

GRAND DIVISION of ONTARIO

GRAND SCRIBE'S REPORT.

Continued.
LITERATURE.

I believe also that much benefit would follow the greater use of the printed page. Our own paper, *The Son of Temperance*, has not received the support to which it is entitled. I fear that, though this Grand Division has, for two years, paid for and sent free of charge, to each Division, monthly, a copy of this paper, that in many cases the paper is not read in the Division, much less subscriptions solicited therefore; in fact, some instances have come to my notice where the members of the Division were in entire ignorance of its existence. Bro. Webster, G. W. P., has, for a long time, given his time without any remuneration, to the editorial management of the paper, and your Grand Scribe has endeavored to supply items of general interest for its columns, and we think that, at least, it was entitled to courteous consideration. Had it been properly supported it could have been made much better and more useful, and probably the way would have been opened out for a weekly paper, and this we greatly need. I trust that some way may be devised to ensure more fully the success and usefulness of our own paper, if you decide upon its continuance as our official organ. We must bear in mind, however, that we cannot expect to fully interest every Division and every member in the importance and advantages of our work unless we have a live medium of communication well supported.

I have been for some time in receipt of a copy of *The Temperance Journal*, the organ of the Sons of Temperance in New Brunswick. The editor is Bro. H. H. Pitts, P. G. W. A. of the G. D. of N. B. It is a live, bright, well written eight page paper, thoroughly devoted to the interests of our Order and to national prohibition. I understand that a copy has been sent to each of our Divisions. It publishes Ontario news with promptness, it aims to become the organ of the Order for Canada and for the eastern and northern States. I doubt not that its general circulation amongst our members would prove an advantage to the Order and largely help to remove the feeling of isolation and indifference that seems to be prevalent in some Divisions and among some of our members.

I think further that the spirit of fraternity and the general interest in our Order and its work would be promoted by more frequent circulars to Divisions. When circulars are sent only with blank returns, or respecting delinquency, the idea seems with some to prevail, falsely, yet injuriously, that all the Grand Division cares for the Subordinate Divisions is to obtain the *per capita*. The years of earnest devotion and self-sacrifice by members of this Grand Division is a sufficient refutation of such an idea, but these facts are not known to those Divisions which have not sent their representatives to the sessions of this body. This Grand Division is not a foreign or separate body. It consists of the regularly elected and credentialled representatives of Subordinate Divisions and no others. The majority of those who attend most regularly do so at their own expense, and from pure love for the Order and its work. The interests of this Grand Division can only be the interest of each Subordinate Division and of each of their members. This truth, if generally known and fully realized, would materially aid in developing and establishing closer ties of brotherhood. With a view to this, I would suggest that, at least once each quarter, a fraternal circular be sent to each Division.

RETURNS.

I have repeatedly urged upon Deputies the importance and the necessity for sending in returns promptly and correctly filled, and in a measure these appeals have been responded, but there is still much room for improvement. The numerical columns usually receive proper attention, but the financial columns are frequently neglected, in some only G. D. *per capita* tax and receipts are named, some indeed, even not so much. A division that sends in incomplete returns does not do itself justice, and a Division whose books are not kept in such a manner that the necessary information can

easily be obtained, certainly deprives itself of many of the educational and business advantages that a Division is designed to utilize and enjoy. I again most respectfully urge the utmost care in filling every blank in the Return form.

For the quarter ending September several Divisions known to be in active operation have not yet made returns, though a number of them have written explaining the delinquency and promising that soon returns and *per capita* shall be forthcoming. Some of the reasons given are:—"The absence of the Treasurer," "Heavy payment to make on hall," "Instalment on organ due," "Death of the D. G. W. P.," etc.

One hundred and nineteen Divisions made returns for the quarter ending September, showing an aggregate membership of 5,208, as against 5,148 members in 132 Divisions in September of last year, a gain of sixty members from thirteen fewer Divisions, indicating stronger and more vigorous Divisions, a larger average membership. Twenty-nine Divisions are delinquent, seven of these are dormant, seven are doubtful, and fifteen I believe to be in active operation. These fifteen last returned about 530 members. Should these figures be reduced 20 per cent. we shall still have a very gratifying increase in membership for the year, when we bear in mind that but a small amount of money has been expended for propagation purposes, and that the work has been chiefly conducted by your Executive Committee with the valuable assistance of local deputies who were willing to co-operate. I do not think those gloomy predictions we sometimes hear are well founded, but rather that we should "thank God and take courage." If all bearing the worthy name of "Son of Temperance" will put their shoulders to the wheel our noble Order will speedily mount higher and still higher in influence and usefulness.

PROPAGATION WORK.

