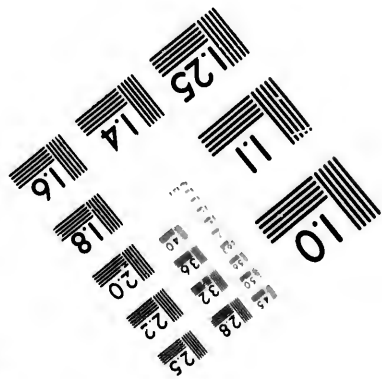
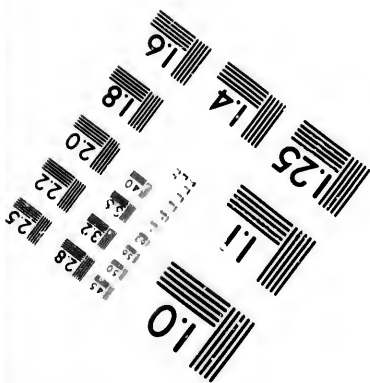
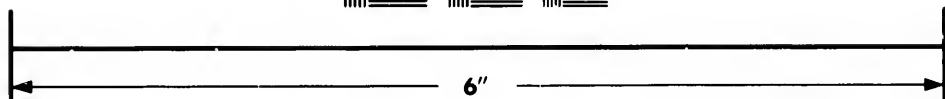
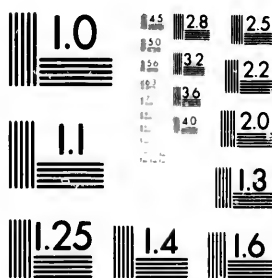


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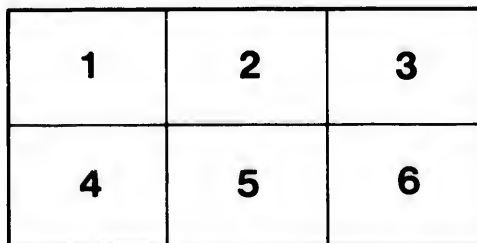
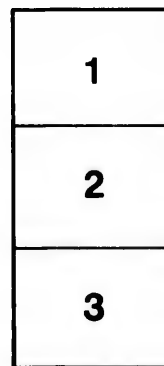
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
R. W. GRAND LODGE,
OF THE
Lower Provinces of British North America,
I. O. O. F.



TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
Held at Annapolis, N. S., August 14th, 15th and 16th, 1877.

HALIFAX:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.
1877.

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NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.



The *Per Capita Tax* for the year 1877-8 will be thirty cents per head, per term, on actual membership December 31st, 1877, and June 30th, 1878:

No supplies will be furnished except on an order signed by the Secretary Noble Grand, under the seal of the Lodge.

The Grand Secretary is prohibited by resolution of the Grand Lodge from issuing supplies of any kind, unless the cash accompanies the order.

When Charge and Degree Books are ordered, the old ones must be returned immediately.

The following rates will be charged for supplies furnished, with postage in addition, when forwarded by mail:—

Ode Cards.....	\$ 0 60	per doz.
Dismissal Certificates.....	4 50	"
Visiting and Withdrawal Cards.....	4 50	"
Diplomas.....	12 00	"
Charge Books.....	3 00	each.
Degree Books.....	3 00	"
Degree Rebekah.....	3 00	"
Digest G. L. U. S.....	3 00	"

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Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

W. Grand Lodge, Lower Provinces, B. N. A.

AT THE

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, 1877.

ANNAPOLIS, N. S.,

Tuesday, August 14th, 1877.

The R. W. Grand Lodge assembled this day in the Lodge Room of Western Star Lodge, No. 16, at 3.30 p. m.

Grand Master ordered the Roll of Lodges to be called, when the following Lodges answered :

Nos. 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 19, 23.

This being a constitutional quorum, the Grand Lodge was opened in due form, prayer being offered by the W. Grand Chaplain.

Officers present :

ROBERT HOCKIN,	M. W. Grand Master.
W. W. STUMBLES, Jr.,	R. W. Dep. Grand Master.
HARRIS VANBLARCOM,	R. W. Grand Warden.
J. C. P. FRAZEE,	R. W. Grand Secretary.
HENRY A. TAYLOR,	R. W. Grand Treasurer.
THOS. ROBERTSON,	R. W. Grand Representative.
W. A. MOORE,	W. Grand Chaplain.
JOHN PRINGLE,	W. Grand Conductor.
TWEO. L. CHAPPELLE,	W. Grand Herald.

Grand Master appointed Representative Wm. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8, Grand Marshall, *pro. tem.*, and Representative Peter Campbell, of No. 6, Grand Guardian, *pro. tem.*

Grand Master appointed Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10, D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, and Thos. Robertson, G. Representative on Committee on Credentials.

Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10, from the Committee on Credentials, presented the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces B. N. A. :

Your Committee on Credentials beg to report the credentials of the following Representatives correct :—

Eastern Star, No. 2.—K. J. McKenzie, Dan. Sutherland.

Fuller, No. 5.—John Douglas,

Norton, No. 6.—Peter Campbell, Peter McG. Chisholm, Robert McConnell, Daniel McDermid.

St. Lawrence, No. 8.—Wm. C. DesBrisay, Theo. L. Chappelle, S. R. Kaulbeck.

Pioneer, No. 9.—Gilbert Murdoch, John E. Hughes, Jos. Wilson, Edw'd Willis, Alex. Rankine, Fred'k L. Hea, Thos. M. Patton, Andre Cushing.

Orient, No. 10.—Wm. Banister, Theo. A. Cossman, Frank Graham.

Scotia, No. 11.—D. B. Graham.

Victoria, No. 13.—Jas. H. Ellis, Jas. Fowler, Nelson A. Cliff.

Eureka, No. 15.—Alex. McKay, Wm. Conway, Wm. Hall, David Bigney, John Murray.

Western Star, No. 16.—Benajah Tedford, James E. Crowe, Jos. Edwards, Jno. B. Wilson, Harris VanBlarcom, Eben. M. Anderson.

Moore, No. 17.—Thos. Turnbull.

Mystic, No. 18.—A. W. Little, H. W. Barnes, Jas. R. Macdonald, C. R. Thompson.

Peerless, No. 19.—W. A. Moore.

Evangeline, No. 20.—Wm. Grierson, L. D'V. Chipman, D. D. Davidson.

Guiding Star, No. 21.—J. H. Crosscup, J. B. Messinger, W. M. Weatherspoon, Edwin Buckley.

Prince Edward, No. 22.—E. J. Wright, A. A. McLennan.

Mystic Tie, No. 23.—W. E. Oxley.

Mizpah, No. 24.—Suther A. Spencer, Jas. Wilson.

Crystal Wave, No. 25.—Henry Smith, E. A. Bent, E. A. Elliott.

Prince Albert, No. 26.—A. S. Foster, J. W. Barry.

Siloam, No. 29.—James McClure, Wm. M. McLean.

Union, No. 30.—Robert McLean.

FRANK GRAHAM,
D. B. STEWART,
THOS. ROBERTSON.

Moved by W. W. Stumbles, Jr., D. G. M., seconded by Representative N. A. Cliff of No. 13, that the report of the Committee be received, and that the accredited representatives in the ante-room be admitted and receive the Grand Lodge Degree. Motion passed.

The following representatives, being in waiting, were introduced by the Grand Marshall, and duly instructed by the R. W. Grand Warden :

K. J. McKenzie, Dan. Sutherland, No. 2 ; S. R. Kaulbeck, No. 8 ; Fred'k L. Hea, No. 9 ; William Banister, Theo. A. Cossman, No. 10 ; D. B. Graham, No. 11 ; James H. Ellis, No. 13 ; Wm. Conway, No. 15 ; Benajah Tedford, James E. Crowe, Joseph Edwards, John B. Wilson, Eben. M. Anderson, No. 16 ; A. W. Little, Jas. R. Macdonald, No. 18 ; J. H. Crosscup, J. B. Messenger, W. M. Weatherspoon, Edwin Buckley, No. 21 ; A. A. McLennan, No. 22 ; W. E. Oxley, No. 23 ; Henry Smith, E. A. Bent, No. 25 ; A. S. Foster, J. W. Barry, No. 26 ; Wm. M. McLean, No. 29 ; Rob't McLean, No. 30.

Grand Master filled places of absentees and announced Committees for session as follows :

Finance.—Gilbert Murdoch, of No. 9, Frank Graham, of No. 10, D. Sutherland, of No. 2, Wm. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8, J. R. Macdonald, of No. 18.

Credentials.—Frank Graham, of No. 10, D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, Thos. Robertson, Grand Representative.

Returns.—W. A. Moore, G. Chap., D. D. Davidson, of No. 20, Peter Campbell, of No. 6.

Laws of Subordinates.—Jno. E. Hughes, of No. 9, R. R. Barnes, P. M. G., of No. 12, Jos. Wilson, of No. 9.

Petitions.—Jno. Pringle, G. Cond., Jas. Mitchell, P. G. M., of No. 5, Theo. L. Chappelle, G. Herald.

Appeals.—Jas. H. Ellis, of No. 13, Theo. A. Cossman, of No. 10, T. Robertson, G. Rep., Fred'k L. Hea, of No. 9, Caleb Schurman, of No. 22.

Correspondence.—W. W. Stumbles, Jr., D. G. M., H. Van-Blarcom, G. W., N. A. Cliff, of No. 13.

Stute of the Order.—D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, K. J. McKenzie, of No. 2, A. W. Little, of No. 18.

Legislation.—H. A. Taylor, P. G. M., Hugh McKelvie, of No. 5, Sylvanus Keith, of No. 8.

Robert Hockin, Grand Master, then rose and presented his Annual Report as follows :—

REPORT OF THE M. W. GRAND MASTER.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

REPRESENTATIVES,—By the good providence of God we are assembled in this the Twenty-second Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge,—assembled upon the spot where in the forest primeval was first heard the clangor of warfare, and where, in the early history of our Province, were witnessed scenes, never to be forgotten, which told of man's inhumanity to man.

To-day we are assembled to promulgate the lessons of Friendship, Love and Truth. We meet for mutual counsel, the relief of distress, and the elevation of human character. And while we are reminded what the heart of man can devise when carried away by sensuality and passion, let us, in our intercourse, do what lays in our power to soothe the asperities of life, and lay broad and deep the foundation of Brotherly Love.

In accordance with custom, I present a resume of such matters as have come under my own immediate attention since I last addressed you, and which is now fraternally submitted for your approval and confirmation.

Warrants have been issued constituting three new Lodges, viz. : Caledonia, No. 28, situate at Hopewell, Pictou County, N. S. ; Siloam, No. 29, at St. John, N. B. ; and Union, No. 30, at Springville, Pictou Co., N. S.

With the assistance of Past Grand Master Mitchell, as also the Grand Conductor, together with members of Fuller and Norton Lodges, I instituted Caledonia Lodge at Hopewell.

Since their institution they have given the best evidence of their intentions in the rapidity with which they have increased in membership, and the efficiency with which their work is done.

Siloam Lodge, St. John, was instituted by D. D. G. M. Murdoch, who makes special mention of this in his report.

Past Grand Master Mitchell instituted Union Lodge, and I doubt not will report.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions have been given, some of which may only be a statement of existing law—still, as they are cases where perhaps there may be some difference of opinion as to what existing law is, I have thought it better to report them.

1. A Dispensation issued by a Grand Master, constituting a subordinate Lodge, being only a provisional instrument, is of no force or effect after a charter has been issued, nor could it be recognized as valid after the first session of the Grand Lodge subsequent to its issue.

2. A mere clerical error, such as the substitution of a wrong name in the body of a charter, regularly issued by a Grand Lodge, is not sufficient to vitiate that instrument.

3. During the absence of the N. G. the V. G. takes his position, but if a vacancy occur by resignation or otherwise, the office ought to be filled by election.

4. In the event of a vacancy, a sitting V. G. who is not a Past V. G. is not eligible for election to the office of N. G., unless all others qualified refuse to act.

5. When neither expulsion nor suspension have been determined upon as a penalty, under Sec. 6, Art. VIII, Constitution of Subordinates, then it remains for a Lodge to decide whether the penalty shall be "reprimand or fine," and it has no option but to inflict one of these penalties.

6. If a brother's illness is such as does not prevent him from earning a livelihood, he is not entitled to benefits.

7. It is illegal and improper for a Lodge to appoint a committee to investigate street rumours respecting a brother. Members of the Order ought not to be harassed with indirect charges; and it is in the spirit of the Constitution that there should be a person responsible for a libel against a brother.

8. A charge was brought against a member of a Lodge, which was decided by the Lodge in his favor; but an appeal was taken to this Grand Lodge. Subsequently the member was elected N. G. of his Lodge. Objection was taken to his installation because he was under charges.

I decided that there was nothing in the foregoing case to prevent the member from being duly installed as N. G.

VISITATIONS.

Believing that it was the intention of this Grand Lodge that the policy of this office should for the present be a conserving of the funds, and further, as most Lodges in the jurisdiction had lately been visited by the incumbent of this chair, I have not thought it necessary to make any extensive visitation.

It was my good fortune to be in St. John city during the past winter. I took advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the Lodges, among them Peerless Lodge,—to which more than a passing tribute ought to be paid; the completeness of their outfit—the elegance of their Lodge room—the character of the meeting at which I was present, are evidences to me that Peerless takes rank among the first Lodges in the jurisdiction.

Of Beacon Lodge—its character is already too well known to require a word from me. Even had not later circumstances created a new era in its history, which makes it unnecessary to speak of its past.

These, with Eastern Star Lodge, which, by-the-by, continues to be one of the star Lodges of the Order, are the only Lodges which I have had the good fortune to visit; but as each district is under the supervision of an able and efficient D. D. Grand Master, the want of these visitations will, I trust, not be felt.

DISPENSATIONS--GENERAL

Most of the cases for which a Dispensation is required come within the control of D. D. G. Masters, consequently I have not been requested to issue more than one Dispensation, viz., to Eastern Star Lodge, to confer Degrees upon Jas. Gerdon and J. Gould in less time than required by law.

I refused to grant to another Lodge a Dispensation to elect as Secretary a Brother who had not attained the scarlet Degree.

We have experienced during the past year, what, happily, is in this jurisdiction, a new sensation, viz.: the surrender of their charters by two of our Subordinate Lodges. The first to succumb—Excelsior, of Dartmouth—I cannot help believing, received its death blow at the hands of this Grand Lodge, when it decided that residents of Dartmouth could be initiated in Halifax—the greater strength and consequently better position of the city Lodges presenting a stronger attraction than the weaker town Lodge. The other—Widows' Hope—has been known to be in a declining state, and the executive were authorized at last Session to consider the propriety of its surrendering the Charter.

Excelsior Lodge resigned its Charter to Bro. Thos. Robertson, D. D. G. M., who reports thereon. I took charge of the property of Widows' Hope, and issued a Commission to James E. Geldert, P. G., authorizing him to collect certain amounts due to the Lodge, and to pay a claim for rent of Hall, to take charge of the personal property and take such steps as might be necessary to secure and protect the same.

The question of incorporating this Grand Lodge is yearly becoming one of more importance. In other jurisdictions Grand Lodges are incorporated in such a way as admits Subordinate Lodges to all privileges of incorporation by simply registering their names with the Grand Secretary. If, under the Dominion, such a system could be procured, it would serve as an economical and convenient method for our Subordinate Lodges.

I would suggest a Committee to bring this matter before such Subordinate Lodges as would wish to be incorporated, and who might contribute towards the cost of the same.

At the last Session it was decided to procure a new form of Returns. The Executive have adopted and issued for the past year one which is hoped will meet the requirements of the Grand Lodge.

Forms of Dispensations for the use of D. D. Grand Masters, with a convenient method of recording purpose of issue have also been procured, at a little expense, it is true; but it is expected that this system will lead to a greater revenue from Dispensations than heretofore.

The Grand Lodge of the United States, although claiming the right to issue all cards required for the Order, has left it with Grand Lodge jurisdictions to adopt such form of card for members of defunct Lodges as they see fit. It became necessary to supply this want, and a form was accordingly adopted, and the price charged for these the same as regular withdrawal cards.

By some inadvertence or misunderstanding of the usage of the Order a late Grand Secretary issued ode cards printed for the Grand Lodge in Halifax.

I received a circular from the Grand Sire, in which attention is called to the practice by many Grand Jurisdictions of issuing ode cards, and calling upon such to comply with the requirements of the G. L. U. S. Accordingly a number of odes were procured and substituted for those issued, and a circular addressed to the several D. D. G. M's and Secretaries of Lodges requiring them to comply with the law.

Last Session a resolution was passed requiring the Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer to give bonds in the Canada Guarantee Company. Application was made to the Company, but they refused to accept, giving as reason that they object to giving guarantees where the office is an honorary one.

At the Session previous to the last a Committee was appointed to get up the necessary Constitution, &c., for Degree Lodges. They have failed to report, and as applications have been made with a view to establishing Degree Lodges I would suggest the appointment of a new Committee to carry out that object.

I received in June last the resignation of Bro. Thos. Robertson, as D. D. G. M. of Halifax, in consequence of his removal from that city. As it was near the end of the year I did not think it necessary to appoint a D. D. G. M. for so short a period. The officers of the Halifax Lodges were duly installed by Past Grand Master H. A. Taylor.

In reviewing the progress of the Order during the past year, it is a matter of congratulation that although it has not been a year of uninterrupted progress, still material prosperity has been ours. We have to regret a large increase in the number dropped for non-payment of dues, consequent upon the depression in the commercial world. And while upon this subject, I desire to mention a probable cause for this increase, and trust a remedy may be found. Under our present system, if a member allows his dues to accumulate, it seldom happens that any effort is made upon the part of Secretaries to collect the same—the amount is allowed to grow until it becomes irksome, and the member concludes to let it remain, while if a little effort was made from time to time when the amounts were small, his good standing would be maintained, and thus prevent a large falling off of membership, mainly because of carelessness upon the part of members themselves.

But while we have to regret this loss, it is insignificant as compared with the disaster which has befallen the Jurisdiction through the late St. John fire. It will be admitted, I think, that the flickering light of Odd-fellowship which existed previous to the organization of Pioneer and Beacon Lodges, was mainly through and because of these Lodges—fanned into a flame; and we are here to-day, representatives from the East and West, North and South, as a result largely flowing from the labors, and from the position which the Order assumed by being endorsed by the city of St. John, now in ashes. It is true that to the Order in the Jurisdiction the disaster is not an unmingled evil. It has shown that it is not in the sunshine of prosperity that the excellent qualities of the Order are discovered, but in the midnight of adversity when all is gloom that there arises above the horizon of our despondency a ministering light.

