

Grand Lodge S. O. E.

SECRETARY'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

HAMILTON, Feb. 10, 1891.

SOUTH AFRICA.

I am pleased to report that we are still in communication with our brethren in South Africa. Through the departure of Bro. Spence from the Cape to the Transvaal the affairs of the different lodges seem to have become confused; and as the communications up to that time had all been through Bro. Spence, the lodges seemed at a loss to know what to do. Bro. Spence suggested Bro. Dyer as his successor, which suggestion was accepted, and Bro. Dyer appointed. No results, however, followed this appointment till Bro. Tamplin, another worthy brother, wrote us on the situation, making suggestions which were also accepted and replied to, and advice given. We would ask that Bro. Dyer, of King William's Town, be elected by this Supreme Lodge as the Supreme Deputy President for the South African District. I have every reason to believe that the Order in South Africa will soon again be in a flourishing condition.

NEW LODGES.

The following new lodges have been instituted during the past year:—

- Yarmouth 107, Toronto.
Toronto 108, Caledon East.
Brampton 100, Brampton.
Darlington 110, Hampton.
Guildford 111, West Fort William.
Royal Standard 112, Qu'Appelle.
Britannic 113, Montreal.
Albert 114, Capetown, Que.
Rose of Columbia 115, New Westminster, B.C.
Alexandria 116, Victoria, B.C.
United Roses 117, Calgary, N.W.T.
Scarboro' 118, Forks of the Credit.
Rose of England 119, Hamilton.
Grosvenor 120, Montreal.
Cornwall 121, Hamilton.
Osborne 122, Hamilton.
Hamilton 123, Hamilton.
Guelph 124, Smith's Falls.
United Empire 125, Deseronto.
Macclesfield 126, Penetanguishene.
Magna Charta 127, Nainaimo, B.C.
Wolverhampton 128, Orono.
Boston 129, Toronto.
Royal George 130, Simcoe.
Pride of the Island 131, Victoria, B.C.
Berkeley 132, Cannington.
Waterloo 133, Windsor. Total, 27.

The opening of the lodge Rose of Columbia, New Westminster, was a memorable event, over 80 charter members joining the first day; and as our District Deputy, Rev. Bro. Hobson, expressed it, it took him from two o'clock in the afternoon till twelve at night initiating the members into the mysteries of our brotherhood.

Another memorable event in connection with new lodges was the instituting of three lodges in one night, in the most of all ambitious cities, Hamilton. The new lodges are doing well and settling down to their own work.

The Executive has received two more applications for new lodges, one for Gananoque, and the other for Lennoxville, Quebec. We are also organizing at Petrolia and other places in the western districts, and already the prospects are good for a large increase during the coming year.

It is gratifying to note the desire of our countrymen to unite together for such good and noble objects. This uniting of our brethren together is not all for the mere benefits which they are likely to receive, (and they are good,) but to perpetuate and consolidate the grand and noble institutions of Britain's mighty Empire.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

The progress of the Order during the year is gratifying and encouraging. Number of members initiated 2,390, an increase of 200 over last year; number of members in good standing 8,000; present membership, including members who are not entitled to benefits, 8,900. The increase after deducting withdrawals, deaths, and suspension is 1,750. The amount paid for sick benefits for the year, \$12,167.50; amount paid for medical attendance, \$7,759; amount paid for funeral benefits, \$5,972; amount paid for Beneficiary benefits, \$6,065.11; making the total benefits paid to our members during the year, \$32,593.91.

There are 2,320 White Rose Degree members, with funds amounting to \$4,830.15; the amount received by our lodges in fees and contributions during the year, \$55,780.68. Value of lodge property, \$12,123. Cash in hands of Treasurer, \$6,306. Cash in hand and invested, \$40,500. Total lodge funds including W. R. D., \$53,000; amount paid for supplies, \$3,637; amount paid for Capitation Tax, \$2,813.90; paid for bonds, \$200.00; lodge liabilities \$1,711.74. The amount of cash received by your Grand Secretary during the year for Grand Lodge was \$6,451.41; bonds, \$200.95; funeral benefit, \$8,187; Beneficiary, \$7,462.83—total, \$22,100.

The Order is growing rapidly. The Rev. Bro. Hobson in his report of British Columbia says everything is satisfactory, and in spite of dead beats, who go and impose on their generosity, and bring some discredit on their nationality, the Society is taking deep root. In his flying visit through Alberta, Assiniboia, and Manitoba districts he found the lodges making great progress; and to show the interest already taken in the work, Bro. Hobson says that the lodge at Calgary, which Bro. Harry Symons opened during the past summer, have all their ritualistic work committed to memory, and do their lodge business without the rituals.

