

It has been said that our District Deputies can do this work. In reply to this, I have only to point to the statistics for the past two or three years and it will be seen that our membership is nearly stationary if not actually decreasing, thus proving conclusively that our District Deputies cannot do the work efficiently.

An organizer would be better posted on the Society's operations and methods, and from his larger and wider experience would handle the business as only an expert can.

The District Deputies could still render very valuable assistance and help the organizer in various ways, and so economize the organizer's time, and thus render the work all the more effectual.

I am strongly of the opinion that something in this direction must be done promptly, or our Society will lose ground which will take years to regain.

*South Africa Grand Lodge.*

Your executive has had communication with the Grand Lodge in South Africa.

The Lodges in that colony are financially strong considering their membership, but they do not increase in numbers to any extent.

A feeling seems to be gaining ground there that the religious test—one of our cardinal principles—should be removed, or at least considerably modified. Your Executive feel it would be very dangerous to accede to their request in this matter, judging from our experience in this country. It may, however, be a fact that the experience of our brethren in South Africa is not analogous to our own.

The correspondence will be laid before this Supreme Grand Lodge, and I would ask your most serious attention to the matter.

*Supreme Grand Secretary, Office and Staff.*

No material change has been made in either the office, salary or staff of the Supreme Grand Secretary for several years past, and in my judgment the time has come when some changes should be introduced.

When Simpson's building was destroyed by fire on March 3rd, 1895, Shaftesbury Hall escaped destruction by the same element as if by a miracle. But had Shaftesbury Hall caught fire, it is safe to say that all the important documents, records, etc., of the Order would have been destroyed, many of which are invaluable, and it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to replace them.