CHAPTER 52. 1936 - 1937.

PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE LAND TO ERECT NEW OFFICES.

The regular meeting of the Board was held on the 6th June, 1936. The Grand Master - BRO. M. HINDS was absent owing to a serious illness and a special message of sympathy was sent by telegram. A Dispensation was granted to North Bondi to open a Council Masters' Chapter in the Eastern Suburbs to be called by that name on condition that the meeting place is more than two miles from 337, Pitt Street, Sydney. The Grand Executive reported that insurance of Secretaries and Treasurers is now available against assualt or injury. The Grand Secretary reported having sent a fraternal message to the Annual Moveable Conference of the Society in Great Britain at New Brighton.

The matter of the District Levy Subsidy Fund had engaged the minds of the Committee of Management at the last three meetings of the Board and the Grand Secretary was asked to submit a report as to the possibility of a uniform levy. This was a most extensive report and dealt with the proposed alteration but the Committee of Management resolved that no further action be taken.

The July meeting was held on the 25th, BRO. M. HINDS although much better did not attend as the day was intensely cold. The Grand Secretary reported that all arrangements had been made with the artificial limb factory of the Repatriation Commission for an artificial limb for BRO. PENMAN. Correspondence passing between the District Secretary of Sydney District and the Grand Secretary relative to a proposal for members of Travellers Home Branch to take clearances to Federal Branch, Sydney District and for the latter Branch to subsequently change its name to "Travellers Home Branch" was considered and correspondence received.

The resolution "That the present rate of subsidy be reviewed and consideration given to a decrease of levy for Branches under fifty" was accepted and many alterations in the subsidy as from the 1st October was approved. Two Branches were reported opened - one at Mayfield - Hunter River District and the other at Springdale -

Lachlan District. BRO. D. ROBERTS the Organisor at Mayfield was granted an honorarium of £10. for his services.

BRO. SMITH, Organisor and Sick Fund Inspector was reported to be very ill anda letter of sympathy was forwarded on behalf of the Board.

The regular meeting in September 1936 was held on the 5th - BRO. HINDS was presiding again after his severe illness. An apology was received from BRO. E. BRISTOW who had to return to Broken Hill on account of the illness of Mrs. Bristow. A resolution of sympathy was Carried. The Grand Executive reported that the Travellers Home Lodge had closed and clearance issued to the remaining members of the Branch. Correspondence was received from three Districts asking for an increase in their Levy Subsidy but it was resolved that the Committee of Management is not able to make money available beyond the provisions of the Subsidy account.

A dispensation was granted to open a new Branch at Tatham in the Richmond River District. The Southern District asked to revert back to the two Districts as before and the request to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting. The Committee of Management agreed to place a resolution on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting to discontinue the practice of printing the names of Branches and Districts nominating members for Grand Lodge Office and only the office nominated for and the name of the Branch and District to which he is a member of be placed on the Business Paper.

BRO. J. R. CURRAN who had refused to accept his Past Grand Masters Regalia when vacating his office on the Board was the subject of a resolution:-

> "That BRO. J. R. CURRAN, Past Grand Master, be asked to accept his P.G.M. regalia at the Installation Dinner in company with BROS. M. HINDS AND R. PENMAN."

The Grand Executive submitted reports on membership and contributions and sick pay which was received.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the State Assembly - State Theatre Building, Sydney on Tuesday 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th October, 1936. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that seven new Branches were opened and seventeen closed during the year leaving a total of 417 adult and 20 juvenile Branches in the Society at the end of the year. It was with much gratification the representatives received the good news that the membership had increased by 944 members, the membership now being 33948. The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BRO. E. BRISTOW, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. R. HARIVEL, Grand Secretary - BRO. RIDLEY, Grand Directors - BROS. R. PENMAN, M. HINDS, W. J. SMEDLEY, N. MONTGOMERY, H. SMITH and W. HUTCHINSON.

The following is abrief review of the important Amendments passed at the meeting:-

"That Officers of a District Council shall be financial members of a Council Masters' Chapter"

This was Deleted.

By the Committee of Management -

"that the District Levy Subsidy Account be amended to provide for a quarterly contribution in lieu of Annual and a distribution quarterly to Districts entitled thereto." This was Carried.

"That a Veterans Medal be made available for presentation to members after twenty five years service."

This was Carried.

The installation Ceremony was carried out in the Society's rooms on the third day of the meeting - P.G.M. BRO. C. PIGGOTT being the Installing Master whilst BROS. H. J . RIDLEY and T. STRICKLAND acted as Conductors.

The Annual Cabaret was held at the Empress Rooms on the first evening of the session and was voted a very fine function. Perhaps the finest function ever organised as an entertainment to the delegates was the Grand Lodge Installation Dinner arranged at the State Theatre Ballromm and held immediately after the Installation Ceremony. The Grand Master - BRO. HINDS presiding, many noted visitors were present - Past Grand Masters of the Society, Representatives from all Friendly Societies and many others. A vote of thanks to BRO. C. PIGGOTT, P.G.M. was moved and responded to and the singing of Auld Lang Syne closed the 1936 Annual General Meeting.

The first meeting of the New Board was held on the 5th December, 1936. It was resolved to retain the U.M.C. Fund as a seperate entity and bring the B.I.&E. Fund and the Medical and Management Funds into conformity with the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act. The Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Bathurst District desired to amalgamate with the Assurance Department and this was agreed to pending information from the Registrar as to the amount of a paid up policy to be offered members of the Fund. Two new Branches were opened at Lansdowne Manning River District and Ariah Park Juvenile in the Cootamundra District and three Branches were reported as closed.

At the Installation Dinner at the last Annual General Meeting, P.G.M. BRO. HERRON made a suggestion and BRO. HINDS said opportunity would be given interested members of the Society to submit ways and means of extending the influence of the Society and it was resolved to invite BRO. HERRON to the next Board Meeting. The Grand Secretary reported that after attending the complimentary meeting to BRO. BRISTOW at Broken Hill he visited the neighbouring Societies at Adelaide and Melbourne. At Adelaide the Grand Secretary was received by the Lord Mayor.

The first meeting of the Board in the year 1937 was held on 6th February. BRO. BRISTOW, G.M. in the Chair. In view of the death of BRO. JOHN WHITE, exGrand Trustee the meeting started early to allow the members of the Board to attend the Funeral at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. After the funeral the Board members returned to the Lodge Room and concluded the meeting.

Tenders were received for Regalia from Messrs. Binghams and Messrs. David Jones Ltd. and the tender of Messrs. Binghams was accepted. A sample of a collar for a Superintendent of a Juvenile Lodge was submitted and approved and one to be made available to each active Juvenile Lodge. The amalgamation with the Bathurst Widows and Orphans' Fund into the Assurance Department was finalised and accepted.

P.G.M. BRO. HENRY HERRON, who had been invited to this meeting was asked to postpone his visit as the members wished to attend the funeral of exGrand Trustee BRO. J. WHITE. He was requested to visit next meeting and this he promised to do. He also submitted in writing his matter for consideration of the Grand Executive before the next meeting. The Registrar submitted increases in contributions to meet an increase in the lowest rate of sick pay to 5/- per week and this increase was 1½d per week for all fixed scale benefit members and females under Scale D ¾d for all members and male and female members under Scales AA and DD ½d to 1d per week according to age. It was resolved that the Registrar be asked if there is anyway other than an increase in contributions by which it is possible to increase the last rate of sick pay to 5/-.

The Grand Secretary reported that Miss Hudson - Accountant at Head Office had sailed for England and arrangements had been made for her to be at Manchester for a week commencing on March 1st and for another week commencing May 23rd to examine the Grand Lodge of England's method with National Health Insurance.

BRO. SMITH now claimed a considerable improvement in health and stated he was able to do some work. The Grand Executive instructed BRO. SMITH to submit himself to the Medical Referee for an examination whose report was submitted to the Board. It was rezolved:-

> "That the Board very reluntantly decides that in view of ill-health BRO. SMITH be notified of his retirement from service as from 31st March, 1937, up to which date he will receive half pay."

The start of seeking for more accommodation had commenced and the Grand Trustees proposal was considered by the Board respecting the purchase of land and the erection of buildings for offices.

Applications for unfinancial Organisor and sickness Inspector were received and appointment left to the metropolitan members of the Board. The Grand Executive reported that BRO. G. COULTER, Grand Secretary of Victoria spent an holiday in N.S.Wales and visited a number of Lodges, and he had forwarded a letter expressing his warm appreciation for the welcome he had received.

CHAPTER 53 1937.

PURCHASE OF CASTLEREAGH STREET LAND AND PROPERTY.

A Special General Meeting of the Society was held in the Lodge Room, Pitt Street on Wednesday March 17th, 1937. It was called by the Committee of Management to give the Grand Trustees the authority to sell the present building and to purchase land with buildings thereon in Castlereagh Street, Sydney for the purpose of demolishing such buildings and erecting another building. The sale of the Pitt Street Property carried with it a proposal that the Society should be able to rent its offices from the new owner until such time as new offices in the Castlereagh building are available.

The first resolution Carried was as follows:-

> "That the Grand Trustees for and on behalf of the Order and the consent of this Special Meeting purchase the land and buildings situated and known as 147-153, Castlereagh Street, Sydney for such a sum as will be accepted for same being not less than £78890 - and to alter and demolish building on the land and to erect a building comprising basement, ground floor and seven storeys, at a minimum price of £7000. or such larger sum as the Grand Trustees with the consent of the Committee of Management may deem fit, such building on completion to bbe used part thereof for the Executive Offices of the Society and for the purpose of holding the meetings and transacting the business of the Society. The remainder thereof leased in such manner as deemed most advantageous and revenue producing."

This resolution was Carried by 47 votes to 16.

The second resolution:-

> "That the Grand Trustees be empowered to sell the present buildings for the sum of £25000 to J. M. Browne the owner of the Castlereagh Street, property and the part required for the Society's work be leased at a rental of £602. per annum."

This was Carried by 47 votes to 14.

Following the Special Meeting the necessary contracts were signed by the Grand Trustees and Mr. Browne on March 24th and 25th. The Grand Trustees have held several meetings and Messrs. Budden and Mackey appointed Architects and Messrs. Richardson & Wrench, Managing Agents for the Building.