Four new lodges have been added in British Columbia during the year, and two in the great North-western district. From the extreme West we go to the extreme East. Bros. Edwards

and Richardson have done good work in Montreal, where we have now seven good lodges with others in the near future. Bro. Avery at Sherbrooke is pushing the work forward, and will soon have ten or more lodges in that district. Ontario as usual has done good work, is still for working ahead; and it is gratifying to know that within so short a time we have accomplished so much good; and we shall hail with great pleasure the fact that we have amongst us a representative from Lower Quebec, in the person of Bro. Capt. Rawson, of Sherbrooke; Bro. Chas. King, Calgary; L. Garrett, of Winnipeg, and Rev. H. P. Hobson, Vancouver, B.C.

A large and important field is yet untouched, I refer to the Maritime Provinces down by the sea. Past Grand President Hulme offered during the past summer to devote a month in organizing those provinces, but the large outlay in organizing the other districts had so reduced the available funds for that purpose that we had to decline the offer, but suggest that the incoming Executive be empowered to take some steps in that direction. The seed is being sown, our aims and objects are now in the hands of friends in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The ANGLO-SAXON is no doubt helping on this work, and though we do not agree with all that is published in its columns, it is possible that it might be used as a powerful factor in spreading the principles of our Order and act as the forerunner, preparing the minds of our brother Englishmen in those distant provinces to organize themselves on the basis of our Society.

I have to report the surrender of Shaftesbury Lodge charter owing to the smallness of the place.

We have only received three reports of the Juvenile branches, which perhaps is owing to the fact that up to the present time only eight lodges have been instituted. These lodges are making fair progress. The idea is becoming popular, and in the course of another year will no doubt show very important and beneficial results. I have suggested the formation of districts so as to save expense. I trust this Grand Lodge will give due consideration to this subject as it is a very grave and important one.

The training of our youth should be watched with great care; and nothing but the very purest sentiments of devotion to old England and loyalty to young Canada should be allowed to be set before them.

After referring to the attacks made upon the Society by Mr. C. W. Allen, which proved a complete failure, as the sworn affidavits in the report show, Bro. Carter proceeds:—

The question of protecting our lodges outside the Province of Ontario is one of importance, and should receive the consideration of this Supreme body. Albion lodges sent in a resolution asking this Supreme body to take action towards having a Dominion Friendly Societies' Act, and I would urge that this Supreme lodge pass a resolution calling upon the Government to push forward the bill introduced at the last session by the Minister of Justice; also that this Supreme lodge express itself ready to co-operate with similar societies to further that end.

There are other matters of great importance to the future of this Society that I would like to have referred to and dealt with if time had allowed. It is true we are a benefit society, and in this respect we have fulfilled to the very letter all our obligations; but we are more, we are a National Society, and we have banded ourselves together, not to undermine and destroy constitutional governments, but to unite all our forces to strengthen and uphold the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the integrity of the British Empire. No truer friends to this great Dominion exist than the Sons of England. I see in the distant horizon questions looming up of great magnitude and of vital importance. I see a mighty struggle yet, before the grand consummation, when the deceptions, superstitions, and hypocrisies of frail human nature, will give way to one grand and noble principle, the brotherhood of man.

I cannot close my report without thanking my superior officers for their kindness and support; to the officers of our various lodges for their thoughtful consideration of my onerous duties; to this Supreme Grand Lodge and all our members for their good will, and trust that as the years roll by, and the standard-bearers of this noble institution pass away, that other stalwart and loyal Sons of England will step forward and carry on the standard of our glorious Society, and trust that the day will never come when the grand old Union Jack will cease to float over a united Empire.

Respectfully yours, JOHN W. CARTER, S. G. Secretary.

France's artillery possesses 2,800 guns; Germany, 2,604; Russia, 2,034; Austria, 1,836; Turkey, 1,248; Italy, 1,188; England, 600.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland?

(From Review of Reviews.) Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Is't English land or Scottish land? Is't Wales, with many a wild ravine? Is't Erin's groves and meadows green? No; greater far it seems to me A Briton's Fatherland must be.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Is't Canada or Newfoundland? Is't where, amid her lakes and isles, St. Lawrence flows two thousand miles? Oh, no! however grand they are, My Fatherland is greater far.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Is't fair Natal or Caffreland? Is't where they rear the fruitful vines? Is't where the Afri diamond shines? No; let me rove where'er I will, My Fatherland is greater still.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Is't far Australia's coral strand? Is't where they dig the yellow gold? Is't where they gather flocks untold? No; honour these as well as you may, My Fatherland is more than they.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Is't India's bright and sunny strand? Is't where the hollow bamboo grows? Is't where the sacred Ganges flows? Ah, no! these see the sun decline, A greater Fatherland is mine.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? What oceans bound that mighty land? Is't where the pilgrim fathers rest, The great Republic of the West? No, no; her stars above her set, My Fatherland is greater yet.

