

CHAPTER 22. 1899 - 1900.

DEATH OF GRAND SECRETARY BRO. J. McCUBBEN.

1882 - 1899.

The December Meeting of 1899 was held on Saturday the 16th, when at half past one the Grand Master opened the meeting and stated it was with deep regret he had to report that since the last Committee of Management Meeting our esteemed Grand Secretary, BROTHER J. McCUBBEN, had passed away, the date of his death being November 19th, 1899. The Deputy Grand Master came up from Wollongong, and after the Funeral a meeting of the Board of those present in Sydney was held, and it was decided that the Grand Master BROTHER H. HERRON, act as Grand Secretary until a successor has been appointed.

A circular was sent out to all Lodges asking for nominations, and the election date was set for the 16th December, 1899, the date of this meeting.

It would be most fitting at this period to give a summary of the activities of our late steemed Grand Secretary. He joined the United Miners Lodge No. 1179, Araluen Braidwood District on February 14th, 1865, and attended his first Biennial Meeting in 1870. In the year 1874, he left to reside in Sydney, and was associated with firstly, the Mariners Rest Lodge and subsequently the Glebe Union Lodge of which Lodge he was for some time Secretary - when BROTHER SMITH resigned as Grand Secretary, BROTHER J. McCUBBEN, who had occupied the Grand Master's Chair for four years, which he relinquished to accept the office of Grand Secretary in the years 1882. During his membership he saw the Order grow from 16 Lodges and 1,500 members in 1865 to 116 Lodges with 10,000 members in 1899.

It can be said of him as a man and Brother that his faithfulness to the Order, his untiring zeal for the promotion of its interests, his uprightness and integrity to its principles in the discharge of his duties are characteristic of his life, which was freely admitted by all. His steadfastness of character and honesty of purpose is worthy of emulation of each and every member of the Order.

Election of Grand Secretary: After the Grand Master BROTHER H. HERRON had retired from the room the nominations from the various Lodges were laid on the table and taken as read, the following

having been nominated:- BROTHERS R. WYNNE, S. STEENBOM, G. SANDS, A. DYETT, J. CATTANACH, B. SUTTON, W. BURNS and H. HERRON, BROTHERS WYNNE and STEENBOM were not candidates, and the rest went to the ballot, which resulted in BROTHER H. HERRON being elected as Grand Secretary.

The voting was BROTHER HERRON 5, BROTHER SANDS 1, and BROTHER SUTTON 1, the rest had no votes polled. BROTHER D. RITCHIE conducted the election. It being necessary to elect a new Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER D. RITCHIE was elected Grand Master and BROTHER J. WATKINS Deputy Grand Master.

It was also necessary to elect a Trustee in the place of BROTHER WATKINS and BROTHER JOHN ALLEN was duly elected.

A Dispensation was granted to the Sydney District to open a new Lodge at Hurstville to be known as the Rose of Hurstville Lodge. The Committee of Management decided to erect a memorial to the late BROTHER J. McCUBBEN and voted £5.5.0 towards the cost and it was "Carried" that each Branch of the Order in New South Wales contribute 10/6 towards the object.

The first meeting of the year 1900 was held on Saturday March 17th. The new Friendly Societies Act had become law, and the Grand Secretary stated he had received 200 copies which had been distributed to the various District, with a request that one copy be sent to each Lodge.

The letter that BROTHER STEENBOM had written and published in the Magazine was brought under the notice of the Committee of Management, and it was resolved that a deputation of Grand Officers and as many of the Board, who could attend, wait upon the Sydney District Council to ask that an explanation be obtained to the very serious charge contained in the letter signed by one of their Officers.

The letter in question stated that a more deliberate farce had never been enacted in the history of the Order, and went on to say that the circular sent out to the Lodges was a canvass for BROTHER HERRON, also BROTHER HERRON had openly stated that two members of the Committee of Management had promised him their votes a few days before the death of the late Grand Secretary, all through the letter it could be seen that the whole trouble with BROTHER STEENBOM was that he stood down for BROTHER GEORGE SANDS,

who was defeated, and who he definitely stated should have been elected.

A Dispensation was granted to Braidwood District to open a new Lodge to be called the Star of Wolumla. The June meeting was held on Saturday June 16th, 1900.

A reply was received from the Sydney District Council in reference to the letter of BROTHER STEENBOHM over the election of BROTHER HERRON to the office of Grand Secretary, as follows:-

"Whilst the Council regret the correspondence in the Magazine, they feel that they are in no way responsible for the letter appearing therein. The Council is anxious that harmony and the best of feeling should continue to exist between the Committee of Management and themselves, and for these reasons see no necessity for the interview requested."

the answer was received.

A Dispensation was granted to Sydney District to open a new Branch at Parramatta to be known as the Star of Brittannia Lodge. The amount of £37.10.6 had been subscribed towards the McCubben Memorial, and as sufficient time had elapsed for all Branches to subscribe it was decided to send a circular to those Branches who had not replied.

A Dispensation was granted the Sydney District to open a Ladies Lodge in connection with the Rose of Petersham Branch.

The Grand Secretary gave a very lengthy report giving experience of visits to the Contry and advising a list of various centres where the Order was unrepresented, and suggesting that means be used for the extension of the Order, and issuing of a circular to Lodge Secretaries and members.

It was resolved:

"That the suggestions be carried out, and that the Grand Officers have full power to act."

It might here be mentioned that the Grand Officers are the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary, the same Officers being designated in the Centenary Year as the Grand Executive.

The September meeting was held on Saturday the 15th, 1900. Under the new Friendly Societies Act the registrations of Societies had to be made by the 5th December, 1900, and owing to the Actuary and Registrar not registering the alteration of Rules it would mean

that the Grand United Order of Oddfellows would be a de-registered Society without an alteration could be affected. A Deputation waited on the Colonial Secretary and he promised that if the Society was unable to comply with the Act, through no fault of their own, we would be perfectly safe, and should be given time to allow us to comply. We are now advised that although you may be perfectly willing to suspend any penalties attaching to non-registration under the Act, the Order will be in the position of being an unregistered Society, from the 5th December 1900 to April, 1901 the date of our Biennial Meeting.

It was decided by the Committee of Management that they seek an extension of the time to the 30th June, 1901. This was successful and an amendment to the Act extending the time as asked for was "Carried" by the State Parliament, our difficulties were swept aside at least until the next Biennial Meeting.

Four Dispensations were granted to open new Branches as follows- Pride of Wyong in the Newcastle District, Taralga Federal in the Goulburn District, Advance of Gresford in the Williams River District and Advance of Gresford in the Williams River District, and Largs Federal in the Hunter River District.

It was also reported that four other Branches would very likely be opened in the near future. It seems at last that the Society is on the way to a wave of prosperity, as far as the opening of new Branches is concerned.

It was decided to purchase scarves for the Committee of Management, and resolved to take steps to form a Lodge of Instruction, and that the necessary action for form same be immediately taken.

The Grand Master reported that on Sunday October 14th, 1900, a monument erected over the grave of the late BROTHER J. A. McCUBBEN was unveiled in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Rookwood by BROTHER WATKINS, Deputy Grand Master, over 300 members met at the Rookwood Railway Station and marched wearing their Regalia to the grave side. All the Friendly Societies were represented and most of the Districts, the entire State had representatives, and it was estimated that over 500 were present at the unveiling ceremony.

The December Meeting was held on Saturday 15th, 1900, the Grand Secretary reported that he had attended all meetings of the Association in connection with the matter of Commonwealth Celebrations, and desired that the Order should take a leading part as the other Societies had arranged to do so. He had forwarded the addresses of Grand Officers in other Colonies to the Secretary of the Commonwealth Celebrations, in order if Interstate visitors were invited our Order should be invited also.

The Grand Officers consulted the Sydney District Officers, immediately it was known that a sum of money had been voted by the Government for a Friendly Societies display. A meeting of Lodge Officers was called to deal with the matter. The Grand Master and the Grand Secretary were appointed to represent the Order at the Celebrations.

Dispensations were granted for three new Branches - Jindalbyne in the Goulburn District, Rose of Darlington in the Sydney District and at Lyndhurst, however the last Lodge was closed on account of the Doctor refusing to give his services.

A Ladies Lodge was opened at Goulburn to be known as the Rose of Goulburn Lodge.

CHAPTER 23. 1901 - 1902.

RECORD FOR NUMERICAL PROGRESS.

The first meeting of the year 1901 was held on Saturday March 16th. An application was made through the Evening Star Lodge for permission to open a new District to be known as the Bega District, and it was resolved:

"That the matter stand over until the next meeting of the Committee of Management."

A Dispensation was granted to open a new Branch in the Goulburn District at Bungendore. The sum of £10. was voted for the purpose of entertaining the representatives at the Biennial Meeting. The levy was set down at 2½d per financial member.

The Grand Master on behalf of the whole of the members of the Committee of Management presented to the Grand Secretary BROTHER H. HERRON a gold pendant.

The Biennial Meeting of 1901 was held in the Oddfellows Hall, Sydney, commencing on Tuesday April 30th. Full advantage was taken to alter the Rules, the result being that numerous progressive amendments were made by the meeting.

Foremost among the new departures is that providing for the holding of Annual Meetings in lieu of the Biennial Meeting. Another was the abolition of all registration fees for new members. The matter of an alteration from twelve months to six months for benefits was "Carried", thus bringing our Order into the same position as the other Societies.

The greatest innovation made during the session will be found in the alteration which admits Females into any Male Lodge. The discussion elicited conflicting views from those who have had experience in what are commonly called mixed Lodges, and only the future can prove whether the departure will be beneficial or otherwise to the Order.

