

## The Grand Secretary's Acknowledgment of Annual Returns.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Annual Return of Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 622, for the year ending December, 1861.

I also beg leave to call attention to several errors in the Annual Returns I have thus far received. None of these errors may have occurred in your Return, but if not, they have in the Return of some other Lodge, I therefore mention them to every Lodge, so that the one affected by them may reform the error.

1. In reply to one of the questions; one Lodge, (I am happy to say but one,) stated that the answer was their "own business." This is not only an impertinent, but also a mistaken view. Every Lodge is responsible to the Grand Lodge for all its conduct, and the Grand Lodge has the right of exercising a paternal influence and control over all Lodges in the Order.

2. Several of the Lodges have not filled up the Returns as fully as they might and ought to have done.

3. One of the Lodges filled the column under the heading of "Church, to which the member belongs," with the word "Protestant," as if the Executive was so ignorant as to fancy that an Orangeman could be a Romanist. This column should be filled with the Name of the Denomination to which each member belongs.

4. Several of the columns are not filled at all.

5. In some instances the columns calling for the amounts received and paid by the Lodge are filled with the words "all regular dues," this is an improper answer, the specific amount is required.

6. The age of each member, not the average age in the Lodge is required.

7. I regret to find to several questions the answer "cannot tell." This shows the books have not been properly kept. To aid in this respect I have got up a regular set of Lodge Books, properly ruled and headed, these will be of great service in aiding the Secretary and Master of each Primary Lodge in the discharge of their duty. One is for the Secretary to record the Minutes of each meeting, one for the Treasurer to keep the accounts, a third is the Roll-book to contain the names of the members, and the fourth is the Degree Book. The price of the set is only \_\_\_\_\_, and they will likely last for \_\_\_\_\_ years. Applications accompanied by the money is to be made to me at Toronto, post paid.

8. In a few cases the Returns have been sent to the Secretary of the M. W. G. Lodge instead of to the undersigned.

9. In sending the Return it should be left open at both ends, to show that it is printed matter, no seal or wafer should be attached, and on the back should be written "open circular," in which case the Post Master can only charge two cents on each return. Several have been so sent, while in other places Post Masters have charged the enormous price of 28 cents on a return.

10. In three instances the certificate just above the name of the Master and Secretary is not filled up.

11. In some instances Districts have been numbered, this is an error. Primary Lodges alone are numbered, Districts are named, and should in all cases bear the name of the Township in which they are sitting, as the Executive designs that each Parliamentary Constituency should constitute a County Lodge, and each Municipal Constituency a District Lodge, each one having its own name.

12. Nearly all of the Returns have been late in reaching me, this must not be the case in future. They should be made out in open Lodge at the December meeting, and forwarded to me the next morning after the December election of Officers, signed by the retiring Master and Secretary.

13. In every case the Lodge Seal should be attached to the return, immediately opposite the names of the Master and Secretary. If Lodges have not Seals, by sending the price, \$5, and the Number of the Lodge, I will get one here and forward it at once to the Lodge, free of postage.

14. The receipt for the dues is to come from the Grand Treasurer.

15. The following Lodges have made such full and perfect returns, that I consider them deserving of special mention. Namely: numbers 9, 23, 101, 129, 148, 156, 231, 466, 516, 521, 552, 551, 591, 690, 696, 746, 753, 759, 830, 867, 901, 992, 1031, 1035, 1056, other Lodges have also made very creditable returns, but to the above belongs the meed of praise.

N. C. GOWAN,  
Secretary.