

No. 15 District, Lambton and Waterloo

Counties Alex. Gardner, London.

No. 16 " Perth and Oxford Counties. Jno. Paul, London.

W. H. Hutchbury, of District No. 1, having resigned, W. Franklin Morphy, Toronto, was commissioned to fill the vacancy.

For the valuable assistance and loyal support that I have received from these officers, I desire to express my strongest appreciation.

NEW LODGES.

During the year, although the new lodges instituted were not as numerous as you or I could wish, yet our efforts have to a small extent been rewarded. While I have been and am still anxious to erect new altars and increase the membership, I am profoundly desirous that this Grand Jurisdiction shall be known for the high standing and character of its members, and that the lodges shall be composed of the very best men in the community in which Pythianism may find a home. None should be permitted to enter within the portals of our castle halls except those who possess all those ennobling principles of which true manhood is composed.

On the 17th of February, assisted by P.G.C. Frank Mellish, of Michigan, P.G.C. McKellar, P.G.C. Gardner, P.G.C. Mitchell, our present G.K. of R. and S., ably supported by brethren from London, St. Thomas and Chatham, I instituted Petrolea Lodge, No. 17, of Petrolea. The charter list contained about seventy names of the very best material the town could afford, possessing those qualities from which true, loyal, chivalric Knights are produced. We commenced work about 8.30 o'clock; up to midnight we had initiated twenty-four candidates, when we adjourned to the large and commodious ante-room, where a sumptuous supper had been prepared, and of which all partook until they were abundantly refreshed and strengthened for the labors in hand for the remaining hours of the night. At about 2.00 a.m. we resumed work, proving and charging twenty-two in Second and Third Ranks, after which the officers were installed, completing our labors shortly after 7 o'clock a.m. Bro. P.G.C. Mellish favored us with an interesting and eloquent address, in which he referred to the early struggles and present proud position of the Order. Bro. G. K. of R. and S. Mitchell offered a few remarks suggesting the easiest and best method of keeping the books and finances of the lodge in proper shape and condition, and charging them especially to guard well the expenditure. After a few remarks by myself, advising faithful and regular attendance, care in the selection of new members, the non-use of rituals, solemnity and courtesy in conferring the Ranks, and fatherly advice generally, we closed the lodge in due form, perfectly satisfied with the result of our all-night convention. I am of the opinion that this lodge will not be troubled to any extent for want of funds, as most of the members are amply provided with good bank accounts, probably representing more wealth than any other lodge in this jurisdiction. Their lodge room is large, comfortable and nicely furnished. I shall not be