A special rule dealing with the investment of funds was added, which will afford Lodges a wider field for investment. The different graduated scales of payments were adopted and this session definitely opened up a greater avenue for advancement, and it was expected that

the Districts and Branches would seize the opportunity and work energetically and assist the efforts which are at present being put forth by the Committee of Management. The Officers elected were - Grand Master - BROTHER R. H. WYNNE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER T. C. MUSGRAVE, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. WATKINS, B. MORGAN and A. SOMMERVILLE, Grand Directors - BROTHERS D. RITCHIE, W. LEVEY, J. HANDS and A. CAMPBELL.

The meeting of the new Board was held on Saturday June 15th, 1901. Another application was made by the Branches in the vicinity of Bega for permission to open a new District to be known as the Bega District, and it was resolved:

"That in view of the resolution "Carried" at the last Biennial Meeting, the application be referred to Braidwood District Delegate Meeting for their report."

Messrs. Pigott and Stinson were appointed Draughtsmen to go through the rules as amended at a fee not to exceed £10.10.0.

A map of New South Wales had been purchased and the Grand Secretary was instructed to mark off the map showing the position of each Lodge and the headquarters of each District in the State, for submission to the next meeting. It was also reported that four members of the Society were elected to the State Parliament as follows:- BROTHERS G. HOWARTH, Willoughby, S. SMITH - Pyrmont, A. CHAPMAN - Braidwood, and W. BENNET - Williams River.

The meeting in September was held on Saturday 28th, 1901. A Dispensation was granted to the following Lodges - Pride of Wrightville and Federal Broken Hill Branches at Bathurst District, Commonwealth Branch at Singleton, Hunter River District, Loyal Star of the North at Newryban, Sydney District.

The map marked off was submitted to the meeting and adopted, a copy to be sent to each District. It was also resolved:-

"That 12,000 new Rule Books be procured and that one copy be issued free to each member."

On account of the heavy expenditure for printing and to provide for the annual meeting a levy of 4d per member be struck/

December 14th was the last meeting of the Committee of Management in 1901. Since the last meeting six new Lodges have been opened

as follows - Hunter River District - four, Bathurst District - one, and Newcastle District - one, BROTHER BOOT Organisator was responsible for opening the four Lodges in the Hunter River District.

The Amalgamation of the Newcastle and Hunter River Districts has reached a definite stage, and a meeting to be held on the first Saturday after the meeting of the Hunter River District for the purpose of electing Officers and naming the District.

The first meeting in the year 1902 was held on Saturday March 15th. The Grand Officers presented a report in reference to extension on the Northern Rivers. A letter was received from the Secretary of Newrybar, wherein he pointed out that there were openings for the Society at certain towns he named. The letter was sent on to the Sydney District and the Officers of this District appointed BROTHER STEENBOM as Organisator, and in reply to a communication stated the terms upon which this Officer was engaged.

The Grand Officers decided to agree to the terms for one month and at the end of that time to meet the Council again and report progress.

It was then resolved:-

"That the Committee of Management do not consent to any re-engagement of BROTHER STEENBOM on the present terms and conditions."

The Braidwood District forwarded a letter agreeing to the formation of a new District to be known as the Bega District and fixed the date of opening as the 1st July, 1902.

Two new Branches were opened, the Pride of Cardiff Branch in the Hunter River District and the Commonwealth Branch at Port Macquarie. The Sydney District had opened this Branch, but in which District the Branch should be placed was left to the Grand Lodge Officers.

A draft report of the Life Assurance Scheme, which is being submitted to the Annual Meeting of this year was tabled and ordered to be printed and incorporated in the business.

The Annual Meeting of 1902 was held in the Council Chambers, Newcastle on April 29th. In the report of the Committee of Management it was stated that the year 1901 was a record as regards the numerical progress, there being 1935 initiations, and the whole

membership 12,321, as against 10,636 for the previous year, a full gain of 1,685 members.

The amalgamation of the Newcastle and Hunter River District was finalised and on February 8th, the Grand Officers visited Newcastle and installed the Officers of the new Hunter River District.

The Third Interstate Conference had been held in Brisbane and the next Conference was fixed for Sydney in 1904.

In connection with Clearance Values the Committee of Management submitted a modified table as compiled by Mr. Moors to replace the Clearance Values at present set out in the Rules.

BROTHER STEENBOM moved on behalf of the Trafalgar Lodge:-

"That the Committee of Management be abolished and the control be vested in the District."

BROTHER STEENBOM stated that he was the originator, but the Representatives were unanimous outside the Mover and Seconder. The Trafalgar Branch sought the centralization of the Sick Funds in the Districts, however this was defeated and an amendment was "Carried" that the incoming Committee of Management prepare a scheme for the purpose of forming a Central Sick Fund - the same to be submitted to the various Lodges on the October Quarterly Meeting, before the next Annual Meeting of the various District.

An amendment of Rule to make the Office of Grand Secretary a permanent one was "Lost", also an amendment to reduce the numbers on the Committee of Management to six was "Lost".

CHAPTER 24 1902 - 1903.

INTRODUCTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE SCHEME.

Live Assurance Scheme: An endeavour to have this matter postponed was "Lost" and BROTHER N. COLLINS moved:-

"That a system of Life Assurance be adopted in connection with the Society."

The Mover went fully into the amounts that were paid by an Insurance Society and gave the Rules that the scheme would operate under if accepted. BROTHER COLLINS spoke at great length, and gave his assurance that the scheme would be a great success. BROTHER CRANE seconded the resolution. The debate was adjourned to take precedent to all other business the next morning, the meeting decided to meet in the evening from 7p.m. to 10-30p.m.

The matter of Registration under the new Act was dealt with and the Grand Secretary moved:-

"That the Rules of this Society, and any amendments that may be made come into force on the 20th June, and that the Society be registered under the new Friendly Societies Act, at rates of contributions as submitted by the actuaries."

The scales submitted, which had been distributed are the rates Mr. Moors was prepared to certify to, having only one or two things to do, either to accept the Scales given by the actuaries or to remain an unregistered Society. The meeting decided to register.

The Life Assurance Scheme debate was continued on Saturday morning, after BROTHER COLLINS had replied the resolution was placed before the meeting and "Carried" amidst loud applause. Finally it was "Carried" that it be an instruction to the incoming Committee of Management to perfect the scheme and bring it into force on the first day of January, 1904.

The Grand Secretary's salary was fixed at £105. per annum. The election of Officers resulted in the following being elected - Grand Master - BROTHER R. WYNNE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER T. MUSGRAVE, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS D. RITCHIE, E. HANSON, J. CLARKE, Grand Directors - BROTHERS W. LEVEY, W. CRANE, N. COLLINS and R. RICHARDSON.

The Goulburn District offered to cater at Goulburn for the 1903 Annual Meeting - Sydney was also proposed, but the vote resulted

in the choice of Goulburn.

The June Meeting of 1902 was held on Saturday 21st. All the Rules relegated to the Board by the Annual General Meeting were adopted with the exception of the Rule wherein it stated that the Grand Secretary should be appointed by the Annual General Meeting as were the Grand Officers. An amendment that the Committee of Management appoint the Officers was "Carried" after a lengthy discussion.

Tables of Rates of Insurance Fund: After discussion with the Actuary it was "Carried" that the Board agree to a 20 per cent loading for management.

It was resolved:-

"That the Commission to Agents be 10 per cent on first years premiums and 5 per cent on all premiums after 12 months."

BROTHER COLLINS was appointed General Secretary on an allowance of 2½ per cent on premiums.

The Grand Officers reported that they had granted Dispensations for new Branches to be opened as follows - Brunswick Flower at Mullumbimby, Pride of Murwillumbah at Murwillumbah, The Byron at Byron Bay, Star of Eden at Eden, Drummoyne Endeavour and Woronora at Sutherland.

September 20th, 1902 was the next meeting of the Board, the Grand Officers reported the opening of the following Branches at the towns named - Sydney District - Corrimal and Berry, Goulburn District - Marulan, Bega District - Bermagui, Quaama and Eden.

The 57th Anniversary of our Order in New South Wales was celebrated by a Grand Social in the Town Hall, Paddington, which was a great success. It fully appears to the Writer that many members of the Society definitely consider the Society was opened in 1844 as can be seen by the above Anniversary Social, and while there is a doubt as to this being correct your Grand Officers can only accept as authentic the Dispensation to open the first Lodge in 1848.

Dispensations were granted for the opening of new Branches as follows - Southern Star Lodge at Towamba in the Bega District, Moffit Burns Lodge at Hunters Hill in the Sydney District, The Seaham Lodge at Seaham in the Williams River District, and the

Lily of the Grove Lodge at Bandon Grove in the Williams River District.

Central Sick Fund: A report concerning the Central Sick Fund was tendered by the Grand Officers. Returns from 65 Branches had been received, and the voting 291 for the proposal and 1,300 against - the report was adopted.

The first meeting of 1903 was held on March 21st. The Grand Officers reported that the shilling fund to assist the dependents of the mining disaster at Mount Kembla was closed, and the amount of £176-15-8 was collected and distributed.

CHAPTER 25. 1903.

COMPLETION OF 55 YEARS.

The Annual Meeting of 1903 was held in the Town Hall Goulburn, commencing on Tuesday the 21st day of April. The Committee of Management's report stated that 2,479 members were admitted during 1902, the membership being 13,910 as against 12,321 at the end of 1901, a gain of 1,589 members a splendid year of progress.

The total worth of all funds now stand at £109,082. The election of Officers were taken on the second day of meeting and resulted in the following being elected:- Grand Master - BROTHER I. MUSGRAVE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER R. RICHARDSON, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS D. RITCHIE, J. CLARKE and E. HANSON, Grand Directors - BROTHERS R. WYNNE, COLLINS, MOON and W. CRANE.

