

G. S. read his report.

QUEBEC, 8th July, 1863.

To the Grand Division S. of T. of C. E.

G. W. P., Officers and Brothers,

The time has again arrived when it becomes my pleasing duty to present my semi-annual report, and to lay before you a statement of the present condition of the Order in the jurisdiction, and of the transactions of this office during the past six months.

Twenty-six Divisions have reported for the quarter ending March, 1863—eight Divisions known to be still working have not reported,—four for one quarter, and four for two quarters and over. The 26 Divisions reporting, shew a membership of 1012 and the number of Lady Visitors 774. The 8 Divisions not reporting may be set down at a membership of 200, with 150 Lady Visitors, which would make a total of 1212 members, and 934 Lady Visitors for 34 Divisions. Thirty-four Divisions made returns for March quarter, 1862, shewing 1552 members and 1061 Lady Visitors, making a decrease in the number during the past year of 342 members and 127 Lady Visitors. It will be in the recollection of this Grand Division, that about 3 years ago a great addition was made to the members of the Order in this jurisdiction, many new Divisions sprung up and members rapidly increased in the older Divisions, so that in one year our numbers were more than doubled. Now I know from personal observation and from information derived from various sources, that many entered our Divisions during that period from novelty and the excitement of the moment. These having no stability of principle have fallen off—those who remain are really the bone and sinew of the Order—men who have borne the heat and burden of the day and who are resolved to continue steadfast unto the end, so that we have every reason to believe that notwithstanding our numerical decrease, our strength and influence is as great, if not greater than ever.

Trout River Division, No. 25, South Hinchinbrook, sometime since passed a resolution in regular form agreeing to surrender its Charter, but when called upon by the D.G.W.P. to deliver up the Charter and books; the members refused to do so upon the ground, that as they had been paid for by the members of the Division they were their property, and that they would therefore keep them.

Cold Water Spring Division, No. 18, Dunham and Washingtonian Division, No. 57, Sutton, have ceased working for a length of time. It having been stated at last Annual Session that there was a prospect of these Divisions being revived; no steps were taken against them as in default. I have no information whether anything has yet been done to resuscitate these Divisions.

The D.G.W.P. of North Missisquoi Division, No. 63, informs me that the Division has not met for some time, but hopes to revive it in the fall.

Brockville Division, No. 56 has not reported for two quarters and has not paid the per Capita for the two previous quarters.

Since we last met it has been my privilege to attend the Session of the National Division held at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The meeting was pleasant and harmonious. By permission of the Government the National Division held its meetings in the Legislative Council Hall. Seventy-seven delegates were present representing 20 jurisdictions. I cannot sufficiently express my feelings for the kind attention of our Halifax Brothers; nothing was left undone by them to render our visit to their City agreeable.

A few alterations were made to the Constitution, the most important of which was to give the Divisions the right, if they see fit, to re-obligate on reinstatement. The question of allowing Ladies to be members under certain limitations, was brought up on the recommendation of the M.W.P. and discussed,