The April meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd. Correspondence was received from BRO. SMITH, who submitted medical evidence and the Board decided to temporary employ him and his case to be reviewed at the next Board meeting. The amalgamation of Bathurst Widows and Orphns' Fund with the Assurance Department to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting. It was decided to hold a Cabaret in July and to invite representatives of Lodges in the Metropolitan area to attend a meeting of the Grand Executive to elect a Committee to manage the function.

The Grand Executive submitted correspondence with the Sydney City Council regarding the necessity of renovating the Memorial in Hyde Park. The Executive had obtained a tender which was accepted the cost to be equally borne between the Society and the Council.

The Grand Executive reported the closing of six branches. BRO. HERRON was not able to attend the meeting owing to being out of Sydney, however sent along some suggestions for improving the Society. It was decided to submit a copy to each member of the Board and contents dealt with at the next Board Meeting.

The matter of the appointment of an Organisor for unfinancial and sick members was dealt with and after the five applicants who were called to the meeting were examined it was decided to appoint BRO. A. LLOYD of Cessnock - the terms and salary to be determined by the Grand Executive.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on June 5th, 1937. The Grand Secretary reported that the initial order for Veterans' Medals has been executed and they were now on sale at a price of 35/6d each. The matter of compulsory Hospital contributions was dealt with and it was decided to submit to the Annual General Meeting the Manchester Unity rule without any recommendation. Suggestions of BRO. HERRON were considered and it was decided upon to call a meeting of the Grand Executive, the District Secretary of each metropolitan District and report to the next meeting of the Committee of Management.

One new Lodge was opened, a Juvenile Branch at Granville and one was reported closed.

The Grand Master of Western Australia - BRO. A. G. O'KEEFE was present at the meeting and a most cordial welcome was tendered to him. He was spending a holiday in Sydney accompanied by BRO. R. SAMPSON, M.L.A. at one time Colonial Secretary of Western Australia. Both attended a number of meetings and expressed their pleasure at the warm welcome extended to them.

The death of BRO. ARTHUR BOOT was reported. He was a Past Grand Master of the Society elected Deputy Grand Master in 1911 and Grand Master 1912. He was a most successful organisor in the time of BRO. HERRON as Grand Secretary and was one of those loveable persons who endeared himself to the members of the Society. The fraternal side of the Order was his loved topic and it was good to hear him enunciating the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

The July meeting of the Board was held on the 31st. The Grand Executive reported that the renovations to the Memorial Fountain had been completed.

The Board granted permission to the Grand Secretary to act as Honorary Secretary to the Friendly Societies Association on behalf of BRO. JOHN WILLIAMS unable to discharge his duties in consequence of illness. The Committee of Management approved the transfer of £400. from the Benevolent Fund to the Management Fund of the Society.

Miss Hudson submitted her report in connection with her enquiries at the Head Office of the Society in England on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Miss Hudson was thanked and a letter of appreciation to be sent to the Society in England.

The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on September 4th, 1937. Immediately following the opening a vote of sympathy was extended to the Grand Master - BRO. E. BRISTOW in the great loss he had sustained in the death of Mrs. Bristow. The Grand Master feelingly thanked his colleagues for their heartfelt sympathy.

Miss Hudson was present at the meeting and submitted her report on the administration of the Sickness Benefit of National Health Insurance and also answered questions on the matter. A resolution of thanks and appreciation was accorded Miss Hudson.

The Castlereagh Street property was discussed at some length and it was reported that the underpinning of the adjoining wall was being done and the plans for the erection of the building were still being prepared by the Architects.

The Pride of Willoughby Branch wrote asking that the A Grade Shield be presented on the first evening of the Annual General Meeting and extended an invitation to the representatives to be present. The invitation was accepted. It was decided to have the Installation on the Thursday evening to be followed by an Installation Dinner on the same lines as last year. The death of BRO. JOHN WILLIAMS, Hon. Secretary of the Friendly Societies Association and Grand Secretary of the National Independent Order of Oddfellows, was reported and a resolution placing on record sympathy with Mrs. Williams and the members of her Family. BRO. WILLIAMS was a great admirer of the Grand United and was a regular visitor to the Annual Sessions of our Society.

The Grand Executive reported that the Fourth Annual Cabaret of the Society held at the Wentworth Ballroom was a brilliant success.

Since the meeting another Past Grand Master - BRO. G. GILLAM had passed away. He joined the Society in July 1914, transferred to Berry Branch where he held the Secretaryship for a number of years - District Master of Sydney District in 1923 and at the opening of Illawarra District was elected District Master. In 1925 elected to the Committee of Management and in 1929 Grand Master. So passes another fine Oddfellow who will always be remembered by the members who were privileged to know him.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd October, 1937. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that there were two adult and three juvenile Branches opened and eleven adult and one juvenile Branch closed. The membership despite the closing of so many Branches showed an increase of 848 members - the membership now consisting of 34796 members and 420 Branches. The total amount of £108346 was paid for benefits during the year.

National Insurance was covered very extensively in the report and Miss Hudson was paid her salary the two weeks she was at the English

Society's Head Office and a cheque for £50. expenses. The report was adopted.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:-

Grand Master - BRO. R. HARIVEL, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. HUTCHINSON Grand Trusteex - BROS. W. SAYLE, J. JEPSEN, C.IRELAND, Grand Directors- BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, E. BRISTOW, W. N. MONTGOMERY, R. PENMAN, M. HINDS and H. SMITH.

The following important amendments to rule were Carried:-

"That the Constitution be amended to give Districts supervision over Council Masters' Chapters, but a District Officer who is not a member of a Council Masters' Chapter is not entitled to admission to any meetings of the Chapter."

"That Representatives to a Special General Meeting are the Representatives elected for the previous Annual General Meeting, and the same representation to any District Meetings."

"That where elections are under the preferential system there is no casting vote for the presiding Officer and if there are two continuing candidates with an equal number of votes and such candidates have an equal number of votes at all preceeding counts the returning Officer and Scrutineers shall determine by lot which candidate shall be elected."

"That to qualify for the Office of District Master the member must have served for a term of twelve months on the District Council."

"That the Grand Executive be empowered to authorise the transfer of a juvenile who has attained the age of 16 years and has had no serious illness without the production of a medical certificate.

"That a Benevolent Fund be established for the relief of members and to pay the Management of Subvention members not earning £2. per week."

"That the Incidental and Extension Fund provide for the incorporation in the Management Fund of the Committee of Management, who may expend the money in any way deemed beneficial to the Society."

The following Special resolution were Carried.

"That the Committee of Management hold either an indoor or outdoor service on Anzac Day."

"That power be given the Grand Trustees for certain action in respect of the Castlereagh Street Property."

"That the Committee of Management consider the practicability of applying the reserve portion of contributions in respect of Unfinancial members in the Society who are in distressed circumstances."

The installation of Grand Lodge Officers took place at the end of the third days session and the Installation Dinner at the State Theatre Ballroom was held immediately afterwards and was a very pleasant and happy function. During the evening BRO. E. BRISTOW was presented with his P.G.M. Regalia. This years meeting was a most harmonious one and with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King the 1937 Annual General Meeting ended.

"The Sydney Morning Herald" of October 1937 gave a very graphical description of the Society's building to be erected in Castlereagh Street and in the same paper the Architects inserted an advertisement requesting Builders who were desirous of tendering for the erection of the premises to apply to the.

CHAPTER 54 1937 - 1938.

VISIT OF BRO. MORRIS - GRAND MASTER IN AMERICA.

The last meeting of the year 1937 was held on the 11th December. The Grand Executive reported that a communication was received from BRO. EDWARD MORRIS, Grand Master of America enquiring the date of the Annual Meeting in 1938, it being his intention to visit Sydney at that time in the course of his tour from San Francisco to Australia, Java, China and Japan. The Grand Secretary replied that the Grand Executive were very interested in this communication and assured BRO. MORRIS he would be cordially welcomed by the members in New South Wales.

Mr. Henry Budden, Architect was present at the meeting and submitted plans and drawings of the Castlereagh Street property together with tenders for the erection of building, electric lighting and fire alarms, ventilation and elevators. The following tenders were accepted - Building Messrs. Howie, Moffat & Co. Pty.Ltd., Electrical Installation and Fire Alarms - Messrs. F. O'Donnell, Griffin & Co. Ltd., Passenger Lifts - Messrs. Waygood Otis (Aus.) Pty. Ltd., Ventilating Plant - Malley's Ltd. The total amount of the tenders accepted were £98700. These quotations did not include the goods lift and the acceptance of a tender for this left was left in the hands of the Grand Executive.

The Board confirmed the opening of the Warringah Council Masters' Chapter and endorsed the closing of two Branches. The Organisor and Sickness Inspector's report was received and the matter of his position be reviewed at the April meeting of the Board. The Grand Secretary's recommendation that the office be closed on Saturday and remain open until 8.30p.m. on Friday evening was approved. The Grand Executive submitted reports on the sickness and membership statistics, U.M.C. Fund, the District Finance and Assurance Department which were received.

The Annual General Meeting instructed the Committee of Management to arrange a Commemoration Service on Anzac Day and it was decided that this be held at 2.30p.m. on ANzac Day and to be arranged by the Grand Executive.

The first meeting of the year 1938 was held on the 5th February. The Grand Executive reported that BRO. C. NEWLAND had been appointed Clerk of Works in connection with the erection of the new building. The tender of White Elevators was accepted by the Grand Executive for the goods lift. It was decided to continue the Pennant Competition for the year 1938.

Hunter River District submitted a protest against the alteration of the Head Office hours and it was resolved and they were advised that the Committee of Management adheres to its decision.

Eastern Suburbs Council Masters' Chapter wrote questioning the power of the Committee of Management in respect of a decision terminating the membership of a Council Master who had not paid his arrears to the Sydney Council Masters' Chapter and who had not been admitted by the recommendation of the Branch of which he was a member. It was resolved:-

> "That the Chapter be requested to give immediate effect to the decision of the Committee of Management as Council Masters' Chapters are under their control."

The Grand Executive reported that they had decided on an indoor Commemoration of Anzac Day and this decision was approved.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on April 2nd, 1938. The Grand Executive reported that Anzac Commemoration Service would be held in the Y.W.C.A.Hall at 3p.m. on April 25th, 1938. The Grand Executive reported on the new Hospital Funds success. The dividing of the Fund into two classes -

Class "T" for Hospital Benefits for self only - contribution of 3d per week.

