

exception of Richelieu Lodge, at Sorel), I am happy to say, are in a healthy condition, and prospering, in support of which I submit the following data: Total membership returned for the twenty three Lodges in my District in 1888, 1,175 members, or an aggregate of 51.08 per Lodge; total membership returned for the same Lodges in 1889, is 1,286 members, or an aggregate of 55.9 per Lodge; total membership of Montreal District in 1888, 1,175 members; in 1889, 1,315 members, including the Hemmingford Lodge; which shows a net gain of 140 members added to the District during the year just closed, or an increase of 11.9 per cent.; and I am also pleased to add that Brotherly love and good fellowship continue to be the chief characteristics of the Brethren in my District. In a District so large as that of Montreal, it cannot be expected that all can possibly be smooth sailing. The usual friction incident to a large District does, at times, make itself known. But the good sense and kindly feeling cultivated amongst the Brethren has always prevailed during my term of office, and rendered it unnecessary for me to take any official action of an unpleasant nature.

BENEVOLENCE.

Under this heading, it is gratifying to be able to report that the Brethren of this District take pride in continuing their support to the Montreal Masonic Board of Relief. The Board is in a better condition, financially and numerically, then it has ever been at any time since its organization. That fact is due to the business-like manner in which the members discharge their duty. This Board of Benevolence plays a very important part in Masonry, not only for the District of Montreal, but for the whole Dominion of Canada. Montreal being the chief city of the Dominion, is naturally the first place to attract the attention of visitors, quite a goodly number of whom are Masons; and it is gratifying to learn that the Board, sustained by the Brethren of Montreal, is in receipt of correspondence from those who have been recipients of their kindly care and attention, attributing their whole success in the Dominion to the truly Masonic spirit that actuates the Brethren of this District. I cannot close my report under this heading, without drawing the attention of Grand Lodge to the fact that the best opportunity ever offered during its history, to make it well known all over this