

imitation. It would be fitting for this R. W. Grand Lodge to express by resolution its sympathy with the family of the deceased. A long list of loyal brethren who have served the Association in various capacities, and who have passed to their reward, will be found in the annual reports.

While peace and prosperity reign within the borders of our fair Dominion, the Mother Land is engaged in an eventful war on the arid plains of South Africa. It is unnecessary for me to reiterate the causes which led up to that war. Suffice it to say that at the call of duty, volunteers from every colony and dependency of the British Empire responded nobly, and, standing shoulder to shoulder, showed to the world at large a united front in defence of British honor and prestige. All honor to our Canadian contingents who have gone to South Africa to fight the battles of Queen and country, and who have shown by their perseverance and pluck that they are not afraid to venture life and limb in defence of the British Empire. As was to be expected, many members of our Association have joined the ranks of those who have gone to the front, and it would be a fitting tribute to their bravery and loyalty if immediately at the close of this meeting a special circular was prepared and sent to every lodge in the jurisdiction asking for the names of members and the sons of members of our Association who have left their homes and families to uphold the honor and integrity of the Empire in South Africa, and that the roll of honor be published in the printed reports of this Grand Lodge.

In accordance with the usual custom the reports of the last Grand Lodge session were sent to the County, District and Primary Lodges on April 17th—just five weeks after the close of the meeting. The Annual was sent to the County Masters and Masters of isolated lodges on June 3rd. Blank forms for Primary Lodge returns were sent out in November; for the District Lodges, in December, and for the County Lodges in January. Notwithstanding this fact, a number of the reports have only reached your Grand Secretary within the last few days.

The usual arrangements have been made with the Railway Companies for reduced rates to the delegates attending this meeting.

Important legislation affecting representation to the M. W. Grand Lodge of British America will be considered by that body at the annual meeting to be held in the City of London on the last Tuesday in May.

The Imperial Grand Orange Council will hold its next session for the first time in its history in the Great Republic to the south of us. The meeting will be held in the City of New York on July 25th, 1900, at which meeting I hope this R. W. Grand Lodge will be represented. Therefore it will be necessary to take such steps at this meeting as you think best to send one or more delegates to represent this R. W. Grand Lodge. Each Grand Lodge or governing body is entitled to send seven representatives.

I cannot conclude without bearing testimony to the efficient manner in which **THE SENTINEL**, the organ of the Association, has been conducted. It has been the means of reviving the interest in the cause in