Since our last annual session no regular organizers have been employed except for brief periods. In the fall of 1887, Bro. J. C. Tisdale entered into the work but was shortly afterwards taken ill and thus became unable to continue. About two weeks ago he again entered the field and has met with encouraging success. Bro. E. Carswell was engaged during the past fall and devoted some weeks to our work, reviving the Order at every point visited, planting four new Divisions and resuscitating one dormant one, all of which give promise of prosperity. I found the greatest difficulty in making appointments, owing to the numerous fairs, busy season, and inability to get replies from many written to. A number of Divisions widely separated requested lectures, but could not engage to assist in arranging for other meetings. These requests your committee were, though with regret, unable to comply with, as we felt we must steadily keep in view the utmost economy of our finances, and the greatest probability of instituting new Divisions or resuscitating dormant ones. Many Deputies and Divisions have given valuable help during the year, and I am pleased to report 28 new Divisions instituted and 26 dormant ones resuscitated.

OBITUARY.

Since we last met in Annual Session death has taken from our ranks three of the Fathers in our Order, and other worthy members, who for many years graced the honor roll of this Grand Division.

P. G. W. P., Bro. John Wilson, was born in Wicklow Co., Ireland, in 1801, came to Canada in 1817, became a Son of Temperance in 1850, entered the G. D. in 1851, was elected G. W. P. in 1859, was initiated into the National Division in 1862, and died Oct. 7th, 1887, aged 86 years.

P. G. W. P., Bro. Abishai Morse, was born at Moravia, N. Y., in 1805, came to Canada about 1812, entered the Order in 1850, was admitted to the G. D. in October of the same year, was elected G. W. P. in December 1861, initiated into the National Division in 1862, and died December 17th, 1887, aged 82 years.

P. G. W. P., Bro. Abram Farewell, Ex-M. P. P., was born at Harmony, Ontario Co., Dec. 12th, 1812, united with the Order in 1849, entered the Grand Division in 1851, elected G. W. A. in 1852, initiated in the National Division in 1856, elected G. W. P. in 1858, and died at Harmony Feb. 7th, 1888, aged 76 years.

These brethren were in full membership in the Order at the time of death. Each was elected a representative to the National Division for 1888, and at one time each hoped to be able to attend the session of that body held in Toronto in July last.

Bro. Jared Lloyd, was a charter member of White Rose Division No. 309, organized in 1872. He was its first W. P. and its first D. G. W. P. The latter office he continued to hold until his death, which took place Feb. 8th, 1888, upon the same farm upon which he was born, in 1827.

Bro. Joseph Stokes, died Sept. 28th, 1888, aged 56 years. He was a charter member of Kettleby Division No. 232 organized Feb. 22nd, 1855. He was one of the oldest members of this Grand Division, and the D. G. W. P. of his Division for more than 30 years continuously until his death. He had filled various municipal offices and positions of trust, being at one time Warden of the County of York.

Bro. W. N. Whiteside, D. G. W. P. of the late Beeton Division, died since last session. I have received no items concerning his life and work. I am informed that he was an earnest Son of Temperance.

Noble, devoted, useful in life, unswerving in integrity, in their loyalty to our Order, and to truth in every form, these loved and loving brethren have passed on to their reward, full of years, full of labors, full of honors.

NATIONAL MUTUAL RELIEF SOCIETY.

It is a matter of some surprise that many Sons of Temperance pass by this society and enter other societies not composed of total abstainers, for the purpose of obtaining insurance on the mutual plan. This society is for Sons of Temperance only. There can be no drunkard's death claims to pay. If total abstinence prolongs life, as statistics clearly prove, it cannot be wise for abstainers to become yoked in insurance with non-abstainers. Drinking, moderately or otherwise, increase the death rate and consequently the cost of the insurance furnished. To those desiring insurance upon the mutual or assessment plan, the S. of T. M. Relief Society should commend itself, and be preferable to those societies in which total abstinence is not a prominent test of membership.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

It is gratifying to know that our financial standing has materially improved since our last session. I wish, however, to call attention specially to this point, that we cannot expect to greatly improve our standing, both numerical and financial, at the same time, with 5,000 or 6,000 actual contributing members. With 10,000 contributing members we could do so. As I have stated, the field is opening up for us. The future is hopeful if we will but improve the opportunities. Shall we go forward until we again become the "Banner Grand Division"? building firmly as we go, and endeavoring to hold what we get. Shall we adopt a bold aggressive policy that will bring success, with increasing influence and usefulness? With our present membership penuriousness means death as surely as extravagance means ruin. A liberal judicious expenditure in propagation work; careful attention to new and weak Divisions; a cultivation of loyalty and fraternity in the Order; more frequent public meetings held by Divisions; the development and support of our District Division work; better drill in the Ritual and more thorough organization of new Divisions; a more systematic and regular method of presenting the claims, advantages and designs of our Order to our members and to the world; a greater interest in the work by the older members, the fulfilment of duty by those holding office in every department of the Order; a thorough training in business principles in conducting Division work; an abiding faith in the righteousness of the principles of truth and justice upon which our Order is founded, and in their ultimate triumph, will bring early and certain prosperity to the Order and materially advance the interests of Prohibition.

