

During the year some important changes have occurred such as the acquirement of a new Pythian Hall at the beginning of the year, and now occupied by three of the lodges, viz., Mystic, Ivanhoe and Ontario. This was a move in the right direction, as evidenced by the improved interest and average nightly attendance. I may mention that since moving into the new hall Mystic Lodge has purchased the interest of Ivanhoe, and is now sole owner of the properties of the only Pythian Hall in Toronto which, by the way, has not been dedicated yet, and which ceremony I had hoped to have seen performed by yourself.

On the whole, during the last term of your office, you can congratulate yourself, that at least in Toronto, and I trust all over the jurisdiction, Pythianism has made substantial gains.

There is, I think, another great cause for congratulation, and that is the fact that the deficit of the S. L. Reception Committee has been definitely ascertained after a most exhaustive audit, and here let me say that the Order is under great obligation to Messrs. Wallis and Morphy, the auditors, who have devoted so much valuable time in searching out and tracing home some most extortionate charges, thereby saving the Order some hundreds of dollars. In fact, the audit, in place of being an examination of regularly entered accounts with vouchers accessible, was a detective hunt, and the creditable manner in which they have discharged their duties, in my humble opinion, should have some, or at least merits some, substantial recognition at the hands of Grand Lodge. Now that the extent of our obligations are definitely known I trust the Order will loyally and cheerfully contribute to its final liquidation.

There are some facts in this matter to which I deem it my duty to specially call your attention. The membership outside the City of Toronto can have no adequate conception of the labor, anxiety and vexation that has been thrown on the members of the Supreme Lodge Reception Committee, and it is a matter of extreme regret that I have reason to believe that much of this vexation and annoyance has been caused by a member of that Committee who tried to take advantage of his position as legal adviser to make excessive charges. To protect themselves the Committee, in self-defence, was forced to ask the interference of the courts which reduced illegal and extortionate charges (by some hundreds of dollars) to less than one half of the amount this member would evidently have mercilessly inflicted on his Bro. Knights and the Order generally, and this in the face of the fact that his brother members on the Committee were externally worried with difficulties of a trying nature with the outside public. It is past my comprehension how any honest person, let alone one who had taken the obligation of a Knight of Pythias and a former officer of this Grand Lodge, could so far forget himself. In this connection I might say that possibly you may think it proper to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the conduct of one of its members.