Class "S" for Hospital Benefits for himself, his wife and his children under the age of 17 years and if unmarried for his Father, Mother and Sister or Brother under the age of 17 years if entirely dependent upon him contribution 6d per week.

The Fund to pay any hospital at the rate of 7/- per day for a period of 84 days in any one year except that the rate of benefit shall be 3/6d per day if the patient be a dependent under the age of 12 years of a Class "S" subscriber. The report was adopted.

The dispute with the Eastern Suburbs Council Masters' Chapter over the admission of a candidate was dealt with and the Committee of Management resolved to send the two letters received from the Eastern Suburbs C.M.C. to the Sydney Chapter with a suggestion that they endeavour to adjust the matter with the member concerned.

The suggestion of BRO. MICHAEL, Chief Clerk, in reference to forming a Secretaries'Social Fund was discussed and the Grand Executive reported that out of 91 letters to the Metropolitan Secretaries 85 had promised support. It was resolved to form the Club and the first meeting to be held in August 1938.

A resolution congratulating BRO. H. J. RIDLEY on being appointed President of the Consultative Committee of Australian Friendly Societies.

BRO. Dr. EDWARD H. MORRIS L.L.B. Grand Master of the Society in America and accompanied by his niece Miss Denise Morris arrived in Sydney on March 21st 1938 by the "Monterey". The steamer berthed at Darling Harbour at 4.30 p.m. and the distinquished visitors were met by the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and BRO. J. BRITTEN of Loyal Love of Liberty Branch. With the asistance of BRO. BRITTEN who is an Officer of the Customs it was only a short time before the visitors were cleared by the Customs Officers and on their way to the Hotel Sydney where arrangements had been made for them to stay. BRO. MORRIS has been continuously Grand Master of the Order in America for fifty four years. He passed his examinations in Law and was admitted to the Bar when only a fortnight over 21 years of age the lowest age of admission allowed in the States. He practised Law in Chicago from 1879 to 1936 - a long period of service. He was admitted to the United States Supreme Court - the highest in the United States and graduated a Doctor of Law of the Howard University, Washington D.C.

He was a member of the Illinor's Legislature for years. BRO. MORRIS joined the Grand United in 1880 and had 58 years of membership when he visited here. On the eve of his arrival the Committee of Management tendered the Grand Master and his niece a dinner at the Hotel Sydney and a Theatre Party at night. Everything was done by the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master and many other member of the Society to make the stay of the visitors happy and enjoyable. The Star of the South Goulburn Branch was the first Lodge visited and a splendid gathering greeted the Grand Master BRO. MORRIS. Other Lodges visited being the Wickham Progressive and the metropolitan members assembled at the Australian Hall on Tuesday March 29th to accord a welcome on behalf of the Lodges and Districts in the metropolitan area - over four hundred were present and at 9 p.m. the Grand Master of New South Wales - BRO. R. C. HARIVEL accorded a fraternal welcome to BRO. MORRIS and his niece. The Grand Secretary supported the welcome and made presentations to both of the visitors. The Grand Master of America gave an eloquent address predominantly sentimental, but a wonderful speech which was appreciated by all present. Miss Morris also briefly replied.

The visitors were shown as much of the State as time would permit and among the many places visited were drives to the Beaches north of Manly, to Canberra and then to the meeting at Goulburn. On the Saturday and Sunday the Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caveswre visited, Monday a visit was made to Taronga Park and at night the Australia Hall reception. The steelworks at Newcastle and the sights of the City were seen and the meeting of Wickham Branch attended at night.

The visitors sailed for Japan on April 2nd at 11 a.m. and at the wharf a representative gathering was there to bid farewell to BRO. MORRIS and Miss Morris. The concluding words in BRO. MORRIS'S farewell message were - "Goodbye to Australia, your great mountains, your wonderful scenery - but over all your splendid men and women who have made my stay so happy - Goodbye." Miss Morris also sent a farewell message as follows - "To me memories of ten happy days spent in a land of sunshine, its people have been more than kind, Goodbye - Goodbye with regret."

The regular meeting of the Board was held on June 4th, 1938. BRO. G. COULTER, Grand Secretary of Victoria was present. It was reported to the Board that the work on the Castlereagh Street property is proceeding steadily, members of the Board under the direction of BRO. NEWLAND, Clerk of Works inspected the building.

The Grand Executive wrote the Grand Secretaries of England, New Zealand and the United States of America suggesting the presentation of a National Flag for the new Lodge room.

The matter of he Eastern Suburbs Council Masters' Chapter objection to the admission by the Sydney District of a member to the Eastern Suburns Chapter was reported to be amicably settled. The Grand Executive reported in respect of the Anzac Day Service. The programme was a good one but the attendance of 150 people was disappointing.

The Grand Secretary of New Zealand wrote enquiring the possibility of some assistance being granted to discharge the debt due to New South Wales and it was decided to inform the Grand Secretary of New Zealand that the Society is sympathetic with the suggestion if backed by the Committee of Management of New Zealand.

A Special Meeting of the Board was held on 2nd July to deal with the National Health and Pensions Insurance Bill which had passed the Commonwealth Parliament. Consideration was given to the decision of the Parliament and although it was generally expected that the Bill would become operative nothing ever came to the point when this was done and there seems no use of writing up events that happened in connection with the Scheme when it was never put into effect.

The July meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 30th of the month, 1938. BRO. J. JEPSEN wrote apologising for his absence from the meeting and announced his appointment as Chief Clerk of the National Insurance Commission and further intimated that if and when his appointment was confirmed it would be necessary for him to resign as a Grand Trustee. The action of the Grand Executive in sending wreaths in respect of the deaths of BRO. R. WYNNE and BRO. G. GRACEY was approved.

It was decided to dispense with the services of the Unfinancial Organisor and Sick Inspector as his employment had not been a profitable proposition although BRO. LLOYD had tried very hard.

The Committee of Management - New Zealand intimated that they supported the Grand Secretary in his request and that the New South Wales Society permit the indebtedness of the New Zealand Society to be discharged by granting a pound for pound subsidy and this was acceded to. The matter of the Eastern Suburbs Chapter was not settled as stated previously as the Sydney Chapter wrote stating its intention to appeal against the decision of the Committee of Management.

The Grand Secretary of America wrote thanking the Committee of Management - New South Wales for the wonderful welcome extended to their Grand Master .

The levy for September quarter was fixed at 10d for males and 7d for females. The Grand Executive reported that the Castlereagh Street property was progressing satisfactorily. A report on the new Hospital Fund was tabled which showed the membership had now exceeded the old fund and a profit at the end of the year was shown. The issue of Calendars was agreed upon for 1939. A conference of Grand Secretaries of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows in Australia was held in the Grand Secretary's Office on July 14th, 1938.

The Society has lost another of its well known veterans with the passing of P.G.M. BRO. W. H. JONES. BRO. JONES joined the Society in 1898 and was District Master of Sydney District in 1914, elected Grand Master in 1917 and held office for two years as no Annual General Meeting was held in 1918. In 1922 BRO. JONES attended the Moveable Conference of the English Society. He stayed on the Committee of Management until 1922 when he reigned - he was eleven and a half years on the Board and during which time he rendered excellent service to the Society and made many friends.

The next meeting of the Board was held on the 3rd September, 1938. Ghe Grand Master installed BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY as Grand Trustee in the place of BRO. JEPSEN resigned and BRO. J. F. BRITTEN as Grand Director. BRO. JEPSEN'S resignation was accepted and a letter of thanks for his services to the Society was approved to be forwarded to BRO. JEPSEN at Canberra. The majority of the business at this meeting was in connection with National Insurance, but as stated before there is no need for this business to be written in the History.

It was decided to prepare and issue a suitable card for presentation to juvenile members upon initiation.

The Grand Executive reported that the Hospital Fund membership had increased to 2468 members. The Committee of Management considered the question of the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual General Meeting and the opening of the new building at 147-149, Castlereagh Street and it was resolved as follows:-

> "That the combined function be held on Thursday October 20th, the installation to precede the dinner to be held in the new premises to celebrate conjointly the installation and the opening of the new building - details to be left in the hands of the Grand Executive."

A letter was received from the Grand Secretary of England intimating the decision of the Board of Directors of England to present a silken British Flag to the Society in New South Wales to be draped in the new Lodge room. The letter was highly appreciated and was received with satisfaction and it was decided that it and similar letters be printed in the programme of the building opening function. The salaries recommended for approval by the Annual General Meeting were Grand Secretary - £750 per annum, Grand Trustees - £70 per annum each, Grand Auditors - £69.7.6 per annum each.

The Committee of Management voted a sum as a testimonial to Mrs. Steele caretaker at 337 Pitt Street, Sydney.

It was decided to hold a special meeting of the Committee of Management the day before the opening of the 1938 Annual General Meeting.

CHAPTER 55 1938 - 1939.

FIRST A.G.M. HELD IN GRAND UNITED BUILDING.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the new building on October 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st October, 1938. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the total worth of the Society stood at £749378 - benefits paid during the year £118375. Total membership 35615 being a gain of 819 members for the year. Two adult and two juvenile branches had been opned and only three closed must be an indication that the unsatisfactory Branches have by now been eliminated, the total number of branches being 431.

The meeting opened in a shadow caused by the death on Monday 17th October of BRO. CLEM IRELAND, Grand Trustee and the news of his passing was unexpected in the Society. The meeting adjourned on Tuesday the first day after carrying a resolution of sympathy with his family and attended the Crematorium where the Orders Burial Service was read by the Grand Master - BRO. R. HARIVEL.

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. W. HUTCHINSON, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. J. BRITTEN, Grand Trustees - BROS. W. SAYLE, W. N. MONTGOMERY, J. CURRAN, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, R. HARIVEL, EL.WILSON, H. SMITH, M. HINDS and R. M. PENMAN.

The following is a resume of the important amendments at the meeting:-

> "That the ceremony of Installation of Grand Officers shall be delivered from memory."

> "That the last rate of sick pay be increased to 5/- if approved by the Registrar of Friendly Societies."

> "That Scale DD provides a funeral allowance for the registered husband of a female member under this scale."

> "That a member is entitled to sick pay provided six months membership has been completed and is financial at the time of declaring on the Fund."

> "That sick pay is also available to a member who declares on the sick fund within the first six months in respect of an accident approved by theGrand Executive."

