

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY.

Owing to the illness of R. W. Bro. Robert Birmingham, Grand Secretary, this Report was read by W. Bro. J. T. Jones, P.M. 887 :

To the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West :

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN,—In accordance with constitutional practice I have great pleasure in submitting herewith my third Annual Report as Grand Secretary, deeply sensible of the importance of the duties of the office and the responsibility resting on the faithful performance of our work.

PLACE OF MEETING.

I must congratulate the members of the Grand Lodge and the brethren of the City of Toronto on the importance of the fact that to-day we are assembled in our own beautiful hall. For nearly half a century efforts were made to erect a building in the City of Toronto worthy of the name of the great and loyal body to which we belong. Various difficulties stood in the way of the realization of the desires of our honored and long since departed brethren. We, however, who remain to take part in this meeting must certainly feel more than pleased at the consummation by the brethren of Toronto of the goal of their ambition—the erection of this building.

OBITUARY.

The Association during the past year has had to mourn the loss of many old and faithful workers, and our brethren in Ireland have lost their most distinguished head, one whose name shed lustre on the great Orange body throughout the whole Empire. In the removal of the late Imperial Grand Master, the Earl of Enniskillen, the Society at large has lost one whose ripe years, great experience and wonderful ability will scarcely be replaced for many years.

MEMBERSHIP.

From the reports I have received from County Lodges up to date, I have to report that there have been admitted to membership 891 ; by certificate, 405 ; by reinstatement, 99 ; while the number of deaths and expulsions amount to 171, showing a very handsome increase in the working membership of the Order.

ISSUE OF WARRANTS.

New warrants have been applied for and granted to the following Counties:

No. 463, North Simcoe.
No. 758, Parry Sound.
No. 795, Essex.
No. 796, Essex.
No. 802, Algoma.
No. 231, Elgin.