

REPORT OF THE GRAND CHIEF TEMPLAR.

To the Grand Lodge I. O. G. T. of British Columbia,

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:—

Another year of British Columbia Good Templar history has been written. A year, we trust, of loving sacrifice and earnest endeavour, amidst much to discourage in battling against the direst foe that ever cursed our fair earth, and by the Gracious favour of Him:—“

“Whose mercy serene in its kindness
Has chastened our wanderings and guided our way,”

we are again permitted to meet in our annual session to review the past and perchance, therefrom, learn lessons to guide during the year now before us.

It is a pleasure, only those can conceive whose hearts are aglow with the Good Templar fire and love, to see before us to-day the faces of those who, in the darkest and most discouraging days of this fight in British Columbia, always stood true to our colours, men who have marched together “through the darkening shadows of the valley when the heights were away beyond them”, men who are still upward climbing and who ere long, we pray, will reach the summit and there plant our banner—Prohibition nailed to the mast with songs of joy and victory—Pioneers! veterans of the Pacific slope welcome to our trysting place.

And it is with no less joy we greet to-day those who are younger in years, some of whom meet in this Grand Lodge for the first time. Yes, we greet you:—and shall we not my young brethren prove indeed that we are worthy sons of those sires, and be in the forefront clearing the way of the upward march, and when tired and worn they fall as they plant our banner shall we not be there to hold it up until we too shall fall for GOD and humanity.

And welcome, thrice welcome, to our sisters who are with us to-day and with us in our glorious work. Our noble order has ever recognized WOMAN'S TRUE RIGHTS; and we are thankful and refer to with pride, that our mothers and sisters, who, “where duty calls or danger, were never wanting there,” never had to come knocking at the doors of the largest Temperance body in the world saying: “give us a voice in your councils.” Veterans, fathers, sisters, brothers, let us welcome each other to-day, “and may the pleasant ties that now bind us be severed only in death.”

PROGRESS OF THE ORDER.

I rejoice to chronicle progress. Four Lodges have been added to our roll; Kamloops, organized by P. G. C. T. Bro. Wood is