The motion to revert back to Biennial Meeting was "Lost" on a division, the voting being 16 for 18 against.

The City of Newcastle proposed the following scheme - "That the whole of the Branches of the Order in New South Wales, shall join a Central Sick Fund." An amendment that the Committee of Management take a plebiscite vote of the whole of the members of the Society therein, but both were defeated. Also defeated was a motion to permit Females to become Honorary members.

A resolution to alter the ritual in Female Lodges was an instruction to the incoming Committee of Management.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on June, 20th, 1903. Dispensations had been granted to open new Lodges as follows - Pride of Wallamba Lodge at Nahiack in the Manning River District, Star of Wauchope at Wauchope in the Manning River District, and the Mountain Home Lodge at Laurieton in the Manning River District.

It was resolved to charge an amount equal to 10 per cent of the total income of the Guarantee Fund as a management expense. The Levy was fixed at 3d per financial member.

The September Meeting was held on Saturday 19th, 1903. Dispensations were granted to open new Branches as follows -

Berridale in the Goulburn District, Cathcart Lodge in the Bega District and Kurri Kurri Lodge in the Hunter River District.

A letter was received from the Manning River District stating the Organiser BROTHER ARTHUR BOOT was to be highly commended for his work in opening three Branches in their District.

A Dispensation was granted to open a Council Masters Chapter at Broken Hill.

The General Secretary of the Assurance Department made a statement of the position of the Fund at this meeting and stated that this was as follows - No. of Policies in force 107 an increase in the last quarter of 44. Amount covered by Policies £4,482. Weekly Premium income £4.0.3. Total Receipts £85.1.0.

Resolved that the report be received and published in the Magazine.

The last meeting of 1903 was held on Saturday December 12th. The General Secretary again submitted a report in connection with the Life Department, and stated that there were now 165 Policies with 21 likely to be forfeited leaving a total of 144 Policies. The amount insured being £7,743.19.0. The Fund is making good headway as an increase of 56 Policies since last meeting must be considered good.

Dispensations had been granted for the following opening of new Branches; Ladies Lodge Wrightville in the Bathurst District, West Wallsend Lodge in the Hunter River District, South Broken Hill Lodge in the Bathurst District, and for a new District comprising the Cootamundra, Tumbarumba and Gundagai Branches. The new District which is at present being worked by the Committee of Management promises to make good progress.

The first meeting of the year 1904 was held on Saturday March 19th.

A letter was received from the Sydney District protesting against any expenditure of money by the Committee of Management for the entertainment of Representatives and this was received.

The Grand Secretary submitted a ritual altered to suit an initiation of either a male or female member, and it was resolved that the alterations be approved and adopted when printing new Rituals.

Satisfactory progress has been made in connection with the formation

of the new Southern District. In addition to the three Branches previously mentioned, new Lodges have been opened at Wyalong and Temora and also at Albury. Dispensations had been granted for the opening of the following Branches - Mosman and Dulwich Hill Lodges in the Sydney District.

CHAPTER 26. 1904 - 1905.

BROTHER CHARLES REYNOLDS AS SPECIAL
AGENT FOR ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Annual Meeting of 1904 was held at the Hall, Castlereagh Street, Sydney on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 19th, 20th and 21st.

The report of the Committee of Management revealed that the progress of the Society had been maintained during 1903. At the beginning of the year the numerical strength stood at 13,910, the year terminated with an aggregate membership of 14,727, being an increase of 817 members. Of this number, however, 1,365 have been returned unfinancial, which is the largest number we have yet had, and which is anything but a gratifying feature of the year's work, being due to the successive years of hard times, and as a return to good seasons were predicted the Committee of Management confidently predicted that many of the unfinancials will be able to make themselves good on the books.

An appeal was made to the Branches to make special concessions to all members, who, through no fault of their own have been reduced to poor circumstances, that they could not pay their contributions, and to allow their ordinary membership to cease, retaining them as Honorary members so as the medical benefit could be obtained.

Fourteen Branches were opened during the year, and four were closed, two made amalgamations with other Branches. The total worth of all Funds being £117,724.

The election of Officers was taken immediately after the Salaries of Officers were passed and before any amendments to Rule were dealt with. The election of Officers resulted in the following being elected - Grand Master - BROTHER R. RICHARDSON, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER W. CRANE, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS R. WYNNE, J. MOON and J. CLARKE, Grand Directors - BROTHERS N. COLLINS, T. MUSGRAVE, D. RITCHIE and J. HANCOCK.

The Gahburn District sought to add a new clause to Rule 103 -

as follows; "Any Female Member incapacitated from her usual or any occupation being the result of pregnancy, shall not be deemed entitled to Sick Pay." This was postponed until the Grand Secretary communicated with Mr. Moors the Society's Actuary, The Session resumed after lunch, and the Grand Secretary read the reply of Mr. Moor, which was that provision had been made when computing the scale to give sick pay in such cases. It was also stated that the Branches had been advised that sick pay was payable under that heading. The alteration of this Rule by the Goulburn District, was therefore "Lost". An amendment to pay £1. for the first sick months instead of 15/- as at present was also "Lost".

The Grand Secretary moved to strike out the minimum entrance fees 6d and 1/- in the Juvenile Rules to bring it in conformity to all other Scales, and this was "Carried".

Assurance Department: The General Secretary BROTHER COLLINS, proposed:-

"That relatives and friends of any member in the Society be allowed to join the Fund."

BROTHER COLLINS spoke at length, and said that from 35 policies written at the start of the year 1903 at the end of this year there were 228 policies in force, and they would probably have fully 300 by the end of June 1904. On being put to the meeting the resolution was "Lost" by 18 to 14. BROTHER HANSON then moved the addition of the following words - "and subject to the approval of the Committee of Management the relatives of members and the Widows and Orphans of deceased members" - the resolution was then put and declared "Carried".

A resolution by Braidwood District to establish a Benevolent Fund was "Lost". There was also a resolution to provide for Council Masters Chapters to have direct representation at the Annual Meeting, however this was "Lost". Two resolutions dealing with the centralisation of Sick Funds were also "Lost".

Interstate Conference: The Grand Secretary moved that New South Wales be not represented, he explained that Victoria had withdrawn from the Conference, and therefore, it would be useless for New South Wales to join in. This was "Carried".

In the afternoon the Country Representatives, together with their wives and families, were tendered a harbour excursion by the Grand Officers and Representatives of the Sydney District.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on Saturday June 25th, 1904 at 11.30 a.m. Dispensations were granted to open new Branches at Weston in the Hunter River District, Pride of the Boarder at Albury in the Southern District and the Lachlan Branch at Barmedman also in the Southern District.

The General Secretary of the Assurance Department stated that the £57. liability to the Committee of Management had been paid, the fund was now clear of all debt. The Actuary being prepared to allow all policy holders $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent discount, and it was resolved that this concession be allowed.

September 17th, 1904 was the half yearly meeting, when all Officers were present. The United Social and Amusement Association submitted copy of rules setting forth the aims and objects thereof. It was resolved that - "The patronage of the Committee of Management be granted."

Dispensations were granted for the opening of the following Branches - Tumut and Grahamstown in the Southern District.

The Grand Secretary reported that the Northern Rivers was a very neglected District so far as our Order is concerned, and all efforts to urge the Sydney District to again try this District especially Lismore; if they are not prepared to take immediate steps the Grand Officers take the necessary action to at once open a District. It was resolved - "That if negotiations lead up to the opening of a District, that the Grand Secretary first of all proceed to the North to look over the ground"

It was decided to form the Southern District, three Lodges have been connected with the Order twelve months; the first meeting of the new District to be held at Cootamundra during January 1905.

The last meeting of the year 1904 was held on Saturday December 10th. Dispensations were granted for the following new Branches, - Wellington in the Bathurst District, Bowral and Moss Vale in the Goulburn District

and Gunnedah in the Hunter River District.

Applications had been received to open the following Juvenile Branches - Mullumbimby, Orange, Tumberumba and also in the Loyal United Brothers Sydney District and Honeysuckle Branch in the Newcastle District. A Dispensation was granted to open a Council Masters Chapter at Ballina.

The Sydney District sent a letter protesting against the Minute that appeared in the report of the last Committee of Management. The letter was received and the matter of Northern Rivers be left over until the next Meeting.

The allowance to the General Secretary of the Assurance Fund was raised to 5 per cent. The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday March 18th.

A resolution was "Carried"-

"That an allowance of 5 per cent be made to all Branch Secretaries or Agents on collections made by them on business introduced through a special Agent".

BROTHER REYNOLDS Special Agent for the Assurance Department intimated that it was impossible for him to carry on on present terms. It was resolved to submit the matter of remuneration to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for his opinion as to the best course to pursue in the matter of remuneration, and that the Board be guided by the opinion of the Registrar; and a bonus of 10/- per week for five weeks be paid to BROTHER REYNOLDS until the reply be received.

Dispensations were granted to open a Girls' Juvenile Lodge in connection with the Pride of Ferndale Branch, and a mixed Juvenile Lodge at Ballina.

The Grand Master was advised to arrange a School of Instruction during the Annual Session. It was resolved to write to the Grand Secretary England, for all signs and passwords at present in use.

It was reported that one Brother in the Loyal Britannia Lodge at Bathurst, had introduced 80 candidates to be admitted on the one night.

CHAPTER 27. 1905 - 1906.

PROPOSAL OF BENEVOLENT FUND AND
DISTRICT CENTRAL SICK FUND.

The Annual Meeting of the year 1905, was held on Tuesday the 18th April, 1905. The Committee of Management's Report disclosed that progress is still being made - the figures for the year 1904 being 15,528 against 14,635 at the end of 1903, a gain of 801 members. The total worth of all Funds being £129,774. Fifteen new adult Lodges were opened during the year as well as seven Juvenile Lodges, two Lodges were closed and two were amalgamated. There were no claims during the year on the Guarantee Fund, the amount at balance being £463.