Where is a Briton's Fatherland? Will no one tell me of that land? 'Tis where one meets with English folk, And hears the tongue that Shakespeare spoke: Where songs of Burns are in the air— A Briton's Fatherland is there.

That is a Briton's Fatherland Where brother clasps a brother's hand; Where pledges of true love are given, Where faithful vows ascend to heaven, Where Sabbath breathes a stillness round— A Briton's Fatherland is found.

Oh may that Fatherland be still Safeguarded by th' Almighty's will! May Heaven prolong our times of peace, Our commerce bless, our trade increase, And wider yet the bounds expand Of our Imperial Fatherland!

Our glorious Anglo-Saxon race Shall ever fill earth's highest place; The sun shall never more go down On English temple, tower, and town; And, wander where a Briton will, His Fatherland shall hold him still. DAVAAR.

TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE

Objects of the United Empire Trade League.

The British Empire was Established by the British for the British.—An Appeal to Britons Everywhere.

The subjects of the British Crown exceed 300,000,000 in number. They occupy over 70 territories and islands in every portion of the earth. Their empire is a fifth of the entire world. It either produces or is capable of producing, upon its various soils and under its varied climates, every substance or article known to man. Everything the population of one part of the British Empire may be unable to supply for their own needs, may be found in some other part of the empire.

The United Empire Trade League urges—that we should make full use of the resources acquired for us by our forefathers without regard to foreign states—engaged, as the premier recently stated, in every country in interposing new barriers of tariff between British producers and their consumers. Is it necessary to adduce any argument in support of such plain and common sense views? There is no parallel, either in ancient times or in the present day, for an empire or state calling itself one, to have no commercial links of union. The whole object of empire is commerce and the extension of commercial relations. It is with this view that India was subjugated, that North America and the West Indies were acquired, that Australasia and South Africa were settled.

Let him estimate, who can, the British blood, treasure, long-suffering and indomitable perseverance involved in this wonderful work. The gain has been great. Vast markets have been opened up. Limitless wells of supply have been established. Yet in this year of grace the British nation finds itself fettered, bound hand and foot, peremptorily prohibited by agreements voluntarily, yet blindly, concluded with foreign states, not to enter into any commercial union within itself. The United Kingdom is powerless to conclude a preferential commercial union with Canada, with the West Indies or with Australia. We have bound South Africa and India as well as ourselves.

Has the British Empire been established for the benefit of the universe or for ourselves? Was it to open markets for our rivals and competitors, or for the subjects of the Queen, that the history of Britain has been written in blood, in gold, and heroic adventure. The United Empire Trade League affirms—that the British Empire was established by the British for the British.

In 1845 goods from British possessions were given an advantage in the mother country of 50 per cent. over those from foreign lands. In 1853 this preference for colonial goods was realized in respect of thirteen classes of articles. In 1860 the privilege was withdrawn. Then, the Ministry of the day proceeded to tie down, not only ourselves, but also British colonies, and this without consultation with them. A treaty of commerce was entered into with Belgium in 1862, containing this clause: "Articles, the produce or manufacture of Belgium, shall not be subject in the British colonies to other or higher duties than those which are or may be imposed upon similar articles of British origin." It was repeated by the same Ministry in 1865 in a treaty of commerce with the German Zollverein.

