

to Manitoba, I feel that with two active members of the Supreme Council in that Province, we have justification for the hope that there will be activity in some of the bodies; indeed, I have learned since coming here, that recently the Brethren at Winnipeg have made a fresh start, meetings have been held, officers chosen, and there are hopeful signs of continued activity. But even where there are no members of the highest grade, the Brethren themselves, of whatever grade, should feel that they are the supporters of the principles of the Scottish Rite and the propagators of its teachings. The Supreme Council of England has many fine Chapters of Rose Croix in places abroad where no Inspector-General ever reaches them. Nevertheless, I am fully confident that the conditions in the two Provinces I have named are such as will be greatly benefited by a fulfilment, as soon as possible, of the promises made last year.

As I have said, our financial condition improves—at least I think the report of the Ill. Grand Treasurer-General will so show—and this is the more gratifying inasmuch as we have had some expenses which we will not have to incur again, at all events not for a long time. Our constitutions, printed in excellent style, will last us for some years; we have brought out the Ritual of the 14° in a convenient form, and that will not have to be repeated, and we have obeyed a decision of the Supreme Council to furnish stationery to the members, at perhaps greater cost than the Supreme Council estimated; nevertheless our annual expenses are well within our means, and we may look forward to a steady gain financially. We have every reason to be gratified at the solidity, soundness and effectiveness of our whole organization.

Under these circumstances it would be well, I think, to spend a small amount annually in adding to the works in the library, confining ourselves for the present to books connected with the Rite, and of that class which is yearly growing more difficult to obtain.

It would be well to provide some simple arrangement by which, from year to year, an inventory of our property can be made. The Ill. Treasurer-General submits a brief statement of assets, but something more is needed to keep, as it were, a record of what we own. One year we purchase a banner, another year an article of some other description, and we go on adding to our possessions without ever knowing what we really have on hand or what we have lost or saved. A simple property record, properly checked year by year, just as a careful business house takes stock of its goods, would be a desirable thing.

Opportunity did not come to me to visit the Hamilton Bodies this year during their annual re-union, but I am glad to be able to say that all the arrangements made were well carried out, and the meetings were a great triumph for our Brethren there, both from a social and a Masonic standpoint, and that they were all greatly delighted with their success. These re-unions are the great events of the year in the Rite in Canada, and we are under great obligations to our subordinates in Hamilton for them. Months of preparation culminate in a few days of work, and probably the most careful observer