The Life Assurance Department has made progress and BROTHER C. REYNOLDS was especially mentioned for the many policies he had issued.

The Grand Secretary's salary was fixed at £125. per annum. Election of Officers resulted in the following being elected - Grand Master - BROTHER W. CRANE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER J. CLARKE, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS G. BROWN, J. MOON and A. SOMMERVILLE, Grand Directors - BROTHERS N. COLLINS, R. RICHARDSON and D. RITCHIE, Past Grand Master - BROTHER T. MUSGRAVE.

A Motion:

"That a Benevolent Fund be established and the Committee of Management prepare a full report for the next Annual Meeting to accept."
This was Carried.

A new clause was inserted in the Life Assurance Fund to include children and other relatives. A resolution by the Hunter River District to provide for the establishment of District Central Sick Funds, and also an amendment by the Goulburn District, detailed as follows:-

- a. That any District of the Society in New South Wales so desiring by a majority of its Branches be permitted to establish a central sick fund to operate throughout the District.
- b. All schemes to be first submitted and approved by the Committee of Management.

At this stage the Hunter River District with the consent of the meeting withdrew their resolution. The Goulburn District's amendment was then "Carried". Another resolution moved by
BROTHER HANCOCK:

"That those Lodges not desiring to contribute, shall not be compelled to do so."
This was Carried.

A motion by Goulburn District:

"That it be an instruction to the incoming Committee of Management to formulate a comprehensive scheme of redistributions of existing, and creation of new Districts, that will do away with present anomalies, and make each District compact; enabling Councils more expeditiously and inexpensively to exercise better control and exert their educational influence over the Lodges under their jurisdiction."

The cost of this Annual General Meeting was £154. The first meeting of the new Board was held on Saturday June 17th, 1905.

Dispensations were granted to open new Lodges as follows - The Crown at Wardell, The Hornsby at Hornsby and the Lismore Waratah at Lismore all in the Sydney District, and one at Adamaniby in the Goulburn District.

The September Meeting was held on the 9th commencing at 10a.m. Further Dispensations had been granted since the last meeting, which were as follows - New Era at Cambelego, Cowra at Cowra, Calarie Star at Lachlan, Miners near Forbes, Hope of the North at Broken Hill, Young Australia and Wrightville Juvenile Branch.

Australian Oddfellows Union: The Grand Officers reported that the Grand Secretary had been in communication with the District Officers of the Australian Oddfellows Union, with reference to them returning to the Order. At a Meeting held at Wallsend the District Officers of that body had unanimously decided that they were in favour of the amalgamation. The Hunter River Council had been called together and they were also in favour. It was left to the Grand Secretary to continue the work until completed.

Lodge of Instruction: The Grand Officers reported that the Lodge of Instruction was in operation and the inaugural meeting took place in the Hall on the 8th September. The Officers appointed were Preceptor - BROTHER H. HERRON, District Grand Master - BROTHER J. CLARKE, and BROTHER G. BROWN as Deputies and BROTHER J. R. RIDLEY

Honorary Secretary.

The General Secretary of the Assurance Department stated he had issued policy numbered 501, and that BROTHER C. REYNOLDS is doing splendid work in securing new policies. The last Meeting of the year was held on Saturday December 9th, 1905.

Dispensations had been granted since the last Meeting to open Branches as follows:- Wagga Advance, Narandera United and a Juvenile Branch at Cobar.

The matter of business for the 1906 Annual General Meeting was discussed and it was decided to ask the representatives to pass a resolution having for its object the admission of Juveniles to male Lodges, also another to instruct the Grand Officers to draft a Rule permitting Branches to borrow.

It was reported by the General Secretary of the Assurance Department that 529 policies had been written for an amount of £18,781.

The first Meeting of the year 1906 was held on Saturday March 24th. The report on the Reconstruction of Districts as drafted was adopted and will be submitted at the Annual General Meeting of next month.

A Dispensation was granted to open a new Lodge at Berrigan and an amalgamation of two Branches were approved.

BROTHER ROBERTS P.G.M. of Queensland was present at the Meeting and was accorded a vote of thanks to which he replied. A resolution moved by BROTHER J. MOON and seconded by BROTHER G. BROWN:

"That it be recorded in the Minutes of the Committee of Management their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Past Grand Masters - BROTHERS RITCHIE, RICHARDSON and MUSGRAVE to the Order."

The three members mentioned failed to secure nominations as representatives to the Annual Meeting of 1906. The Rules at this time only made provision for the three Grand Officers to be present without election by their District, all other Officers of the Board had to be elected at the Annual District Meetings, to which their Branch belonged.

Annual General Meeting - 1906: The Annual General Meeting was held at Sydney on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - April 17th, 18th

and 19th of April, 1906. Before the commencement of the Annual Meeting a special Meeting was held to confirm the amalgamation of the Oddfellows Union and the Grand United Order of Oddfellows, as from the date of this resolution:

"That the present Branches of the Australian Oddfellows Union (Newcastle District) be attached to the Hunter River District of the G.U.O.O.F."
The resolution was unanimously Carried.

At the Annual Meeting the Grand Master stated he had to rule that one representative from Braidwood District must retire as they were only entitled to three Representatives not four. A good deal of discussion was the outcome and a dissent from the Grand Master's ruling was moved, but defeated on a division of 18 for and 22 against. The Meeting was suspended for a few minutes to give the representatives of Braidwood District an opportunity to retire and decide which representative should leave. On resumption no decision had been reached and the business of the Meeting was proceeded with. The Committee of Management's report in connection with membership stated that the total number of members at the end of 1905 was 16,819 and at the end of 1904 - 15,528 a nett gain of 1,291 for the year. The total of all Fund being £140,203. The Branches opened were 14 adult and 3 juvenile, three Branches were closed during the year. The Grand Secretary's salary was fixed at £156, and the Officers elected were as follows - Grand Master - BROTHER J. CLARKE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER A. SOMERVILLE, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS G. BROWN and J. MOON, Grand Directors - BROTHERS N. COLLINS, W. CRANE, H. RICHARDSON, G. SANDS and J. SHEPHERD.

A resolution to give the General Secretary of the Life Assurance Fund a seat at the Annual General Meetings was "Carried" giving the Committee of Management power to call a Special General Meeting of the Society.

Investment of Funds: The Committee of Management's resolution in connection with Branches availing themselves of the power to purchase or build may with the consent of the Committee of Management sell, mortgage, exchange or lease any land with the building thereon was "Carried". Braidwood District moved a resolution to make provision for Branches leaving a District to join

another one, and the resolution as "Carried" was to the effect that the consent of the District Delegate Meeting, and also the Committee of Management was necessary for the formation of a new District. The following amendment by the Committee of Management read as follows :

"The allowance to sick members paying contributions under Scale A of not less than six months standing shall be as follows - for the first six months not less than 15/- or more than 21/- per week, for the second six months 12/6d per week, for a further period of 24 months 5/- per week, and for the rest of the illness the full amount of contributions payable by the sick member of the Lodge."

This was unanimously Carried.

The Glebe Union Branch moved that the term Noble Father be eliminated and the term Past Noble Grand be substituted in lieu thereof, the proposal was "Carried". This concluded the business with the exception of the usual vote of thanks to retiring Officers, who replied.

CHAPTER 28 1906 - 1908.

SUBVENTION AND THRIFT ANNUITIES PROPOSED

BY REGISTRAR OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on Saturday June 16th, 1906. A request for a visit to Broken Hill of a Grand Lodge Officer had been requested many times, and another application being made it was decided to send the Grand Secretary and at the same time to call in all the books of the Branches so as they could be examined by BROTHER McCUBBEN.

The Bathurst District and the Branches at Broken Hill offering to pay all costs, which was accepted.

A letter from the Registrar stating that the Juvenile Lodges had not been registered, which was a breach of the Act. It was decided to register immediately this could be done. The General Secretary of the Assurance Department reported that 598 Policies had been taken out for a value of £22,525 - BROTHER REYNOLDS, Assurance Canvasser wished to do some country work, and he was granted permission, half expenses to be met from the Fund.

The next Meeting was held on September 1st, 1906. The Grand Officers reported that they had attended a Social in connection with the final arrangements of the amalgamation of the Australian Oddfellows Union, and the Hunter River District when the dispensations, regalia etc. were handed over.

The matter of the appointment of an Organisator was finalised when BROTHER HUNT was appointed, but could not pass the book keeping test, and applications were again called and two members passed all examinations. The Board decided to appoint BROTHER W. GOWTHORPE of the Registrar of Friendly Societies Department at a salary of £156. per annum with 7/- per day expenses and second class rail and steamer fare. The Grand Secretary gave a lengthy report of his visit to Broken Hill.

Dispensations had been granted for the opening of the following Branches - Female Lodges at Broken Hill and Merewether, Male Lodges at Meranderie, Sydney District, Woodhouselee, Goulburn District and Cessnock, Hunter River District.

There was not a meeting held in December 1906, and the next

meeting took place on January 1st 1907.

Meeting took place on January 5th, 1907. The Grand Officers reported that Dispensations had been granted to open Branches as follows - Abermain in the Hunter River District, Bowraville in the Manning River District and a Juvenile Branch at West Wyalong.

The General Secretary of the Assurance Department reported that policies issued now number 680 to the insured value of £25,548.

The March Meeting of 1907 was held on the 16th of that month. An application was made to the Board through the Bathurst District by Branches at Broken Hill, to form a new District to be known as the Willyama District. The application was granted.

Subvention: A letter was received from the Registrar in reference to the Government's plan to give to Friendly Societies Thrift Annuities and Subvention, in which he sought an opinion from the Committee of Management.