The immediate and voluntary effort upon the part of our Lodges, and the generous assistance from other Grand Jurisdictions speak, in unmistakable tones, that it is not as a pleasant tale to please the imagination that its members receive the teachings of Odd fellowship.

And now, Representatives, permit me in conclusion to remind you that you are charged with the authority to legislate for an organization which is fast numbering its thousands,—that it devolves upon you to adjudicate upon controversies and alleged grievances which are inseparable from a large membership,—that it is your prerogative to elect for the ensuing year the chief excellencies in the Jurisdiction. It is obvious, therefore, and perfectly natural, that your proceedings should be looked upon with interest, and that your deliberations should challenge the closest scrutiny and attention.

Let us, therefore, approach these duties with a proper estimate of the gravity and impressiveness of our responsibility, (and with pure hearts and clean hands must we come to such offices,) so that from this perennial fountain may flow a wise and faithful administration, which may result in perpetuating that profound and abiding love and veneration which we cherish for our Order, and which may build up, year by year, that confidence in its impartiality and respect for its judgment, so inseparable from an agreeable and efficient administering of the affairs of the Jurisdiction.

I have to thank you for the renewed expression of confidence in electing me a second time to this position. I beg to return my sincere thanks to the Grand Lodge for the marked courtesy and kindness which has generally been extended to me by its members since my occupancy of this chair. And while I regret that the policy I have alluded to has not permitted actual zeal, while I am aware that there are many things which I could have wished it was within my power to attend to more promptly than has been done, I yet have the self-assurance that where such has been the case, or wherein I have erred in judgment, it has not been from want of earnest love for the Order.

May God speed the great work we have in hand, and may our efforts at this and every succeeding Grand Lodge redound to His glory and the happiness of mankind.

ROBT HOCKIN, *Grand Master.*

The following Reports of D. D. Grand Masters were not read, but submitted with the Grand Master's Report:—

REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF EGERTON.

STELLARTON, *August 7th, 1877.*

To the Most Worthy Grand Master of the R. W. G. Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A.:

MOST WORTHY SIR AND BROTHER,—Having been honored by you with the appointment of District Deputy Grand Master for the District of Egerton, I herewith, in accordance with the requirements of the R. W. Grand Lodge, submit a report of my official duties during that term, which I trust will meet with your approval. My official acts during the year have been as follows:

INSTALLATIONS.

Fuller Lodge, No. 5, Stellarton.—Jan. 5, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers. July 6, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers. This Lodge still stands high in point of numbers, although it numbers less than last year, as the return will show a number of members dropped for non-payment of dues. The attendance is good, and the officers and members take an interest in the work.

Norton Lodge, No. 6, New Glasgow.—Jan. 8th, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers. July 2, I also visited the Lodge for the purpose of installation, but an objection being made that the N. G. elect, was not eligible to fill the N. G.'s chair, on account of an appeal from the decision of the Lodge in which he was the interested party, such appeal being in the hands of the G. Master, and not decided, and as I did not consider the objection to come under the rule laid down in the Charge Book (which

orders the installing officer to hold a new election), I decided to postpone the installation till next meeting, to give time to decide and have your opinion on the subject, which agrees with my own opinion that there was nothing in the point raised, and I decided to install the N. G. elect. July 9, I again visited Norion Lodge, No. 6, and installed the officers. The Lodge seems to me to be at a standstill, as they have had no initiation the last term, and a number of the members have been dropped for non payment of dues, the number is therefore below last year; and I am sorry to report that the Lodge is not working as harmoniously as it should be, as appears by the spirit shown by the members to each other during my last visit among them; but I hope that when the appeals now pending are settled, Norion Lodge will work as harmoniously as in the past.

Scotia Lodge, No. 11, Westville.—Jan. 4, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers. July 5, I also visited the Lodge and installed the officers. This Lodge has also fallen in point of numbers, as with the other Lodge, by dropping members. The attendance is usually good, although on my first visit, it was hard to fill the offices for want of members, but they informed me there was a public meeting which a number of the members had to attend; but on my last visit the attendance was good, and the officers installed seemed to have the work of the Lodge at heart.

Moore Lodge, No. 17, Vale Colliery.—Jan. 9, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers. July 5, I also visited the Lodge and installed the officers. This Lodge although small in numbers seems to take a deep interest in the work, as on both my visits the members all appeared interested as showed in the promptitude with which all the offices were filled.

Caledonia Lodge, No. 28, Springville.—July 4, I visited the Lodge and installed the officers.

Union Lodge, No. 30, Hopewell.—July 4, I visited this Lodge the same evening as Caledonia Lodge, and installed the officers; as both Lodges meet on the same evening, and had made previous arrangement about the hour of meeting. The two last-named Lodges, as you are aware are new Lodges, and this was the first installation. The officers of both Lodges seem to have done the work well, and the new officers installed appeared to be well posted in the work. I have paid them two visits each since the organization, and gave them all the information and instruction they required.

In all my visits for installation, instruction, &c., I have been ably assisted by P. G. Hugh McElvie, of Fuller Lodge.

NEW LODGE.

In October last, having received a Dispensation to open a new Lodge in Springville in this District, and previous arrangements having been made therefor, in compliance with, and by the authority delegated to me by your Dispensation, I proceeded to Springville on the 17th October, accompanied by qualified P. Grands from Fuller and Moore Lodges. I opened and constituted a Lodge under the name and title of Union Lodge, No. 30, and regularly installed the following officers, viz.: Robert McLean, N. G.; William McGilvray, V. G.; Robert A. McIntosh, Secretary; Joseph Grant, Treasurer; David McLean, Warden. And it having been previously arranged by the Charter members to secure and initiate some candidates, and as it is usual on such occasions to grant Dispensations for the purpose. I granted their request, and received and initiated eight candidates. There were also two Brothers admitted by card. You will see that Union Lodge starts with sixteen members, and with fair prospects of adding to the number, and I have good hope that the Lodge is in good hands, and has every prospect of success.

DISPENSATIONS.

October 22, 1876, granted a Dispensation to Scotia Lodge, No. 11, to confer Degrees on Bro. Norman Beaton.

February 19, 1877, granted a Dispensation to Norton Lodge, New Glasgow to have an entertainment for some Pietou Brothers on a fraternal visit.

March 19, 1877, granted a Dispensation to Union Lodge, No. 30, to confer Degrees on Brothers Daniel McDonald and Alexander Duff.

April 24, 1877, Granted a Dispensation to Scotia Lodge, No. 11, to walk in Regalia on the 26th inst.

April 24, 1877, granted a Dispensation to Fuller Lodge for same purpose.

June 11, 1877, granted Dispensation to Moore Lodge to confer the five Degrees on John D. McDonald.

June 27, 1877, granted Dispensation to Moore Lodge to hold a picnic.

June 23, granted a Dispensation to Fuller Lodge, No. 5, to receive the application of Bro. James Burrows, who held a withdrawal card from Widows' Hope Lodge, and ballot and admit him the same evening, as he was to leave the Province before next meeting,—the granting of this Dispensation being in my opinion for the advancement and welfare of the Order.

In conformity to the circular received from you to visit the Lodges in this District, and bring to their notice the illegality of using ode cards, &c., that had not the imprint of the G. Lodge of the United States on them, I attended to this duty on my visit of Installation, and found that Fuller was the only Lodge that had cards with the imprint of the G. Lodge of the United States; Scotia Lodge had a few legal and a number of illegal cards. I collected them all and sent an account of them to the G. Secretary. The cards I have in my possession, and will deliver them to the G. Secretary when I go to the G. Lodge.

During the past year Odd Fellowship has not increased in this District as in previous years, as will be seen by the Grand Secretary's report, although two new Lodges have been formed. The number of members has rather decreased. The principal reason for this is the dull times caused by the great depression of trade, and principally the coal trade (which is the main business of the District) causing a great number of members to be dropped for non-payment of dues, as will be seen by the reports.

Any appeals I have received were handed over to you for your decision.

In conclusion I have to thank you for your uniform kindness in promptly answering all inquiries on all occasions; also the R. W. G. Secretary in answering all communications that I had to write; also to the officers and members of the different Lodges in this District, for the courtesy shewn me on all occasions, and the past officers of the different Lodges for their kindness and willingness at all times to assist me at installations. With heartfelt wishes for the continued prosperity of our Order throughout this Jurisdiction.

I have the honor to be,

Most Worthy Sir and Brother,

Yours in F. L. & T.,

JAMES MITCHELL,

D. D. G. Master, District Egerton.

REPORT OF THE D. D. G. MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF CHARLOTTETOWN.CHARLOTTETOWN, *August 8th, 1877.**Robert Hockin, Esq., M. W. Grand Master, I. O. O. F., L. P. B. N. A.:*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As the Grand Lodge will meet on the 14th of the present month it is my duty to give you a report of my official acts during the last term.

January 8th, 1877, I attended St. Lawrence Lodge, and installed the officers elect and the appointed officers. The same evening I visited Wildey Lodge and installed the officers of that Lodge. An increased interest in Odd-fellowship was manifest from the large attendance of members at both Lodges. During the term I was not called to give any decisions other than to answer a few questions which were put to me in open Lodge, and were answered orally.

DISPENSATIONS.

March 1st, I granted a Dispensation to St. Lawrence Lodge to wear Regalia at the funeral of deceased Bro. W. A. Archibald of Wildey Lodge. At the same date I granted a Dispensation to Wildey Lodge to wear Regalia at the same funeral.

July 2nd, 1877. The officers of St. Lawrence Lodge were installed by me. This being Dominion Day and a public holiday, the attendance was not so large as usual, a number of members being away from the city. I found on examination of the books and reports that the Lodge is in a healthy state, and although quite a number of members had been dropped during the term for non-payment of dues, yet the Lodge seemed to rest on a more solid basis, and more energy was displayed by the various standing committees of the term than had been evinced for some time past.

Friday, July 6th, installation of the officers of Wildey Lodge took place. There was a fair attendance of members. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were made out in a thorough, clear, business-like manner, and showed the Lodge to be in a prosperous state. The returns to the Grand Lodge were made out and handed to me to be forwarded to the Grand Sec'y.

I have much pleasure in stating that Odd-fellowship is taking deeper root in Charlottetown, and is destined soon to outstrip kindred institutions in this place in its onward march.

Yours respectfully,

W. W. STUMBLES, JR., *D. D. G. M.***REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF HALIFAX.**BARRINGTON, SHELBURNE Co., *May 1st, 1877.**Robt. Hockin, Esq., Grand Master of Grand Lodge, L. P. B. N. A., I. O. O. F.:*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I beg to tender my resignation of the office of D. D. Grand Master for the District of Halifax. My report of official work during my term of office will be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for transmission to you.

I am, yours fraternally,

THOS. ROBERTSON,

D. D. G. M., District Halifax.

BARRINGTON, SHELBURNE Co., *May 1st, 1877.*

*Robert Hockin, Esq., M. W. G. Master, R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F.,
I. O. O. F.:*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—On my retirement from the office of Deputy Grand Master for Halifax District, rendered necessary by my removal from Halifax to the western part of the Province, permit me to submit a brief report upon my official work during my term of office.

Since our last Annual Session the members of Excelsior Lodge of Dartmouth have surrendered their Charter, but a number of the members of that Lodge have retained their connection with the Order by joining one or other of the City Lodges. My special report upon this matter will furnish you with every information at my command.

I have granted the following Dispensations:

Jan. 31st, 1877, to Orient Lodge, No. 10, permitting them to elect a Scarlet Member to the N. G's chair.

Feb. 23rd, 1877, to same Lodge permitting them to receive petition from John M. Stodd, ballot on, and if elected to initiate on the same night of meeting.

April 25th, 1877, a joint Dispensation to Orient and Mystic Lodges, permitting them to use the name of the Order in connection with their Conversazione on the 26th April, 1877.

During the month of January I installed the officers of Mystic and Orient Lodges.

From the above report of my work you will see that the duties devolving upon me in this position have not been onerous, and I deeply regret that circumstances have compelled me to sever myself from active connection with the Halifax Lodges. I am pleased to report a continued interest in the working of our Order among the Lodges under my control, and also a small increase in membership. Permit me to return my sincere thanks to yourself and other Grand Lodge officers for the kindness received at your hands.

I am, yours fraternally,

THOS. ROBERTSON,

D. D. G. M. District Halifax.

REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF FREDERICTON.

FREDERICTON, N. B., *July 16th, 1877.*

*To Robert Hockin, Esq., M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F.
of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A.:*

MOST WORTHY SIR AND BROTHER,—I am deeply sensible of the honor conferred upon me by appointing me your Deputy for the District of Fredericton, and although my District embraces but one Lodge, still it affords me great satisfaction to submit a report of my official acts during the past year.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

During the year four Dispensations have been granted viz.:

August 3, 1876. Dispensation to Victoria Lodge, No. 13, to adjourn regular meeting of 9th August for the purpose of holding a moonlight excursion on the River St. John, in honor of the Grand Lodge.

December 12. Dispensation to Victoria Lodge, No. 13, to hold a literary and musical entertainment.

January 26, 1877. Dispensation to Victoria Lodge, No. 13, to hold a second literary and musical entertainment.

March 17. Dispensation to Victoria Lodge, No. 13 for a public lecture by a distinguished Brother in the City Hall. In the latter case permission was asked for members of the Order to be allowed to appear in Regalia. I declined to give this permission, believing, as I did, that it would not be for the "good and welfare of the Order." I beg to ask your confirmation of these Dispensations.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

On the 3rd January I installed the officers of Victoria Lodge, being ably assisted by a number of the Brethren, and on the 4th July instant, I again visited the Lodge for the purpose of installing the officers for the current term, but owing to the returns, &c., being in an unsatisfactory condition, I declined doing so. On the following Wednesday evening (July 11th), I again visited the Lodge, and the books, papers and returns being in a satisfactory state, I installed the officers in regular form, having the assistance of Past Grands Estey, Fowler and others.

During the past year the Order in Fredericton has taken rapid strides and has further developed the popularity and efficiency of our Institution. Members have been relieved without feeling that they were accepting a charity, and one Brother connected with Victoria Lodge has felt the benign influence in the far off clime of California, a stranger in a strange land, he was prostrated by sickness, without means, and, as he thought, without a friend within thousands of miles. He at last bethought him of the card he had taken the precaution to procure before leaving home; this he forwarded to the Relief Committee of San Francisco, and it met with a prompt and cheerful response, his wants were immediately relieved, and every care and attention bestowed upon him, until he was again restored to health. The amount advanced was immediately refunded by Victoria Lodge. I mention this circumstance to show our Brethren the practical and beneficial results of a membership in our beloved Order. It is thus that we see fully demonstrated that this Order knows no nationality but our common brotherhood, five hundred thousand strong, reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from frozen North to sunny South, and to all nations, tribes and kindreds.

I have made several official visits to the Lodge in my jurisdiction during the past year. The attendance has been above the average. The office of N. G. of Victoria Lodge has been most acceptably filled during the past two years, by Brothers who took pride in having the work correctly done, and well done, and indeed I may say as much for all the officers. I have on more than one occasion witnessed with much satisfaction the correct manner in which the work has been performed. The Sitting N. G. will, I feel confident, conduct the affairs of the Lodge with satisfaction to his Brethren and honor to the Order.

An effort was being put forth to establish branches of our Order in the towns of St. Stephen and Woodstock; but the recent fires in both these places will preclude the possibility of extending our Order in that direction for some short time at least.

The late visitation of God's Providence whereby two-thirds of the City of St. John was reduced to ashes, stirred the hearts of the Brethren of this District and a spontaneous burst of sympathy went forth to our distressed

Brothers. The true principles of our Order were never more apparent than on that occasion, and formed a still stronger link in the bonds of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

Before another year passes Victoria Lodge will, it is hoped, be in possession of suitable and permanent rooms wherein to hold its meetings, having entered into an agreement with parties now erecting a very handsome brick building for the furnishing therein of hall and anti-rooms.

This Jurisdiction has not been called upon to mourn the loss of any of its members by death during the past year, which they acknowledged with grateful hearts.

I have not been called upon for decisions upon any subject during the past year.

The Returns and Per-capita Tax, together with Fees for Dispensations, have been forwarded to the R. W. Grand Secretary.

In resigning my trust into your hands I must crave your indulgence for any acts of omission or commission not strictly in accord with my duties.

And have the honor to be,

Most Worthy Sir and Brother,

Yours in F. L. & T.,

JOHN RICHARDS, *D. D. G. M.*

REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLCHESTER AND CUMBERLAND.

OXFORD, *August 11th, 1877.*

R. Hockin, Esq., G. Master:

RESPECTED SIR AND BROTHER,—As your Deputy, it becomes my privilege and duty to report to you the progress and prospects of the Order in this District, and, in doing so, I can express my deep regret that I have not been as prompt and active in the service as the circumstances required. Shortly after my appointment the misfortune of *fire* (which has visited so many of our brethren during the past year) visited me, and caused such a close and almost exclusive attention to personal business, that I was forced to neglect duties which the interests of the Order imperatively demanded.

For a list of Dispensations granted, see *Dispensation Form Book*.

During the year I have visited all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction, with the exception of

EUREKA,

Whose worthy veterans in the Order are much more capable of giving than receiving instruction from an Old Fellow as young as your humble Deputy. I have the pleasure of frequently meeting the brethren, and can assure you Eureka retains all its former prestige and interest.

WIDOWS' HOPE

Having surrendered, is no more. I trust that sufficient harmonious material may soon be gathered to secure a new Charter, and indulge a more permanent "hope."

MYSTIC TIE

Is not increasing rapidly in membership, but the interest of its tried and true members is only awakening, and augurs well for the future.

MIZPAH

Has done well this year. Its location renders the membership more transitory than perhaps any other Lodge in the Jurisdiction. The officers and members are, however, vigilant, and guard sacredly the interests of the Order, preferring a small membership with love and harmony to bartering the interests of our cause for members and funds. Their example might be profitably followed by other Lodges. Quite a number of the members are at present in Newfoundland, and may yet introduce our Order there.

CRYSTAL WAVE

Though the smallest in numbers is second to none in the interest manifested. From impressions formed during a late visit, I believe it to be composed of material who will toil as unceasingly in the interests of Odd Fellowship, as the *crystal waves* lash the shore near its location.

