port Elgin Lodge, at Port Elgin, County of Bruce.
3. St. Mary's Lodge, at St. Mary's, County of Perth.
4. Granite Lodge, at Parry Sound, District of Parry Sound.
5. Excelsior Lodge, at Colborne, County of Northumberland.
6. Brock Lodge, at Cannington, County of Ontario.
7. Clandeboye Lodge, at Perth, County of Lanark.
8. River Lodge, at Streetsville, County of Peel.
9. Waterdown Lodge, at Waterdown, County of Wentworth.
10. Delaware Valley Lodge, at Delaware, County of Middlesex.
11. Vittoria Lodge, at Vittoria, County of Norfolk.
12. Muskoka Lodge, at Bracebridge, District of Muskoka.
13. Waverley Lodge, at Guelph, County of Wellington.
14. Maple Leaf Lodge, at Tara, County of Bruce.

A petition has also been received for the formation of a new lodge at Cataragui, in the County of Frontenac, to be called Frontenac Lodge, upon which I recommend that a dispensation be issued.

Petitions have also been presented for two other new lodges, as follows:

1. North Star Lodge, at Rosneath, in the County of Northumberland.
2. Dufferin Lodge, at Melbourne, in the County of Middlesex.

But as all the required information has not yet been furnished, I have referred these petitions to the Board of General Purposes for consideration.

The Grand Treasurer's report upon our financial position will be submitted to you, from which it will be seen that after discharging all our obligations to the present time, and making provision for the benevolent fund in the usual way, we have

Investments—
Government Stocks.....\$55,048 33

Canadian Bank of Commerce.... 3,107 63

Total.....\$58,155 96
which sums stand in the books of Grand Lodge at the credit of the following accounts:

General Fund.....\$30,780 98
Asylum Fund..... 7,656 65
Investment for Benevolence.... 19,304 69
Current Account for Benevolence 413 64

Total.....\$58,155 96

My attention has been called to the fact that some of the monies held at the credit of the Asylum Fund were contributed by Lodges in the Province of Quebec, now under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of that Province; but at the time they contributed to the Asylum Fund they were within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and would therefore have been entitled to a voice in the management and control of that Fund. It will be remembered that this Fund has been preserved as a special trust on behalf of the contributors until the erection of an asylum should be undertaken. As the Lodges in Quebec are no longer entitled to be consulted with reference to the Asylum Fund, I would recommend that the amount contributed to the above Fund by the Lodges in the Province of Quebec be placed to their credit in the books of the Grand Lodge.

The late Bro. Edward Moss, formerly of Montreal, by his will bequeathed the sum of £10 to the Grand Lodge of Canada towards the erection of a Freemasons' Widow and Orphan Asylum; but as no such Asylum has been established, the legacy above referred to is claimed by the Grand Lodge of Quebec as one made by a member in that part of our jurisdiction from which we withdrew. I would therefore recommend that the legacy when received be handed over to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, to be held for the purposes named in the will of the late Brother Moss.

The records of seven Special Communications of Grand Lodge will be submitted to you for your approval and confirmation.

1. At Leamington, on the 26th July, 1876, to lay the corner-stone of a new Methodist Episcopal Church.

2. At London, on the 2nd November, 1876, to lay the corner-stone of the new Mechanics' Institute.

3. At Harrison, on the 12th June, 1877, to lay the corner-stone of the new Guthrie Presbyterian Church.

4. At Morpeth, on the 18th July, 1877, to lay the corner-stone of a new church, called St. John's Church, for the Church of England.

5. At Chatham, on the 27th July, 1877, to lay the corner-stone of a new church, called the Holy Trinity Church, for the Church of England.