

meeting of the Past Chancellors of their respective districts, for the purpose of nominating one of their number to receive the appointment as District Deputy Grand-Chancellor for the ensuing year, and acting on the recommendations received, I issued commissions to the following, viz.:

P. C. Geo. L. Hatch.....	of No. 1.....	for Toronto District.
" R. Carrothers.....	" 2.....	for London "
" W. H. Childs.....	" 3.....	for Hamilton "
" R. Bangham.....	" 16.....	for Windsor "
" W. M. Shaw.....	" 20.....	for St. Catharines District.

These brothers have discharged their duties in a most able and satisfactory manner, and I return them my hearty and sincere thanks for their kind assistance.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

I regret that during the year no new lodges have been added to our roll. I have had considerable correspondence with parties in different localities in regard to the formation of lodges; but, from one cause or another, no definite action has been taken in the matter. I have every hope, however, that the seed thus sown will yet bear fruit.

The several lodges in our jurisdiction are, I am pleased to report, in a most prosperous condition. There seems to have been, during the year, a greatly increased interest and activity shown by the members generally, and, as will be seen by the Report of your Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, a considerable increase has been made, both numerically and financially; and we are not alone in this movement--for nearly every one, if not all, of our sister Grand Jurisdictions enjoy the same prosperity, only in a greater degree than we do. During the past two years no less than a net gain of 21,000 Knights have been made, and the cry is, "still they come." And now, brothers, in this connection there is one matter to which I wish to draw your attention, viz., the suspension of members. Why is it that so many members, year after year, are suspended for non-payment of dues? To give strength and stability to our Order we must, in addition to obtaining new members, retain those we have got, and to do this I would recommend that lodges give more consideration in the future than they appear to have done in the past. There are so many causes which lead to members allowing themselves to be suspended that I will not undertake to enumerate them all. A little attention to this matter will enable lodges to find out and overcome many of them. I will simply mention one case, which I think will be found to be the ground-work of the whole, and that is, allowing members to become in arrears for dues. The only cure for this is to be careful who is elected as the Master of Finance of a lodge. If a good, capable and efficient member is elected to this position, who will regularly notify and look after the members, you will find very few suspended for non-payment of dues.

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