Fraternally submitted,

DOUGLAS B. STUART, D. D. G. M.

REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF KING'S.

KENTVILLE, August 6th, 1877.

R. Hockin, Esq., M. W. G. Master, R. W. Grand Lodge of the L. P. B. N. A of the I. O. O. F.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As I have only Evangeline Lodge in my Jurisdiction, I have but little to report. I installed the officers in January and July terms; I granted one Dispensation to Evangeline Lodge to confer the first two degrees on brother F. B. Webster, in less than the time laid down for conferring the degrees, as he was about leaving here for the United States. Evangeline Lodge is progressing as well as can be expected, although the average attendance is smaller than I could wish. The Lodge is now out of debt, the books are kept in good order, and the future outlook is hopeful. In Wolfville a few persons made overtures to me about starting a Lodge in that town, and I expect an application will be made to Grand Lodge at the coming sitting for a Charter. Berwick Village is also making a move. Canning is also making a stir in the same direction. I hope in the course of next year to see Lodges in all those places.

Respectfully submitted in F. L. & T.,

D. D. DAVIDSON,

D. D. G. Master for District of King's.

REPORT OF THE D. D. GRAND MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF SUMMERSIDE.

SUMMERSIDE, July 9th, 1877.

To the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. of the L. P. of B. N. A.:

MOST WORTHY SIR AND BROTHER,—I herewith submit my report as D. D. G. M.

January 5th.—Installed the officers of Prince Edward Lodge.

March 1st.—Granted Dispensation to Prince Edward Lodge for its members to appear in Regalia at the funeral of late Brother Archibald of Wildey Lodge, No. 27.

April 18th.—Granted Dispensation to Prince Edward Lodge for its members to appear in Regalia at Natal Day celebration.

July 5th.—Installed the officers of Prince Edward Lodge. I granted the above Dispensations conceiving it to be for the benefit of the Order to do so. Prince Edward is the only Lodge in my Jurisdiction, it maintains a healthy increase in membership, and its members take a great interest in the Order, as evidenced by the large number of Degrees conferred. The Lodge, in its working, adheres strictly to the Constitution, laws and usages of the Order. All the officers having their respective parts of the work committed to memory. The average attendance of members is thirty-five. The regular half-yearly returns and Grand Lodge dues have been received and forwarded to the Grand Lodge.

Yours in F. L. & T.,

CALEB SCHURMAN, D. D. G. M.

The Grand Secretary presented his Annual Report as follows:—

REPORT OF E. W. GRAND SECRETARY.

M. W. Grand Master, Officers and Representatives:

It has become my duty to lay before you my first Report of the transactions of the office of Grand Secretary, and a summary of the information sent to that office during the past year. The Grand Lodge having decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee last year, to make the financial year close on July 31st, this report covers the period from August 9th, 1876 to July 31st, 1877.

In accordance with a vote of the Grand Lodge at last meeting recorded on page 27 of the report, I returned the reports of the following Lodges for correction, viz.: Eastern Star, No. 2, Widows' Hope, No. 7, St. Lawrence, No. 8, Scotia, No. 11, Beacon, No. 12, Excelsior, No. 14, Western Star, No. 16, and Crystal Wave, No. 25. Of these Eastern Star, Scotia, Excelsior, and Crystal Wave responded to my request and sent back their reports corrected, or partly so. The others, viz.: Norton, Widows' Hope, St. Lawrence, Beacon, and Western Star, never answered my letters, and have not yet sent back the reports, although repeatedly requested to do so.

The Grand Lodge having adopted the Report of the Committee on the State of the Order, in which it was recommended that Brother H. A. Taylor, P. G. M., should be presented with a collar, I esteemed it my duty to purchase and present to the said worthy Brother a P. G. M's collar. The presentation took place on the 5th of March at his own house, in the presence of several members of the Order in Halifax, who appeared to enjoy the occasion very much.

I found in the office no proper Roll of the membership of the Subordinate Lodges, which, it appeared to me, ought to be kept, and amended from year to year as the reports from the various Lodges come in. I have accordingly had prepared a book for the purpose, and have now a complete roll of the membership of all the Lodges that complied with the law by sending in a roll of their members on December 31st. The following Lodges neglected to do so, viz.: St. Lawrence, Pioneer, Orient, and Beacon.

During the year two Lodges have surrendered their Charters,—Widows' Hope, No. 7, of Truro, and Excelsior, No. 14, of Dartmouth. The effects

of the latter were delivered to Bro. Thos. Robertson, D. D. G. M., and by him placed in my possession, where they still remain. An inventory of the same will be submitted.

I received semi-annual reports from all the Lodges for both terms, and beg to present the following statistics of the Jurisdiction compiled from them:—

Number of Lodges per last Report.....	24
New Lodges instituted during the year.....	3
Total.....	27
Charters surrendered.....	2
Present number of Lodges.....	25
Number of Members per last Report.....	1625
“ initiated during the year.....	414
“ admitted by card.....	31
“ reinstated.....	10
Total.....	2080
Number withdrawn by card.....	60
“ suspended.....	243
“ expelled.....	7
“ died.....	14
	— 324
	1756
Add discrepancy occasioned by errors in last year's reports.....	21
Number in membership June 30th, 1877.....	1777
Average number for the year.....	1711
Total receipts of Lodges for the year amounted to.....	\$9796 36
“ expenditure to about.....	9318 18
Leaving only about.....	\$ 478 18
This is all that is left for the W. & O's reserve fund which ought to amount to upwards of \$2000.	
Amount paid for relief of brothers.....	\$1129 73
“ “ “ widowed families.....	265 00
“ “ “ burying the dead.....	409 98
Total relief.....	\$1804 71
Deducting the relief from the total expenditure leaves the expenses of the Lodges about.....	7513 47
Average receipts from each member about.....	5 72
“ “ relief per member about.....	1 05
The total assets of the Lodges reach the respectable sum of..	\$13,424 10
or an average of \$737 to each Lodge.	

Seven Lodges do not report any W. & O's fund. The figures reported by the other Lodges amount to \$3371.01, of which sum Pioneer Lodge reports \$1470.87.

It would be interesting to know what is the amount of this fund, and it would be much more satisfactory, I should think, to all friends of the order to know that the fund is being properly reserved for the purpose for which it

was constituted. I should judge from the reports that in many of the Lodges the accounts of the fund are not properly kept, or not kept at all. I have not had time to look into the matter thoroughly; but I examined the reports of one Lodge, whose W. & O's fund ought to amount to at least \$250 after deducting all payments reported, but which returns by last report less than \$100.

This is an important matter, it appears to me, and a subject on which the Grand Lodge has a right to require accurate information. The fund is, if I understand it aright, a trust fund, and Lodges have no right to use it for any other purpose than that for which it is ordered to be reserved. Or, at least, if they should use a part of it for other purposes in cases of necessity, they have no right to alienate it from the fund, but should by all means acknowledge the liability in their accounts and reports, and make provision for its re-payment, as if they had borrowed the money from any other source.

The receipts and expenditures of my office may be summarized as follows—the cash book showing particulars will be submitted to the Finance Committee:—

RECEIPTS.

Amount received from former Sec'y.....	\$ 477 88
“ “ Lodges, <i>per capita</i> tax for	
“ “ term ended Dec., 1876.....	\$487 80
“ “ “ “ June, 1877.....	294 30
“ “ from sales of supplies.....	782 10
“ “ for Charter fees.....	168 53
“ “ from old accounts.....	90 00
“ “ “ Excelsior Lodge and Members.....	22 10
“ “ for postage refunded.....	15 55
“ “ “ Dispensations.....	55
“ “ from Bro. G. Murdoch (over-paid).....	5 50
	1 50
Total receipts paid G. Treasurer.....	\$1563 71

EXPENDITURE.

Paid G. Lodge U. S. :	
Old account.....	\$269 52
For supplies.....	187 70
“ rep. tax.....	142 13
	\$599 35
Paid D. H. Fowler (old account).....	121 25
Bro. H. A. Taylor (old account).....	26 00
T. Robertson (old account).....	12 30
William Hall (old account).....	10 00
Cecconi (old account).....	1 25
N. S. Printing Co. (old account).....	\$ 22 75
“ “ for this year.....	149 25
	172 00
A. & W. Mackinlay's bills.....	17 20
T. P. Connolly's bills.....	6 67
For P. G. M's Collar.....	37 53
“ Stationery, &c.....	2 26
Expense, charges, truckage, freight, duties, &c....	14 95
For postage stamps.....	21 18
J. A. Arnold's bill.....	2 00
Com. and prem.....	1 10
Telegrams.....	1 16
G. Secretary's salary.....	100 00
	1146 20

Leaving a balance in G. Treasurer's hands of...\$ 417 51

A balance sheet showing the standing of the accounts, and closing of the ledger is herewith submitted.

Before the end of the term in which I was elected to this office, by the advice and with the assistance of the M. W. Grand Master, and other members of the Executive Committee, I had a new form of semi-annual reports printed, and the reports for the last two terms have been made on that form. If I had waited till I had gained a little more experience in the office, I think I could have improved on that form in some particulars, but our old ones were about exhausted and so new ones had to be procured.

During this year I have kept a careful record of the letters I have written and a file of those received, all of which are herewith submitted for the examination of the proper Committee.

Before closing this report, I would respectfully suggest the necessity of so amending the Constitution as to define more clearly the respective duties of the G. Secretary and G. Treasurer. These offices having been till last year held by the same individual, the Constitution defines the duties of the one officer in the double capacity, which does not apply to the present position.

Brethren, I came to this office with very little experience of its requirements, or of the working of Odd Fellowship; and I have found the duties such as require a good deal of knowledge, experience, wisdom and care. I have endeavored to perform them punctually and well. If I have not succeeded entirely, you will, I know, look leniently on errors which were not intended. I have not sufficient experience to entitle me to give advice, and shall not attempt to do so. Nor shall I indulge in any high-sounding words in regard to the principles and merits of our Order. I simply lay the facts collected in my office before you as I find them, and trust you may all be endued with wisdom to draw from them the lessons they teach, and put in practice the duties they enjoin.

Respectfully submitted in the bonds of the Order,

J. C. P. FRAZEE,

Grand Secretary.

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Abstract from the Semi-Annual Reports for the year ended June 30th, 1877.

NAME OF LODGE.	NUMBER.	LOCATION.	NIGHT OF MEETING.	Initiated.	Admitted by Card.	Rebaptized.	Suspended.	Expelled.	Withdrawn by Card.	Deaths.	No. of Weeks' Benefits.	No. of W. P. M. Ills relieved.	Past Grands.	No. of members.	Amount paid for Relief of Brothers.	Amount paid for relief of Wid. Families.	Amount paid for buying the Dead.	Dues to Grand Lodge.	Receipts for Year.
Eastern Star...	2	Pickou, N. S.	Wednesday	8	6	1	14	14	2	2	27	1	16	113	\$ 40 50	\$ 20 00	\$ 60 00	\$ 60 00	\$ 534 56
Fuller	9	Stellarton, N. S.	Friday	9	1	3	19	19	1	1	65	4	15	118	181 00	60 00	15 00	70 20	626 81
Norton	6	New Glasgow, N. S.	Monday	15	1	3	20	20	1	8	31	2	14	22	75 50	80 00	...	44 40	358 40
St. Lawrence ..	8	Charlottetown, P. E. I.	Monday	35	...	...	47	47	...	7	18	1	10	85	...	...	77 50	45 00	402 05
Pioneer	9	St. John, N. B.	Friday	6	1	1	24	10	1	3	18	1	13	108	54 00	25 00	...	113 10	866 42
Orient	10	Halifax, N. S.	Monday	7	1	2	43	4	4	8	38	...	9	83	169 00	...	60 00	53 10	417 25
Scouta	11	Westville, N. S.	Thursday	18	1	...	4	4	1	1	26	...	10	90	115 75	...	15 00	57 60	405 12
Beacon	12	St. John, N. B.	Tuesday	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	2	8	118	120 00	15 00	52 00	68 40	418 25
Victoria	13	Fredericton, N. B.	Wednesday	28	1	...	0	0	1	1	48	...	7	103	106 25	...	...	57 30	729 27
Eureka	15	Spring Hill, N. S.	Tuesday	15	1	2	14	1	1	1	25	...	7	76	153 73	...	35 00	45 30	383 49
Western Star ..	16	Annapolis, N. S.	Wednesday	5	1	...	9	9	1	1	...	...	6	43	...	5 00	...	27 00	89 41
Moore	17	Vale Colliery, N. S.	Tuesday	9	4	...	12	12	2	2	11	...	5	44	18 50	...	15 00	31 20	226 65
Mystic	18	Halifax, N. S.	Thursday	8	...	...	1	1	1	1	10	...	6	52	29 00	...	...	30 60	254 18
Peerless	19	Portland, N. B.	Wednesday	21	...	...	4	4	1	1	19	...	5	83	39 00	...	...	45 90	589 76
Evangeline	20	Kentville, N. S.	Wednesday	20	...	...	13	13	3	3	1	...	3	55	5 00	30 00	...	35 10	240 25
Guiding Star...	21	Granville Ferry, N. S.	Thursday	12	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	4	51	...	...	...	23 80	149 50
Prince Edward ..	22	Summerside, P. E. I.	Thursday	14	...	...	6	2	2	2	...	...	3	62	...	...	...	34 20	546 31
Mystic Tie	23	Oxford, N. S.	Monday	9	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	37	...	...	...	21 00	134 50
Mizpah	24	Acadia Mines, N. S.	Monday	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	35	...	...	...	19 50	183 60
Crystal Wave...	25	Puquash, N. S.	Tuesday	12	...	...	...	...	1	1	14	...	2	37	...	...	...	14 70	188 15
Prince Albert ..	26	Moncton, N. B.	Wednesday	51	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	84	44 00	...	43 13	88 10	549 33
Wildley	27	Charlottetown, P. E. I.	Friday	26	3	...	2	2	2	2	7	...	2	56	39 50	...	20 60	28 50	403 23
Caledonia	28	Howell, N. S.	Friday	17	2	...	...	...	1	1	5	...	1	64	3 00	...	...	7 80	210 80
Siloam	29	St. John, N. B.	Monday	35	10	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	44	...	...	77 35	21 00	449 60
Union	30	Springville, N. S.	Wednesday	17	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	24	4 00	...	...	7 20	356 51
Totals...	414	31	10 22 243 7	60	14	375	12	154	1777	8129	73	2865	00	\$460 98	\$1021 80	\$6796 36			

Net capital.....

451 58	.....	.....	451 58
\$ 719 76	\$ 719 76	\$ 1009 69	\$ 1009 69

The Grand Treasurer presented the following statement:—

Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., L. P. B. N. America, in acct. with H. A. TAYLOR,
Grand Treasurer.

1876.		Dr.	Voucher.	
Aug. 16.	To cash paid Representative—Tax and Stock,		1	... \$ 269 52
18.	" " D. H. Fowler & Co.		2	... 121 25
31.	" " Thos. Robertson, Grand Secy's office,		3	... 12 30
Sep. 1.	" " Nova Scotia Printing Company,	4 & 5	...	22 75
5.	" " H. A. Taylor, release of G. L. property,	6	...	26 00
1877.				
Feb. 20.	" " Regalia for P. G. M. Taylor,	7 & 8	...	37 53
"	" " Grand Lodge Supplies,	9	...	111 92
"	" " A. & W. MacKinlay,—Books,	10 & 11	...	4 20
"	" " T. P. Connolly,—Sundries,	12 & 13	...	6 67
"	" " Nova Scotia Printing Company,	14	...	138 00
May 12.	" " William Hall,—Travelling Expenses,	15	...	10 05
"	" " Stock,—J. L. Ridgely,	16	...	24 05
"	" " " " " "	17	...	21 73
June 7.	" " Representative Tax,	18	...	142 13
July 31.	" " Grand Secretary's Salary,	19	...	100 00
"	" " A. & W. MacKinlay,	20	...	13 00
"	" " Nova Scotia Printing Company,	21	...	11 25
"	" " Grand Secretary's office Expenses, &c.,	22	...	43 85
"	" In Bank, \$150.00 ; on hand, \$267.51,			417 51
				<u>\$1,563 71</u>

1876.		Cr.	
Aug. 16.	By cash from Grand Secretary.....		\$470 00
Oct. 3.	" " " "		60 00
1877.			
Jan. 18.	" " " "		110 00
30.	" " " "		144 00
31.	" " " "		133 30
Feb. 20,	" " " "		37 53
May 12.	" " " "		20 00
13.	" " " "		10 05
"	" " " "		45 78
July 13.	" " " "		100 00
28.	" " " "		225 00
31.	" " " "		208 05
<u>\$1,563 71</u>			

1877.		
July 31.	To Balance down.....	\$ 417 51
	Interest in Savings' Bank to 30th June.....	1 92
		<u>\$419 43.</u>

The Historiographer presented his Report as follows :—

REPORT OF HISTORIOGRAPHER.

BARRINGTON, SHELBURNE Co., *August, 1876.*

To M. W. Grand Master, G Lodge, L. P. B. N. A. :

During the past year but little has been done by myself towards collecting and arranging the history of Odd-fellowship in this Jurisdiction. My removal from Halifax and change of business has been largely the cause of this, and an almost general apathy on the part of Subordinate Lodges has rendered it impossible to make any advance. The local histories already forwarded me are in my custody, and these, with additions that may be made to them in the future, will form interesting pages in connection with the Order in those localities to which they especially refer.

I again desire to press upon the attention of Representatives from those Lodges which have not yet complied with the request of the Grand Lodge, the importance of collecting and arranging their local history, by some competent member, assisting by this means my work, as such duty has been assigned to me by the Grand Lodge, and at the same time depositing among the Records of this Body that which may some day be required for historical purposes.

Submitted in F. L. & T.,

THOS. ROBERTSON, *Historiographer.*

W. W. Stumbles, Jr., D. G. M., moved, seconded by John Pringle, G. Conductor, that a Committee of three be appointed to distribute the different subjects in the Grand Master's, Grand Secretary's, Grand Treasurer's, D. D. Grand Masters', and Historiographer's reports to the appropriate Committees. Motion carried, and the Grand Master named as the Committee: Representatives N. A. Cliff, of No. 13, W. A. Moore, G. Chaplain, and T. Robertson, G. Representative.