"When Hospital Benefits are not paid" - an important amendment to this rule provides exemption from the probationery period of the Hospital Fund for members of a bona fide Hospital Fund providing the applicant has subscribed thereto for at least three months and is financial therein. Probationery period also reduced from three months to eight weeks. This rule was also amended to provide that a member may only belong to the Hospital Fund during the period he is qualified to be a subscriber under membership open to Honorary and to juvenile members.

The juvenile rule was amended to provide for accident sick pay within the first six months.

The first installation of Grand Lodge Officers carried out in the new Lodge room was conducted by BRO. R. C. HARIVEL the Retiring Grand Master who set a high standard for his successors. The attendance at the Installation was much in excess of expectations and it was found difficult to seat all the members and find room for the ceremony. BRO. HARIVEL gave the charges from memory - he was word perfect and many congratulations were tendered him on his excellent rendition of the Installation ceremony. The National Flags decorated the walls of the Lodge Room and the Grand Secretary - BRO. HAROLD RIDLEY, when concluding his address on the Committee of Management's report said to bring into this Hall on the 7th floor of Castlereagh Street emblems from the four corners of the world and the whole of Australia, will give to each and everyone of us a better conception of just what it means to be a member of the Grand United.

The Installation dinner in the new building was attended by three hundred and fifty enthusiasts to commemorate the opening. The Grand Master presided with BRO. N. MONTGOMERY as Director of Ceremonies. So many distinquished visitors were present that to mention them all would take up much space and the movers of the several motions and those who replied will be given:-

After the Loyal Toast P.G.M. BRO. D. RITCHIE proposed The Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Officers. The Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. HUTCHINSON replying. BRO. W. SAYLE Grand Trustee proposed the Architects, Builders, Clerk of Works, the Foreman and the workers - Mr. Henry Budden Architect and Mr. Fred Brown Foreman of Works replied. BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY,P.G.M. Grand Trustee proposed our visiting guests and Mr. McCall M.H.R. The Registrar of Friendly Societies Mr. Sheldon, BRO. R. R. SPRINGALL Vice President Consultive Committee of Australian Friendly Societies BRO. W. NEWTON President of the F.S.A. replied.

The Grand Master elect BRO. W. HUTCHINSON proposed the retiring Grand Master and presented a Past Grand Masters regalia to BRO. R. HARIVEL, who replied.

A very fine musical programme was rendered during the evening. The Annual Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the retiring member of the Board - BRO. E. BRISTOW.

Since the Annual General Meeting another member of the Society has passed away in BRO. JOHN QUIRK M.L.A. and Past District Master of the Sydney District and served for a period on the Committee of Management. During his Parliamentary career he was always ready to give assistance to the Friendly Society movement.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 17th December, 1938. A letter was received from New Zealand expressing their thanks for the offer of the Committee of Management to write off pound for pound the indebtedness of the New Zealand Society. The Sydney Council Masters' Chapter requested the consideration of a decision of the Committee of Management that a Council Master had been irregularly admitted to the Eastern Suburbs Chapter. It was resolved that the previous decision be adhered to.

The Registrar informed the Society that he could not register the amendment of rules increasing the last rate of sick pay to 5/- until the result of the valuation as at 30th June, 1938 was known. The Registrar was asked to furnish a table of contributions to make available sick pay to married females. The Registrar replied the Actuary was loth to supply a table for sick pay purely to married females, but would prefer to see them included in a table for all females. The statistics were presented by the Grand Secretary and contained reports of declaring on certificates, nature of illness, mortality experience, hospital fund, contributions and sick pay, unemployed members' contribution fund, membership figures, the gain for September Quarter being 39 members.

The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 4th February, 1939. The Grand Secretary of New Zealand wrote covering a draft of £225. which with the grant made by the Committee of Management discharged its monetary indebtedness to the Society in New South Wales. The letter was accompanied by a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the New Zealand Committee of Management which expressed appreciation of the assistance given the Society in New Zealand by the Order in New South Wales.

Illawarra District wrote requesting consideration of a proposal to establish an association of Past District Masters and a Committee was formed by the Committee of Management to inquire into the proposal and report to the next meeting.

The Grand Secretary reported having obtained quotations for the production of "Grand United Nutshell News" and indicated his intention of including with the first issue - business reply and literature respecting the Hospital Fund - the action of the Grand Secretary was endorsed. The Statistical section as submitted by the Grand Secretary was approved. The Grand Executive reported the opening of two Juvenile Branches at Port Macquarie in the Raleigh District, Mascot in the Sydney District and also reported two Branches as closed.

The April meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 1st of the Month 1939. Sample of the Gavels for progress competition were submitted with price quotations and it was decided to accept the sample also the cost. Consideration was given to the "Nutshell News" being issued each quarter in the summons notices of members and it was decided to publish the "Nutshell News" for a period of twelve months. One Branch was reported as closed.

The Grand Secretary reported that owing to pressure of work in reference to National Health Insurance it had not been possible to call the Committee together to deal with the proposed Past District Masters' Association. The statistical report was submitted by the

Grand Secretary and received. The December quarter 1938 showed a decline in membership of 126 members. The number of claims made on the Unemployed Members' Contribution Fund during December Quarter was 594 members at a cost of £275.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd June, 1939. The Committee formed at the February meeting of the Board submitted the regulation for the Past Masters' Association, and it was resolved that the proposal be adopted and the requisite rule amendment be placed on the Annual General Meeting Business Paper. Notice has been received of the suspension of the activities of all approved Societies formed under the National Insurance Act. Thus this measure although still law, the plan seems certain to disappear.

The Grand Secretary's statistical report was submitted and received. The Grand Executive reported that a juvenile Branch had been opened at Sutherland in the Illawarra District and an adult Branch at Bobs Farm in the Williams River District.

It was also reported that six adult Branches were closed since last meeting. March Quarter showed a loss of 68 members.

CHAPTER 56 1939 - 1940.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOLUNTARY HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME.

The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 29th July, 1939. The Grand Master congratulated the Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY on having completed 30 years of service with the Head Office of the Society.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies wrote covering the report of the Actuary on the valuation of the Assurance Department as at the 30th June, 1938, which disclosed a surplus of £15151. The Actuary recommended the issue of bonus for the quinquennium and future interim bonuses ranging from 4% to ½% for each completed year of the quinquennium and 3% to ½% future interim bonuses. A transfer from Table K of £500. to the Assurance Management Fund was granted by the Actuary.

The Anzac Services came up for consideration and it was decided to submit to the Annual General Meeting a recommendation that a service be held on the Sunday preceding Anzac Day and a wreath on behalf of the Society be placed on the Order's Memorial in Hyde Park by the Grand Master and Grand Officers on the morning of Anzac Day.

It was decided to purchase 2000 Lapel Badges for Juvenile and the design submitted was approved and these to be sold at one half cost price. The last meeting before the Annual General Meeting was held on the 2nd September, 1939.

The Statistical section disclosed that two new juvenile Branches had been opened at Enfield and Portland. Many alterations torules were submitted and approved same to be placed on the Annual General Business Paper. It was decided to print 5000 calendars for the year 1940. The report for the Annual General Meeting was submitted and approved. The Illawarra District submitted a request that in future the letters of Office to be shown on all regalia supplied by the Committee of Management and this suggestion was approved.

The Annual General Meeting commenced on Tuesday the 17th October, 1939. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that during the year ended 30th June, 1939 the loss in membership was 93 members, the total membership being 35522. We are still 13000 below the 1930 membership.

The total value of the Society's funds were £764010 an increase of £35522 and the total benefits paid were £114112. The number of members declared on the sick fund during the year was 9346 - Funeral Benefits paid were £13967 for 590 members deceased. The Society received the sum of £2851. of its claim for £4044 for Administrative cost of National Health Insurance. The balance of the claim is receiving the consideration of the Commonwealth Government.

The first resolution moved by the Grand Master is as follows:-

> "That the Grand United Order of Oddfellows N.S.W. in Annual General Meeting assembled send fraternal greetings to our Brethren in Great Britain. We meet at a time when the British Empire membership of which we deem a privilege is at war. We assure our British Brethren of our whole hearted sympathy in the bitter months that lie ahead. We believe the Empire to have entered the struggle to enforce the principle of right against might, and the Order in New South Wales consequently affirms its loyalty to the British Crown and to the Commonwealth of Australia. As a Society we shall render to the Empire in its hour of need all possible assistance."

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. J. F. BRITTEN, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. H. F. VENABLES, Grand Trustees - BROS. W. SAYLE, J. CURRAN and N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, W. HUTCHISON, E. L. WILSON, H. SMITH, W. E. BARRATT, H. CLIFFORD.

The following amendments to rules were Carried:-

> "That power be given to the Committee of Management to dispense with an Annual General Meeting in a time of emergency upon a referendum of the Adult Branches being taken and resulting in a two thirds affirmative vote of the votes recorded."

> "That power be given to the Committee of Management in a time of emergency to dispense with an Annual District Meeting."

> "That the Chairman of a meeting to have a deliberate vote, but in case of an equality of votes he shall vote in the negative."

> "That the juveniles over the age of 16 years may hold senior office in any adult Branch other than that of Financial Secretary or Treasurer."

It was Carried to establish a Voluntary Health Insurance Department by 46 votes to 21. The Grand Secretary's moving speech was a wonderful effort and the debate lasted a full day of the session.

The following amendments were also Carried:-

> "That the son or daughter of a female who has contributed to the sickness and funeral fund for a period not less than five years, providing such son or daughter joins the Society prior to attaining the age of seventeen to be exempt from the probationery period."

> "That a member who joins prior to the 31st December 1932 shall only be entitled to War Sickness benefit for a period during which he was actually an inmate of a hospital and upon official certificates which definitely specify the complaint for which he was treated. A member who has his reserve of sickness contributions paid is not eligible for active service sickness benefit."

Unemployed Members' Contribution Fund.

> "That provision be made for the payment of the Funeral and Management Contributions and the reserve of sick conributionsof members who may serve overseas in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Commonwealth or any other Allied Government for the duration of their oversea service. A member whose reserve of sickness contributions is paid shall not be entitled to sick pay."

> Also

> "That the Committee of Management is empowered to levy the adult male and female membership to meet the expenditure for contributions of War Service members."

