

are the owners of at least two-thirds in value of the contents of the various rooms. And this has been obtained without any niggardliness on our part. We have contributed freely to all the schemes of the Grand Division, and always our fair share, from the day when we paid, on request, our share of the expense of introducing the Order into Halifax in 1848, down to the voluntary contribution of what we believed to be our fair share of the expense attending the jubilee celebration three months ago, and our voluntarily paid share of the expense incurred in preparing the prohibition bill. Our contributions to the Grand Division for years past have exceeded those of any other Division, and have been given not only ungrudgingly, but, as shown, unasked.

Our Division is well equipped for our purposes, and our aim is always to make our meetings attractive to old and young alike. The young are our especial care. We have given our best service to the Band of Hope; we give our most earnest encouragement to all the young who come to us as members; advance new members as speedily as possible to the honors which their years entitle them to, and have in this way in any ten years of the past thirty added to the Grand Division more new members than any two of our sister city Divisions.

These facts are given as facts—not as boasts, and we point to our record with pardonable pride. A record which must be the natural inheritance of a Division with thoughtful, earnest men and women to conduct its business in a business-like manner. A record which can never be obtained by organizations given over to the hair-brained chatter of irresponsible frivolity. And here I wish to make brief reference to the causes of fluctuation in numbers. There is more for men and women in Halifax to do than there was 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 years ago. There are to-day societies, and branches of