The above Committee retired, and on re-entering presented the following Report, which was adopted :—

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

The Committee to whom were referred the reports of the Grand Master, D. D. Grand Masters, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Historiographer for distribution to appropriate Committees, beg leave to report :

1st. That that portion of the Grand Master's report referring to Warrants issued, constituting new Lodges, be referred to the Committee on Petitions.

2nd. The decisions of the Grand Master during the recess, and the question of incorporation of this Grand Body, to the Committee on Legislation.

ment :—

AYLOR,

\$ 269 52
 121 25
 12 30
 22 75
 26 00
 37 53
 111 92
 4 20
 6 67
 138 00
 10 05
 24 05
 21 73
 142 13
 100 00
 13 00
 11 25
 43 85
 417 51

,563 71

\$470 00
 60 00

110 00
 144 00
 133 30
 37 53
 20 00
 10 05
 45 78
 100 00
 225 00
 208 05

63 71

17 51
 1 92

9 43

3rd. The portion of the same report referring to Constitution of Degree Lodges, to Committee on Laws of Subordinates.

4th. That portion relating to action of the Canada Guarantee Company in the matter of bonds of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, to the Committee on Finance.

5th. Visitations, surrender of Charters, and the remaining matters in the Grand Master's report and the reports of the D. D. Grand Masters and Historiographer, to the Committee on the State of the Order.

6th. That portion of the Grand Secretary's report referring to neglect of Subordinate Lodges to comply with his requests and the requirements of the Constitution, to the Committee on Returns.

7th. The reference in the same report to the necessity of amending the Constitution so as to define the respective duties of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, to a special Committee; and the balance of his report and that of the Grand Treasurer to the Finance Committee.

N. A. CLIFF,
THOS. ROBERTSON,
W. A. MOORE.

The Representatives of Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 23, presented the following petition, which was referred to the Committee on Petitions :

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A. :

The petition of the Representatives of Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 23, sheweth,—

That said Lodge, having been organized with the distinct understanding that it would be left entirely for the Lodge, in its bye-laws, to arrange its times and frequency of meetings, we would therefore respectfully request that this Lodge be permitted, as in accordance with law, to meet fortnightly instead of weekly, as requested by the subjoined resolution.

Fraternally submitted,

D. B. STEWART, } *Reps. Mystic Tie Lodge.*
W. E. OXLEY, }

Certificate of resolution of Mystic Tie Lodge, referred to in the above:

Moved by Bro. Blair, seconded by Bro. Oxley "that this Lodge apply to the Grand Lodge for a dispensation to meet every alternate Monday." On the question being put it was carried unanimously.

[Signed]

RUFUS WOOD, *N. G.*,
FRASER MCKENZIE, *R. S.*

An invitation was read from Prince Albert Lodge, No. 26, to this Grand Lodge to hold its next Annual Communication at Moncton N. B., and a similar invitation from Eastern Star Lodge, No. 2, to hold the same session at Pictou, N. S.

On motion of Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chaplain, seconded by Representative John Pringle, G. Con., the above invitations were ordered to lie on the table.

Representative Fred'k L. Hea of No. 9, seconded by Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., moved the following resolution, which was concurred in:—

Whereas, The Charter granted to Pioneer Lodge, No. 9, of St. John, N. B., was on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 20th of June last, burned in the disastrous fire that destroyed the principal part of that city;

Therefore resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master be authorised to grant a duplicate charter to said Lodge without charge.

FRED'K L. HEA,
W. A. MOORE.

Representative James H. Ellis of No. 13, seconded by Representative N. A. Cliff of No. 13, moved the following resolution, which was concurred in:—

Whereas, The Charter granted Victoria Lodge, No 13, of Fredericton, N. B., was destroyed by fire in March, 1876;

Therefore resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master be authorised to grant a duplicate charter to said Lodge, without charge.

JAMES H. ELLIS,
N. A. CLIFF.

Moved by Representative Frank Graham of No. 10, seconded by Representative John Pringle, G. Con., that this Grand Lodge do now adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Motion carried.

The Grand Lodge adjourned accordingly.

MORNING SESSION.

Wednesday, August 15th, 1877.

Grand Lodge re-assembled pursuant to adjournment at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Minutes of last Session were read and confirmed.

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative from the Committee on Appeals, reported in the case of Foster *v.* Guiding Star Lodge, asking for power to summon witnesses.

Moved by Representative Jas. R. Macdonald of No. 18, seconded by Representative Fred'k L. Hea of No. 9, that the request be granted. Motion passed.

Western Star Lodge, No. 16, having accredited six representatives, and being entitled to only three, the Grand Secretary brought the matter to the notice of the Grand Lodge, when it was agreed that Representatives Tedford, Edwards and Crowe were the proper representatives, Past Grands Anderson and Wilson, and Grand Warden VanBlarecom withdrawing their credentials.

Representatives Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., seconded by Representative W. C. DesBrisay, moved the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to publish a periodical (the number of issues per year being left to their decision) which will be recognized as the official organ of the Grand Lodge of L. P. B. N. A., and which will diffuse the principles and progress of the Order in this jurisdiction.

Moved by Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, seconded by Representative N. A. Cliff of No. 13, that the resolution be received and referred to a special committee to be composed of the Committee on the State of the Order and the Committee on Finance. Motion passed.

Representative W. C. DesBrisay of No. 8, seconded by Representative Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., moved the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Legislation :—

Resolved, That Section 8 of the Constitution of Subordinate Lodges be struck out and the following substituted :—Any member neglecting to make payment of his dues or demands against him, to the Lodge according to its constitution or bye-laws, for the space of seven months shall cease to be a member of said Lodge, provided that the fact of his so being in arrears for seven months shall first be announced in open Lodge, at two regular meetings.

Representative Frank Graham of No. 10, moved, seconded by Representative Fred'k L. Hea of No. 9, that the election of officers for the ensuing year take place at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Motion passed.

Representative A. A. McLennan of No. 22, seconded by Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chaplain, moved the following resolution, which was concurred in :—

Whereas, A charter was in August, 1875, issued to Prince Edward Lodge, No. 22, which said charter contained errors and omissions in the names of charter members and was immediately returned by said Lodge to the late G. Secretary, and has not since been in the possession of said Lodge.

Therefore resolved, That the Grand Master be authorised to issue a duplicate charter (without charge) to Prince Edward Lodge, inserting therein as charter members the names of brothers to be furnished the Grand Secretary by the Secretary of Prince Edward Lodge.

Representative Frank Graham of No. 10, from the Committee on Finance presented the following report, which, on motion of Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chaplain, seconded by Representative W. M. McLean of No. 29, was laid on the table till the afternoon Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., L. P. B. N. A. :

Your Finance Committee beg leave to report to the Grand Lodge now in session, that they have had submitted to them the books, accounts and reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and have carefully examined the same.

The books of the Grand Secretary have been kept in a straight-forward and legible manner, and therefore materially lessened our labors in auditing

them, and we congratulate the Grand Lodge in securing the services of so efficient a Secretary. The accounts have all been checked, and we find his statements correct.

The Grand Treasurer's books are perfectly in order with those of the Grand Secretary, and the balance due the Grand Lodge, \$419.43, as reported by him is the true balance due.

The Canada Guarantee Company having refused to accept bonds of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, both officers have furnished good and sufficient bonds which are now in the hands of the Grand Master.

The following are the estimates of your Committee for the ensuing year:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand per G. Treasurer's report.....	\$ 419 43
Per Capita Tax.....	1100 00
Charter Dues.....	120 00
Sale of Supplies.....	150 00
Amount due by Subordinate Lodges to June 30th, 1877.....	226 40
	<u>\$2015 83</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Contingent expenses.....	\$ 60 00
Grand Secretary's Salary.....	100 00
Printing and Stationery.....	150 00
Mileage and per diem.....	500 00
Travelling expenses.....	100 00
Grand Lodge U. S. dues.....	170 00
Supplies.....	100 00
	<u>\$1180 00</u>

Will leave a balance in favor of Grand Lodge of.....\$ 835 83

Your Committee most respectfully recommend that out of the amount now on hand, viz., balance in hands of Grand Treasurer, \$419.43, and in hands of Grand Secretary, \$226.40, together \$645.83, that the sum of one hundred dollars be placed in bank or deposit towards meeting the amount due by this Grand Lodge in 1879 to the Representatives to Grand Lodge in 1876. This will leave sufficient in hand to pay the mileage and per diem for the present Session.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK GRAHAM,	} <i>Finance Committee.</i>
DAN. SUTHERLAND,	
JAMES R. MACDONALD,	
WILLIAM C. DESBRISAY.	

Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., from the Committee on Returns presented the following report which was adopted:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RETURNS.

To the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the L. P. B. N. A.:

The Committee on Returns beg to report that they have examined the several returns submitted to them for the terms ending Dec. 31st, 1876, and June 30th, 1877, and find them all correct except the Returns of Eastern Star, No. 2, Fuller, No. 5, Moore, No. 17, Peerless, No. 19, Guiding Star, No. 21, and Caledonia, No. 28, which do not show the amounts to credit of

Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The Returns of Eastern Star, No. 2, Norton, No. 6, and Moore, No. 17, appear incomplete in number of members, and the Returns of Western Star Lodge, No. 16, are defective in not giving the financial statement. There is a marked discrepancy between the Returns of St. Lawrence Lodge for terms ending Dec. 31st, 1876, and June 30th, 1877, but the committee are satisfied that the last is correct.

Feeling the importance of having correct Returns from every Lodge in the Jurisdiction, your committee would urge on secretaries the necessity of taking more care in their preparation.

Your committee cannot close their report without expressing their regret that the Lodges have not remitted to the Grand Lodge the returns sent to them for correction by order of this Grand Body at its last Annual Session, and hope that this will be attended to immediately.

Submitted in F. L. & T.,

W. A. MOORE,
PETER CAMPBELL,
D. D. DAVIDSON.

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative from the Committee on Appeals, in the case of

MCKELVIE *vs.* FULLER LODGE, No. 5,

presented the following report :

MCKELVIE

vs.

FULLER LODGE, No. 5,

Past Grand McKelvie appeals from the action of Fuller Lodge, No. 5, in not complying with Section 6th Article 8th of the Constitution which provides that a brother having been found guilty of charges preferred against him, the penalty may be expulsion or suspension, if neither it "shall be reprimand or fine, or both."

Your committee recommend that the Appeal of Bro. McKelvie be sustained, as Brother Carr having been regularly tried and convicted of the charges preferred against him, it became compulsory upon the Lodge, they having refused to expel or suspend, "to fine or reprimand, or both," and that Fuller Lodge, No. 5, be instructed to comply with Section 6th Article 8th of Constitution.

JAMES H. ELLIS,
FRED'K L. HEA,
CALEB SCHURMAN,
T. A. COSSMANN,
THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, from the same committee in the case of

CHISHOLM vs. NORTON LODGE,

presented the following report:—

CHISHOLM,

vs.

NORTON LODGE, No 6,

In this case P. McG. Chisholm, Past Grand, charges Bro. John K. Fraser of violation of obligation taken in this Order, and for using indecorous and disrespectful language in Lodge Room, and for conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow. The action of Norton Lodge, No. 6, relieves Brother Fraser from these charges, from which decision Past Grand Chisholm appeals upon the following grounds:

That committee refused to hear witnesses offered by him, and other charges of a serious nature against members of committee and of Norton Lodge.

From the documents in our possession we have no evidence to establish the truthfulness of these statements nor any reply of the committee or Lodge thereto.

From among the papers submitted in this case we make the following extract from the report of committee of Norton Lodge, No. 6, the adoption of which, and subsequent action of lodge thereon formed the ground of Past Grand P. McG. Chisholm's appeal:

"From the high state of excitement which prevailed on the night of the 5th March, and the quantity of ill-tempered language used by members on that night, the members of this committee who were present on that occasion cannot weigh properly the personal testimony of either party to this case, which is directly opposed one to the other.

"As Odd Fellows bound together by the most solemn obligations to rule our conduct towards each other by the standard of Friendship, Love and Truth, we would solemnly protest against such disgraceful scenes as occurred in our lodge room on the night of the 5th March, and we therefore recommend that the Lodge take such action in reference to the portions of the charge which have been sustained as will help members to keep in wholesome remembrance the fact that however great the provocation, the members of this Lodge will always hold worthy of censure any member who takes upon himself to obtain, independent of this Grand Body he was bound to do, the strife and discord which in this case created heart burnings and divisions among brethren would have been banished from the lodge room, and the names of brothers who indulged in the unseemly personalities would have been unknown to the Representatives here assembled.

Your committee recommend that the appeal of Past Grand Chisholm, be referred to Norton Lodge, No. 6, for their answer thereto, and are of the opinion that such personal wrangling and disputes are calculated to inflict disaster and disrespect upon the Order when brought to this Grand Body, and had the appellant in this case been guided by the brotherly suggestions of the committee, as from his position as a member of this Grand Body he was bound to do, the strife and discord which in this case created heart burnings and divisions among brethren would have been banished from the lodge room, and the names of brothers who indulged in the unseemly personalities would have been unknown to the Representatives here assembled.

JAMES H. ELLIS,
FRED'K L. HEA,
CALEB SCHURMAN,
T. A. COSSMANN,
THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., moved, seconded by J. C. P. Frazee, G. Sec., that the report be adopted. Motion withdrawn, and the report laid on the table.

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, presented, from the same committee, a report in the case of

GRAHAM vs. NORTON LODGE.

Moved by Representative Frank Graham of No. 10, seconded by Representative W. M. McLean of No. 29, that the report be referred back to the committee to bring an outline of the case.

Moved and seconded as an amendment that the papers be now read. Amendment lost. Motion passed.

The members of the Committee on Laws of Subordinates being absent, the Grand Master appointed Representative Frank Graham of No. 10, Representative W. M. McLean of No. 29, and Representative E. A. Bent of No. 25, to serve on that committee.

Representative Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., from the Committee on Petitions presented the following reports, which were adopted:—

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces B. N. A.:

We, your Committee on Petitions beg leave to report, and recommend that charters be granted to the following Lodges working under dispensations since October last, viz.:

Caledonia Lodge, No. 28,	of Hopewell, N. S.
Siloam " 29,	St. John, N. B.
Union " 30,	Springville, N. S.

JOHN PRINGLE,
JAMES MITCHEL,
THEO. L. CHAPPELLE.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the L. P. B. N. A.:

We, your Committee on Petitions, to whom was referred the petition of Mystic Tie Lodge, No. 23, of Oxford N. S., requesting the privilege of meeting every alternate Monday, instead of weekly as heretofore, beg leave to report, and recommend that their request be granted by this R. W. Grand Lodge.

JOHN PRINGLE,
JAMES MITCHEL,
THEO. L. CHAPPELLE.

Representative D. B. Stewart of No. 23, from the Committee on the State of the Order, presented the following report, which was received and adopted :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE ORDER.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

Your Committee on the State of the Order, beg leave to submit the following report :

1st. That they consider that this Grand Body is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory progress since our last Annual Session, as shown by the reports submitted by our M. W. G. Master, G. Secretary and G. Treasurer ; and also that the large representation now present denotes a more general interest in our Order throughout the jurisdiction than ever before evinced.

2nd. Your committee would heartily commend the action of the G. Master in carrying out the suggestions of the previous Committee on the State of the Order ; we believe the caution exercised by him in granting dispensations has already wrought a marked change in the harmony and general welfare of the Order.

3rd. They would also congratulate this Grand Body on having the services of such an efficient Secretary as the present incumbent has proved himself to be by the able and thoroughly practical report which he has submitted ; they would also remark the decided advantage of having the offices of G. Sec. and G. Treas. distinct, and would compliment the G. Treasurer on the highly satisfactory exhibit which he has submitted.

4th. Your committee would consider the explanation of Bro. Robertson as Historiographer as perfectly satisfactory, and would recommend that he be retained in that office. They would suggest that Representatives bring the matter to the immediate notice of their respective Lodges, and urge the necessity of complying with the Grand Secretary's circular of Dec. 4, 1875, in every case where it has not been done.

5th. They would notice that there is a growing tendency of inquiry regarding our principles in localities where Lodges have not yet been instituted, and although our Order is not aggressive in principle, yet they would urge upon District Deputies the advisability of fostering our principles wherever they may have taken root ; they would call the special attention of Deputies to the following places which have been brought to the immediate notice of the committee, viz., Berwick, Wolfville and Amherst in Nova Scotia, Chatham and Carleton, N. B., and Alberton and Souris, P. E. I.

6th. There being an evident lack of uniformity in the business management and working of Subordinate Lodges, it is highly necessary that a Grand Instructor be appointed to visit all the Lodges in this jurisdiction as often as deemed necessary, for the purpose of giving instruction in the workings of the Order, and the thorough inspection of the books and documents of each Lodge, thereby preventing the evils and irregularities evinced by incomplete returns, as noticed in the report of the Grand Secretary.

7th. If this Grand Body would entertain a change in the representation from Subordinate Lodges, viz.,—that they be entitled to one charter representative instead of two as at present, the amount thus saved would provide remuneration for a Grand Instructor.

8th. They consider the present status of the Order in this jurisdiction is the best tribute we can pay to the ability which our Executive have exercised during the past year.

Faternally submitted,

DOUGLAS B. STEWART,
KENNETH J. MACKENZIE,
A. W. LITTLE.

Past Grand Master H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., from the Committee on Legislation, presented the following report which was adopted :—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

Your Committee on Legislation, to whom was referred the Decisions of the M. W. Grand Master, beg to report :

1st. "A dispensation issued by a Grand Master, constituting a Subordinate Lodge, being only a provisional instrument is of no force or effect after a charter has been issued, nor could it be recognized as valid after the first session of the Grand Lodge subsequent to its issue."

This decision is approved being in accordance with Section 535 of the Digest.

2nd. "A mere clerical error, such as the substitution of a wrong name in the body of a charter, regularly issued by a Grand Lodge, is not sufficient to vitiate that instrument."

To this decision which is approved, we would add that should the Grand Secretary fail to rectify such an error when requested, the Lodge desiring such correction may petition the Grand Lodge to direct the same to be done.

3rd. "During the absence of the N. G. the V. G. takes his position; but if a vacancy occur by resignation or otherwise, the office ought to be filled by election."

This decision is approved, being in accordance with the usages of the Order. See Digest, Sec. 1333.

4th. "In the event of a vacancy, a sitting V. G., who is not a Past V. G., is not eligible for election to the office of N. G., unless all others qualified refuse to act."

This decision is approved, being in accordance with Section 1333 of the Digest.

