

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

In referring to this subject in my Report of last year, it will be seen that I did not speak of it as being in a very prosperous condition, and although, at the present time, I cannot report any great increase in the membership, yet it affords me much pleasure to be able to say that our future prospects are much brighter than they were at that time. The majority of our lodges have been adding to their numbers, and there seems to be a much more active interest taken in the work generally. We meet to-day to see ourselves entering upon a second decade in the history of our Order in this Province, and I trust that every member will work, to the best of his ability, to advance its interests, and endeavour to help, as far as lay in his power, to make our future an assured success.

During the past year Calanthe Lodge, of Acton, surrendered its Charter. Many of its most active members having removed to other places, it was found that there was not sufficient material in the village to warrant it to keep in existence.

Crusader Lodge of P. A. Landing, and Algoma Lodge, of Sault Ste. Marie, are still in the same position as I reported last year. I am convinced that nothing can be done regarding them, unless a personal visit is made by the G. C., or some one delegated by the G. L. to go there.

Several inquiries have been made from different localities during the year regarding our Order, but so far nothing has been done towards the institution of new Lodges. The legislation of last session towards extending the Order has been practically inoperative, from the fact that we have no member properly qualified, who has sufficient time at his disposal, to undertake the duties necessary to carry out the object you had in view.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS.

I have to draw your attention to this subject once more. For some time back I have had little cause to complain, but during the past year the reports have been very late in reaching me, some of them not being received until the end of last month. If the installing officers have complied with the law, this shows that the Lodges have been working very irregularly, as they could not have the current pass-word until their installation took place; but I am inclined to the opinion that the Deputies, in some instances, must have overstepped their functions, as some of the Reports have come to me in a very round-about fashion. They should be forwarded direct to this office by the Deputy, together with the Grand Lodge assessment, and if each one will follow the instructions laid down for their guidance in the installation form, no trouble or difficulty need be experienced.

While under this head, I desire also to draw your attention to the fact that many of the Reports are not as carefully and correctly made out as they might be. Duplicate blanks are always forwarded to each Lodge, and a correct copy should always be retained. That this is not done, or if it is,