

The Grand Scribe read his report, which was referred to the Committee on the state of the Order.

REPORT.

The Grand Scribe begs to report, that in consequence of the returns not being yet received from all the Divisions, he is unable to give as full a statistical report as is desirable at this the termination of the constitutional year; but from all the information that his short acquaintance with the office has enabled him to collect, he cannot report any marked progress in the state of the Order since the last annual session, although a few of the Divisions shew a considerable increase since that period as regards numbers. The G.S. regrets that the same cannot be said of the majority of them.

The returns from 70 Divisions last year shewed 3620 contributing members; the returns from 71 Divisions this year shew 3749, being an increase of only 129 since that period; but more complete information upon this point will be given by reference to the accompanying return.

It cannot be denied that there is considerable lukewarmness in many of the Divisions throughout the Province, and a necessity seems to exist that some means should be used for infusing new life into the Order.

The G.S. would not be understood as conveying the idea that the great principles of our Order were on the decline in Nova Scotia, on the contrary, he believes that the attachment of the true friends of the cause, to the principles "we are united to perpetuate," is as strong as at any former period, and their faith in the efficiency of the Order as a means of keeping alive and diffusing those principles, is by no means diminished; but it is not enough, that we should not merely not decline, but we must advance.

The requirements of the Order seem at present to demand a general and complete visitation of all the Subordinate Divisions, by some person clothed with authority from the Grand Division to settle misunderstandings, reconcile differences, and who shall at the same time be qualified to advocate in public the great cause of Total Abstinence, and the G.S. has the assurance from many of the Divisions of their willingness to co-operate in any feasible scheme for the accomplishment of these objects.

Two new Charters have been granted since last quarterly term, viz.: Compeer, 107, located at Amherst, and Victoria Mines, 108, located at Nictaux Falls.

The G.S. would again reiterate what has frequently been adverted to by his predecessors, the necessity (in order for the proper examination of the accounts connected with his department) that the returns from the Subordinate Divisions should be in his hands, at least a week before the session of the Grand Division, as it is impossible that he could have his accounts in a sufficient state of forwardness for presentation at an early period of the session, if the returns are delayed till after the session opens. In proof that these