5th. "When neither expulsion nor suspension has been determined upon as a penalty under Sec. 6, Art. VIII. of the Constitution of Subordinates, then it remains for the Lodge to decide whether the penalty shall be 'reprimand or fine,' and it has no option but to inflict one of these penalties."

The principle involved in this decision is fully borne out by the Section of the Constitution of Subordinates referred to, and is therefore approved.

6th. "If a Brother's illness is such as does not prevent him from earning a livelihood, he is not entitled to benefits."

Approved, being in accordance with Sections 172 and 173 of the Digest.

7th. "It is illegal and improper for a Lodge to appoint a committee to investigate street rumors concerning a Brother.

"Members of the Order ought not to be harassed with indirect charges, and it is in the spirit of the Constitution that there should be a person responsible for a libel against a Brother."

Fully sustained by Sec. 3, Art. VIII. of the Constitution of Subordinates, and is therefore approved.

8th. "A charge was brought against a member of a Lodge, which was decided in his favor, but an appeal was taken to this Grand Lodge. Subsequently the member was elected N. G. of his Lodge. Objection was taken to his installation because he was under charges.

I decided that there was nothing in the foregoing case to prevent the member from being installed as N. G."

Approved, as in accordance with the spirit of Section 325 a of the Digest.

HENRY A. TAYLOR,
H. MCKELVIE,
W. A. MOORE.

Past Grand Master Taylor, G. Treas., from the same Committee, also presented the following Report, which was adopted:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

Your Committee on Legislation, to whom was referred that part of the Grand Secretary's report relating to the respective duties of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, beg leave to recommend that Sec. 4, Art. IV. of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 4.—The Right Worthy Grand Secretary shall make a just and true record of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at every session, and transmit, as soon as practicable after the close of the annual session, to the Subordinate Lodges each two printed copies thereof. He shall keep the accounts between the Grand Lodge and its subordinates, receive all moneys and pay the same immediately to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. He shall issue all necessary notices and circulars to subordinates, representatives and officers; transmit to the Grand Lodge of the United States a regular report of the Order, made up to the 31st of December in each year. He shall provide all stationery for the use of the Grand Lodge, and superintend such printing as the Grand Lodge shall direct. He shall keep his accounts in such a manner as will exhibit the source and amount of receipts, and by whom paid; and the purpose and amount of the disbursements; have his accounts closed up to the 31st day of July in each year, and submit them to the Finance Committee at the annual session of the Grand Lodge. He shall attend all regular sessions of the Grand Lodge. He shall, previous to his installation, give bonds to the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the Lower Provinces of British North America, conditioned in such an amount as the Standing Committee of the Grand Lodge may from time to time require: *provided*, the amount of such bond shall in no case be less than one thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties; and he shall receive such salary as the Grand Lodge at each annual session may determine.

The Right Worthy Grand Treasurer shall receive and hold all moneys handed to him by the Grand Secretary, giving his receipt for the same. He shall pay all orders drawn on him by the Grand Master, and counter-signed by the Grand Secretary. He shall deposit all sums over thirty dollars in his possession in a savings' bank, and be prepared at all times to give such financial information as the Grand Master or Trustees may require. He shall, previous to his installation give to the Trustees such a bond as shall be satisfactory to the Standing Committee of the Grand Lodge, in the sum of one thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties.

HENRY A. TAYLOR,
H. McKELVIE,
W. A. MOORE.

Past Grand Master Taylor, G. Treas., of the Committee on Legislation then gave the following

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT.

I hereby give notice that at next annual session of this Grand Lodge I will move that Section 4, Article IV. of the Constitution be amended in accordance with the above report.

HENRY A. TAYLOR.

Representative N. A. Cliff, of No. 13, Chairman of the Trustees, presented the following Report, which was adopted.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces, B. N. A.:

We, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge, beg leave to report, that we have not received any money from the Grand Treasurer for investment or otherwise, but have received bonds from the following Brothers, viz.,—the Grand Secretary for \$500; D. D. G. Masters, Robertson, Stewart, Davidson, Richards, Murdoch, Stumbles and Schurman for \$200 each.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. CLIFF,
JAMES MITCHEL,
WILLIAM C. DESBRISAY.

Representative P. McG. Chisholm, of No. 6, seconded by Representative John Douglas, of No. 5, moved the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the decision (No. 2) of the Grand Master laid over from last year, be referred to the Committee on Legislation.

PETER McG. CHISHOLM,
JOHN DOUGLAS.

On motion Grand Lodge adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Wednesday, August 15th, 1877.

Grand Lodge re-assembled pursuant to adjournment at 2 o'clock, P. M., W. W. Stumbles, jr., D. G. M., in the chair. Minutes of last Session read, and on motion approved.

Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10, from the Committee on Laws of Subordinates, presented the following Report:—

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LAWS OF SUBORDINATES.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

Your Committee on Laws of Subordinates, respectfully beg to report that the only matter before them for this Session is, that of the advisability of establishing Degree Lodges in this jurisdiction. They have therefore to present the following, relative to Degree and Rebekah Lodges, as an amendment to the Constitution :

CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE FORMATION AND GOVERNMENT OF DEGREE LODGES.

1.—Whenever it may appear to the brethren of any Lodge or Lodges in any city or town under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the L. P. B. N. A., that it would be consistent with the interests of the Order to establish a Degree Lodge in such place, it shall be proper for them to authorize ten brothers of the Scarlet Degree to make a written application to this Grand Lodge to that effect.

Such application shall be signed by the full number of the brethren so authorized; and shall be accompanied by the Charter Fee, \$5; by a certificate from the D. D. G. M., that the petitioners are properly qualified, and by a certificate over the Seal of the Lodge or Lodges with which they are connected, that they are members in good standing, and that they have been duly authorized by their Lodge or Lodges to apply for such Charter.

3.—On receipt of a formal application for a Charter as above required, the Grand Master may issue a Warrant for the immediate establishment of a Degree Lodge.

4.—As soon as the necessary authority shall have been obtained from the Grand Master, the D. D. G. M. shall summon all Scarlet Degree members in good standing in their Lodge or Lodges, and proceed with the institution of the Lodge and the election and installation of the officers, after the manner and form prescribed for the same.

5.—A Degree Lodge shall be composed of members in good standing in the Order of the Scarlet Degree, resident within the jurisdiction of the Degree Lodge, and all business (except that of conferring the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Degrees of this Order), shall be transacted when open in the Scarlet Degree, and five members shall constitute a quorum.

6.—The Elective Officers of a Degree Lodge shall be a Degree Master, Deputy Degree Master, 1st Assistant Deputy Degree Master, 2nd Assistant Deputy Degree Master, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by a majority of the votes polled for that purpose.

7.—Nominations for Elective Officers shall be made upon the last two meetings in the term, and the election shall be held upon the last regular meeting in the term, and the installation of Officers shall take place on the first regular meeting of the succeeding term.

8.—The Appointed Officers shall be a Warden, Conductor, and Outside and Inside Guardians, to be appointed by the Degree Master on the night of his installation.

9.—No brother shall be eligible for the office of Degree Master or Deputy Degree Master, who is not a P. G. in good standing in some Subordinate Lodge of this Order in the L. P. B. N. A.

10.—Loss of good standing, suspension or expulsion from membership in a Subordinate Lodge, shall at once similarly affect the member's standing in the Degree Lodge, and re-installment in the Subordinate shall work re-installment in the Degree Lodge.

11.—The Degree Master shall preside, and shall have power to convene special meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by the official regulations and the usages of the Order.

12.—The Deputy Degree Master shall occupy the usual position of the V. G., assist the Degree Master in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence shall preside.

13.—The 1st A. D. D. Master, 2nd A. D. D. Master, Treasurer, Warden, Conductor, Inside Guardian and Outside Guardian, shall perform the duties assigned to them at their installation, and by the usages of the Order.

14.—The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the transactions of the Degree Lodge, he shall conduct all correspondence and report promptly to their respective Lodges, the names of brothers upon whom Degrees are conferred, and also the date and name or names, or numbers of the Degrees conferred. He shall make out for the Grand Lodge, at the first regular meeting in each term, a report of the Officers for the current term, and the numbers of each Degree conferred, and also of the funds of the Degree Lodge, particularizing the sources whence such funds have been derived. He shall enter in a separate book or record, the name of every brother receiving Degrees, together with the name of his Lodge, and date of receiving the said Degrees, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by his charge of office, and the laws and usages of the Order.

15.—The application of a brother for any Degree, with the fee for the same, must be received by his Subordinate Lodge, in which Lodge he shall be balloted for by the members of the Degree for which he applies, when opened in that Degree. If he be not opposed by more than three black balls, he shall be deemed eligible, and a certificate to that effect shall be granted him, which certificate, on being presented to the Degree Lodge, shall be its authority for conferring the Degree or Degrees applied for.

16.—A Degree Lodge may, with the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Subordinate Lodge or Lodges connected with it, present and voting at a regular meeting of such Subordinate Lodge or Lodges, charge its members

an entrance fee and stated dues. Should no fees or dues be charged, the expenses of the Degree Lodge shall be borne by the Subordinate Lodge or Lodges to which the Degree members belong.

17.—A Subordinate Lodge may provide by its Bye-Laws for the payment to the Degree Lodge of a part or the whole of the regular charge for Degrees.

18.—Any Degree Lodge shall have power to adopt necessary Bye-Laws, rules and regulations for its government, conformable to this Constitution, and to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of the L. P. B. N. A., and the laws and usages of this Order.

19.—Degree Lodges shall be subject to all the laws applying to Subordinate Lodges in the matter of sessions, terms, returns, trials and penalties, and forfeiture of Charter; except that they shall not be required to pay per capita tax to the Grand Lodge.

CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE FORMATION AND GOVERNMENT OF REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES.

1.—Rebekah Degree Lodges may be instituted on the application of ten or more persons in possession of that Degree, five of whom shall be members in good standing of some Subordinate Lodge or Lodges in this jurisdiction, and five wives of Scarlet Degree members in good standing in the Order. Such application shall be signed by the applicants, and shall be accompanied by the Charter Fee of \$5, by certificates of qualification from the Lodges to which the applicants or their husbands may belong, and by a recommendation from the Lodge or Lodges in the city or town from which the application comes.

2.—Rebekah Degree Lodges shall have the power to confer the Degree of Rebekah on such Scarlet Degree members and their wives as present certificates from Subordinate Lodges within this jurisdiction; and also upon widows of Odd Fellows presenting certificates from Lodges of which their husbands were members at the time of their decease. No fee shall be charged for conferring such Degree, but the Lodge may ordain fees of admission and dues, to be paid by all who may be admitted to membership.

3.—Rebekah Degree Lodges shall have power to adopt such Bye-Laws and Rules of Order as they may see fit; *provided always*, that no such Bye-Laws and Rules of Order shall become operative until after they have been approved by the Grand Lodge of the L. P. B. N. A., or in its recess, by its Committee on Laws of Subordinates.

4.—Rebekah Degree Lodges shall be subject to all the laws applying to Subordinate Lodges in the matter of sessions, terms, returns, trials and penalties, and forfeiture of Charter, excepting that they shall not be required to pay a per capita tax to this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK GRAHAM,
W. M. McLEAN, JR.,
E. A. BENT.

On motion the G. W. was directed to retire to the ante-room and confer the Grand Lodge Degree on Representative Jas. McClure, of No. 29. The G. W. retired accordingly, and Representative McClure, being instructed, was admitted, and took his seat.

Thos. Robertson, Grand Representative, from the Committee on Appeals, presented the Report of the Committee in the case of

GRAHAM *vs.* NORTON LODGE.

(Grand Master entered and took the chair.)

On the Report being read clause by clause, it was moved by Representative G. Murdoch, of No. 9, seconded and passed (16 to 8), that the first clause be amended by striking out the last part of the clause.

Representative A. Cushing, of No. 9, moved that all after the word "either" in the second clause be struck out. Motion passed. The Report was then adopted as amended, and read as follows:—

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

GRAHAM,
vs.

NORTON LODGE, No. 6,

In this case Bro. G. J. Graham charges P. McG. Chisholm, P. G., with conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow.

* * * * *

Your Committee are of opinion that the evidence submitted by Brother Graham to the committee of Norton Lodge, No. 6, was not sufficient to prove the charges preferred by him against Bro. P. McG. Chisholm, P. G., as there were simply the statements of the accuser and accused, without evidence to support either.

* * * * *

Your Committee recommend that the appeal of Bro. Geo. J. Graham be dismissed.

JAMES H. ELLIS,
FRED'K J. HEA,
CALEB SCHURMAN,
T. A. COSSMANN,
THOS. ROBERTSON.

The same Committee's report in the case of

CHISHOLM *vs.* NORTON LODGE,

which had been laid on the table (p. 94), was taken up, and on motion of Representative G. Murdoch, of No. 9, seconded by Representative W. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8, was adopted.

Representative W. W. Stumbles, jr., D. G. M., from the Committee on Correspondence presented the following, which was adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Lower Provinces, B. N. A.:

Your Committee would respectfully report, that they have read and passed in review the communications placed in their hands by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

We observe that a large portion of this correspondence requires no special mention from this committee, such, for instance, as orders for supplies, letters in which cash has been enclosed, and notifications of rejections and expulsions, all of which, requiring answers, have been attended to by the Grand Secretary.

The correspondence in general has been conducted with promptness and discretion by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary. Your Committee found but very little left for them to do except to commend what has been so well and faithfully done.

We observed among the correspondence the resignation of the Grand Secretary to the Grand Master. The ground of this resignation is stated in the letter to be the refusal of the Canada Guarantee Company to give bonds to this Lodge for the forthcoming of all moneys and papers received by the Grand Secretary. You are aware that, by a resolution passed at the last session of this Body, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer are required to give bonds in the Canada Guarantee Co. The refusal of the Company to give the bonds was not from any defect in the application papers of Bros. Frazee and Taylor, nor from a want of confidence in them, but because this Lodge is not a corporate body. The refusal of the Grand Master to accept the resignation of the Grand Secretary, and his willingness to accept private bonds from Bros. Frazee and Taylor, should meet with the cordial support and commendation of this Grand Body.

A circular received from the Grand Sire of the Grand Lodge of the U. S., respecting the use of illegal ode cards in Subordinate Lodges was promptly attended to by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary; quite a number of the illegal cards were sent to the Grand Secretary, and were replaced by legal ones.

Telegrams and letters were received from the Grand Lodges of Michigan, U. S., and Ontario, requiring information respecting wants of the members of the Order who suffered so severely in the late disastrous fire in St. John. These letters and telegrams were forwarded to D. D. G. M. Murdoch, who was in a better position to give the information required than the Grand Secretary. It must be pleasing for this Grand Lodge to learn from examination of the correspondence that the sympathy for our brethren in distress was wide-spread and general throughout the Order. Neither nationality nor distance seemed to be barriers to obstruct the expression of sympathy for those who were sufferers by the great calamity. Nor did this feeling appear to be mere sentiment, for in many instances inquiries for information were accompanied by promises of aid.

Your Committee cannot refrain from speaking in the highest terms of praise of the promptness and dispatch shown by Grand Secretary Frazee in the discharge of his onerous duties as corresponding Secretary of this Lodge.

The success of the Order depends to a large extent upon the wisdom, discretion and promptness of the answers of the Grand Secretary, to letters requiring immediate attention, and we feel satisfied that this jurisdiction has not suffered by any dereliction of duty on the part of that officer.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. STUMBLES, JR.,
H. VANBLARCOM,
N. A. CLIFF.

Rep. G. Murdoch, of No. 9, D. D. G. M., presented the following Report, which was referred to the Committee on Distribution:—

REPORT OF THE D. D. G. MASTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF ST. JOHN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., August 9th, 1877.

Robert Hockin, Esq., M. W. Grand Master, I. O. O. F., L. P. B. N. A.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—With the close of another year it becomes my duty to report again the progress and present state of the Order in this District.

INCREASE.

During the year, which ended with the 30th day of June last, the *Initiations* in this District numbered *one hundred and sixty-one* (161) *sixty-seven* (67) of which belonged to the first term and *ninety-four* (94) to the second.

The increase in membership has been *one hundred and thirty-nine* (139), and the present strength of the Order here is *five hundred and twenty-seven* (527). The December per capita amounted to \$132.30, and the June ditto to \$158.10: or a total for the year of \$290.40. These amounts, together with \$7.50 collected for Dispensations, issued during the year, have been forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

Particulars of the above summaries are given in the subjoined *Table*:

LODGE.		INITIATED.			Present Mem- bership.	Increase dur- ing year.	PER CAPITA COLLECTED.		
Name.	No.	Decemb'r Term.	June Term.	Total.			Decemb'r Term.	June Term.	Total.
Pioneer...	9	13	22	35	198	13	\$ 53 70	\$ 59 40	\$113 00
Beacon ...	12	10	8	18	118	16	33 00	35 40	68 40
Peerless..	19	15	7	22	83	15	24 00	24 90	48 00
Pr. Albert	26	10	41	51	84	51	12 90	25 20	38 10
Siloam....	29	19	16	35	44	14	8 70	13 20	21 90
TOTALS.	.....	67	94	161	527	139	\$132 30	\$158 10	\$290 40

FINANCIAL.

The "Incidental and Benefit Funds" belonging to the Lodges in this district, amounted on the 30th June to \$1220.74. The "Widows and Orphans'" fund to \$2059.85; all "other available assets" to \$3930.00, or a total of \$7210.59.

The distribution among the Lodges, of the sums named, is shown by the following Tables:

TABLE NO. 1.

	Pioneer.	Beacon.	Peerless.	P. Albert.	Siloam.	Totals.
I. & B. fund in hand of Treas's	\$ 49 07	\$ 23 26	.....	\$ 29 26	\$ 79 03	\$ 180 62
Invested.....	830 86	109 26	.....	.....	100 00	1040 12
W. & O. fund in hand of Treas's	139 02	29 74	\$ 165 93	48 71	15 52	398 92
Invested.....	1331 85	329 08	.....	.....	.....	1660 93
All other available assets.....	1440 00	130 00	1000 00	1400 00	.....	3930 00
Totals.....	\$3750 80	\$621 34	\$1165 93	\$1477 97	\$194 55	\$7210 59

TABLE NO. 2.

