

habiliments of a Knight, engaged in active warfare in conquering new fields upon which to plant the standard of Pythianism, and while educating his fellowman in the sublime teachings and principles of our Order. It has been given to few men to see so complete and successful an issue to their efforts in the cause of humanity as was granted P. S. C. Rathbone. As your representative head I conveyed by telegram to the bereaved daughters of our late chief the profound sorrow pervading this jurisdiction, and assured them of the warm sympathy felt by every member of our Order in Ontario for them in their hour of intense sorrow.

NEW LODGES.

Through correspondence, and by the aid of my active Deputies, I have been enabled to have three good lodges instituted, one at St. Thomas, which is fortunate in having a most zealous, intelligent and enthusiastic set of officers, who I understand have memorized the work, and are even now able to dispense with the use of Rituals. Another at Port William, and as this is the Lake Superior terminus of the C. P. R., and destined to become a great city, I have every reason to hope with confidence that the band of Pythian soldiers garrisoned there will bring the whole district under subjection. I anticipate the pleasure of paying this lodge a visit during the summer. The third lodge is at Bruce Mines, and as this point is again showing a business revival, I expect to see a strong lodge there.

I may mention that a lodge is ready at Leamington, but its institution has been postponed owing to the burning of the only available hall. As another hall is being built, Leamington can soon be hailed as one of the strongholds of Pythianism.

I am convinced that a team trained to work the Amplified Rank, in a manner made most impressive by every aid of the art of elocution and costume, would be of inestimable advantage in aiding at the institution of new lodges, and by visiting older ones stimulating them to a renewed interest. The advantage of this adjunct was most deeply impressed on my mind while seeing a team from Rienzi confer the Ranks at St. Thomas. The work done by that team was not inferior to the best I have ever had the opportunity of witnessing. Should any other lodge in the jurisdiction think they can turn out a better and more effective working team it would be advantageous to the Order to enter upon a friendly contest to take place at some central point readily accessible to members of the Order wishing to attend as spectators.

I am also convinced that our Order will never spread its Castle Halls over every town and village in Ontario until we secure the services of an organizer who can devote the greater portion of the year to visiting eligible points and preaching the doctrines inculcated by the Pythian Order. A continuance of the extra per cap. tax for two years longer would enable the Grand Lodge to secure the services of a man of oratorical ability and thorough knowledge of the Order.