The proposal was to devote £20,000 to help Friendly Societies, and the present intention was to pay after 12 months continuous sickness one third of the sick pay, and after a continuous sickness for over two years the Government proposed to take over the whole burden up to 5/- per week.

Also above the age of 65 years the Government to be responsible for all sick pay.

It was decided that the members of the Committee of Management residing in Sydney will meet and consider the letter.

A Dispensation was granted to open a new Branch at Tevera Creek, Richmond River.

It was placed on record appreciation of the services of the members of the Board, who were retiring from the Committee of Management and not offering themselves for re-election.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 16th, 17th and 18th, 1907. The Committee of Management's Report disclosed that seven new Adult Branches, three Female Branches and two Juvenile Branches had been opened. Four Branches were closed and there was an amalgamation between two Branches. The numerical strength at the beginning of the year was 16,810 members, and at the end of 1906, 17,816 members

a nett gain of 997 members. The election of Officers resulted in the following being elected:-

Grand Master - BROTHER A. SOMMERVILLE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER A. EDWARDS, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON and G. BROWN, Grand Directors - BROTHERS N. COLLINS, J. CLARKE, J. RIDLEY, G. SANDS and R. WYNNE.

A resolution from the Committee of Management to revert back to Biennial Meeting was taken to a division and "Lost", the voting was 22 for and 22 against. The Grand Master BROTHER J. CLARKE gave his casting vote against the alteration. The matter of representatives to Annual Meetings was brought forward by two District, but both resolutions were defeated and a further amendment by BROTHER G. SANDS:-

"That the representation to Annual General Meetings, be on the basis of one representative for every 600 members or part thereof."

This was Carried.

A motion to admit Grand Lodge Officers to District Council Meetings was brought forward by the Prince of Wales Branch, the mover stating only one District Council refused admittance, the motion was "Carried".

Again a resolution for a Centralised Sick and Clearance Value Fund was "Lost", but a motion:-

"That a Central Sick Fund be established under the control of the Committee of Management comprising the sick funds of Branches in New South Wales, all new Branches to be compulsory, but not compulsory to other Branches."

This was Carried.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on June 17th, 1907. Dispensations were granted for the following openings, Tevern Creek in the Sydney District, Tighes Hill in the Hunter River District, Pride of Barren Jack in the Goulburn District.

The General Secretary of the Assurance Department reported that 749 policies had been issued assuring for an amount of £27,929.

It was resolved:-

"That in consideration of the transfer of the whole of the Funds of the Widows and Orphans Fund, Sydney District Grand United Oddfellows, an amalgamation be effected with the Society's Life Assurance Department."

The next meeting of the Board was held on Saturday September 12th,

1907. The valuation of the Society by the Registrar of Friendly Societies MR. TRIVETT was considered. MR. E. M. MOORE Government Actuary had promised to assist the Board on any actuarial matter in connection with the report. It was decided to print 1,000 copies of the valuation and distribute to Districts and also to notify Branches, who had earned no interest on their funds during the quinquennial period.

The Grand Officers reported that Willyama District had been opened by the Grand Master. The following Dispensations were granted to open these Branches:-

Pride of Barren Jack in the Goulburn District, Star of Newnes in the Bathurst District, Golden Crown in the Southern District and a Ladies Lodge at Newcastle in the Hunter River District.

The Grand Officers reported that 40 Branches had signified their intention of joining the Central Sick Fund passed at the last Annual General Meeting. BROTHER BOOT was appointed Organisator in the place of BROTHER GOWTHORP resigned, and has gone to the North Coast where he is expected to open a number of Lodges.

The last Meeting was held on 21st December, 1907. Dispensations were granted for the opening of new Branches as follows :-
Narrabri, Billinudgel, Cangai, Nambucca Heads and at Macksville. BROTHER A BOOT'S report on his visit to the North Coast and his success at Nambucca where he opened two Lodges.

The General Secretary of the Life Assurance Department, BROTHER N. COLLINS tendered his resignation, which was received with much regret and a resolution was "Carried" that it be placed on record the high appreciation of the Committee of Management of the services rendered. His last report stated that the number of policies issued were 878 assured for £31,755. The Grand Secretary was appointed to the position.

The Grand Secretary presented a report with reference to the Central Sick Fund - up to the present £4,056 had been paid in by Branches. The surplus from September Quarter and interest was £190, there was a debit of £35. on the Quarters sick payments. Of the amount received £3,952. had been invested mostly at 5 and 6%.

The next Meeting was held on March 21st, 1908. It was reported that this year is the 60th year of the establishment of the Committee

of Management in Australia. It was resolved that the occasion be celebrated in a suitable manner, and that the matter be left in the hands of those members of the Board resident in the Sydney Metropolitan area. It was also decided that the celebration be held on Wednesday October 7th, 1908.

Dispensations were granted to open the following Branches :-
Belmore in the Sydney District and a Juvenile Branch at West Wallsend.

CHAPTER 29. 1908 - 1909.

FINE RECORD AND PROGRESS IN TEN YEARS

CELEBRATION OF DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 21st, 22nd and 23rd 1908. The Committee of Management in submitting their report stated there were 199 Branches with 18,582 members a gain for the year of 766 members. The first Quinquennial Valuation was received during the year since the new Friendly Societies Act of 1902, and the result was after 60 years of work, the Society was able to pay 20/- in the pound.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:-

Grand Master - Brother A. EDWARDS, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER J. RIDLEY, Grand Secretary, BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON and G. BROWN, Grand Directors - BROTHERS R. HUNTLEY, G. SANDS, J. HANCOCK, A. SOMERVILLE, R. WYNNE.

The Valuation Report was the first and most important matter dealt with and the recommendations of the Committee of Management were adopted as follows:-

"That the minimum contributions for old members paying under the fixed Scale be raised from 6d to 7d."

A most interesting statement was made by the Grand Secretary during the meeting as follows. During the last 10 years in New South Wales alone the Society had disbursed £245,639 in benefits viz - Sick Pay £105,256, Funeral Donations - £28,940, Medical Benefits - £111,442. During the same period the Funds had increased from £83,896 to £162,000 and the membership from 8,822 to 18,582 a great record.

The Grand Secretary moved:

"That the Order approach the Registrar with a view to having a provision that members of 65 years of age shall cease to pay contributions."

If he would not accept the proposal, why should they not accept it? Some of the Lodges said they would not be able to carry on, however the Grand Secretary told them there was a haven for them in the Central Sick Fund. The Resolution was "Carried."

Alteration to the rules relating to Grand Officers and Directors were carried out as follows - That the whole of the Committee of

Management be Grand Lodge Officers - that the Executive Officers of Grand Lodge be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and that no Executive Officer be eligible to hold District Office.

There was an amendment to Central Sick Fund Rules to allow District members to join, which was "Carried". The B. M. A. Agreement was dealt with and it was stated that the agreement was not binding on the Branches, and it was left to them to make better arrangements with the Doctors if desiring to do so. The motion in reference to the Agreement that was finally "Carried" was as follows:-

"That this Society in general Meeting assembled, desires to object to the clauses in the draft agreement of the British Medical Association providing for a fee for the examination of candidates and the wage limit."

An amendment by the Committee of Management to discontinue paying Female Members in accouchement cases was defeated. The Executive Officers were duly installed. The other members of the Board were not brought forward for installation and this would show that there was no ceremony for any other of the Officers outside the three mentioned above.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on June 20th, 1908. The Grand Secretary reported that the Central Sick Fund now comprised 51 Lodges totalling 3439 members with a capital of £10,000.

BROTHER G. SANDS was appointed General Secretary of the Life Assurance Department in the place of BROTHER H. HERRON. The next meeting was held on September 12th, 1908. It was resolved, after a report had been submitted:-

"That tenders be called for making chain regalia for Grand Officers."

It was decided to call a Special General Meeting to be held on the 9th November next to consider the acceptance of Subvention to Friendly Societies.

A resolution was "Carried" -

"That the Secretary of the Hospital Fund be written to requesting that the Executive of the Fund meet the Grand Lodge Officers with the object of placing the Fund under the control of the Committee of Management."

The Grand Officers reported the opening of the following Branches -

Rowena at Curlewis, Star of Woodstock at Woodstock, Pride of Airly at Airly, Pride of Neath at Neath, Pride of Marengo at Marengo and Pride of Tyalgam at Tyalgam.

Before the next Committee of Management's Meeting the Diamond Jubilee of the Society was celebrated. A highly successful banquet was held on Monday October 5th, 1908, when BROTHER J. R. RIDLEY in the absence of the Grand Master BROTHER A. EDWARDS, who was ill occupied the chair. Two hundred sat down at the tables and amongst those present were the Chief Secretary W. H. WOOD, BROTHER J. MERCER M.L.A., the Registrar MR. TRIVETT, and many others well known in the business community. The toast of the Grand United Order was proposed by The Chief Secretary, The Honourable W. H. WOOD, and replied to by the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Secretary.

BROTHER J. MOON in proposing the toast to the Visitors said - "The Banquet was only a forerunner of what was going to take place throughout the breadth and length of the State on Wednesday night. Forty years hence some of the visitors with them that night might be present at the Centenary Celebrations, and he asked them to remember the words used by him on this occasion."

The Registrar of Friendly Societies MR. J. B. TRIVETT in replying to the toast of the visitors said - "We had such advanced legislation in New South Wales that we absolutely led the World so far as Friendly Societies were concerned."

BROTHER G. BROWN in proposing the toast of the kindred Societies said - "I joined the Society when there were only 353 members, and during my 55 years of membership I have seen the Society reach the high number of 20,000."

Prior to the close BROTHER J. HANCOCK, District Secretary of the Hunter River District presented framed photos of themselves to the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary as a personal gift from the District Secretary of the Sydney District - BROTHER S. STEENBOM.