	I. & B. Fund.	W. & O. Fund.	All other available Assets.	Total Assets.
Pioneer, No. 9...	\$ 897 93	\$ 1470 87	\$ 1400 00	\$ 3750 80
Beacon, " 12...	132 52	358 82	130 00	621 34
Peerless, " 19...	.....	165 93	1000 00	1165 93
P. Albert, " 26...	29 26	48 71	1400 00	1477 97
Siloam, " 29...	179 03	15 52	.....	194 55
Totals.....	\$ 1220 74	\$ 2059 85	\$ 3930 00	\$ 7210 59

DISPENSATIONS.

Fifteen Dispensations have been granted during the year for sundry reasons, viz.:

1876.

July 18th, Pioneer Lodge, No. 9. To confer five Degrees on Brother Charles Leary, mariner.

August 31st, Prince Albert Lodge, No. 26. Literary entertainment in name of Order, officers to appear in regalia.

Oct. 16th, Pioneer Lodge, No. 9. To confer Degrees on Bro. Robert Peel, about to leave the city.

Dec. 11th, Siloam Lodge, No. 29. To meet for the transaction of business on Christmas and New Year's mornings.

1877.

Jan. 20th, Pioneer, Beacon, Siloam, and Peerless Lodges. Social reunion in name of Order.

Jan. 31st, Peerless Lodge, No. 19. To confer five Degrees on Brother Geo. Foster.

Feb. 20th, Siloam Lodge, No. 29. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland, while own hall was being repaired.

Feb. 20th, Beacon Lodge, No. 12. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland, while own hall was being repaired.

Feb. 20th, Pioneer Lodge, No. 9. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland, while own hall was being repaired.

April 20th, Pioneer Lodge, No. 9. To receive application, ballot for and if elected, initiate J. E. Smith.

May 14th, Siloam Lodge, No. 29. Receive application, ballot for, and if elected, initiate same evening, John Jamison.

May 19th, Prince Albert Lodge, No. 26. To use name of Order in connection with musical and literary entertainment.

June 29th, Pioneer Lodge, No. 9. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland; their charter, hall, furniture, regalia, paraphernalia, books, papers, &c., having been destroyed by the great fire of June 20th.

June 29th, Beacon Lodge, No. 12. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland, for reasons above stated.

June 29th, Siloam Lodge, No. 29. To meet in Peerless Lodge-room, for reasons above stated.

The fee in each case has been collected, and the amount (\$7.50) and "Dispensation Book" forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

APPEALS.

Two appeals have been received during the year,—the *first* from Bro. Thos. W. Peters, P. G., against the ruling of the Noble Grand of Beacon Lodge, No. 12; and the *second* from Bro. Joseph Wilson, P. G., against the ruling of Noble Grand F. L. Hea, of Pioneer Lodge, No. 9.

The ground of Bro. Peters' appeal was, briefly, as follows: At a meeting of Beacon Lodge, held on the 20th day of March, 1878, the I. G. was about to retire to the ante-room to relieve the O. G. without giving the counter-sign; whereupon the question was raised by Bro. Peters, could he do so legally. The N. G. decided in the affirmative. Bro. P. appealed to the Lodge, and subsequently to the D. D. G. M., his contention being that the I. G. cannot retire from the Lodgeroom while the Lodge is in session, without addressing the chairs. My decision was as follows, viz. :—

"The law on this point is laid down so clearly on page 34 of the I. C. B. that I have no hesitation in reversing the ruling of the N. G. in this case, and sustaining the appeal of Bro. Past Grand Peters. "No officer or member can enter a Lodge-room, nor retire to the ante-room while the Lodge is open and working as such, without the proper sign (addressing the chairs) except the outside conductor and warden with a candidate; the former when he introduces a candidate (to be initiated), and the latter when retiring with the candidate after leaving the N. G.

Brother Wilson's appeal was based on the following grounds, viz. ;

At a regular meeting of Pioneer Lodge, No. 9, held on the 20th day of April, 1877, a communication was received from Bro. J. S. Hall, setting forth,—

(1) That in February, 1876, he (Bro. J. S. Hall) had applied (through another Brother) for a "visiting card," but through some mistake a "withdrawal card" had been forwarded to him.

(2) That he was much disappointed on receiving said *withdrawal card*, as he had no wish to leave the Lodge, then nor now; and requested in consequence to be "restored to full membership."

This communication having been read, Bro. F. A. Blakslee moved, "that the application be received and the request complied with," and Brother Joseph Wilson moved in amendment "that the vote granting the *withdrawal card* be reconsidered."

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The N. G. ruled the amendment out of order. Bro. Wilson appealed to the Lodge. The chair was sustained; and a further appeal was then made to the D. D. G. M. on the point of order raised.

Such is a brief outline of the case as put before me under seal of the Lodge.—My decision was as follows:

“(a) Assuming that the facts of the case, so far as they relate to Bro. Hall, are set forth correctly—and the Lodge by its action, appears to acknowledge their correctness—it follows that no authoritative application having been made by Bro. Hall for a *withdrawal card*, the action of the Lodge was *ultra-vires*, and did not legally cut him off from membership. His membership continued *after the vote*, the same as before, and if in good standing otherwise, his rights remain unimpaired.

“(b) Had the *withdrawal card* been *granted legally*, both the motion and amendment would have been out of order, “As the vote by which a withdrawal card is authorized cannot be reconsidered nor rescinded” (Digest, Section 245), but as this *was not* the case—as the Lodge appears to acknowledge that its action in granting the card was wrong—the proper way to proceed is by reconsideration of the vote which granted the *unapplied* for withdrawal card. By this means the mistake may be rectified, and the erroneous vote removed from the minutes.

“(c) As no question decided by the Lodge can be brought before it again otherwise than by reconsideration (Bye-laws, Sec. 187), the original motion of Bro. Blakslee was out of order, and should not have been entertained. And as no question can be reconsidered “unless notice thereof shall have been given at the meeting immediately preceding (Bye-laws, Sec. 187), Bro. Joseph Wilson’s amendment was also out of order, as the necessary precedent notice had not been given.”

These rulings, I hope, will meet your approval. They were accepted by the Lodges and Brothers interested; and certified copies of the papers relating to each are hereunto annexed.

SILOAM LODGE, No. 29.

In obedience to the authority vested in me by dispensation dated Sept. 7th, 1876, I called to my assistance a sufficient number of known, approved and duly qualified Past Grands, and proceeded to open and constitute the new Lodge, now known and hailed as *Siloam, No. 29*.

The charter members of this Lodge are Franklin Barnes, W. B. Smith, James McClure, A. G. Smith, Wm. Tait, John R. Hamilton, Wm. M. McLean, jr., John Thompson, Wm. Carr and L. C. Ansley.

The Lodge having proceeded immediately after its constitution to the election of officers, the following Brothers were installed in regular form:

Wm. M. McLean, jr.,	....	....	N. G.
James McClure,	....	....	V. G.
Wm. B. Smith,	..	....	R. S.
A. G. Smith,	....	....	P. S.
John R. Hamilton,	....	....	Treas.
Franklin Barnes,	...	....	Con.
Wm. Tait,	....	....	War.
L. C. Ansley,	...	....	I. G.
John Thompson,	....	....	O. G.
Frank Masters,	....	....	R. S. S.
S. A. Corbitt,	....	....	L. S. S.

The Past Grands who assisted me on this occasion were Bros. R. Radford Barnes (Beacon), Andre Cushing (Pioneer), W. A. Moore (Peerless), John Fish (Beacon) and Joseph Wilson (Pioneer).

Seven (7) were admitted by initiation into the new Lodge on the night of its institution, and it has had a very successful career since. The initiatory service was conducted by the Past Grands present; the offices having been filled as follows, viz.:

R. Radford Barnes,	....	....	N. G.
William A. Moore,	....	....	V. G.
James Byers,	....	....	War.
Joseph Wilson,	....	....	Con.
John E. Hughes,	....	....	R. S. S.
John Fish,	....	....	L. S. S.
Gilbert Murdoch,	....	....	J. P. G.
Thomas W. Peters, jr.,	....	....	R. S.
Henry A. Vradenburg,	....	....	P. S.
Andre Cushing,	....	....	Treas.

DEDICATION.

Since I last had the honour of reporting the progress of the Order in this District, Prince Albert Lodge, No. 26, have obtained for themselves a new and handsome Lodge-room, and had it fitted up and furnished in a very superior manner. The situation is good, and the hall and ante-rooms are well-arranged, commodious and comfortable, and equal to anything of the kind to be met with in this jurisdiction.

The hall was publicly dedicated on the 24th day of May, last, to "Friendship, Love and Truth, Faith, Hope and Charity," according to the ancient usages of the Order. The ceremonies were conducted by myself (in your absence) assisted by Past Grand Representative Barnes (Marshall), Rev. Bro. Carey, (Chaplain), and Past Grand William M. McLean, jr., H. C. Vradenburgh, John Rubins, and Andre Cushing as Heralds. There was a large attendance of the *elite* of Moncton and neighbourhood; and at the close of the ceremonies an eloquent oration was delivered by Deputy Grand Master Stumbles, of Charlottetown.

A large representation of the St. John Lodges with music, &c., went up by special train to witness the proceedings, and deputations were present from Annapolis Royal, Charlottetown, Springhill, Halifax, Montreal and Brookville. In the evening a literary and musical entertainment was given in the Skating Rink, at which addresses were delivered by the Rev. Bro. Carey (St. John), the Rev. Bro. Pentreath (Moncton), the Hon. Bro. Willis (St. John), and Grand Secretary J. C. P. Frazee of Halifax. The arrangements were generally satisfactory and successful, and the day's proceedings terminated with a fine display of fire-works.

LOSS BY FIRE.

By the calamitous fire which occurred here on the 20th June last, the city Lodges—*Pioneer, Beacon, Siloam, and Milicite Encampment*—lost hall, furniture, regalia, paraphernalia, books and papers, and have been meeting since (by dispensation) in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland—the Brothers of this Lodge having kindly placed their room and regalia at the service of the sufferers.

The fire which worked so much mischief to our Lodges was great, not only in its extent and consequences, but in the terrible rapidity also, with which it swept across our city, regardless of brick, or stone, or streets, or squares, which under ordinary circumstances would have proved effectual barriers to its progress.

The alarm was given at 2.30 P. M., from a wooden shed or store in York Point, and in an hour from the time it was given, the Robertson brick block and the Barracks—a mile distant—were on fire. In less than five hours the whole of Smyth, Nelson, Dock, Ward, Water, Pince William and Germain streets, to Reed's Point were in ruins. These you may recollect were our principal business streets, and many of the buildings were supposed to be fire-proof. From this it spread eastward, and by midnight (9½ hours after the alarm was given) 200 acres of the city was one mass of seething fire.

This area represents 10 miles of streetage or *two-fifths* fully of the city proper; and embraced the warehouses of all our heavy importers—all our banking houses except one,—our city buildings, Custom House and General Post Office; all our newspaper offices; our newest and best equipped educational establishments; 3 Presbyterian, 2 Episcopal, 3 Baptist and 3 Methodist churches; the Barracks and Gas Works, the Academy of Music, the Gymnasium, the Dramatic Lyceum and Small's Opera House; *Barnes'* hotel, the *Royal*, the *International* and the *Victoria* hotels; about 1600 buildings, 4000 families, and from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 worth of property, real and personal, was destroyed.

In a conflagration such as this, it is not wonderful that the members of our Order suffered severely in their individual as well as their corporate capacity. At the close of the term which ended with the 30th day of June the total membership of the *three* city Lodges was 360, and of this number 142 had suffered to a greater or less extent by the fire. The loss of some was comparatively trifling, but many lost all they owned, everything belonging to themselves, their wives and children, barely escaping with their lives and the clothing they stood in.

On the Friday following the fire, (June 22nd), a mass meeting was held in Peerless Lodge-room, Portland, to consider the situation; after due deliberation the meeting resolved to maintain its own sufferers, and keep them, if possible, from being recipients of public charity. With this laudable object in view a Relief Committee was formed, composed of members from each Lodge, with myself as chairman; R. Radford Barnes, Treasurer; and John E. Hughes, Secretary. We have been working hard since, and have succeeded so far in tiding through our trouble, but we look forward to the future—to the coming Fall and Winter—with considerable apprehension.

No general appeal has been made yet for assistance—nor is it likely that any will be required—as the spontaneous expressions of sympathy which have reached us from far and near—from Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York; from Illinois, Tennessee and California, from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, backed invariably by substantial aid—have given new heart to the sufferers, and enabled the committee to maintain the position taken by the Lodges, when they resolved, with a firm faith in the benevolence of the Brotherhood, to “relieve the distressed,” and keep them from becoming objects of public charity; which to an independent and sensitive spirit is worse than death.

The amount received to date, or of which notice has been given to the Committee is \$5278.00, viz., from

NAMES, &c., OF LODGES.	U. S. LODGES.	CANADIAN LODGES.
Prince Albert Lodge, Moncton, N. B.....		\$ 100 00
Bangor Lodges.....	\$ 400 00	.....
Grand Lodge, Ontario, per J. B. King.....		400 00
Howard Lodge, Boston.....	100 00	.....
Eastern Star Lodge, Pictou, N. S.....		200 00
Victoria Lodge, Fredericton, N. B.....		320 00
Peaceful Dove Lodge, Cannington, Ont.....		50 00
Golden Star Lodge, Brampton, Ont.....		50 00
Mutual Relief Lodge, Haverhill, Mass.....	100 00	.....
Tarratine Lodge, Oldtown, Maine.....	115 00	.....
Portland Lodges, Maine.....	487 00	.....
Guiding Star Lodge, Granville Ferry, N. S.....		30 00
Aaron Lodge, Stratford, Ont.....		25 00
Memphis Lodges, Tennessee.....	300 00	.....
Charlottetown Lodges, P. E. I.....		250 00
Northern Light Lodge, Chicago, Illinois.....	10 00	.....
Fuller Lodge, Stellarton, N. S.....		50 00
Prince Edward Lodge, Summerside, P. E. I.....		100 00
Corinthian Lodge, Oshawa, Ont.....		50 00
Eureka Lodge, Springhill, N. S.....		50 00
E. J. Ritchie, Petticoodiac, N. B.....		1 00
Palestine Encampment, Rhode Island.....	10 00	.....
Golden Rule Lodge, Lewiston, Maine.....	125 00	.....
Moore Lodge, Vale Colliery, N. S.....		50 00
North Star Lodge, Stayner, Ont.....		30 00
Belville Lodge, Belville, Ont.....		50 00
Mizpah Lodge, Montreal, Que.....		50 00
Canada Lodge, Toronto, Ont.....		50 00
Kinco Lodge, Dover, Maine.....	50 00	.....
Humbolt Lodge, Eureka, California.....	50 00	.....
Rhode Island Lodges, per J. Driscoll.....	200 00	.....
Union Lodge, St. Catharine, Ont.....		100 00
Providence Lodge, Lynn, Mass.....	50 00	.....
Peerless Lodge, Portland, N. B.....		140 00
Huron Lodge, Goderich, Ont.....		80 00
Warriner Lodge, Point Perry, Ont.....		50 00
Clinton Lodge, Clinton Ont.....		25 00
Empire Lodge, St. Catharines, Ont.....		50 00
Scotia Lodge, Westville, N. S.....		50 00
Woonsocket Lodge, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.....	20 00	.....
Massachusetts Lodges, per John W. Perkins, G. M.....	340 00	.....
Fortuna Lodge, Eureka, California.....	20 00	.....
Grand Lodge, Illinois, per Grand Master Henderson.....	500 00	.....
	\$2877 00	\$2401 00

Of the above amount, \$2877.00 (U. S. cy.) has been received from our brethren of the United States, and \$2401.00 from the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

In addition to the liberal subscriptions forwarded from Portland, Me., and Charlottetown, the former forwarded four cases of clothing, and the latter two bales of blankets and a liberal supply of provisions.

With a view to maintain the independence of the Brotherhood, and save the feelings of the sufferers, it was resolved at the outset, that the names of the recipients should not be divulged to anyone outside of the Committee, and the brothers who may be appointed hereafter to audit the accounts when the work is finished. This resolution has been faithfully maintained and the manner of giving as well as receiving has been made as easy as possible, due regard being had to the claims and circumstances of each.

From the returns furnished by the Lodges the results of the fire in relation to its effects on individual members appear to have been as follows:—

NAME OF LODGE.	Number of Members.	Number of Sufferers.	Dependent on Sufferers.	Total Sufferers and Dependents.	Estimated value of property lost by Sufferers.
Siloam, No. 20.....	44	28	28	56	\$ 24,440 00
Beacon, " 12.....	118	36	94	130	113,550 00
Pioneer, " 9.....	198	78	132	260	392,860 00
Peerless, " 18.....	83	10	34	44	26,570 00
Totals.....	443	152	388	490	\$ 607,420 00
Less insurance.....					\$ 2 00
Net approximate loss.....					\$417,358 00

Many of the sufferers had *no insurance*, the supposed superiority of our fire department and the general efficiency of our water supply having led to a false security—to a popular belief that it was impossible for St. John to be scourged by fire, as Boston and Chicago had been.

INSTALLATIONS.

In consequence of the confusion caused by the loss of the books and papers of the Lodges, considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting the regular term returns. The last was received on the 31st ult., and has been forwarded together with Grand Lodge dues and dispensation fees, to the G. Sec'y. A close scrutiny and comparison with former returns may show them to be inaccurate in some particulars, but not, it is believed, to any serious extent. The returns received from Beacon have no seal attached to them; its seal having been lost in the fire.

The elective officers of Peerless Lodge were installed in "regular form," on the 4th day of July, but the appointed ones are not yet installed, as the N. G. has had some trouble in getting the Brothers to accept the offices. The officers of *Pioneer*—elective and appointed—were installed in "regular form" on the 13th day of July; the officers of *Prince Albert* on the 18th, and of *Siloam* on the 23rd ult; but the newly-elected officers of *Beacon* are not yet installed. The delay is a necessary result of the fire, and will be overcome doubtless in a short time.

In the spirit of our Order,

Yours truly,

GILBERT MURDOCH,

D. D. G. Master.

The hour appointed for the election of Grand Officers having arrived, the M. W. Grand Master appointed as scrutineers, Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., Representative Andre Cushing, of No. 9, and Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, and called for nominations for Grand Master.

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., seconded by Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10, nominated Representative Gilbert Murdoch, of No. 9, for Grand Master.

Representative Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., seconded by Harris VanBlarcom, G. W., nominated Representative W. W. Stumbles, jr., D. G. M., for Grand Master.