> New Rule establishing a Past Masters' Association qualification which is the degree of either Past Grand Master or Past District Master, any official duties discharged must be with the ap roval of the District Council concerned.

On the first evening of the Session the Show Boat excursion organised by the Loyal Love of Liberty Branch was availed of by the representatives and a most enjoyable evening was spent. On Thursday evening at 7 p.m. the Grand Lodge Installation ceremony took place in the Society's Lodge Room - BRO. W. HUTCHISON, G.M. installed the Officers in a very fine redition of the ceremony. After the Installation a Conversazione was held at the New South Wales Rugby League Club. A vote of thanks at the end of the session on Friday evening was tendered to the retiring Grand Lodge Officers - BRO. R. PENMAN who did not stand for re-election BRO. M. HINDS and BRO. R. HARIVEL the last two responding to the vote of thanks.

On the Saturday following the Annual General Meeting brought the sad news of the death of P.G.M. BRO. S. BURNS. He joined the Society in 1895 was a P.D.M. of Sydney District, a Grand Director in 1925, D.G.M. in 1929 and elected to Grand Master in 1930. BRO. MONTGOMERY read the Funeral Service and the Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY and P.G.M. BRO. P. MEADE spoke words of sympathy and appreciation of the services rendered to the Society by our late Brother.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on December 2nd, 1939. The Grand Secretary submitted correspondence with the National Insurance Commission regarding the Compensation claim of the Society and reported negotiations during the week with the Commission and the Minister for Social Service. The report was received.

BRO. HENRY HERRON, P.G.M. - exGrand Secretary - in a communication to the Grand Master suggested the possibility of an effective effort being made to secure the relatives of members as members of the Society, and it was resolved that BRO. HERRON be thanked for his suggestion and the Committee of Management decided to conduct an extensive drive to secure the relatives of members as members.

The code of rules of the Voluntary Health Insurance Department were registered by the Registrar and the consent of the Commonwealth Treasurer was given so that the Department is functioning and the first enrolment made. It is expected that the real activity of the Department will commence in the new year 1940.

The statistical section submitted by the Grand Secretary at the end of each quarter are received very earnestly by the member of the Board. The figures are also made available to all District Officers and the figures of each District in regard to numerical progress are individualized and the Officers of each District are aware whether their District is making satisfactory progress or not.

The first meeting of 1940 of the Committee of Management was held on February the 2nd. The Grand Executive submitted a report of enrolments, preliminary expenses and agency appointments and also reported that the roster of Doctors prepared to give a service under the scheme was 450 in the Sydney, Newcastle, Maitland and Wollongong areas. The British Medical Association had also replied advising that their Council had decided to approve for a period of 12 months the request that additions to, and deletions from a list of members supplied to Medical Officers may be made at the end of each month. The report was adopted.

BRO. S. F. ELVERD, Grand Secretary in England, in a letter entirely commended the innovation as a move in the right direction. The Grand Executive submitted correspondence which had passed between them and the Sydney District regarding the action of the District in calling a special meeting in connection with the Voluntary Health Insurance. The District Council decided to call the meeting for February 10th, 1940. The Grand Executive requested the District Council to meet the Grand Executive owing to the date being unsuitable and also the fact that the District Council had nominated the Grand Officers to attend the meeting. In subsequent negotiations the District Council through its District Master declined to meet the Grand Executive and the following resolutions were Carried:-

1. That the Committee of Management expresses its disapproval of the action of the Sydney District Master or of the Council in refusing to meet the Grand Master and the Committee of Management.

2. That the Sydney District Council be informed the calling of the meeting is not in the best interests of the Society, also resolved to frame rule amendments for next Annual General Meeting to deal with a similar situation.

The Grand Executive submitted a report regarding the campaign suggested by BRO. HERRON, P.G.M. and also a campaign among National Health Insurance prospects. The report was received.

The Grand Executive reported having received a final settlement from the National Health Insurance Commission. The amount paid was £38. short of the claim, the rejected claims being for staff expenses before the passing of the Act. The Grand Executive requested the Committee of Management to review a decision given some years ago under which the Committee of Management decided not to accept invitations to officially attend organised functions or meetings held on a Sunday. It was resolved to adhere to the former decision.

A letter from the Grand Secretary of England promising any members of the G.U.O.O.F. in Australia to be visiting England on active service a very hearty welcome if they are able to visit Head Office at Manchester.

CHAPTER 57 1940.

EARLY DAYS OF 2nd WORLD WAR AND OUR SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 6th April, 1940. The report of the Grand Executive regarding enrolments, Agents appointed and a questionaire distributed among V.H.I.D. Agents together with suggestions for extending the scope of Agencies were considered. The report was received.

The Grand Executive reported the number of members on active service who had registered up to the 14th March and an estimate of the cost of meeting the funeral contributions and reserve of sickness contributions. It was also recommended that a levy of 3dper adult male and adult female financial member be imposed for the June Quarter to be applied to the payment of reserve contributions and for the medical fees for the dependents of active service members. The report was adopted.

In connection with the Sydney District Council's action in refusing to meet the Grand Executive - the Grand Master reported that the Grand Executive had attended a meeting of the Sydney District Council on April 5th and frankly discussed the position and eventually the Sydney District Council unamiously passed the followed resolution:-

> "That the Sydney District Council admits that they were wrong in chosing the Grand Lodge Officers to be present at the special meeting and that the Council also admits they were wrong in refusing to meet the Grand Executive prior to the Special Meeting."

The election of the first Officers of the Past Masters' Association were as follows - President BRO. D. RITHCHIE, P.G.M., Vice President - BRO. M. HINDS, P.G.M., Hon. Secretary - BRO. G. HANCOCK, P.G.M.

The Anzac Commemoration Service was held in the G.U.O.O.F. Hall Castlereagh Street on Sunday April 21st, 1940 when a very good number of members were present.

Since the last meeting the Grand United members were very shocked to hear of the sudden death of P.G.M. BRO. M. HINDS on May 9th. He joined the Pride of Waterloo Branch on 23rd March, 1893, transferred to the Royal Empire Branch at Mascot in 1923 and it was in this Bfanch that his services were more widely known to the Society. He was a Delegate to the Sydney District for many years but never sought Grand Lodge honours until 1934 when he was elected Deputy Grand Master and in 1935 Grand Master. "Monty" as he was known to a wide circle of friends was a great advocate for the Society and he will be sadly missed from within our ranks.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on 8th June, 1940. Consequent upon his enlistment for war service BRO. E. L. WILSON, Grand Director, resigned his office on May 5th. Under the provisions of the rule the result of the count for seventh place was ascertained and BRO. R. HARIVEL, P.G.M. was elected.

It was resolved to hold a Gavel Competition for the year 1940. Approval was given for the formation of a Grand United Social Club providing the Board was in no way responsible for any liability incurred by the Club. Consideration was given to the necessity of curtailing expense in view of the war situation and it was decided to bring under the notice of the District Councils, with a request that the only business to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting be those amendments which are deemed to be absolutely indispensable the objective being to curtail the time of the Annual General Meeting to two days.

A suggestion was made that aprayer remembering members on active service and their dependents be used at Branch Meetings and it was resolved to issue circulars to Branch Secretaries that the prayer be read at meetings.

The statistical section was submitted and approved. This showed an increase of 149 members, for December Quarter 1939. The Grand Executive reported that a war savings group had been formed within the Society and all Branches had been asked for support. The Society's quota fixed at by the F.S.A. was £18500 by the 21st December, 1940.

The Grand Executive reported the death of BRO. W. J. CLARKSON who for 36 years was Financial Secretary of the Loyal Victoria Branch.

The Board decided to ask the Annual General Meeting for amendment to rules to provide for a suspension of contributions and benefits and the providing of a medical service in respect of the dependents of members serving in the Fighting Forces irrespective of whether such service is in Australia or abroad.

The July meeting of the Board was held on the 27th July,1940. The Grand Executive reported that the war savings certificates purchased to date were £5786. Permission was granted to Young and Bega Districts to dispense with their Annual meetings.

It was decided to hold the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers on the Wednesday evening the second day of the Annual General Meeting. A number of Branches wrote recommending that the Annual General Meeting be dispensed with, but the Board decided to hold the meeting so as to receive permission to amend the rules as stated in the April Meeting report.

The Grand Secretary reported that the 3d Levy imposed for the June Quarter was expected to yield £341. sufficient for present needs. A further levy does not appear necessary at present. The report was adopted. The amount of war savings certificates purchased to the value of £7315 was reported also that 50 Branches had formed sub-groups of the Grand United War Savings Certificates Group.

The last meeting before the Annual General Meeting wax held on September 7th, 1940. The voting Committee recommended the adoption of a system of preferential voting as recommended by BRO. BARRATT,G.D.. A demonstration of the count under the proposed system was made and it was decided to submit the amendment to the Annual General Meeting for approval. Correspondence with the Registrar in reference to the U.M.C. Fund being used for the payment of contributions of members on Active Service was considered and the suggestion of the Registrar to allow the U.M.C. Fund to remain as at present and to seperate the Active Service members contributions from the U.M.C. Fund was accepted and a rule framed to establish a General Ancillary Fund for the purposes of paying contributions and medical fees, also power be given to the Committee of Management to Levy by the Annual General Meeting. The Committee of Management decided to submit to the Annual General Meeting an amendment to define sickness on Active Service and a disqualification from the right to receive sickness benefits if a member's contributions are paid from the General Ancillary Fund. The War Savings Group has reached the sum of £8298. The management fund of the Committee of Management received consideration and to curb expenditure it was decided to discontinue the Nutshell News and the Grand Trustees were requested to confer in regard to reducing other expenditure. The draft of the Committee of Management's report was considered and approved. It was decided to print 5000 Calendars for 1941. A letter was received from BRO. E. L. WILSON, exGrand Director which was very cordially received.

Many members of the Naval, Military and Air Force are calling at Head Office wishing to join the Society so as their dependents would receive Medical Benefits, but these could not be accepted until the Annual General Meeting had passed legislation applicable to members in Military Service. The Grand Secretary reported that the Staff Comforts Fund desired to appeal for contributions for the purpose of supplying Christmas parcels to all Grand United members inthe Fighting Forces.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Sydney commencing on Tuesday October 15th, 1940. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that a gain had been made in membership of 686 members, the total membership now standing at 36208 members. The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BRO. H. F. VENABLES, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. BARRATT, Grand Trustees - BROS. W. N. MONTGOMERY, J. CURRAN, J. BRITTEN, Grand Directors - BROS. W. HUTCHINSON, A. J. DANN, W. J. SMEDLEY, H.CLIFFORD, G.HANCOCK, R. HARIVEL.