The Grand Secretary gave the following figures for sixty years - Sick Pay £316,920, Funeral Benefits £169,509, Medical £243,471 a total of £729,900.

The Newcastle celebrations were held on the following Saturday when Oddfellows from all over the Hunter River District were present. The Grand Master BROTHER A. EDWARDS was able to be present after his illness. The Juvenile members were treated to a Picnic and the day was one to be remembered by all those present. Many Lodges and Districts celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Society, at Broken Hill 700 members were present at their function.

The Special General Meeting to deal with Subvention was held and it was resolved to accept the "Subvention" as offered to Friendly Societies under the Act recently passed. The Registrar has now signed the amendments which came into operation on December 31st, 1908. The following is a brief summary of the advantages gained by the Order and members.

Sickness Benefit: In lieu of sick pay ceasing after three years sickness, in future after the first period of six months, and second period of six months have been passed, the sum of five shillings per week will be paid for the remainder of illness, even if during the whole period of a member's life.

The Government Contribution to sick pay: For male members under 65 years of age and female members under 60 years of age, the Government will pay 2/6d per week after a member has been twelve months on the sick fund - immediately the member receives five shillings per week for the third period, the Lodge will at the proper time receive back 2/6d for each week's sick pay paid.

For male members over 65 years of age and females over 60 years of age, the Government will pay five shillings per week towards sick pay for the first and second period and thereafter the whole of the Five Shillings paid to the member will be refunded.

The rules now provide that contributions to sick fund will cease at the age of 65 years and 60 years in cases of male and female members respectively. The Government compensates the Society for contributions for the members over the age stated

The funeral contributions and the medical fees of Subvention members are also a charge against the Government under its Subvention plan.

The last meeting of the Committee of Management for the year was held on December 19th, 1908, the Grand Secretary reported a splendid effort in connection with the opening of new Branches - fourteen dispensations being granted since the last meeting, they being as follows:- Gundagai, Bulahdelah, Narrandera, Katoomba, Manly, Binalong, Ryde, Carroll, Port Kembla, Warialda, Urunga, Barraba, Boggabri and Penrith. Credit must be handed out when results prove so successful.

Since the advent of BROTHER H. HERRON to the office of Grand Secretary his whole aim and ambition has been the improvement of the Society. How well he has fulfilled his desires need no telling as the members of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows know full well by the increase of Branches and members since he took over the office of Grand Secretary.

At the Special Meeting a resolution was Carried to form a Benevolent and Incidental Fund controlled by the Committee of Management, and without increasing contributions.

The first meeting of the year was held on March 21st, 1909. Dispensations were granted to open Branches at Guildford and Mullaby.

It was decided to call applications for an Inspector at a salary of £175 per annum - 7/- per day living expenses and fares, to close on the 1st June, 1909.

The Annual Meeting of the year was held at Sydney on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 27th, 28th and 29th, 1909. The Committee of Management's Report disclosed that 21 new Branches had been opened and five closed. The numerical summary showed that at the beginning of the year the membership was 18903 and at the close 1908 - 20185 a nett increase of 1282 members. The total worth of the Society at the end of 1908 was £174,995 showing an increase of £14,146 on the previous year - a truly satisfactory position. The Grand Secretary's salary was fixed at £250. per annum. The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BROTHER J. R. RIDLEY, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER R. HUNTLEY, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON and G. BROWN, Grand Directors - BROTHERS R. WYNNE,

G. SANDS, O. CANTOR, J. HANCOCK and A. EDWARDS.

An amendment to alter the rule "Grand Officers of the Society" so as the members of the Management Committee would come back to the Annual Meeting as such the same as the Executive Officers, was defeated.

Another amendment was to the rule providing that on the death of a member the widow by paying contributions to the Funeral Fund, as per scale computed by the Actuary, funeral benefit would be payable at her death. This was Carried.

The rules of the Benevolent, Incidental and Extension Fund passed at the Special Meeting was presented to the meeting for approval and this was given and the scheme adopted.

CHAPTER 30. 1909 - 1910.

BROTHER J. RIDLEY RESIGNS AS GRAND MASTER
TO BECOME INSPECTOR = AND FINALLY
TO RESIGN FROM THIS OFFICE.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on Saturday, June 19th, 1909.

BROTHER A. BARRETT was given an appointment as Organiser as BROTHER BOOT, owing to business reasons, was unable to continue. BROTHER BARRETT in a very short time opened Lodges at Coolamon and Grenfell. BROTHER SMITH of Gunnedah, who had a position as traveller for a Firm had on his journey through the country, introduced many new members.

BROTHER SMITH offered to give up his position and accept one as Organiser in the following terms of 8/- a day and 4/- a day expenses. He quickly got to work and opened Branches at Mullaby, Coolah and Tambar Springs. The matter of special organising was reported on and it was decided to continue the payment of 1/6d for each member admitted and to request the assistance of Districts who had not made any move to assist in this special appeal.

Dispensations were granted for the opening of the following Branches - Wyndham, Manildra, Kelvin, Coolah, Tambar Springs, Collamon, Bimbi, Grenfell, Harden and a Juvenile Branch at Bathurst.

The appointment of an Inspector was then dealt with and nine applications being made these names were submitted for election. Prior to the ballot the Grand Master BROTHER J. R. RIDLEY, being a candidate, retired from the room after which it was resolved-

"That prior to taking up the duties, that the successful candidate relinquish any position he may hold on any District or Committee of Management."

The ballot resulted in BROTHER J. R. RIDLEY being successful. BROTHER RIDLEY stepped down from the position of Grand Master to take upon himself the duties of Inspector, not because the financial gain was any better than he was receiving, but his affection for his Society was so evident in all his actions that all his colleagues and members who knew his worth realised that his wish to be the Inspector of the Society was actuated solely by his desire to devote his

energies to the Grand United Order of Oddfellows. BROTHER R. HUNTLEY was elected Grand Master and BROTHER J. MOON, Deputy Grand Master.

The usual Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 18th September, 1909. A report was tabled re-extension and it was stated that the last quarter was the most successful in the history of the Society. The record since the beginning of the year is 24 male Branches, 1 female Branch and 2 Juvenile Branches opened - a total of 27 Branches - and there were more to follow. The year 1909 will be our best effort and will easily eclipse all previous records.

BROTHERS BARRETT and SMITH, Organisers, continued to be most successful in their efforts. The Registrar of Friendly Societies report was submitted and it was seen that our Society had opened 22 Branches out of 84 opened during the year, the next closest Society was the Rechabites with 10 and the Manchester Unity Oddfellows 8.

The Secretaries Association that had been formed and the inaugural meeting arranged by the Committee of Management had an attendance of 20 Secretaries. Officers were appointed and a Committee to draw up rules.

Dispensations were granted for the following new Branches that had been opened during the quarter - Moree, Bellata, Attunga, Leadville, Cronulla, Eden, Golden Rose, Manilla, Merriwa, Uralla, Cassillis, Coffs Harbour and a Ladies Lodge at Corrimal; most of these Branches were opened by the Organiser but private members were also successful in opening five of the above Branches.

It was resolved:
"That the sum of £250. be voted from the Extension Fund towards the extension of the Order."

A Special Meeting of the Board was held on December 10th, 1909 for the purpose of finalising the Amalgamation of the Southern Cross Temple Australian Oddfellows Union with the Society, and a resolution was Carried accordingly.

The last meeting of the year was held on December 18th, 1909. The Grand Master welcomed BROTHER J. QUIRK as a Director, he

having been appointed by the Sydney District.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies informed the Grand Officers that the rules as submitted to him would be approved and the matter was left with the Officers to register such rules as they deemed necessary.

The following Dispensations were granted to open new Branches in the following towns - Homebush, Woodburn, Kangiara, Parkes, Walcha, Trundle, Werris Creek, Condobolin, Berry, a ladies Lodge was opened at Braidwood and juvenile Branches at Teralba, Yass and Yerranderie.

BROTHER J. RIDLEY on account of ill health decided to tender his resignation as Inspector. A months holiday on full pay had been granted, but at the end of this term his resignation was tendered and accepted with extreme regret. BROTHER H. PIERCE was appointed Acting Inspector until such times as one was appointed. The matter of District Inspector of workings was dealt with and it was Carried that the report received be adopted and placed on the Business Paper in the manner suggested.

It was reported that the Sydney District Council had recently purchased a piece of land at the rear of the present hall premises, and learning that together with the land and buildings to be erected thereon, an additional expenditure of some £7,500 was to be made which sum together with that already invested would bring the amount to about £14,000. After consultation the Grand Lodge Officers decided to bring under the notice of the delegates at a meeting called for the purpose of considering a scheme for a Residential Oddfellows Club.

The District was notified and the District Council requested the Grand Lodge Officers to meet them on the night of the Delegate Meeting.

The Grand Officers explained the scheme and the Grand Executive and the Sydney District Officers were appointed to enquire into the whole scheme.

The decision to issue the magazine monthly was approved.

The first meeting of the year was held on March 19th, 1910.

Applications for donations from the Benevolent Fund were

received from Branches in an area where a strike had been in progress for some time and it was agreed to donate £10.10.0 to each of the Branches.

Dispensations were granted for the following openings of new Branches at Arianah Park and a Ladies Lodge at Young.

From applications for the position of Inspector BROTHER H. PIERCE was appointed.

A further application from Pride of Abermain Branch for a further donation from the Benevolent Fund of £20. was refused, the reason given, that the strike was over. A further £200. was voted from the Benevolent Fund for extension work.

CHAPTER 51. 1910 - 1911.

FORMING OF GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

The Annual General Meeting of 1910 was held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th.

