

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The fifteenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, was opened at the Music Hall, Toronto, on Wednesday last, the 13th inst. Early on Tuesday the brethren began to arrive, and by Tuesday night the hotels were tolerably well filled, and the earnestness of discussions showed that the brethren had come to the meeting deeply impressed with the importance of the occasion, and the responsibility resting upon the Craft in connection with it. On Wednesday morning a large additional number of brethren reached the city, and by the time the hour arrived for opening Grand Lodge, there was a larger attendance than has ever been known for a first day.

Grand Lodge was formally opened at half-past two o'clock. The entrance of Grand Officers, clothed in the new regalia which has just been imported from England, was a very imposing procession. The usual motion, accepting the minutes as read and confirmed, having been passed, and the rules read, the Grand Master delivered the following

ADDRESS:

Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada:

Another year—a most important one in our history having passed away, we are assembled again in annual communication, to consider measures for the advancement and prosperity of our beloved institution. Let us, with becoming gratitude, recognise the goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe, who has so mercifully preserved us in life and health, bestowed upon us countless blessings, and given us a fair measure of prosperity. Let us also reverently look up to Him for wisdom to direct our deliberations at this communication, so that all we do may be conducive to the promotion of His glory and the well-being of our fellow-men.

I do not intend to occupy much of the time of the Grand Lodge with an opening address, which can be more profitably employed in the consideration of the various important questions that are to be brought forward. I will, therefore, only refer to certain official acts with which it is necessary you should be made acquainted, and perhaps advert briefly to one or two other matters requiring remark.

The number of new Lodges established by Dispensation during the past year, was fifteen. Great care was taken to obtain reliable information as to the need for more Lodges in the respective districts in which they were sought to be located, and the probability of their being able to work without detriment to the Lodges already existing in the immediate vicinity; and I am happy to say that in nearly every instance the replies were most satisfactory. The applications were all accompanied by the usual recommendations, and certificates were also furnished me that the Brethren selected for the position of Worshipful Masters were fully competent to confer the Degrees. It gives me great pleasure to state in this connection that, in March last, the members of "Goderich Union Lodge," No. 720, on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of England, unanimously adopted a series of resolutions, resigning their English Warrant, and desiring, in exchange, a Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Canada. The resolutions were carefully drawn, and all their proceedings being perfectly regular and constitutional, I felt it to be my duty to comply with their request and instructed Grand Secretary to accept their English Warrant, and forward it to the Grand Lodge of England, together with a certified copy of the resolutions adopted by the Lodge. In accordance with previous arrangement, they were to get the nearest vacant number to that which they would have received, had they originally affiliated with this Grand Lodge. The Lodge is therefore now known as Goderich Lodge, No. 33 on our Grand Register.

The following are the names of the Lodges under dispensation, with their location and date of organization, viz.:

1. Credit Lodge, Georgetown, O., 27th September, 1869.
2. Zerodatha Lodge, Uxbridge, O., 11th October, 1869.
3. Mountain Lodge, Thorold, O., 12th October, 1869.
4. Marmora Lodge, Marmora, O., 16th October, 1869.
5. Norwood Lodge, Norwood, O., 16th November, 1869.