The first resolution was:-

> "That a voluntary subscription list should be opened throughout the Society in New South Wales, the proceeds of which will be remitted to the Grand Secretary of England to relieve the distress of our Grand United brethren caused by the War."

This was Carried with enthusiasm.

The suspension of the standing order was moved by the Grand Secretary to enable the new system of voting to be approved. This was granted and the new rule passed and sent on immediately to the Registrar for registration so as the election of Officers could be carried out under the new system. The rules making provision for members serving in the Fighting Forces were submitted and approved as follows:-

"That a candidate accepted as a member of the Society after the 31st December, 1932 shall not be entitled to receive sick pay for any sickness from which he may suffer as a result of War. A member who joined prior to the 31st December 1932 shall only be entitled to a sickness benefit for the period he is an inmate of a hospital."

"That a memberwhose reserve of sickness contributions is paid shall not be eligible for sickness benefits under this rule."

"That suspension of contributions and benefits and a dependent medical service made available whether in or out of Australia."

"That power to levy the Adult and Female membership ben given to the Committee of Management ."

"That a member of the Fighting Forces must have been a member for twelve months before being entitled to the benefits from the Ancillary Fund."

A new Rule empowering the establishment of a General Ancillary Fund was approved. A rule to give the Committee of Management power to make or to amend rules and submit such amendments for for registration was also approved, any such rule to be submitted to the next Annual General Meeting, and to qualify for the office of Deputy District Master a member must serve 12 months as District Trustee or Treasurer.

The meeting conluded on Wednesday evening only occupying two days. A vote of thanks for services rendered was Carried in respect to BRO. W. SAYLE,D.G.M., who after many years of valued service did not seek office and BRO. H. SMITH,D.G.M. who also decided not to seek election. At the Conversazione at the Leagues Club on Wednesday night BRO. W. SAYLE was presented with his Past Grand Masters Regalia. Many references were made by the Speakers of the splendid contributions made by him in his work as a Grand Lodge Officer and Trustee. Past Grand Masters Regalia was also presented to BRO. J. BRITTEN and BRO. H. SMITH. The Installation ceremony was carried out by BRO. J. BRITTEN,P.G.M. in a very dignified manner.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on December 7th,1940. The Grand Executive reported that following a circular sent to members of the Committee of Management on October 21st, the Grand Executive had decided to fix the levy for December Quarter at 10d for Males and 7d for Females, to impose a levy of 3d per member for active service members, and a voluntary levy of 1/- in respect to the British War Relief Appeal. In connection with this appeal it had also been decided to ask each Branch to conduct a Social evening on behalf of the appeal.

The Grand Executive reportedthat 352 members had up to November 29th, 1940 registered under the provisions of the Ancillary Fund and that the cost for Contributions, medical fees, and management contributions were £739.

The Grand Secretary reported that up to the 4th December, 1940 £10820 of War Savings Certificates had been purchased. The Grand Secretary also reported having made arrangements with the Committee of Management - Victoria for the presentation of a Past Grand Masters Collar to BRO. J. JEPSEN, P.G.M. A report was received that the presentation had been made at the close of a Board Meeting.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the conduct of a District Master who had declined to comply with a direction of the Committee of Management. It was decided the Officer be called upon to show cause at the next meeting of the Board why he should not be removed from Office.

The Staff Comforts Fund reported that as at 6th December, 1940 £125. had been received for Xmas Parcels and 223 parcels had been sent to men overseas and it was estimated that 150 would be sent to members serving in Australia.

The Grand Executive reported that for September Quarter the membership had increased by 312 members.

CHAPTER 58 1941 - 1942.

XMAS PARCELS FORWARDED TO ALL MEMBERS IN THE FIGHTING FORCES.

The February meeting of the Board was held on the 1st of the month, 1941. BRO. GREEN, Grand Trustee of the Society in Queensland was welcomed to the meeting.

The Cash statements of Districts receiving grants from the District Levy Subsidy Fund was submitted and six Districts were causing concern in their condition as disclosed by thereport in respect to visitations and progress.

The Southern and Williams River Districts were congratulated upon their excellent progress during the twelve months period reviewed. It was resolved that the Grand Secretary submit to the next meeting a report emboyding proposals to alter the boundaries of the six Districts concerned by amalgamation or transfers.

The Grand Secretary reported that £11237 was the amount so far raised by the War Savings Group. The number of members registered in the Forces now stood at 622. It was resolved that the War Levy for March Quarter would be 6d per adult member. The amount raised for the appeal to assist the distressed British Brethren up to January 31st, 1941 was £583, The amount of £225. was transferred from the Management Fund to help the Hospital Fund.

Following the decision of the December Meeting the District Master did not attend to show cause why he should not be removed from Office and it was resolved that the member in question be herewith removed from Office.

The Grand Secretary reported that he had attended a complimentary function tendered to BRO. W. BROWN, P.D.M. on his retirement as Financial Secretary of the Rose of Hamilton Branch after forty years occupancy of the position, on behalf of the Branch the Grand Secretary presented BRO. BROWN with a cheque for £40. P.G.M. BRO. W. ROYLE, P.G.M. BRO. HUTCHINSON and many others referred to the splendid services rendered by him during his long years as Financial Secretary.

The passing of BRO. N. J. COLLINS removed from our midst the Senior Past Grand Master of our Order at the age of 88 years.

In the year 1883 BRO. COLLINS was elected D.G.M. and Grand Master in 1885. His understanding of human nature, coupled with his consideration for all classes enabled him to introduce very important legislation, and our Assurance Department was his greatest contribution. At the Rookwood Crematorium the Order's service was read by the Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. BARRATT.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 5th April, 1941. The Grand Secretary submitted his report in reference to the six Districts, but suggested that no action be taken at this stage regarding alteration of boundaries.

The report of the valuation of the Society as at the 30th June, 1938 was received from the Registrar and showed a surplus of £152614. the ratio of solvency being 22/5d in the pound, and it was resolved that in view of the valuation surplus and in accordance with the Annual Meeting's decision application for an increase in the last rate of sick pay from 2/6d to 5/- per week be made to the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The Grand Secretary submitted a report on members in Military Service and stated that the registrations had reached the number of 916. The cost to date in respect to these members being £2158.

Having regard to the steady increase in registrations the Grand Secretary recommended the Active Service Levy for June Quarter to be 9d per member and this was approved. The Grand Secretary reported that when a reply has been received from the Grand Secretary of England an amount of £1000 (English) be remitted, and to expedite the matter a cable be sent to England asking acceptance of our conditions. The British Brethren War Relief Appeal had resulted in £951. being collected and there were still many functions taking place which would raise this amount very considerably.

Another £225. was approved to be transferred to the Hospital Fund from the Management Fund of the Society.

The Grand Trustees reported co-operation with the National Emergency Services regarding Air Raid precautions for the Grand United Building. The Grand Secretary had been appointed Warden for the Building. The position of the Raleigh District was considered. This District was not able to function as there were not sufficient

District Officers to allow this to be done. It was decided to call a Special Meeting of Delegates at Kempsey on April 19th, 1941 and that Grand Lodge Officers attend the meeting. The Grand Executive reported that a new Juvenile Branch has been openedat Albury.

A veteran of the Hunter River District in BRO. J. HARRISON passed away on April 14th, 1941. In 1893 BRO. HARRISON was elected a Grand Director and re-elected again in 1395, in 1896 elected Deputy Grand Master in place of BRO. W. TIMBRELL deceased and held that office until 1899. Through stress of business the deceased Brother never stood for the Office of Grand Master.

The June Meeting was held on the 7th. At 10a.m. Mr. A. B. Sheldon Registrar of Friendly Societies and Mr. C. Costlelow Government Actuary who had accepted an invitation, were present at the whole of the mornings session and the Actuary replied in detail to twelve aspects of the valuation report on which the Committee of Management desired enlightment, and also very freely discussed other aspects of the Society's activities. Prior to their departure a vote of thanks were accorded to them and a further resolution of thanks and appreciation was Carried to be submitted to both Gentlemen by letter.

It was resolved that the Grand Secretary tabulate the facts submitted and submit same to the Board members as early as possible. The matter of the valuation report to be the order of the day at the Committee of Management meeting on July 26th, 1941.

The total number of members in Military Service now totals 1010 members. A cable had been received from England accepting the conditions of the Committee of Management of New South Wales. Consequently an amount of £1250 had been cabled to the Grand Secretary of England which would make an amount of £1000 (English) for distribution to British Brethren in distress. A communication from England expressed their heartfelt thanks for the wonderful gesture from the members in New South Wales.

The question of Xmas Cheer Parcels for our Brethren in the Fighting Forces was considered on the request of the Head Office Staff and they suggested the sending of 1500 parcels and that 1500 woollen scarves be knitted by the ladies of the Society for inclusion in the parcels. It was resolved that the appeal be endorsed by the Committee of Management and that each Branch be asked to contribute to the Fund an amount of not less than £1. and that the co-operation of the District Councils be invited in connection with the appeal. The Head Office Staffindicated, in their own time, its preparedness to purchase goods, the packing and despatch of parcels as well as assisting to raise fund for the appeal.

Report was submitted to the Committee of Management of the special meeting of the Raleigh District and this was approved. The Grand Secretary drew attention to anticipated difficulty in securing adequate petrol supplied for the use of motor cars as transport in respect of the Annual Meetings of Districts. The District Secretaries were asked to furnish information as to the requirements as reasonably accurate as possibe to give to the Liquid Fuel Control Board.

It was resolved to ask the Districts to again co-operate with the Committee of Management in curtailing business for the Annual General Meeting to enable the business to be completed in two days.

The Grand Secretary reported that every Thursday evening at 5.15p.m. Mr. Dransfield an Instructor from the National Emergency Services holds a First Aid Class in the Conference Room.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 26th, 1941. The Grand Executive reported on matters associated with the war and stated that 1126 members had enlisted and the cost £2856 per year would necessitate a levy of 9d per financial member.

