

who live at too great a distance from the Lodge for punctual attendance; there should be in every Lodge an average attendance the year round, of one half.

### Condition of Masonry.

Following is the report of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Canada on the Condition of Masonry.

"The Board of General Purposes have great pleasure in being able to report that the progress of Masonry in the various Masonic Districts is highly gratifying, and that the order is steadily and surely advancing in prosperity and usefulness. Every care appears to be taken by the District Deputy Grand Masters in recommending the formation of Lodges, and certainly from the few complaints referred to in their reports, the Lodges seem to have taken every reasonable precaution that good and true men only are admitted to the privileges of the Craft.

The various Lodges have been, on the whole, attentively visited, and when it is considered that the District Deputy Grand Masters have to supervise and visit, not only at some loss of time, but at considerable pecuniary expense, the Grand Lodge may congratulate itself that brethren are found who so well conduct the important business entrusted to them and give such general satisfaction. The District Deputy Grand Masters of the Ottawa and Wellington Districts have visited every warranted Lodge in their respective jurisdictions. The other District Deputy Grand Masters report having visited nearly every Lodge.

"No deaths among the present or past Grand Lodge Officers have been reported. Truly an all-wise Providence has dealt mercifully with us.

"Three instances have occurred where Lodges have suffered loss by fire and that loss was, unfortunately, not covered by any insurance. It is hoped that the District Deputy Grand Masters will strenuously urge on the Lodges under their jurisdiction, the great necessity of insuring and keeping insured all Lodge property, and so save the members from pecuniary loss; attention has been before called to this matter, and it would be well if it were at once ascertained whether the different Lodges are properly insured or not, and that those neglecting the precaution should be urged to take the necessary steps to insure.

"Dispensations have been granted by some of the District Deputy Grand Masters for brethren to appear in Masonic clothing at pic-nics. It is a question whether the power of granting Dispensations should be extended to such social gatherings. In the Ottawa District, the brethren have taken steps to purchase a parcel of land in the

public cemetery for the purpose of interring, not only Brethren members of the Lodges, but those worthy Brethren who, strangers in the locality, have died in indigent circumstances. The Board trust that similar praiseworthy efforts will be made in all the Masonic Districts.

"Reports have been received from all the District Deputy Grand Masters.

"The District Deputy Grand Masters report that the Ritual authorized by Grand Lodge is well observed, and the general workings of the Lodges are carried out systematically. The Board consider, on the whole, there is great cause of congratulation that in the reports no impediment to the successful working of our time-honored institution has arisen, but that it steadily advances and that, too, with prudent and well-guarded steps.

"All of which is respectfully submitted,  
"W. H. WELLER.

"President B. of G. P."

### Ottawa Items.

Nothing of absorbing interest has occurred in the Masonic world here since our last issue. There has, however, been the election of officers for the incoming year in Chaudiere, Doric, and Civil Service Lodges, a full and correct list of which we hope to have for our next issue.

St. John's Day will be celebrated by an oyster supper on the second Tuesday in January.

PRESENTATION.—The members of Dalhousie Lodge presented an illuminated address to W. Bro. David Scott, P. M., on the 4th inst., in token of respect for his character as a man and a Mason and their appreciation of his many services rendered to his Lodge, (the Mother Lodge of Ottawa,) for a period of twenty-one years. W. Bro. H. Merrill, W. M., made the presentation.

THE MASONIC HALL.—The heavy rent charge and charge for the use of the furniture made to each Lodge, press heavily upon some of our Lodges in these hard times, when dues are somewhat difficult to collect, and eligible candidates for our mysteries are not forthcoming in sufficient numbers to cope with the necessary outlay; it has therefore been mooted that so soon as the present lease of the Hall expires, some less expensive arrangement should be made. What shape this will take is not yet known. A new hall, built by the fraternity, has been mentioned, whilst the amalgamation of two or more Lodges into one under the present arrangement has been spoken of, in which case, however, the Trustees and Furnishing Committee would be losers.

ILL.—W. Bro. Dewry, P. M. of Prince Consort Lodge, No. 52, Q. R., who is engag-