

GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF ONTARIO.

THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

ILL. COMPANIONS.

In rendering you an account of my official conduct, during the past year, it affords me much gratification to be enabled to state that the Cryptic Rite continues steadily to advance, extending itself to all parts of the Dominion, and has even winged its flight, and pierced the portals of our Prairie Province, Manitoba.

THE SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

are generally well conducted, and the returns which will be laid before you will show the steady progress which is being made. You are quite aware that I have always urged upon the attention of Grand Council, the desirability of being extremely cautious in the admission of members to our Councils, urging upon the officers of these subordinate Councils who are in the habit of assembling with us, the necessity of selecting with great care, from among those who ask to be admitted to the secrets of the ninth Arch, those who possess the necessary intelligence to enable them to become earnest and faithful workers in our Order. In many Councils I find that these teachings have not been without effect, and that the result of such caution has been to admit only those who have attained some position in the other grades of Masonry. Adhering to the same advice, I have not countenanced the opening of new Councils in localities, where, I considered there did not exist a field sufficiently wide, to justify me in the granting of dispensations.

THE MULTIPLICATION OF COUNCILS

will bring no strength to Grand Council, nor aid in the proper extension of an Order, that possesses so many charms, unless the Companions selected to preside over them are possessed of ability of the highest order to enable them to thoroughly and intelligently understand and impart the work. During the year I regret my inability to visit all the Councils within our jurisdiction, it was my earnest wish to have done so, but like yourselves, I have had other and important duties to perform, which could not, in justice to myself, and those depending upon me, be neglected. I have, however, been enabled to visit Zabud Council, No. 4, Brantford, and Adoniram Council, No. 2, Toronto, on both occasions I had the pleasure of installing their Officers, and in witnessing the work of the Council well exemplified. I have also endeavoured to have other Councils that have not been very well conducted, reorganized, and I am pleased to say that there is every appearance of all the Councils being properly conducted in the future. If some of our Inspectors General of Divisions would take a more earnest part in "the general supervision of the Order" and visit the Councils of their respective Divisions, at least once during their term of office, we would be enabled to speak more cheerfully of the state of Cryptic Masonry, and the Councils, would consider such officer something more than a mere position for attaining Masonic rank, without having rendered a fair equivalent in having honestly discharged the duties of the office.

On the 18th September, I granted a dispensation to Ill. Comps. Rev. W. C. Clark, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, John Kennedy, Grand Treasurer, and J. H. Bell, Grand Secretary, and a number of Comps. resident in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to open and form a Council of Royal and Select Masters. The petition having been duly recommended, I issued a dispensation to Rt. Ill. Comp. J. B. Nixon, Grand Recorder, who was proceeding to that Province, on an important pleasure tour, authorising him to introduce the Rite into Manitoba, by opening the Council petitioned for, which duty he performed in an efficient manner by opening Cyrus Council and investing the officers. On the 12th day of March last, I received an application from V. Ill. Comp. W. J. Morris, and a number of Comps. residents of the Town of Perth, County of Lanark, which having been duly recommended by Rt. Ill. Comp. Geo. C. Longley, Inspector General, of the Ottawa Division. I caused a dispensation to be issued, and V. Ill. Comp. Morris, Past Inspector General, assisted by the requisite number of Comps. duly opened Morris Council.

From the high Masonic standing of the Comps. to whom these dispensations have been granted, and the skill and ability already displayed in Masonry by the officers chosen to preside over their Council, I have no hesitation in recommending that warrants be granted during the present session.

We are continuing to receive warm expressions of the good feeling entertained towards us by