The appeal for Xmas Parcels had been registered as required by law and up to July 24th, £230 had been promised in cash and scarves promised numbered 625. Recommendations in respect to the valuation surplus was as follows:-

1. The last rate of sick pay to be referred back to the 1941 Annual General Meeting.
2. The Committee of Management recommends no increase in the last rate of sick pay.
3. An application be made to the Registrar for a transfer of £3500 to the Management Fund of the Committee of Management to meet portion of the cost of supervising sick members and the payment of sick pay.
4. That application to transfer £5000 to the Ancillary

Fund to meet the cost of implemeting the provisions of the Active Service Members rule.

5. That the Registrar be requested to furnish new scales of contributions as referred to by the Actuary for future male initiates under 21 and for all future female initiates be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

6. That the Valuation Report with the Actuary's comments and the Board recommendations be submitted to the Annual General Meeting as a Special Report.

The Board reported the closing of one Branch. The Commonwealth Drug Co. had another good year showing a profit of £1713 and paying a dividend of 6% to shareholders. BRO. W. SAYLE resigned from the Directorship of the Company and BRO. J. CURRAN, D.G.M. was elected to the Board.

The next meeting of the Board was held on September 6th, 1941. The Grand Executive reported that 1234 members had joined the Forces with an annual cost of £3106 and it was decided the war levy remain at 9d. It was a recommendation to the Annual General Meeting that the Grand Secretary's salary be increased from £750. to £850 per annum and that the Trustees and Auditors to remain the same.

The Grand Executive reported that :- --

1. The Hospital Fund collected for June Quarter £893. and paid out in claims £1139.

2. The June Quarter showed an increase of 186 members in all sections.

3. That the Liquid Fuel Board refused to allow petrol for Annual District Meetings and that 22 glallons per month was available for Grand and District Officers.

Work on the Xmas Parcels is going ahead and the first consignment of these have been despatched numbering over one hundred. The sum of £408. has been collected and 948 scarves had been completed. Parcels had also been sent to the next of kin of Prisoners of War, containing knitted comforts to be included in parcels sent by them to the prisoners.

The Annual General Meeting of 1941 commenced on Tuesday 21st October. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership had increased by 529 to 36737 members. The total worth of the Society was £800942. Benefits paid out £121240. The surplus for the year being £34313.

The recommendation of the Committee of Management in regard to

Salary was approved - the Grand Secretary's salary now to be £850 per annum. The elections resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. W. BARRATT, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. H. A. MARSH, Grand Trustees - BROS. N. MONTGOMERY, J. BRITTEN, J. R. CURRAN, Grand Directors - BROS. H. VENABLES, W. J. SMEDLEY, W. HUTCHINSON, G. HANCOCK, H.CLIFFORD and C.CHAFFEY.

There were not many amendments to rule brought forward and the main ones Carried at the Meeting are as follows:-

<u>New Rule</u>:

"That any Grand, District or Branch Officer serving with the Forces at home or abroad shall be granted leave of absence for the duration of the War. During the period of leave the office shall be deemed still to occupy the position and shall at the first regular election of Officers held after his return be appointed to the office he held at the time he was granted leave of absence."

"That all the recommendations submitted by the Committee of Management and mentioned before were Carried in connection with "Members in Military Service" Rule."

"That "T" Class subscribers to the Hospital Fund above the age of twenty one years - subscription be raised from 3d to 6d.

The meeting lasted only two days. The Past Masters' Association entertained the representatives to the Annual General Meeting in the Conference Room on the Monday before the opening of the Annual General Meeting. The Installation of Officers was carried out by the Grand Master - BRO. H. VENABLES and a Conversazione held afterwards in the State Theatre Ballroom was a very happy and successful function.

The usual Honorarium was voted to the Grand Master together with his Past Grand Masters Collar which was presented by BRO. W. BARRATT, Grand Master. A vote of appreciation to BROS. HARIVEL and DANN who failed at the election was Carried and the 1941 Annual General Meeting ended.

The last meeting of the Committee of Management for the year 1941 was held on the 6th December. Reply was received from the Registrar in reference to the transfer of £3,500 to the Management Fund and £5000 to the General Ancillary Fund expressing his willingness to allow the transfers to be made. The Grand Executive reported that the number of members in the Forces had reached 1461 and the annual cost approximately £3650. Up to the 15th November, 1941 £479. had been collected for Xmas Parcels and 1164 scarves had been knitted. The Grand Secretary reported that Miss Denise Morris, niece of the Grand Master in the United States of Americal had sent a parcel of razor blades for inclusion in the Xmas Parcels to the members in the Services.

The levy for December Quarter was fixed at 10d for Male members and 7d for Female members. The closing of Star of Bemboka Branch was approved by the Committee of Management.

The first meeting of the year was held on February 7th, 1942. The returns of the receiving Districts under the Subsidy Account were summitted for consideration and the difficulty of some Districts who by reason of the petrol shortage were unable to visit came in for consideration also it was finally decided that the Grand Executive consider the question of subsidies and report to the next meeting of the Committee of Management.

The Grand Secretary reported that there were 1716 members registered under the rule and the estimated yearly cost would be £4207. The levy for March Quarter being already fixed at 9d it was decided to leave the fixing of June Quarter's levy until April Meeting when information can be supplied as to the number affected by Military call up.

The Grand Secretary reported that the increase in membership for December Quarter was 84 members, and also that a great number of letters are being received at Head Office from members in the Forces, who had received parcels. The Committee of Management decided to hold an Anzac Service on the Sunday after Anzac Day - April 26th.

The Grand Secretary further reported action taken regarding the preservation of Head Office records against enemy action and the duplication of essential account information and arrangement for such duplicate information to be periodically sent to a safe place. The death of BRO. W. PLUNDELL, P.D.M. was reported, he was for 14 years District Secretary of the Camden District. A letter of sympathy was forwarded by the Grand Secretary to Mrs. Blundell.

CHAPTER 59 1942 - 1943.

BRO. SMEDLEY COMPLETES TWENTY FIVE YEARS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

A Special Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on March 14th, 1942. The Friendly Societies Association wrote seeking the point of view of some responsible body within the Society as to whether the Government should be approached for an amendment of the Act absolving the Societies from any sick pay liability in respect of civilian casualties from enemy action.

The matter was considered by the Grand Executive who decided to call the Special Meeting. After a good deal of consideration it was resolved that the Friendly Societies Association be informed that in the opinion of this Society any civilian member who complies with the rules would be entitled to sick and/or funeral benefits in respect of injuries or death from enemy action.

The Grand Trustees reported that plans submitted by the Architect in respect to an Air Raid Shelter on the Ground floor of the Building were approved by the City Council and a tender for the work had been accepted and is now proceeding.

The regular meeting of the Board was held on April 11th, 1942. The D.G.M. - BRO. H. MARSH, presided owing to the Grand Master being unable to be present through illness.

It was decided that no action be taken at the present time in connection with the District Levy Scheme. The Grand Secretary reported that 2163 members were in Military Service, and the yearly estimated cost would be over five thousand pounds. It was resolved that the War Levy for June Quarter be 1/-.

The Grand Executive reported that upon inquirty it had been ascertained that the Society could insure Branch Regalia, furniture etc. under the Society's own policy against war damage. The Grand Secretary had arranged the cover at £10. each and taken out an additional £4000. The premium was charged against the Branches at 1/- per every £10.

A very pleasing interlude in the Committee of Management Meeting held on April 11th was a very open hearted and sincere tribute paid to BROTHER W. J. SMEDLEY,P.G.M., Grand Director by his colleagues of the Committee of Management.

When the Board adjourned for tea BRO. SMEDLEY came out of the Board Room quite unaware of the fact that there had been silently prepared a surpise for him which gave his fellow members of the Board the opportunity of expressing their appreciation of a wonderful record of service as a Grand Lodge Officer extending over an unbroken period of 25 years. In the absence of the Grand Master BRO. H. MARSH,D.G.M. presented to BRO. SMEDLEY a wristlet watch subscribed by the members of the Board. Every members of the Board spoke words of appreciation and BRO. SMEDLEY replied and stated he would never forget this afternoon.

The June meeting of the Board was held on the 6th. The Grand Master extended a very cordial welcome to BRO. D. E. DELL, Deputy Grand Master of the Society in Western Australia who is with his Army Unit in New South Wales.

The matter of parcels for Xmas 1942 was considered and it was decided to ask each Branch of the Society to raise £2.10.0 and send to Head Office before the end of August. It was also decided to make an appeal for voluntary workers for the purpose of assisting in packing and despatching the parcels. The Committee of Management decided to take a referendum of Adult Branches on the question of the abandonment of the 1942 Annual General Meeting. Ballot papers for the use of Branches to be sent out and replies to be returned not later than the 4th July, 1942.

The Grand Executive reported that the Special Committee appointed to consider added benefits would meet on June 20th, 1942. The Grand Executive at at its meeting on June 9th counted the votes in the referendum taken in reference to dispense with the Annual General Meeting of 1942 resulted in an emphatic vore for no A.G.M. this year.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 25th July, 1942. It was resolved to transfer an amount of £450. from the Management Fund of the Society to the Hospital Fund Account. The number of members in Military Service is steadily rising,on the 9th July the number registed was 2903 and the estimated yearly cost £7201. The War Levy for September Quarter was fixed at1/-.

The Grand Executive recommended that the Annual Report of the Committee of Management and Balance Sheets for the year ended June 30th, 1942 and the Trustees Report be printed and distributed to Districts and Branches. The majority of the Districts having secured the necessary referendum vote decided to abandon the Annual District Meeting.

The Grand Executive reported the closing of four Adult Branches. The Statistical section was adopted. BRO. WALLACE ROYLE, P.G.M. advised Head Office that he has tendered his resignation as a Branch Auditor. He had had 60 years of membership, 50 of which he has been particularly active in his work for the Society and a record to be proud of.

The September Meeting of the Board was held on the 26th. The Grand Secretary reported that a message of sympathy from the Society was sent to the Governor General conveying the Society's deep regret with the Royal Family in the loss of His Royal Highness - The Duke of Kent and this was acknowledged. Sympathy was also extended to the wife and Family of BRO. C. H. COOK, P.D.M. and District Secretary of Manning River District on his death. The number of members in Military Service had reached 3359 and the estimated yearly cost £8640.

