

I cannot conclude this part of my report without bearing testimony to the efficiency of Brother Johnson as the Agent and Lecturer of this G. D. and for his zeal, and the great satisfaction given by him during his visits, the general regret being that a continuance of his services could not be secured. Without speaking disparagingly of others, I fear it will not be an easy matter to fill his place. I have received a communication from Brother Johnson, stating, that from the state of the Roads it will be impossible to carry out the instructions given to visit Antigonish and Guysborough. His mission therefore has ceased; and I trust that this G. D. may be able to obtain some other person to labour in this Province, especially those parts that have not been visited by our Agent.

On the 20th March the new Ritual came into my possession, and I immediately commenced issuing it, nearly all the Divisions now being in possession of it, and the old Ritual returned by several of them into this office. Like everything new it takes some time to receive favour, especially as it requires some little attention to become acquainted with and work it properly. The old being more familiar, many would like still to retain it, but this cannot be. There must be one Ritual for the Order whichever one it is, for difficulties would occur that are not at present thought of, the greatest of which would be the having to keep up two supplies, one of the old the other of the new; and upon the formation of every new Division differences would ensue such as to render anything like harmony impossible. In several districts the installation of Officers by the new Ritual has been public, affording pleasure to large audiences and resulting in good feeling towards the Order, and an increase of Members.

I notice in one of the American Papers the death of Brother Sands one of the founders of the order, being the first W.P., G.W.P., and M.W.P. It is pleasing to find that Brethren are steadfast unto the end.

To give a report of the general state of the Order, in this Province is utterly impossible. The absence of Returns, from seventeen of the Subordinate Divisions manifests something like apathy and indifference on the part of these brethren, and it will require a little more energy in the performance of their duty as Sons of Temperance, if they ever hope to obtain the object for which we are united. This lukewarmness—being neither hot nor cold—has a chilling effect upon our organization, and it is catching, for one bad example in this respect exerts a powerful influence over others. How necessary for us to be in the alert to prevent ourselves from growing less zealous in the prosecution of the arduous task before us; for like the gallant old Napier with all the difficulties before him at Cronstadt, we should resolve within ourselves to conquer, and act upon that resolve, until the work is accomplished. The Order is looking to us to set the ball in motion, and great expectations are anticipated from this meeting, by those who signed the petition to the Legislature, for an expression of opinion in regard to the manner in which year after year these petitions have been treated. In the report transmitted to the National Division for the year ending 31st December,