Our membership is solid and vigorous; our finances are satisfactory; the way to enlarged borders and extended usefulness is opening or open. Shall we advance or recede? Shall we do or die? That is to my mind the most important question de-

manding your attention to-day. Let us be determined that no side issues, however interesting, shall divert our attention from this important matter. Upon the course adopted at this session for future work depends very materially the future of our Order. I believe that the wisdom here represented will prove equal to the occasion.

The Grand Worthy Patriarch has been devoted and unremitting in his attention to the interests of the Order. From him I have received wise counsel and practical assistance in every department of my work, and to him I extend my hearty thanks and sincere gratitude. The Executive Committee have been harmonious and united in their desires and work for the advancement of the Order. From each member of that Committee I have received the utmost consideration and much valuable aid, for which I desire to thank those brethren. I desire also to express my thanks to the many worthy brethren and sisters, holding official positions in the Order, for the important information and help they have so kindly furnished, and to the members generally wherever I have met them, for hearty well comes and fraternal greetings that have been invariably extended to me. From early boyhood I have loved this Order. Never have I loved it more than I do to-day. My most anxious desires are for its progress and prosperity, its welfare, and its usefulness. With gratitude for the past, and hope for the future, this report is respectfully submitted,

In Love, Purity and Fidelity,
WM. H. BEWELL,
Grand Scribe.
November 30th, 1888.

Jubilee Division.

MR. EDITOR.--It is again our pleasant duty to pen you a few lines. Some time has passed since we poured forth "thoughts that breathe and words that burn" in your columns. But again we greet you and Jubilee Division wishes you, MR. Editor, and all Temperance workers, great and small, a happy and prosperous new year.

The year 1888 with its train of events is a thing of the past, memory of "what has been". The year just ended has not been at all favourable to our Division. There has been a slight decrease in the membership, and notwithstanding the fact that we have had goodly number of initiations, old members have, some of them at least, grown weary in well doing and severed their connection with us. Of this we—though sorry to lose any member—are heartily glad for we want the chaff sifted from wheat that we may clearly see our position. The half hearted are not wanted. They only throw water on the fire as it were.

Death has not in the past year visited our ranks and we hope that it may be long ere he calls any of us away yet *fiat voluntas Qua*.

The division is financially secure. The receipts have been large and the expenses have been by no means small but we have a small surplus in our treasury.

Waterville Division paid us a visit a little while since. A very pleasant evening was spent, solos, choruses and recitations were well and happily rendered and the speeches of the visiting Division's W. P. and F. S. were heartily and deservedly applauded.

The officers for the present term are as follows: A. A. Brewer, W. P.; George Good, W. A.; John Burpee, R. S.; Gabriel Brewer, A. R. S.; Ashail Good, F. S.; Minnie Burpee, Treas. William McPherson, Chap.; Fred Burpee, Con.; Amanda Shaw, A. C.; Israel Kinney, I. S.; David Hipwell, O. S.; A. T. Plummer, P. W. P.; G. G. H. Milton, Organist.

Yours truly,
O. C.

It has been equally well proven that alcoholic drugs afford no protection from the contagion of climatic epidemics, and that, on the contrary, dram-drinkers are from ten to twenty-five times more liable to the attacks of such diseases than total abstainers.

At Auckland, New Zealand, the Board of Education recently passed a resolution requiring a half-hour's temperance lesson to be taught each week in all the public schools of the district. This law comes into force next April.

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SCIENTIFIC AND TANGIBLE WAY, yet we endeavor to hold the temperance light, when it may shine on those who have no interest in the cause whose aim is the total destruction of the drink demon. May the day soon come when the laws of our land shall be strictly enforced, and those who will not be persuaded by gentle measures, shall be compelled by stern ones, to cease the disgraceful traffic.

O. C.
Apohaqui, Jan. 11th, 1889.

An English investigation just completed put in tangible shape the effect of the use of alcohol from observation covering 4,234 cases in all walks of life. This report, which has just appeared, shows that with men over twenty-five the intemperate use of alcohol cuts off ten years from life, those who never drink to excess or use no liquor living, on the average, ten years longer than those who do. Indulgence, if carried to excess, doubles diseases of the liver, quadruples those of the kidneys, and greatly increases death from pneumonia, pleurisy and epilepsy.

Grand Division of Vermont.

BRO. PITTS.--Bro. T. M. Lewis, Agent for G. D. of Vermont, placed a new Division, the Star of Hope, No. 35 in the Vergennes, Monday last, with 24 applicants. I will here add that this state is one of the worst fields for an organizer. The word Prohibition is poison as it is placed in connection with 3rd party politics, and that hurts the cause of the Sons. We have got to teach them that we are non-partisans before they will fall into line with us and organize new Divisions that are a blessing in all communities and supported by friends of all political parties. I wish to say that this Grand Division though small, is right up to the ramps with colors flying and returns all in, every surviving division is on the gain. Alpha Division of Putney has a net increase for last quarter of 24, now numbers 69.

Fraternally Yours,
H. C. H. LEWIS,
G. S.
Bellows, Falls, Jan. 18th, '89.

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