Now, although this engagement in restraint both of free trade and commercial union between the several parts of the British Empire was only concluded in express terms with two foreign states, the official declaration obtained from the Foreign Office in 1888 by Parliamentary paper C 5300, declares: "That while these two treaties remain in force these express stipulations are extended to all countries whose commercial relations with Great Britain contain a most favored nation clause." There are upwards of 22 such treaties. In the interests of the United Kingdom, in the interests especially of all engaged in industrial pursuits, whether as employers or employed, it behoves Britons forthwith to release themselves from these artificial bonds in restraint of British commercial development. The Moment is Opportune. The treaties of commerce entered into by this country are undergoing revision. France, Russia and Spain have determined to follow the example of the United States, and prohibit, so far as increased duties can do it, the importation of British goods. The details of the Commercial Union, which might be possible, are for ulterior consideration. The imposition of any arrangement which might be distasteful to the free people of any single colony is not suggested. Nor is the slightest increase in the cost of food or the taxation of raw material in any way advocated. But the United Empire Trade League submits that it is desirable that the hands of commerce, stretching from each part of the British Empire to every other part, should be freed from any foreign handcuffs. The most dogmatic and suspicious professor of political economy cannot surely decry the acquisition of this freedom of trading relations with our own kith and kin. The opportunity is golden because our treaties of commerce are undergoing revision. There is another reason. The great colonies have declared themselves willing to enter into a commercial union with the mother country, and with each other. They have spoken through the eloquent voices of prominent colonials—may imperial statesmen of the names of Privy Councillor Cochrane; of Service, Griffith, Galt, Vogel, Rhodes, Hoffmeyer, Thompson, among many others, are proof of this. Let the men of patriotism and foresight, with broad minds unshackled by selfish prejudices, Meet Halfway their Colonial Brothers. Soon it will be too late. The situation in Newfoundland, the American propositions to the West Indian islands, the prospect in South Africa, the contention for the fiscal federation of Australasia against the outer world are proof of this. Take note particularly of the situation in Canada. The Legislature of the United States has passed an Act declaring to the Dominion of Canada, and to the 3,000 miles of conterminous frontier, in the words of her great Minister, Sir John Macdonald: "If you want to trade with us, join us, but so long as you are a portion of the British Empire we will shut you out. Then comes the answer of the majority of the Canadian electorate—a dangerously narrow one, however great the empire the world has ever seen. Our allegiance—to Britain, to the greatest empire the world has ever seen, is unwavering—and for trade, for new markets, we look to Australia, to the West Indies, to the mother country. Are we—are you as an individual with responsibilities, not alone to the present, but to your nation's future—going to remain silent, apathetic, indolent, indifferent? It was thus that fell the colonial empires of Greece and of Rome, of Spain and of the Netherlands. Give heed to a warning from over the sea. On the 22nd of June, 1888, the High Commissioner of Canada, Sir Charles Tupper, declared that it would not be easy to keep up the necessary amount of enthusiasm unless some practicable scheme was soon devised of establishing closer and More Substantial Union between the mother country and the self-governing colonies to the advantage of the whole empire. This authoritative opinion found recent corroboration at the hands of Sir Gordon Sprigg, so long Prime Minister of South Africa: "How are the component parts of the empire to be held together? Having given a great deal of attention to this matter myself, it appears to me that the basis of the imperial federation of the future must be a customs union. Supposing you do not bind together your colonies and dependencies by some such bond as a customs union, what guarantee have you that you will hold your empire together? It has been doubted whether the colonies are themselves in favor of such a proposal as that at which I have hinted. I will only say this in reply—that in travelling through the country here upon occasional visits I keep my eyes and ears open, and I sometimes think that if I wanted to find illustrations of men who hold fast to the best traditions of old England I would not look for them here in the centre, but I would go to the distant dependencies, where the sons and daughters of England keep watch and ward over the outposts of the empire." The growing volume of colonial trade is well known. Every Australian for trade purposes is of greater money value alone than a score of foreigners. The colonies desire to buy of you, to sell to you, they would sooner trade with you and their fellow colonists, if it can be done on mutually advantageous terms, than with foreign nations. Is not the commercial union of the British Empire highly desirable? Canada says aye, Australasia says aye. It has met with recent approval in the city of London, in Manchester, in Sheffield, in Leeds, in Liverpool, in Glasgow, in Bristol, in Belfast, and other great centres of commerce. The manufacturers

Are with us. The agriculturists are with us. "If England forms a customs union with her colonies," says a minister of the United States, "she will be independent of outsiders as ourselves, producing everything she wants, and consuming herself everything she produces." The greater portion of the press has of late adopted this view. Their opinions are well summarised by a popular organ. The People says: "When any statesman is courageous and sagacious enough to propose such a union, he will have a following which will astound himself, and the greatest empire the world has ever seen will consolidate with lightning-like rapidity. In our possessions the wide world over we have inexhaustible resources, and all possible variety of products, and nothing but our ruinously absurd laws prevents our making proper use of them. Alter or revoke those laws, and the British Empire is instantly self-supporting, and her sons and daughters will be ten times as prosperous as now."

Lord Salisbury has declared: "We know that every bit of the world's surface that is not under the English flag is a country which may be and probably will be closed to us by a hostile tariff, and therefore it is that we are anxious above all things to conserve, to unify, to strengthen the empire of the Queen, because it is to the trade that is carried on within the empire of the Queen that we look for the vital force of the commerce of this country." Let the Government hear The Voice of the People says the Prime Minister. "I feel the deepest sympathy with the objects in view" (of Imperial Federation), "and earnestly desire that means for attaining those objects may be found." Let British industry speak, says the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Let the country pronounce and then come to the Ministry, says the president of the board of trade. To elicit the voice of the nation—the empire, of the British race—on this great question; to develop the worldwide internal commerce on mutually advantageous terms of the British Empire is the object of the United Empire Trade League. It seeks your support—it hopes for your active sympathy and co-operation in whatever sphere you are, in whatever portion of the realm of Britain and Greater Britain you may be located. C. E. HOWARD VINCENT, Hon. Secretary, House of Commons, London.

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