

Lodge officers and members of Committees so charged.

For a full report of Investigating Committee see Document 301, Journal of Proceedings, Supreme Lodge, 1899.

The Supreme Lodge assembled at 10 a. m. on Tuesday, August 23rd, in the Chamber of Representatives of the State Capitol building. Governor Mount, of Indiana, gave an address of welcome on behalf of the State. Mayor Taggart followed with a hearty welcome from Indianapolis, and Grand Chancellor Hunt spoke for the Pythian brothers of Indiana. Supreme Chancellor Colgrove responded in his usual able and pleasing manner.

After the report of the Committee on Credentials, the Supreme Lodge Rank was conferred upon those in waiting. The reports of officers were submitted and referred to Committee on Distribution. The report of the Supreme Chancellor is lengthy and full of good advice, and worth the consideration of all. As a copy of this report is sent to each subordinate lodge we deem it inadvisable to burden you with the contents of same, further than to call your attention to the kindly words of the Supreme Chancellor for the Knights of this Province, and of Canada in general. Speaking of his visit during the convention of the Grand Lodge in New Westminster, he says: "The Convention was not only attended with success, but great strides were taken towards the reduction of the deficit, which for several years had existed. All conceded it to be one of the most enthusiastic and profitable conventions ever held in that Domain. I was royally received, and everything was done to make my visit pleasant and enjoyable. I was repeatedly assured that they would take hold of the situation with renewed vigor, and endeavor to improve their condition financially and otherwise. No better, no more enthusiastic Pythians can be found anywhere than in British Columbia. My stay was a continual round of pleasure." Speaking of the membership in Canada generally, the Supreme Chancellor says: "My heart has been touched, not only by the earnest labor of these brethren for the good of the Order, but but by their patriotic devotion to our Republic in the trying days through which we, as a nation, are passing. The flag of Great Britain is dipped to the Stars and Stripes of our glorious Union—floating side by side in lodge rooms, on parades, and on the public buildings. Political divisions there are, but the Anglo-Saxon people to-day are one in heart in the war that is being waged for God and humanity. The Mother Country and her child stand side by side. It augurs well for the hope we have ever cherished that this Order should become the first and foremost fraternal society on the North American Continent."

The Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal's report was confined (as it should be) to facts and figures, presented in such a manner that all may obtain any information that might be desired from that office. Touching on the state of the Order, he reports:

The total number of subordinate lodges, Dec 31st, 1897, was 6,683; total number of members thereof on same date, 468,269, a net gain during the calendar year of 46 lodges, and a net loss of 1,022 members, and a net gain during the years

1896 and 1897 of 179 lodges, and 3,730 members. It will be noted that we sustained a net loss of membership during the past year, the first since 1878, but when we take into consideration the depressed financial condition of the country we should congratulate ourselves that the loss is not larger. We have done as well as any of the fraternity organisations and better than most of them.

SUPREME LODGE FINANCES.

There has been much discussion during the past biennial term, of the important subject of the finances of the Supreme Lodge. Some of this has been temperate and just, and manifestly inspired by an honest desire to discover the cause of our present financial condition and to apply the needed remedy; much of it, unfortunately, has been neither just nor temperate. To all criticism of the conduct of Supreme Lodge officers—to all aspersion by innuendo of their personal integrity in the handling of Supreme Lodge funds—the incumbent of this office desires, as sole reply, to submit the figures which follow. They present a succinct and intelligible resume of the fluctuations of our finances during the last six fiscal years, embracing three biennial terms.

Following is a statement of the cash account for the period named:

Balance on hand, March 31, 1892.....	\$ 58,191 00
Interest on deposits (Willey).....	720 00
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1893..	93,389 69
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1894..	101,136 96
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1895..	88,330 50
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1896..	66,210 72
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1897..	42,859 82
Receipts, year ending March 31, 1898..	37,716 17
	\$488,554 86
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1893.....	\$100,796 00
Willey deficit.....	60,166 64
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1894.....	63,415 46
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1895.....	96,936 55
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1896.....	50,766 93
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1897.....	68,630 78
Disbursements, year ending March 31,	
1898.....	38,736 47
Balance on hand, March 31, 1898.....	9,106 03
	\$488,554 86

(Owing to the fact that the conventions of the Supreme Lodge are held biennially, the disbursements in alternate years are inevitably much larger. In order, therefore, that the comparison of the annual disbursements with annual receipts may be perfectly fair, it is necessary that the expenditures caused directly by holding a convention of the Supreme Lodge—the pay-roll, incidental expenses of the convention (such as the daily journal, postage, etc.) and the printing of the official record—should be deducted from the amounts given above as gross disbursements. We thus obtain the appended comparative statement of the receipts