The Committee of Management's Report disclosed a record year in every respect. Forty new Branches were opened, a wonderful record of advancement. The numerical summary disclosed that at the beginning of the year the total membership was 20185 and at the end of 1909, 22405, a gain of 2220, by far the best result of a series of most successful years. The Central Sick Fund now had 114 Branches and funds amounting to £15689, many Branches made application under this fund to increase their sick pay to £1. per week and in some cases to £1.1.0, and in all cases the Committee granted the applications. The total funds of the Society being £189756. The salary of the Grand Secretary was fixed at £200, and that a Staff be employed by the Order - one male employee at a salary not exceeding £100. and a lady typiste at £65. was adopted. The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BROTHER R. HUNTLEY, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER F. LYLE, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON and G. BROWN, Grand Directors - BROTHERS G. SANDS, R. WYNNE, A. EDWARDS, J. HANCOCK and A. BOOT.

A report from the representatives of the Society to the Friendly Societies Association was read by the Grand Master and adopted. The report stated that unless the Lodges of the Societies sign the Agreement issued by the British Medical Association, the Doctors would withdraw from the Lodges. The Friendly Societies Association appointed a Committee to devise a scheme whereby the whole of the Societies could establish a Medical Institute for members.

In the report it was suggested the flotation of a Limited Liability Company, with a nominal capital of £5,000 so that Medical Officers could be secured right throughout the State. The scheme being submitted would take some time to place upon a proper basis.

A resolution to alter second class fares to first class when

Grand Lodge Officers were travelling on behalf of the Society, was Carried. It was resolved to issue 10 copies of the Magazine free to the Branches and any above that number to be charged for at the rate of 1/6d a year. Another resolution Carried was to alter the time of Annual District Meetings from January to February.

The mode of admission rule was altered to allow members to join the Society without being initiated for a period of twelve months and if a member fails to attend in that period three months notice to be given cancelling his membership.

When Entitled to Benefits: It was moved by the Committee of Management that the rule be struck out and the following substituted:-

"Members shall be entitled to Sickness, Funeral, and Medical Benefits from date of admission, and the Funeral Donation of Wife to be payable from date of registration."

After a lengthy discussion the motion was Carried.

The proposal regarding the Friendly Societies Medical Institute was submitted. The capital of the Institute be £5,000 in 50 shares of £100, each limited to Friendly Societies. The rules relative to the carrying out of the proposal were submitted and it was proposed and Carried that the Grand United Order of Oddfellows take out two shares. The Committee of Management were given power to open a Branch in the Hall, with not initiations and no meetings - also to bring in a system of inspection by District Inspectors, cost not to exceed £200 per annum.

Installation of Officers - vote of thanks, and the singing of Auld Lang Syne closed the meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on June 18th, 1910. It was reported that the Sydney District had lost no time in making a start on the proposal to extend the Hall with the addition of a residential club with Billiard, Reading and Dining rooms and a contract had been let to Messrs. Stewart Bros., the price being about £1200 and the work is now in progress.

Dispensations since last meeting were granted to open the following Branches, Coledale, Corrimel, Clifton, Coonebarabran, Inverell, Greenthorpe, Cootamundra, Oberon, Bethungra and Portland.

The outcome of the resolution to start a Lodge without initiation and attendance, which was Carried last Annual Meeting, was that the Central Lodge was opened. A further £200. was donated from the Benevolent Fund for extension work.

The matter of taking two shares in the Medical Institute authorised last Annual Meeting was brought up and the Board Carried a motion that the matter postponed for three months.

Residential Club and Lodge Rooms; The foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Premier the Hon. G. C. Wade, K.C., on Saturday August 20th, 1910. The Premier was received by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and on the platform he was presented with a silver trowel to perform the ceremony.

After the stone was laid an adjournment was made to the Hall where refreshments were served. The Grand Secretary proposed "The Ministry and Parliament" - the Premier replying for the State and Mr. J. E. West the Federal Member for East Sydney for the Commonwealth. The Premier proposed the G.U.O.O.F. - the Grand Master replying, as also did BROTHER GEORGE THORNTON, District Master of Sydney District. The District Secretary, BROTHER S. S. STERNBOM, Proposed the Visitors and BROTHER EYLES, Secretary of the Friendly Societies Association of New South Wales and Alderman English of the Sydney Municipal Council replied, BROTHER GEORGE BROWN proposed "The Grand Master" and BROTHER HUNTLEY replied.

A Special Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 16th September, 1910, when the matter of the boundaries for the several districts came up for approval, and it was resolved to submit a motion to the next Annual General Meeting as follows:-

"That the Executive be asked to prepare a rule for submission, clearly defining the boundaries of the various Districts, and that there be incorporated in the rules a provision that on the 1st January, 1912 all Branches within the various areas as defined in the map, shall transfer to the District to which they have been allocated."

The usual quarterly meeting was held on September 17th, 1910, and the following Dispensations were granted to open new Branches at Chillingham, Morriston, Ourimbah, Liverpool, Windsor, Richmond and Stuarts Town. A female Branch was opened at Cardiff, South Broken Hill and Corrimal. The Committee of Management issued their own password instead of the one in use in the English Society. Another £300. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for extension work.

The report of the Hospital Fund was received, the fund now being under the control of the Committee of Management. It was reported that the Central Branch now had a membership of 117 members.

In connection with the Hall scheme the Executive interviewed the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney in reference to an advance of £10,000. The Bank was willing to lend providing the Grand Trustees share in the bond. The report was received. The Grand Master reported that for the present year, to date 24 adult Branches and five juvenile Branches had been opened.

The last meeting of the year was held on the 17th December, 1911. The Quinquennial Valuation of the Society was considered by the Board and approved. It was also resolved to alter rules so as to reduce the contribution to the Funeral Fund by $\frac{1}{2}$ d per week under Scale A and $\frac{1}{4}$ d per week under Scale B, and submit same to the 1911 Annual Meeting.

The tenders for Chain Regalia were received and it was decided that ten sets be secured and the matter to be left in the hands of the Executive. Another £250. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for extension work. A report that the Sydney District Hall and Club Rooms would be ready for occupation about the 20th February, 1911.

The first meeting of the year was held on the 18th March, 1911. The By-Laws for the Government of the new Club were submitted by the District for the approval of the Committee of Management and these were accepted. Another £250. was voted from the Benevolent Fund for the extension of the Order. It was

reported that the new Club was opened on the Thursday before Good Friday and all rooms were booked out.

The following Dispensations were granted since last meeting to open Branches as follows:- Dunedoo, Mundooran, Cobborah, Queengbeyan and Jerangle.

The By-laws of the new Club were returned to the District Secretary.

BROTHERS R. HUNTLEY, Grand Master, H. HERRON, Grand Secretary and J. MOON the members of the Grand Lodge in the Hall Committee resigned. At the last meeting of the Delegates the rules were again discussed, and amendment to the rules Carried in almost similar terms to that which had been Lost at a previous meeting. Later on the Grand Officers withdrew their resignations and then BROTHER S. STEENBOM, District Secretary, tendered his resignation as Secretary of the Club. The matter is now finally settled and BROTHER R. HUNTLEY was appointed Club Secretary.

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 25th, 26th, and 27th 1911. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that 43 new Branches were opened and the membership increased from 22405 to 26746 being an increase of 4341 members, a truly magnificent result. The number of Branches operating at the end of the year were 282. The progress of the Society has been of an unprecedented character - initiations for the year being 6021. The Southern District had an initiation rate of 75 per cent and Bathurst District 64 per cent, Willyama District 40 per cent and the other Districts 31 to 15 per cent.

The Salary of the Grand Secretary was fixed at £250. per annum. A motion of the suspension of standing orders to postpone the election until after the amendment of rules had been dealt with was Lost, the voting being 25 to 21.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BROTHER F. LYLE, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER A. BOOT, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON and G. BROWN, Grand Directors - BROTHERS G. SANDS, A. EDWARDS, R. HUNTLEY, J. HANCOCK and R. WYNNE.

A resolution was Carried that the Committee of Management hold six meetings a year instead of four as at present.

The amendments from the Committee of Management in reference to the re-distribution of Districts after a lengthy discussion were declared Carried.

Following the valuation of the Society, the amendment to reduce contributions to A and B Scales were Carried. The uniform sick pay to fixed Scale and members under Scale A was fixed at 21/- per week. An amendment to make it compulsory for all Branches to join the Central Sick Fund was again defeated.

CHAPTER 32 - 1911 - 1912.

OPENING OF NEW CLUB.

The Official Opening of the new Club took place on the 8th June, 1911, when a Banquet attended by over 300 members was held with BROTHER R. HUNTLEY, P.G.M. in the Chair. BROTHER A. BOOT, D.G.M. proposed success to "The Club", the singing of "The Club is part of the Order, and so say all of us" being the Musical Honours.

BROTHER HUNTLEY replied, and in his remarks stated that BROTHER G. GORDON of Bellinger River first brought the question up when saying that there was no sensible place in Sydney for the members to meet. The Grand Secretary, BROTHER HERRON, suggested the establishment of a Club, and it was left to BROTHER HUNTLEY to place the suggestion before the Sydney District who readily agreed and a Committee was formed with BROTHER HUNTLEY Chairman, and this function finalised what the Chairman described as the headquarters of harmony and a lighthouse illuminated with the Principles of Friendship, Love and Truth. BROTHER HERRON replied to the toast of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows moved by BROTHER KEMP, Grand Secretary, of the Manchester Unity, and gave the last 10 years of the Society's work which was as follows. The year 1900 disclosed that we had 117 Branches with 10841 members, and the funds of £98495 at the end of the year 1910, we had 282 Branches with 26746 members and £204793. Our Society could be well called "The Progressive".