The nomination being, on motion, declared closed, the ballot was taken, and announced as follows :

Number of votes cast.....	50
Necessary for a choice.....	26
For Representative Murdoch there appeared.	36
“ “ Stumbles “ “	14

Whereupon Representative Gilbert Murdoch, of No. 9, was declared duly elected Grand Master.

For Deputy Grand Master,—

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, nominated Harris VanBlarcom, G. W.

Harris VanBlarcom, G. W., nominated Representative W. W. Stumbles, jr., D. G. M., for re-election.

Representative C. Schurman, of No. 22, nominated Representative W. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8.

Representatives Stumbles and DesBrisay declined the nomination, whereupon Harris VanBlarcom, G. W., was declared duly elected Deputy Grand Master by acclamation.

For Grand Warden,—

Thos. Robertson, G. Representative, nominated Representative Wm. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8.

H. VanBlarcom, G. W., nominated Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10.

The nomination being, on motion, declared closed, the ballot was taken, and announced as follows :

Number of votes cast.....	48
Necessary for a choice.....	25
For Representative DesBrisay.....	28
“ “ Graham.....	20

Whereupon Representative Wm. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8, was declared duly elected Grand Warden.

For Grand Secretary,—

Representative Wm. C. DesBrisay, of No. 8, nominated J. C. P. Frazee, G. Sec., for re-election.

The nomination being, on motion, declared closed, J. C. P. Frazee, Grand Secretary, was declared duly re-elected Grand Secretary, by acclamation.

For Grand Treasurer,—

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., nominated Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., for re-election.

The nomination, being on motion, declared closed, Representative Henry A. Taylor, G. Treas., was declared duly re-elected Grand Treasurer by acclamation.

For Grand Representative,—

Representative Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., nominated Representative John Richards, G. Rep., for re-election. There were also nominated the following :—Representatives W. W. Stumbles, D. G. M. ; Frank Graham, of No. 10 ; Andre Cushing, of No. 9 ; R. Radford Barnes, of No. 12 ; Robert Hockin, G. M.

Representatives Cushing and Hockin declined the nomination.

The ballot, being then taken, was announced as follows :

Number of votes cast.....	50
Necessary for a choice.....	26
For Representative Richards.....	3
“ “ Stumbles.....	19
“ “ Graham.....	14
“ “ Barnes.....	14

None of the candidates having received the number of votes necessary for a choice, Representative Richards' name was dropped, and a second ballot taken, and announced as follows :

Number of votes cast.....	51
Necessary for a choice.....	26
For Representative Stumbles.....	25
“ “ Graham.....	12
“ “ Barnes.....	14

There being still no choice, Representative Graham's name was dropped, and a third ballot taken, and announced as follows :

Number of votes cast.....	51
Necessary for a choice.....	26
For Representative Stumbles.....	28
“ “ Barnes.....	23

Whereupon Representative W. W. Stumbles, jr., of No. 8, D. G. M., was declared duly elected Grand Representative.

Representative N. A. Cliff, of No. 13, Representative Daniel Sutherland, of No. 2, and Representative Jno. Pringle, of No. 2, were elected Trustees by acclamation, and so declared.

The invitation of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 2, to hold the next annual meeting of the Grand Lodge at Pictou, and that

of Prince Albert Lodge, No. 26, to hold the same meeting at Moncton, laid on the table (page 88), were taken up for consideration.

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., seconded by H. Van Blarcom, G. W., moved that the next annual meeting of this Grand Lodge be held at Pictou, N. S. Representative Theo. L. Chappelle, G. H., seconded by Representative Wm. C. DesBrisay of No. 8, moved as an amendment that the next meeting of this Grand Lodge be held at Moncton, N. B. Amendment lost. Motion passed.

On motion Grand Lodge adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

MORNING SESSION.

Thursday, August 17th, 1877.

Grand Lodge re-assembled pursuant to adjournment, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Minutes of last session read and approved.

Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., from the Committee on Legislation, presented the Report of the Committee on the subject of incorporation of the Grand Lodge, and on the amendment to the Constitution of Subordinate Lodges, offered by Representative W. C. DesBrisay (page 91), as follows, which on being read clause by clause was adopted:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A.:

Your Committee are of opinion that the incorporation of this Grand Lodge would be of essential benefit to our Order, and recommend that a Committee be appointed at this session to inquire as to the probable expense of a Dominion Act of Incorporation, and be prepared to report at next annual session; also, that the Grand Secretary communicate with Subordinate Lodges as to the probability of their becoming incorporated under such Act, if obtained.

Your Committee would further report that however anxious they may be to obviate trouble in our Subordinate Lodges, in regard to members over six months in arrears, yet they deem it inexpedient at the present time to recommend any change in Section 1 of Article VIII. of the Constitution, as proposed by our Brother Representative DesBrisay.

H. A. TAYLOR,
H. McKELVIE,
W. A. MOORE.

On motion, the report of the Finance Committee (page 91), was taken up.

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., moved that the Report be adopted as a whole.

Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., moved as an amendment that it be read clause by clause. The amendment was carried.

The Report was then read clause by clause. On the last clause being read Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., moved, as an amendment, that a blank sum be appropriated towards paying such Representatives of last year as have not been paid by their own Lodges. Claims to be paid in the order of their presentation.

The Grand Secretary moved an amendment to the amendment, that the reference to last year's mileage and per diem be struck out of the Report. The amendment to the amendment was lost. Amendment also lost. The Report was then adopted as a whole.

The Report of the Committee on Laws of Subordinates (page 100), was then taken up. On section 15 of the proposed Constitution of Degree Lodges being read, Representative Jno. E. Hughes moved that the blank be filled by a majority. Motion concurred in.

Report was then adopted.

Representative Fred'k L. Hea, of No. 9, from the Committee on Appeals, presented the following Report:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

To the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the L. P. B. N. A. :

FOSTER

vs.

GUIDING STAR LODGE.

In this case the matter referred to your committee appears as follows, viz. :—

Bro. P. R. Foster, a member of Guiding Star Lodge, having been charged with conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow, refused to stand trial, and was consequently expelled by said Guiding Star Lodge for contempt.

Bro. P. R. Foster appeals on the ground of illegality of committee appointed to try him, &c.

Your committee find from minutes of Guiding Star Lodge, that the committee selected to try Bro. Foster was, through inadvertence, appointed by the N. G., instead of being elected by ballot, as required by Sec. 4, Art. VIII., of the Constitution of Subordinates.

Your committee therefore recommend that the appeal of Bro. Foster be sustained on the ground of informality.

JAMES H. ELLIS,
FRED'K. L. HEA,
CALEB SCHURMAN.

Representative Wm. M. McLean, of No. 29, moved, seconded by Representative Gilbert Murdoch, of No. 9, that the report be adopted.

Representative J. H. Crosscup, of No. 21, moved as an amendment that the appeal be not sustained.

Representative Henry A. Taylor, G. Treas., moved as an amendment to the amendment, seconded by Representative W. C. DesBrisay, that the report be amended by adding the words, "and that the report be referred back to Guiding Star Lodge for a new trial." The amendment to the amendment was carried, and the report, as amended, adopted.

Representative N. A. Cliff, of No. 13, from the Committee on Distribution, presented the following Report* :—

The Committee on Distribution beg leave to report that the Report of Representative Murdoch, D. D. G. M., be distributed to the following Committees for consideration :

- 1st. That part relating to finance to the Committee on Finance.
- 2nd. That part relating to appeals and decisions to the Committee on Legislation.
- 3rd. Those portions relating to visitation, dedications, loss by the great fire in St. John, and all other matters to the Committee on the State of the Order.

N. A. CLIFF.
W. A. MOORE.

* Owing to the lateness of the hour at which this Report was submitted and the consequent short period elapsing before the Grand Lodge finally adjourned, no opportunity was afforded the various committees to whom Bro. Murdoch's report was referred to examine the same, and consequently no reports were received from them.

Representative W. A. Moore, G. Chap., from the Committee on Returns, presented the following Report which was adopted:

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

The Committee on Returns, to whom was referred the matter in dispute between the Grand Secretary's office and St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 8, in regard to the amount of per capita tax due from the said Lodge, beg leave to report that although the said Lodge appears by the returns as legally due this Grand Lodge a balance of \$15.00 per capita tax, still your committee think the amount not equitably due, the error having arisen from an omission of the Rec. Secretary's.

Your committee therefore recommend that St. Lawrence Lodge be discharged from liability for the said amount of \$15.00.

W. A. MOORE,
D. D. DAVIDSON,
PETER CAMPBELL.

The Report of the Committee on the State of the Order (page 96), was then taken up, read clause by clause, and adopted as a whole.

Representative Frank Graham, of No. 10, from the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem, presented the following Report, which was adopted:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILEAGE AND PER DIEM.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

The Committee on Mileage and Per Diem herewith submit a statement of the mileage and per diem which the officers and representatives are entitled to receive :

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	LODGE.	Miles.	Mileage.	Days.	TOTAL.
Robert Hockin.....	Pictou.....	Eastern Star...	240	\$ 14 40	3	\$ 20 40
W. W. Stumbles.....	Charlottetown ...	St. Lawrence...	294	17 64	3	23 64
H. VanBlarcom.....	Annapolis.....	Western Star..	...	.....	3	6 00
J. C. P. Frazee	Halifax.....	Mystic.....	130	7 80	3	13 80
H. A. Taylor.....	".....	Orient.....	130	7 80	3	13 80
Thos. Robertson.....	".....	Mystic.....	130	7 80	2	11 80
W. A. Moore.....	St. John.....	Peerless.....	60	3 60	3	9 60
John Pringle.....	Pictou.....	Eastern Star...	240	14 40	3	20 40
T. L. Chappelle.....	Charlottetown,...	St. Lawrence...	294	17 64	3	23 64
John E. Hughes.....	St. John.....	Pioneer.....	60	3 60	2	7 60
<i>Carried forward.....</i>			1578	\$ 94 68	28	\$150 68

REPRESENTATIVES.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	LODGE.	Miles.	Mileage.	Days.	TOTAL.
<i>Brought forward..</i>			1578	\$ 94 68	28	\$150 68
K. J. McKenzie.....	Pictou.....	Eastern Star ...	240	14 40	3	20 40
D. Sutherland.....	".....	".....	240	14 40	3	20 40
John Douglas.....	Stellarton.....	Fuller.....	228	13 68	3	19 68
H. McElvie.....	".....	".....	228	13 68	3	19 68
Peter Campbell.....	New Glasgow... ..	Norton.....	230	13 80	3	19 80
Peter McG. Chisholm..	".....	".....	230	13 80	3	19 80
W. C. DesBrisay.....	Charlottetown... ..	St. Lawrence..	294	17 64	3	23 64
Sylvanus Keith.....	".....	".....	294	17 64	2	21 64
F. L. Hea.....	St. John.....	Pioneer.....	60	3 60	3	9 60
Frank Graham.....	Halifax.....	Orient.....	130	7 80	3	13 80
Theo. A. Cossman.....	".....	".....	130	7 80	3	13 80
D. B. Graham.....	Westville.....	Scotia.....	227	13 62	3	19 62
N. A. Cliff.....	Fredericton.....	Victoria.....	128	7 68	3	13 68
James H. Ellis.....	".....	".....	128	7 68	3	13 68
Wm. Conway.....	Spring Hill.....	Eureka.....	254	15 34	2	19 34
Alex. McKay.....	".....	".....	254	15 34	2	19 34
James E. Crowe.....	Annapolis.....	Western Star..	.....	.....	3	6 00
B. Tedford.....	".....	".....	.....	.....	3	6 00
Thomas Turnbull.....	Vale Colliery... ..	Moore.....	235	14 10	3	20 10
D. D. Davidson.....	Kentville.....	Evangeline. ...	59	3 54	3	9 54
J. H. Crosscup.....	Granville.....	Guiding Star... ..	1	6	3	6 06
J. B. Messenger.....	".....	".....	1	6	3	6 06
Caleb Schurman.....	Summerside.....	Prince Edward	343	20 58	3	26 58
A. A. McLennan.....	".....	".....	343	20 58	3	26 58
D. B. Stewart.....	Oxford.....	Mystic Tie.....	247	14 82	3	20 82
W. E. Oxley.....	".....	".....	247	14 82	3	20 82
E. A. Bent.....	Pugwash.....	Crystal Wave..	248	14 88	3	20 88
Henry Smith.....	".....	".....	248	14 88	3	20 88
A. S. Foster.....	Moncton.....	Prince Albert..	316	18 96	3	24 96
J. W. Barry.....	".....	".....	316	18 96	3	24 96
A. W. Little.....	Halifax.....	Mystic.....	130	7 80	3	13 80
J. R. Macdonald.....	".....	".....	130	7 80	3	13 80
James McClure.....	St. John.....	Siloam.....	60	3 60	2	7 60
W. M. McLean.....	".....	".....	60	3 60	3	9 60
Robt. McLean.....	Springville.....	Union.....	230	13 80	3	19 80
Totals.....			8087	\$485 42	129	\$743 42

FRANK GRAHAM,
DANIEL SUTHERLAND,
J. R. MACDONALD.

Representative Fred'k L. Hea, of No. 8, presented the following resolution which was passed unanimously:—

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of this R. W. Grand Body be tendered to Western Star Lodge, No. 16, for the kindness and courtesy extended by said Lodge to this Grand Lodge, during the present session.

And further resolved, That this resolution be spread on the records of this Grand Lodge, and the Secretary be instructed to forward under seal of the Grand Lodge, a copy of this resolution to Western Star Lodge.

Representative D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, presented the following notice of amendment :—

I hereby give notice of resolution, at next annual meeting of this Grand Lodge, to amend Section 3, Article II. of the Constitution, so as to read as follows:—Every Lodge shall be entitled, in the Grand Lodge, to one representative for its charter, &c.

Also Section 6, Article II. to read as follows :—Each officer of this, R. W. Grand Lodge, and one representative from each Lodge in this jurisdiction, &c.

Also Section 7, Article II. to read as follows:—When any Lodge is represented in this Grand Lodge by more than one representative, the one who is entitled to the expenses provided for in the preceding Section shall be determined by the Lodge represented; and a certificate under seal of such Lodge, attested by the N. G. and Secretary, shall be sent to the R. W. Grand Secretary, and such certificate shall be deemed sufficient evidence that such representative is entitled to payment for such expenses.

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., moved the following resolution, which was passed unanimously :—

Resolved, That we tender our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the brethren of the Order in St. John in the heavy losses they have sustained in the late disastrous fire, trusting that the same Providence which “seems to smite may chasten and restore.”

And further resolved, That we commend the action of the Committee of Relief in their efforts to relieve the wants and alleviate the condition of the unfortunate, as appears by the report of D. D. Grand Master Murdoch.

Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., moved that the sum of one hundred dollars be voted towards the relief of the sufferers by the St. John fire. Motion withdrawn at the request of the St. John Representatives.

Representative John Pringle, G. Con., moved, seconded by Representative D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, that the salary of the Grand Secretary be two hundred dollars, instead of one hundred dollars, as at present. Carried.

Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., moved, seconded by Representative D. B. Stewart, of No. 23, the following resolution :—

Whereas, it is well known that there are representatives, as well as members of Subordinate Lodges, in the habit of occasional indulgence in the use of intoxicating beverages, to their own injury, that of their families, and the good name of this Order ;

And Whereas, it is expedient that the Grand Lodge should recommend some action in the premises;

Be it therefore resolved, That this Grand Lodge earnestly recommends Representatives, and members of Subordinate Lodges to the practice of the ennobling virtue of temperance in things useful and beneficial, and abstinence from everything known to be injurious and prejudicial to health; and that a close supervision be had over such of our brethren as transgress in this way, in order that prompt discipline may result to any offending brother in this Grand Lodge, or in the Subordinate Lodges.

Representative G. Murdoch, of No. 9, moved, seconded by Representative John Pringle, G. Con., that the resolution be amended by striking out the preamble. Motion passed.

The resolution, as amended, was then put and carried.

Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., moved that the usual number (500) of the Reports of this meeting be printed. Motion passed.

Representative H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., moved that the sum of \$5.00 be presented to the janitor of Western Star Lodge. Passed.

Representative Andre Cushing, of No. 9, seconded by Representative James H. Ellis, of No. 13, moved the following resolution, which was not concurred in:—

Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this Grand Lodge, through our Committee on Appeals, that although the evidence laid before them in the case of Graham vs. Norton Lodge, relative to the action of said Lodge respecting charges against Bro. P. McG. Chisholm, P. G., was not of a nature to sustain the appeal, in the form presented, yet, nevertheless, it was of such a character as to prove Bro. Chisholm not only guilty of conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow, but deeply immoral in its character.

Therefore resolved, That the said P. McG. Chisholm, P. G., be requested, and he is hereby requested to withdraw from this Grand Lodge.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. Grand Master elect, Representative Gilbert Murdoch, of No. 9, was then installed into that office by Grand Master Robert Hoekin, with the usual ceremonies.

Representative Moore, of No. 19, moved, seconded by Representative Pringle, G. Con., that the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer be allowed one month in which to file their bonds of office. Motion passed.

M. W. Grand Master Murdoch then installed the following Grand Officers :—

HARRIS VANBLARCOM.....*D. G. Master.*
 WILLIAM C. DESBRISAY.....*G. Warden.*
 J. C. P. FRAZEE.....*G. Secretary.*
 H. A. TAYLOR.....*G. Treasurer.*
 W. W. STUMBLES, JR.....*G. Representative.*

The M. W. G. Master then appointed and installed the following Grand Officers :—

N. A. CLIFF.....*G. Marshal.*
 W. A. MOORE.....*G. Conductor.*
 W. M. McLEAN.....*G. Guardian.*
 D. B. STEWART.....*G. Herald.*
 W. M. WEATHERSPOON.....*G. Chaplain.*

The M. W. Grand Master then appointed the following District Deputy Grand Masters:

ROBERT HOCKIN, OF No. 2, P. G. M.....*District of Pietou.*
 JAS. MITCHEL, OF No. 5, P. G. M..... " *Egerton.*
 WM. C. DESBRISAY, OF No. 8..... " *Charlottetown.*
 WILLIAM WILLIAMS, OF No. 10..... " *Halifax.*
 JAS. H. ELLIS, OF No. 13..... " *Fredericton.*
 H. VANBLARCOM, OF No. 16, D. G. M..... " *Annapolis.*
 D. D. DAVIDSON, OF No. 20..... " *King's.*
 CALEB SCHURMAN, OF No. 22..... " *Summerside.*
 E. A. BENT, OF No. 25..... " *Cumberland.*
 A. S. FOSTER, OF No. 26..... " *Moneton.*

The M. W. Grand Master then appointed the following Committees :—

Finance.—Frank Graham, William Williams, William C. DesBrisay, James R. Macdonald, Daniel Sutherland.

