

Grand Scribe read his Report which was on motion referred to Good and Welfare and Finance Committees.

OFFICE OF GRAND SCRIBE, Montreal, 7 July, 1862.

G. W. P. Officers and Brothers :—

The time has again arrived when it becomes necessary for me to report to you the condition of the Order within this jurisdiction. In the performance of this duty, I regret that I cannot lay before you a full statistical report owing to the negligence of Divisions, in making their returns, many Divisions having failed as yet to make returns for quarter ending March last. Were D.G.W.P.'s to act strictly in accordance with the instructions given them in their Commissions, and withhold the pass-word until returns are made, I believe it would be better both for Sub. Divisions and for this Grand Division. Perhaps it might be well to adopt the plan followed in some jurisdictions, not to issue the pass-words from this Office until the returns are sent in, but to issue them respectively as the returns are received.

I laid your request to have this year's session of the N.D. held in the City of Montreal, before the M. W. P. After some correspondence on the subject, he decided that in his opinion it would be for the benefit of the Order that the session should be held in a more western locality than Montreal, and he selected the City of Hamilton O. W. The meeting was accordingly held there, commencing on Wednesday, 18th June, at 10 o'clock A. M. and continued in session until Saturday afternoon, 21st June. A very considerable amount of business was transacted, the whole time having been occupied in the business of the Session, with the exception of two evenings in which public meetings were held. The most important business of this Session was the adoption of a new Constitution, and code of Laws. A few necessary amendments were made to the Constitution of the National and Grand Divisions. The new Constitution and code for sub-Divisions, which were adopted, combine the laws and decisions formerly published in the revised rules and proceedings of the National Division with some amendments. This Constitution will not come into operation until 1st October next, by which time the same will have been printed and circulated. Under these circumstances, I think it unnecessary to attempt any detailed statements of the changes made, I shall simply mention one change which I conceive will be of essential benefit to the Order in this jurisdiction. It is that Youths under 18 years of age may hold subordinate Offices in their respective Divisions. Power has also been given to Grand Division to grant dispensations in particular cases to allow youths between 18 and 21 years of age to hold the offices of W.P., W.A., Chaplain, or Treasurer, provided that in no case shall any such youth have a seat in the G.D. until he arrives at the age of 21 years. I am sorry to say that no additional privileges have been granted to lady visitors, a resolution to make them full members having been voted to lie on the table. Their privileges and duties are however more clearly defined than previously.

The following is an abstract of the Returns from 34 Divisions for the quarter ending 31st March last.

Initiated.....	183
Withdrawn.....	61
Suspended.....	7
Violated Pledge.....	84
Violated Pledge 2nd time.....	13
Non-Payment of dues.....	26
Reinstated.....	49
Expelled.....	70
Deaths.....	2
Contributing Members.....	1552
Lady Visitors.....	1061
Members of Juvenile organizations.....	1758
Receipts.....	\$571.79
Paid for benefits.....	10.00

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