

## THE AGENCY.

One powerful means for the prosperity of our Divisions has been the fund at the disposal of the Agency and Lecturing Committee. The Grand Worthy Patriarch had the honor of being employed by this Committee, who have duly reported progress through the columns of the *Abstainer*, and to the Quarterly Meetings of this Grand Body.

Permit me here to supplement their various reports by a partial summary of work performed, with results, during the year:

*Twenty-three* of the twenty-six new Divisions were constituted directly through the instrumentality of your accredited Agent, and *thirteen* of the seventeen Divisions resuscitated:

No. of miles travelled.....	3756
Public lectures delivered.....	148
Aggregate number in attendance.....	15,500
Amount of collections and donations to Agency Fund.....	\$300
Official letters written.....	280

In addition to this, it has been my privilege to pay 62 official visits, at which Two thousand two hundred and eighty-eight (2288) members of the Order met me on the firm and spacious platform of Love, Purity and Fidelity.

My testimony must here be recorded of the large measure of brotherly love existing among the members of our organizations. I had not expected such abundant manifestations of good will. My public thanks are due, and are hereby accorded, to the many Brothers and Sisters who strove so earnestly to make the efforts of the Lecturer successful. Had it not been for the powerful local efforts, the Grand Worthy Patriarch would not have much prosperity to report.

The following extracts from reports of County and Division Deputies furnish material for thought and for thankfulness:

(See Appendix page .)

For the sake of procuring data from all the Counties, and then aggregating these for the Province, so that a fair statement of the Temperance standing of the country could be placed upon record, to be used in our Legislative Halls, and in other lands, and also for future reference and comparisons, I prepared a series of twelve Questions, and forwarded them to reliable men in every County of the Province, viz:

Antigonish County, T. M. King; Annapolis, Avard Longly; Cape Breton, North, Donald Johnston; Cape Breton, South, C. H. Harrington; Colchester, Dr. W. B. McRobert, A. J. Walker; Cumberland, J. Hiram Black, W. F. Catten; Digby County, Wm. H. Taylor; Guysboro District, Jas. A. Tory; St. Mary's District, John A. McDonald; Hants, West, C. Edgar Dewolf, and P. J. Smith; Hants, East, R. S. Blois; Halifax County, the G. W. P.; Halifax city, Ald. Taylor; King's, Wm. C. Bill, James Elder; Lunenburg, Rev. I. J. Skinner, C. E. Church, M. P.; Pictou, David Marshall; Queen's, Wm. Bryden; Shelburne, R. G. Irwin; Inverness, Rev. Mr. Robinson; Richmond, E. E. Benit; Victoria, Thos. S. McLean; Yarmouth, N. Hilton, Esq. The queries and summary of the replies from the Counties are given in the Appendix on page —; also extracts from the reports of Deputies.

In our Province of Nova Scotia are to be found examples of the various stages of progress in the Temperance reform from Prohibition down to free rum or unlimited license. For example, in Halifax, Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond Counties, very little impediment is put in the way of the trader and the rumseller seems to flourish. In some places the traffic cannot secure the sanction of the law; but the people do not put forth much effort to bring the law-breakers to justice. Such is the condition of affairs