Credentials.—James Yorston, P. G. M., James H. Ellis, Francis Love.

Returns.—W. A. Moore, G. Con., D. D. Davidson, Peter Campbell.

Laws of Subordinates.—John E. Hughes, R. R. Barnes, Joseph Wilson.

Petitions.—James Mitchel, P. G. M., Theo. L. Chappelle, Frederick L. Hea.

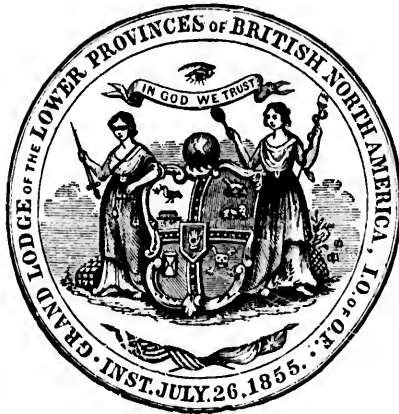
Appeals.—Andre Cushing, Robert Hockin, P. G. M., Theo. A. Cossman, William Conway, Thos. Turnbull.

Correspondence.—W. W. Stumbles, jr., G. Rep., H. Van-Blareom, D. G. M., N. A. Cliff, G. Marshal.

State of the Order.—D. B. Stewart, H. A. Taylor, G. Treas., A. A. McLennan.

Legislation.—J. W. Barry, W. E. Oxley, K. J. McKenzie.

On motion, the Grand Lodge adjourned *sine die*.



J. C. P. FRAZEE,
Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT FOR 1877.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the Lower Provinces, B. N. A. :

We, your Representatives to the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States, of the I. O. O. F., which assembled in the city of Baltimore, Sept. 17th, submit the following Report for publication with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the Lower Provinces.

The Grand Lodge had not met in Baltimore for three years previous to the present one. The occasion is one of great interest wherever the Lodge holds its deliberations, and so far as Baltimore was concerned, her well known hospitality was extended to the utmost to her guests from abroad. The grand and fundamental principles of Odd Fellowship, it is well known, had their origin in Baltimore, through Thomas Wildey.

The Grand Lodge members were escorted from their headquarters to Odd Fellows' Hall by the uniformed Patriarchs, who presented a brilliant appearance, the whole procession being enlivened by bands of music. At 9 o'clock, A. M., the Grand Sire took his seat, and proceeded to open the Lodge. The roll of officers was called, together with the names of the Representatives who had been present at the previous session. There was found to be quite a large representation present, all the jurisdictions being represented, with the exception of British Columbia, Manitoba, South Carolina, Wyoming and Switzerland.

The Report of the Grand Sire showed that although the Order has lost in numerical strength in some places, yet in the aggregate there has been an increase in membership, both in Encampments and Subordinate Lodges. The Report is too lengthy for insertion here, but the following extracts will doubtless be interesting and instructive, showing the increase and condition of the Order at the present time.

EXTRACTS FROM GRAND REPORT.

YEAR.	Grand Lodges.	Subordinate Lodges.	Grand Encampments.	Subordinate Encampments.	Lo'ge Initiations	Lodge Members.	Encampment Members.	Total Relief.	Total Revenue.
1875.....	48	6,395	39	1,756	50,043	454,689	87,450	\$1,698,868.92	\$ 14,241.70
1876.....	48	6,678	39	1,806	40,646	456,125	87,785	1,680,485.62	4, 3,572.46
Increase		283		50		1,436	335		
Decrease					9,397		335	\$ 9,383.30	\$ 224,369.24

DECISIONS.

Question. Is it right for the Grand Representatives to give the A. T. P. W. to the Grand Lodge or Encampment, the same as he would the permanent P. W. during the exemplification of the unwritten work?

No. 1. Answer. No; the A. T. P. W. should be communicated by the Grand Representative to the M. W. Grand Master, or Grand Patriarch of the jurisdiction, who will communicate it to the Grand Secretary or Grand Scribe, and cause it to be communicated to the D. D. Grand Masters, and such other installing officers as he may find it necessary to appoint to assist him in the discharge of his official duties.

Question. Is it compulsory on the N. G. of a Degree of Rebekah Lodge to communicate the A. P. W. to one of its members who is divorced from her husband, whether he is still in good standing or has been expelled from the Order?

No. 2. Answer. If a member (Daughter of Rebekah), upon her own libel (or complaint) against the husband, has obtained a divorce, she would be entitled under section 509 "D," White's Digest, to the A. P. W., and the N. G. of Degree of Rebekah Lodge would be the proper officer to communicate the same. But if the decree of divorce was made upon the husband's libel or complaint against the wife, the A. P. W., should be withheld until the Lodge should be satisfied that she had not been guilty of any immoral conduct. The husband's standing in his Lodge does not affect her standing in the Rebekah Degree Lodge either one way or the other. See section 509 "D," White's Digest.

Question. Are Lodges in this (New Jersey) jurisdiction required to submit their By-Laws or amendments thereto, to our R. W. Grand Lodge, and have them approved, before they can have force and effect?

No. 3. Answer. The above question is entirely within the control of State Grand Lodges, and with which the Grand Lodge of the United States should not interfere, unless upon appeal in the usual manner. Vol. 8, page 6618, Journal G. L. U. S.

Question. Can an Indian with a withdrawal card be a petitioner for, and become a charter member of a new Lodge?

No. 4. Answer. No, he cannot be either; the action of the Grand Lodge of the United States, session 1876, page 6977, decided "That no Lodge can lawfully permit an Indian to visit it under any circumstances whatever," which renders him also incompetent as a petitioner for a new Lodge.

No. 5. A brother of an extinct Subordinate Lodge, holding a certificate or card, such as are described and provided for in sections 225 and 226, White's Digest, is entitled to visit upon such certificate or card for one year from the date of its issue; and the N. G.'s of Subordinate Lodges, when officially requested by the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction issuing such certificate or card, upon being satisfied of the identity of the individual, should communicate the A. T. P. W. to the brother holding such certificate or card. See 1518 and 1519, White's Digest.

No. 6. The status of a brother holding a dismissal certificate, is specifically defined under the third resolution as reported under Sec. 316, White's Digest, and if he wants to renew his membership, he must pursue the same course as that prescribed for Ancient Odd Fellows in Sec. 64, or as an applicant or petitioner for a charter for a new Lodge, as provided for in Sec. 316, 'B,' White's Digest.

The Judiciary Committee recommended that the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th decisions submitted by the M. W. Grand Sire be approved.

INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.

It having been brought to the notice of my predecessor that the Order in some of the jurisdictions were using odes supplied by private parties other than those published and furnished by the G. L. of the U. S., and regarding it as an infringement of the copyright, and tending ultimately, if persisted in, to interfere seriously with the revenue, he issued special notices to the Grand Authorities complained of, for their suppression. Finding, upon my induction into office, that there were parties still engaged in the printing, distribution and sale of these illegal odes, I deemed it to be my duty, as well as absolutely necessary for the protection of the revenue of the Grand Lodge, which was beginning to feel the effects of the interference, to issue a circular letter directed to the M. W. Grand Masters and Grand Patriarchs of the different jurisdictions requiring them to forbid the use of all odes other than those issued by the authority of the G. L. of the U. S., a copy of which is herewith submitted.

Responses to this circular have been received from many of the Grand Authorities, giving assurances of a willingness and determination to sustain the effort to stop the unlawful interference with the sale of supplies and the revenue of the Grand Lodge, and at the same time disclosing the existence of a variety of odes or poems differing altogether from the prescribed formula in the work of the Order, and which have been substituted for the regular odes, thus changing the work in violation of Article twenty, By-Laws of the G. L. of the U. S., a notice of which confronts every officer of a Subordinate Lodge that opens a charge book.

I would respectfully submit, in connection with this subject, that there is an evident desire in many localities to have the various odes of the Order set to appropriate music, something altogether different and better than has been hitherto supplied, and would suggest that this is the proper time to meet this manifest want of the Order in that direction, or to surrender it altogether to private enterprise or to the local jurisdictions.

All of the information upon this subject that has come to my notice, has been given to the Committee on Printing Supplies, who will, I am advised, submit for your consideration a remedy for the evil complained of, and for which I ask your favorable consideration.

There is also somewhat connected with this subject, though not probably in violation of any copyright, an individual enterprise that is flooding the Order, and ornamenting Lodge-rooms with maps, charts, diplomas and certificates of membership containing a great variety of figures, emblems and mottoes, a large number of which are not to be found in the classified and recognized symbols of our Order, and I most respectfully submit for the consideration of this Grand Lodge whether this privilege or license should not be subject to some regulation or supervision of this Body, which shall at least limit the display of what purports to be emblems of the Order in our Lodge-rooms, to those only that have their proper and recognized significance, and in the event of our ultimate success in that direction, to make these charts what they purport to be—standard works that can be utilized by Encampments, Lodges and Degree Lodges in the exemplification of the ritual.

CANADA.

The Order in the British Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Lower Provinces, being an integral part of this R. W. Body, with their Representatives annually with us, holding the same relation as our home jurisdiction, have become so nearly allied to us in interest and feeling, as it is contiguous in territory, that it is no longer referred to amongst us as a foreign country into which the Order has been introduced, but I may be permitted to add

from a personal knowledge afforded by a visit to that jurisdiction, whilst D. G. Sire, that there is no location or Grand jurisdiction anywhere that can boast of being in better hands. Their Representatives have been pressing with commendable patience, but with persistent modesty and zeal upon the consideration of this Grand Lodge for several years, the propriety of adopting a name that would be more cosmopolitan and comprehensive than the present one for a body now exercising authority in other and many different nationalities, and ultimately it may be in every quarter of the globe, and whilst I am willing to confess an attachment to the name under which we have won our way to public favor and distinction, and doubtless eminently proper when adopted, I most respectfully submit that the continued success and extension of the Order into other countries seem to create an absolute necessity for the change.

FIRE IN ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Our brethren in the Lower Provinces, in common with their fellow-citizens, have been visited with a fearful and disastrous conflagration, in which many of them have suffered great loss, besides the destruction of the books, regalia and other property of three Lodges and one Encampment.

Under an anxiety to be properly informed as to the extent of the disaster and privations of the unfortunate sufferers before any general appeal to the Order for relief was recommended, the R. W. Grand Corresponding and Recording Secretary addressed a letter to the R. W. D. D. Grand Sire Andre Cushing, asking information upon the subject. His reply will be presented in the correspondence of that office, giving an account of the losses and misfortunes of our brethren there, but who decline to make any general appeal for relief.

I am happy, however, to know that their brethren in Ontario and other localities voluntarily forwarded liberal contributions for their relief.

EXTRACTS FROM R. W. GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Report of the R. W. Grand Secretary is too comprehensive to be inserted here, but the following extracts and concluding sentence of a very able Report will serve to show the opinions of the most experienced and respected officer of the Grand Lodge of the U. S., respecting the present and future prospects of Odd Fellowship.

GENERAL RETURNS.

	Year 1875.	Year 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
Grand Lodges.....	48	48		
Subordinate Lodges	6,395	6,078	283	
Rebekah Degree Lodges	879	770		109
Grand Encampments.....	39	39		
Subordinate Encampments.....	1,756	1,806	50	
Lodge Initiations.....	50,043	40,646		9,397
Lodge members.....	454,689	456,125	1,436	
Encampment members.....	87,450	87,785	335	
Relief by Lodges.....	\$1,510,854.11	\$1,507,649.12		\$ 3,205.09
Relief by Encampments.....	180,969.43	177,151.45		3,817.98
Relief by Rebekah Lodges.....	7,045.28	4,685.05		2,360.23
Total relief.....	1,698,868.92	1,689,485.62		9,383.30
Revenue of Lodges.....	4,193,665.45	4,008,984.69		184,680.76
Revenue of Encampments.....	488,421.55	453,034.72		35,386.83
Revenue of Rebekah Lodges....	32,154.70	27,853.05		4,301.65
Total revenue.....	4,714,241.70	4,489,872.46		224,369.24

I continue the statement presented last year on page 6817, Journal, to the close of the year 1876 :

From 1830 to December 31st, 1876.

Initiations.....	1,022,800
Members relieved.....	773,191
Widowed families relieved.....	102,754
Members deceased.....	69,867
Total relief.....	\$23,982,887.62
Total receipts.....	64,633,783.90
Present membership.....	461,888

CONCLUSION.

The condition of the Order is a just subject of congratulation to its friends. There is nothing to excite its fears, or to create anxiety for its future. On the contrary its career is auspicious in the highest degree. Ranking among the strongest organizations of the kind in the world, it maintains its prestige triumphantly, and beyond a satisfactory examination of its system of "Dues and Benefits" and their proper reconstruction, needs no organic legislation. This, although a pressing and vital subject, with a view to its permanent existence, is rather a question of calm and considerate reform than of controversy, addressing itself to the practical sense and wisdom of its rulers, involving as it does the life and death of Odd Fellowship, which is inseparably blended with sound finances and a stable system of "dues and benefits."

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. L. RIDGELY,

September, 1877.

Cor. and Rec. Sec.

CONCLUSION OF HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT.

I am sensible of the rapid approach of infirmities, and that the time I could best have spent in this direction has passed. I, therefore, with sincere sorrow, and with keen regret that I could do no more in so grand a cause, hereby resign my place as Historiographer, with my best wishes for the future and final completion of a work so important to Odd Fellowship. I have caused the entire completed manuscript, as detailed in my report of last year, together with a mass of valuable papers accumulated by me during many years, to be deposited in the fire-proof as the property of the Grand Lodge, among which is the original manuscript of the Past Grand's Charge, as first presented, in 1845, to my colleagues on the Revision Committee, Bros. E. H. Chapin and John A. Kennedy. There is no debt owing by the Grand Lodge on account of the History. The whole sum expended has amounted to \$1500; \$1000 to the widow of the lamented Kennedy for his manuscript, and \$500 to the present Historiographer.

Fraternally submitted,

JAS. L. RIDGELY,

Sept. 17, 1877.

Historiographer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The proposed amendment of Bro. Perry, of Ontario, to change the name of the Grand Lodge of the U. S., to the *Supreme Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows* was lost, 73 voting for the change and 61 against, a two-third vote being necessary for any change in the Constitution.

The proposed amendment to meet biennially was also lost. No change was made in the mileage and per diem.

The R. W. Grand Corresponding and Recording Secretary addressed the Lodge as follows, previous to adjournment :

Most Worthy Grand Sire : I rise at this late hour, by your permission to address this Grand Lodge, for which I have to ask its indulgence, pre-facing what I have to say with the promise that I shall be brief. It is apparent to you all, my brethren, that old age has overtaken your Grand Secretary, and that, in the evening of his life, his health, which has always been frail, has been gradually declining. Although heretofore I have been, and still am, equal to the requisitions and responsibilities of the office, and my mental vigor has been mercifully preserved, as abundantly appears, yet my physical infirmity is not less manifest. My mind has been struggling, while sitting at this desk during the session, between official duty and pressing private interests. "Duty" has at length prevailed in the issue ; in obedience to which I now notify the Grand Lodge that if, by the law of nature, as is reasonably probable, I shall after the end of my present term, be physically disqualified, or unable to serve you longer, it will be your duty to supply the succession adequately. You all know that this is by far the most important office within your gift. I have been honored by this Grand Body, as its incumbent, as no other man in this Order, or perhaps elsewhere, has been honored before, having been continued, by re-election, in office for thirty-seven years, for which I now bow before you with profound gratitude, and with memories of love and emotions of heart which are difficult to describe or to restrain.

The following resolutions were adopted from the Report of the Legislative Committee :

Resolved, That a member of a Subordinate Lodge or Encampment, who is in arrears for weekly or funeral dues more than thirteen weeks, is not entitled to the term password, or to vote in the Lodge or Encampment, but is a contributing member until suspended, dropped or expelled, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and as such is entitled to visit his own Lodge or Encampment. He cannot, however, become entitled to benefits until he shall have paid up in full all dues and fines (weekly and funeral) that have accrued against him up to the day of payment, if the By-Laws of the Lodge or Encampment shall so provide ; nor then until the expiration of such time thereafter as may also by the laws be provided as a penalty.

Resolved, That when any member of a Lodge or Encampment shall neglect or refuse to pay the dues fixed by the laws, for the space of one year, the Secretary or Scribe shall report the same to the Noble Grand or Chief Patriarch, and, unless the Lodge or Encampment otherwise direct, such member shall thereupon be suspended, he having been first notified of the action that would be taken, a record of which shall be made upon the minutes. The mere fact of a member being over twelve months in arrears does not constitute him a suspended or dropped member. To render him such the Lodge or Encampment must formally declare him to be suspended.

Resolved, That a Lodge or Encampment cannot refuse to receive, in full or in part, the dues of a member prior to his suspension, and no member can be suspended or dropped from membership in the Order for non-payment of dues, unless, at the time of his suspension, he shall be indebted to the Lodge or Encampment for one year's dues.

Resolved, That all previous legislation inconsistent with the foregoing resolutions, be, and is hereby, repealed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

Resolved, That Section 5, Article I., Constitution of this Grand Lodge, be amended by inserting in the last line between the words "members" and "of" the word "present," so that the section shall read :

To this Grand Lodge belongs the power to regulate and control the unwritten work of the Order, and to fix and determine the customs and usages in regard to all things which appertain thereto. And to it alone belongs the power to provide and establish suitable lectures and other written work therefor. But the unwritten work of the Order shall in no wise be altered or amended, except by a unanimous vote of this Grand Lodge; nor shall the written work of the Order be in any wise altered or amended, except with the concurrence of four-fifths of the members *present* of this Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That all appointed officers of any Subordinate Lodge shall be in possession of the Scarlet Degree, except the Chaplain and Scene Supporters.

Much more might be embodied in this Report that would be interesting to members of this jurisdiction, such as the correspondence with the Manchester Unity, appeal cases, several of which were before the Appeal Committee, but too much space would be occupied in the recital of them.

The Grand Lodge agreed to hold its next session at Austin, Texas, U. S.

Officers and Representatives of the Grand Lodge of the Lower Provinces, we thank you for the confidence which you have placed in us, and will feel it our duty to give any additional information within our power to members of the Order.

THOS. ROBERTSON,

W. W. STUMBLES, JR.,

Grand Representatives.

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