The first meeting of the new Board was held on May 20th, 1911. Dispensations were granted to open the following new Branches:- Stockinbingal, Glen Innes, Glenbrook, Teimeil, Lawson and Penrith. The sum of £250. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for the extension of the Order. The rent for use of Sydney District Hall had been fixed by them and accepted the fee being £78. per annum. The bi-monthly meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 20th, 1911. Dispensations were granted to open the following new Branches:- Batemans Bay, Somerton, Bulli, Gosford, Erina and Juvenile

Branches at Broken Hill and Urunga.

Many letters were received in reference to the "September Appeal" the Committee of Management were requesting that every Branch of the Society do everything possible to make the appeal one that would lead us to the premier Friendly Society. The sum of £150. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for the extension of the Order.

The Grand Master reported that BROTHER J. J. RIDDELL and his Wife were in Sydney since the last meeting and the town members entertained them at a function in the Club.

The matter of Public Installations received consideration and the granting of Dispensations to hold same must be issued by the Committee of Management and this was agreed to. The next meeting was held on September 16th, 1911. A sum of £300. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for the Order's extension.

The following new Branches had been opened since last meeting:- Eastwood, Dorriga, Tamworth, Hornsby, West Wallsend, Dubbo, Surry Hills, Trangie, Lane Cove and Coledale - Juvenile Branches were opened at Newnes and another Branch at Broken Hill..

The next meeting was held on November 18th, 1911. The Grand Officers reported the opening of the following Branches:- Juvenile Branch at North Sydney and Adult Branches at Arncliffe, Kogarah, Marrickville, Dapto, Scone, Wollongong and the names of two other Branches, Lily of the Dale and Centennial. The sum of £500. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for the extension of the Order.

The first meeting of the year was held on the 20th January, 1912. Dispensations were granted for the opening of the following Branches at Whitton, Orara, Fifield, Kurri Kurri, Denman, Canowindra and Weston. It was decided to place on the Business Paper for the year 1912 a motion to consolidate the Funds of the Society. The sum of £200. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for the Order's extension. Another amendment was passed to be placed on the Business Paper:- That the seven Directors of the Society shall be ex-Officers representatives

to the A.G.M. of the Society.

The next meeting of the Board was held on March 16th, 1912. Dispensations were granted to open the following Branches, Cowra, Killingworth, and also a Ladies Lodge at Killingworth.

A report concerning the Club was submitted which stated that the Club had been a success, and that at the last Delegate Meeting it was decided to expend a sum not exceeding four thousand pounds to add two storeys to the present building to be used mainly as bedrooms.

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd April, 1912, and lasted for three days. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that during the year the membership had increased to 31,106 members and increase of 4360 members for the year. It was thought that the years record of 1910 would stand when again of 4341 members was made, but 1911 showed 19 more - what wonderful progress in two years, the Society gained 8701 new members. The number of Branches increased from 282 to 322 a gain of 40 Branches.

A report that the ex-Secretary (BROTHER W. L. ARTHUR) was convicted at the Central Police Court for embezzlement of the Hospital Funds - the amount embezzled being £125., and this was refunded from the Guarantee Fund.

The Grand Secretary when moving adoption of the Report stated that at the end of 1910 we were 5000 members behind the Manchester Unity's membership. He said in another year we might overhaul them, but this Society had been woken up by the wonderful success of our Order, and they had copied our methods by appointing Organisers and Inspectors and were determined that money would not stop their propaganda, as they were spending any amount in this campaign.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BROTHER A. BOOT, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER A. CANTOR, Grand Directors - BROTHERS G. SANDS, R. HUNTLEY, F. LYLE, J. RIDLEY, J. MOON, J. QUIRK and R. WYNNE. The following were also nominated - BROTHERS A. EDWARDS, J. HANCOCK, G. BROWN, and W. OSBORNE,

CHAPTER 33. 1912 - 1913.

GRAND UNITED FIRST REGISTERED SOCIETY IN

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 21st May, 1912. Dispensations were granted to open the following Branches at Paterson, Sutherland, Woodburn, Leeton and Gloucester. The sum of £250. was transferred from the Benevolent Fund for Extension work. The next meeting was held on July 18th, 1912. Dispensations were granted to open Branches at Bankstown, Albury, Corowa, Naremburn and Euchareena. The next meeting was held on September 21st, 1912. The report of the conference between the B.M.A. and the Committee of the Friendly Societies held on the 14th September was submitted and the decisions arrived at were:-

1. That members receiving Medical Benefits before the 28th February, 1909, shall continue to receive Medical Benefits irrespective of the amount of income.
2. Members admitted after the above date having an income not exceeding £250. shall be entitled to the Medical Benefit so long as their incomes do not exceed £350.
3. The rate agreed on was without medicine 21/- per year in the Metropolitan area and 25/- per year outside.
4. No Medical examination required when a member is a bona fide resident..

It was resolved that the Branches be informed that the Committee of Management recommend the acceptance of the terms agreed on at the Conference.

Applications were received from Branches on the Northern and of the Manning River District for a Dispensation to open a new District and one from Branches in the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed Districts to do the same - both applications were submitted to the Districts concerned in the matter.

The next meeting of the Board was held on the 16th November, 1912.

Dispensations were granted to open the following Branches at Kensington, Leura, Haberfield, Germanton, Gundagai, The Rock and Henty and Juvenile Branches at Weston, Abermain and Killagworth.

It was reported that several Branches on the far North Coast had dispensed with the Docotrs' services the result of the new B. M. A. Agreement.

It was decided to change the name of the paper from Magazine to "The Oddfellow" and this has been done.

The Sydney and Manning River Districts replied stating their willingness to accede to the wishes of the Branches in their respective Districts to form new Districts, and the Board decided to take the necessary steps to carry out the formation of the new Districts.

It was decided to place on the Business Paper for the Annual Meeting of 1913, the following amendment to "Representatives at the Annual General Meeting" - one representative for the first 600 or part thereof, an additional representative for the second 600 or part thereof and an additional representative for each 1,000 or part thereof above that number.

The first meeting of the year was held on the 18th January, 1913. It was reported that the Grand Master - BROTHER A. BOOT was unable to be present as he was on the northern part of the State opening new Districts, viz: the Raleigh District at Bellingen and the North Eastern District at Lismore. BROTHER J. QUIRK tendered his resignation as a member of the Board. The Deputy Grand Master reported that on Christmas Eve, BROTHER J. HANCOCK, Grand Director had passed away, and he with the Grand Secretary had attended the Funeral.

BROTHER A. SNEESBY was appointed by the Hunter River District to the vacancy on the Board.

Dispensations were granted to open new Branches at Henty and Kingston. A meeting of the Committee of Management, District Officers and Branches in the Metropolitan area was held and it was decided to accept the fees as now submitted by the B. M. A., namely 19/- for City and 21/- for Suburban.

The two new Districts were opened and a bright future is predicted for the Society on the Central and far North Coast.

A letter appeared in "The Oddfellow" of March 17th, 1913 from BROTHER P. NEWLAND, stating that the Grand United Order of Odd-

fellows was the first registered Society in New South Wales, and his reasons for saying so came about in the following way - At the time of the unveiling of the Captain Cook statue there was a procession of the various Friendly Societies, BROTHER NEWLAND, being District Master of the Sydney District, called on the Solicitor General R. B. Smith esq, who had the ordering of the Function, when he ordered a list of the Registered Societies to be prepared with their date of registration when it was found we were the first. Hence we claimed precedence and got it much to the chagrin of the Manchester Unity who formerly took it. It was P.M.G. BROTHER REID, who affected the registration.

The next meeting was held on March 15th, 1913. The Grand Master welcomed BROTHER G. THORNTON, who was elected in the place of BROTHER J. QUIRK resigned. Dispensations granted since last meeting for the opening of new Branches at - Macksville, Bowraville, Rose Bay and a Juvenile Branch at Bellingen.

The Annual Meeting was held at Sydney on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 1913. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that during the year 25 new Branches had been opened. The initiations for the year were the highest on record viz: 7109, but unfortunately the loss from all causes totalled the high number of over 4,000, leaving the membership at the end of 1912 - 33186 members an increase on the previous year of 2080 members, a result thought not so high as the previous years 1911 and 1912, but still very good progress.

The British Medical Association's Agreement was placed before the meeting for acceptance and Dr. Read, ex-President, Dr. Todd Honorary Secretary, and Dr. Sands Committeeman of the B.M.A. were present for the purpose of explaining the proposed agreement and to answer any questions, which might be put by the Delegates - after a long discussion the following amendment moved by BROTHER J. RIDLEY and seconded by BROTHER G. BROWN was:-

1. That an agreement with the B.M.A. is desirable.

2. That the one under review be referred back for recommendation and amendment to the Committee of Management.

3. The increased charges being too much as they are in incidence unfair and inequitable.

BROTHER RIDLEY stated there were 30,000 people saying they wanted an acceptance. The mover withdrew the motion for acceptance and the amendment was Carried. The motion to alter the number of representatives to the Annual General Meeting was Lost.

A motion to establish a Central Funeral Fund was Lost.

A resolution to confine Branches to paying the one guinea a week sick pay was Carried. It was reported that a Branch on the south coast has been paying as high as two guineas.

The Delegates were entertained at a Theatre Party on Tuesday night and at a Banquet in the Club by the Sydney District on Wednesday evening. The Officers elected were:-

Grand Master - BROTHER A. CANTOR, Deputy Grand Master - BROTHER C. NICOD, Grand Secretary - BROTHER H. HERRON, Grand Trustees - BROTHERS J. MOON, R. WYNNE and A. BOOT, Grand Directors - BROTHERS G. SANDS, G. BRETNALL, A. EDWARDS, R. HUNTLEY, F. LYLE and J. RIDLEY.