

Canada had directly expended in benevolence no less a sum than \$48,917. That was a very large sum of money to have expended during these years. He found that last year, according to the last return that he had read, the Grand Lodge of Canada expended \$6,915 in the work of benevolence, and 155 persons were aided by means of that benevolence. He thought they would admit that when 155 persons had received the means wherewith to purchase the fuel necessary for this cold winter of ours, when the widow and the orphan had been relieved from the funds thus expended, that this institution was worthy of some consideration at the hands of those who were able to aid them, as his hearers were doing to-night. [Applause.] The Grand Lodge of Quebec was comparatively a young lodge, and it had not yet done much in the work of benevolence so far as figures illustrate its work. But there was this remarkable fact; it had spent between two and three thousand dollars a year during the time it had been in existence, and the Grand Lodge of Canada during the first nine years had spent only an average of \$228 a year. So that the Grand Lodge of Quebec, not yet so large and not yet so prosperous, should look forward to a great future, as during its first eight years it had at any rate done as well as the Grand Lodge of Canada had during its first nine years. He found that the Grand Lodge of Canada during the subsequent five years had expended an average of \$2,491 a year, and during the last five years its annual expenditure had averaged \$6,843 in benevolence. He would give them one illustration of how that was done. They had listened to-night to a recitation about the fire in Chicago. When that fire occurred and when Masons and non-Masons alike were forced from house and home, and had to face the coming winter houseless and penniless, the officers of the Grand Lodge of Canada, without hesitating for a moment, but acting upon a prompt recognition of its duty, sent \$2,000 at once to the Masons who might be in distress in the city at that time. [Applause.] He found that not only had the Grand Lodge of Canada and the Grand Lodge of Quebec following in its footsteps, thus expended of its means, in benevolence, but there are in all cities Masonic Boards of Benevolence—in Toronto, London, Hamilton, Kingston, and other cities in Ontario, and in Montreal and Quebec, and other cities in this Province, and the audience here to-night were assembled at the invitation of a Board of Relief, which distributed—he would not say its charity, but distributed its money in accordance with its duty in this City of Montreal. He found that this Board of Relief had expended during seven years \$346 every year. Now that was not much, but it had helped many a poor Mason who happened to find himself

apparently without friends and without means; it had let him feel that a brother's hand was extended to him in this city, and had helped him on his way. [Applause.] That was a special work, and one of the secrets of the Masonic fraternity. He would now say a few words as to what Freemasonry was not. Freemasonry was not a religious organization. It recognized the existence of the Great Architect of the Universe, and no man who was an Atheist could become a Freemason. But with particular creeds Masonic lodges have nothing whatever to do, and beyond recognizing the existence of the Deity and recognizing the all-pervading providence of God, there was no such thing as religious question or dispute in connection with Masonry. Then, again, they knew no political parties in connection with Masonic lodges. He knew that there were those who imagined that every Masonic lodge was a group of conspirators, meeting to cabal against the interests of the State, and there were those who thought every Mason was an enemy of social order. A greater mistake could not be made in reference to Freemasonry as it exists in England and in this country, and it is with Freemasonry as it exists in England and in this country that they had alone to do. [Applause.] The true Mason is the best friend of social order. A man could not be a true Freemason and at the same time a disloyal man. They had the fact that in the mother country Freemasonry is the very centre of loyalty. They had as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the heir apparent to the throne of Great Britain. [Loud applause.] Would any one tell him that an institution over the greatest Grand Lodge of which presides he who is to be, if in the providence of God he is spared, the King of England, can be charged with hostility to social order? No, they recognized no politics in their Masonic lodges, but they recognized as the first principle of their order submission to all in authority, in church or state, recognizing the duty of obedience to the constitution under which they lived, and doing the best they could to promote the interests of that constitution. [Applause.] He would not detain them longer, further than to say that no subjects of Her Majesty throughout the wide Dominion could more truthfully or more loyally say or sing—

Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

M. W. Bro. White resumed his seat amid loud applause.

The programme was then continued and the concert closed with singing the National Anthem, a fitting termination to a most enjoyable evening.