

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND CHANCELLOR
AND INSPECTOR.R. H. McCONNELL, ESQ., *Grand Chancellor of Ontario.*

Dear Sir and Bro.,—Herewith I beg to present my report for the nine months since I assumed the office of Provincial Deputy Grand Chancellor and Inspector. My report, if given in detail, would be a very lengthy one, but I shall endeavor to curtail and make it brief as possible.

My official duties began on Oct. 8th, 1894, and from that date I have devoted my whole time in furthering the interests and progress of our Order.

I made my first official visit to Hamlet Lodge, No. 42. I found them in a very unsettled state. The fact that this lodge was instituted just on the eve of the last assembly of Grand Lodge, and having had no visit from an official, nor from an experienced Knight, in the meantime, they were consequently almost totally ignorant of the ritualistic work and were not prepared to confer ranks upon candidates. I also found that they had taken in charter members at a fee of \$5 each. I fully explained to them that it was positively unconstitutional to take applicants in for less than \$10 each, and in no way could the Grand Lodge tolerate their action in this matter. I give them a night of instruction, which was gladly received by all present, and all manifested a personal interest in the ritual work, in so much that both officers and members applied themselves in going through the secret work. I remained in Stratford two or three days, and with the assistance of some of the members, succeeded in securing twelve applications. In two weeks time I again visited this lodge to assist in conferring ranks. The first semi-annual report had now been sent in from this lodge and showed a credit of \$10 for each charter member; as an off-set, the report showed the unreasonable expenditure of \$225 for instituting expenses. This report the G. K. R. S. did not propose to accept. Acting on the suggestion of the G. K. R. S., I duly notified the lodge of the date I would visit them and the object of my visit. At the meeting I met with twenty or more of the members; I fully explained the constitution regarding fees for the three ranks, and on the matter expressed myself briefly and to the point that, even if the Grand Lodge might feel disposed to accept the report under existing circumstances, yet it was positively unconstitutional to make members at a fee less than \$10, and the Grand Lodge had no power to act in the matter other than to see that the members paid the extra \$5 each, or demand the surrender of their charter. After discussing the matter till midnight, all present decided to pay the extra \$5. I remained over the next day, and Bro. King, the M. of F., drove me around to see the rest of the members. I fully explained matters and just the position the lodge now stood and was successful in collecting \$5 each from the balance of the members. That evening there was a candidate for initiation, who desired to have the three