The Grand Secretary recommended a quarterly levy of 2/- be fixed and the Registrar be requested to allow a further transfer of £5000 and the recommendation was approved. It was also resolved to send an explanatory circular with each member's summons notice for December Quarter, and to alter Rule 279B by inserting after Forces or in the Merchant Navy.

A question was aksed if a member is called up for the Labour Corps or by the Allied Works Council does Rule 297B apply to him and the reply was "No".

The Grand Master extended good wishes to BRO. J. F. BRITTEN, Grand Trustee who was entering the R.A.A.F. on September 28th, 1942.

The Committee of Management's Report reveals that the membership had increased to 36975 a gain of 238 members for the year. The number of Branches being 423. The total fund s of the Society at June 30th, 1942 were £818524 the increase for the year being £17582. Benefits paid amounted to £124440. The number of sick claims authorised by Head Office was 2706. The excess of average sick pay over average contributions being only 1/9d, in 1940-41 the excess was 19/5d. A total of 651 death claims were paid. The number of members on the U.M.C. Fund had dropped to 67.

The Registrar approved and registered the Rule Amendments passed by the Committee of Management -

1. To allow District Councils to reduce District Levies to a minimum of 3d per male member.

2. The Committee of Management empowered to suspend all or portion of the contributions payable to the District Levy Subsidy Account by Districts and from the Incidental and Extension Account. This power to operate for any period the Board may think fit.

3. The Hospital Fund is not liable for the maintenance of a child below the age of six months nor for the maintenance of any dependent or dependents child not registered with the Hospital Fund as such.

4. The Fund has no liability where hospital charges are payable by any industrial or business enterprise whether governmental or private..

Miss Denise Morris niece of the Grand Master of Americal has given a practical exhibition again of her interest in Australian members in the Forces. Last year she sent contributions and this year a direct donation of £5. from her was received as well as by each American mail have been packets of Razor Blades, Cigarette Papers and sweets and in addition she had paid a subscription for 12 months to enable six members to receive "The Readers Digest". The collossal Xmas Parcels job carried out by the Head Office Staff and a few energetic members has earnt much appreciation handed out by those who know of the wonderful effort successfully carried out. Over 3000 parcels were distributed in cardboard containers and 12 different varieties were included in every parcel. A truly magnificent effort and one that the workers can be assured will always be remembered when the War of this period is being spòkén of.

The December Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 12th December. The Dàstrict Finance question was considered and it was resolved:-

"That the Clarence River and Cootamundra Lachlan Districts be still eligible for subsidy, and that no subsidy to all the other Districts be paid for December Quarter."

and

"That the contributing District to the scheme be informed that no levies will be collected from them for December Quarter."

BRO. W. HUTCHISON P.G.M. was appointed to the office of Grand Trustee in the place of BRO. BRETTEN resigned on account of being a member of the R.A.A.F. BRO. J. BRICE being next on the voting list for Grand Director was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by BRO. HUTCHISON being elected Grand Trustee.

The number of members in Military Service has now reached the number of 3691. The estimated cost per annum being £9473. The Registrar replied to the request for a transfer of £5000 and stated the Ancillary Fund would not be in any difficulty before June 1943 when the position would then be reviewed. The Committee of Management reported that the £2.10.0 appealed for from each Branch did not raise the £1000 as expected for the cost of the Xmas Parcels; the sum of £600 was collected and it was decided to make a further appeal to raise the balance of £500. the cost of the parcels being £1,100.

The first meeting of the year 1943 was held on the 6th February. The Grand Master announced the death of the Grand Master of America BRO. E. MORRIS. The Grand Secretary had forwarded cables of sympathy to Miss Denise Morris and the Grand Secretary of America and his action was endorsed. The Grand Secretary reported that 3880 members were in the Forces and the estimated cost per annum would be £9953. The levy was fixed at 2/-.

The matter of members discharged and living at home was discussed and it was decided that the recommendation of the Grand Secretary that a periodical check up to take the form of a certificate from the member to the effect he or she is still in Military Service and to include the last complete Military number and add address was adopted and the rule to be amended to allow this to be done.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd April, 1943. The Committee of Management considered the District Levy scheme and decided to adopt the same procedure as was carried out for the December Quarter. The Grand Trustee's reported having invested a total amount of £55000 in the Third Liberty Loan.

The numbers of members registered under Rule 279B now total 3972. The estimated yearly cost being £10127. After prolonged discussion the following motion was Carried:-

"That the Military Levy for June Quarter be again fixed at 2/-."

The Board reached an important decision regarding members discharged during the currency of the quarter and it was resolved;-

"That the medical fees be allowed to the end of the quarter during which such members is discharged; sick and funeral contributions to be paid by the discharged member from the date of resumption of civil employment."

The Registrar wrote indicating that in terms of the Act, Quinquennial returns from the Branches must be submitted as at June 30th, 1943. The information was noted.

BRO. LES WILSON was reported as back on leave from the Middle East.

The Grand Trustees reported having invested another £10000 in the Third Liberty Loan.

CHAPTER 60 1943.

MEMBERSHIP RETAINS STEADY INCREASE.

The regular meeting in June of the Committee of Management was held on the 12th. The Grand Executive reported on the Cash Statement of the District Levy Scheme and it was resolved:-

> "That the withdrawals of subsidies which operated for December and March Quarters be continued in respect to June Quarter."

The Grand Trustees reported having received an assessment of Federal Land Tax totalling £1902. on lands owned at the 30th June, 1943, and directed attention of the Board to the efforts made in regard to this Tax especially in connection with properties where Trusttes are Mortgagees in possession and also in respect of Branch Halls. It was resolved that Branches with Halls be invited to request their local Federal Members to take steps to remove Branch Halls from the scope of Federal Land Tax. It was also decided that Branches owning Halls are not to be charged their proportiion of the tax now chargeable.

The Grand Secretary reported that at the 31st May, 1943 there were 4053 members in Military Service and the estimated annual cost would amount to £10276. The fixing of he levy for September Quarter was stood over until July Meeting and at that Meeting it would be necessary to move for another approach to the Registrar for a further transfer of £5000.

The Grand Secretary reported that a Female member who joined up with the Womens' Land Army enquired if the benefits of Rule 279B would be available to her and he had replied that the member did not come under the Rule. The reply was endorsed. Letters of thanks were submitted from Buckingham Palace in respect to the death of the Duke of Kent and from Miss Denise Morris in respect of the death of the late BRO. E. MORRIS, Grand Master of the Society in the United States of America.

The Grand Executive reported the closing of ten Branches since last meeting. They also reported that the portion of Rule 279B relating to members in Military Service who live at home and travel backwards and forwards to his military duties, not being entitled to suspension of contributions and benefits was causing much concern to the Grand Secretary, some of these members have expressed discontent and suggested that discrimination is exercised against them. It was resolved:-

"That the Grand Secretary deal fully with the matter in the July issue of the "Oddfellow".

Since last meeting the death of BRO. J. KILLELEA, P.D.M. and for thirty five years Financial Secretary of the Belmore Branch. "Jim" as he was popularly known will be best remembered for his stirling service to his own Branch.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 30th July, 1943. It was resolved to continue the withdrawals operating for the last three quarters in respect to the subsidy to Districts. The Grand Trustees reported that an amount of £17000 had been invested as an advance subscription to the Commonwealth Loan. The Federal Treasurer replied that at the present juncture there would be no reversion to complete or partial exemption in respect of land owned by Friendly Societies.

A decision was reached in respect to the Xmas Parcel Appeal and the number of parcels required. The number of 151 Branches had replied to the request to indicate the amount they would be able to subscribe and the total of such being £576. It was decided to purchase goods for up to 4000 parcels.

The Grand Secretary reported that the £5000 previously allowed by the Registrar of Friendly Societies from valuation surplus had been used. He submitted information from the Registrar and it was resolved to make application to the Registrar for a transfer of £5000 from valuation surplus.

The Grand Secretary submitted considerable correspondence in regard to the Wilcannia Branch - Willyama District - now operating at Broken Hill. The final letter from the District Council indicated that the Trustees of the Branch were residents of Broken Hill desired to transfer the Hall property at Wilcannia to the District Council. It was resolved:-

"That the Committee of Management consent to the transfer by sale of the Wilcannia Hall property to the Willyama District, but in the event of the District disposing of the property proceeds of the sale revert to the Committee of Management."

Willyama District also applied for permissionto close the Menindee Branch and the assets to be the property of the District. It was resolved that permission be given to close but the funds must be handed over to the Committee of Management.

The September Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 4th. The Grand Secretary reported that the number of members in military service now totalled 4182, the estimated cost being £10588. The Registrar replied that he consented to the transfer of the £5000 asked for but in amounts not exceeding £500 each quarter. The Grand Secretary of England wrote conveying a resolution passed by the English Annual Moveable Conference regarding the British Brethren War Relief Fund as follows:-

> "That this Conference hereby desires to express to the Brethren in New South Wales its sincere appreciation and grateful thanks for the gift of money to enable relief to be granted to members of the Order suffering distress from enemy action and for the kindly thought which prompted their brotherly gift."

Wilcannia Hall: The Willyama District wrote regarding the decision of the Committee of Management and stated they were not prepared to accept the conditions laid down by the Board. Failing the Committee of Management agreeing a special resolution to be placed on the Business Paper of the Annual General Meeting asking the said Meeting to give permission to the Trustees to sell the property to the District Council in accordance with the wishes of the Willyama District. It was resolved:-

> "That the Committee of Management adheres to its previous decision and that the matter will therefore come before the Annual General Meeting as a special resolution from the Willyama District."

The Annual General Meeting of the year 1943 was held at Sydney on the 19th,20th and 21st October. The Grand Master - BRO. W. BARRATT presiding. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership increased by 230 members brings the total membership to 37205. The total worth of the Society being £851275. an increase for the year of £32751. Benefits paid £128781. The Hospital Fund had a favourable experience - subscriptions totalling £4686. were received and cliams cost the Fund £3815. The Hospital Fund had acredit of £670. for the year.

The U.M.C. Fund had a light year, total benefits being only £181.

This Fund at the 30th June, 1943 had a credit Balance of £17549. The General Ancillary Fund was heavily taxed. This is the Fund from which the contributions of members on Military service are paid and the cost for the year was £9915. Levies amounted to £9251. and the Fund was in a favourable position because of the transfer granted by the Registrar.

The Castlereagh Street Property valued at £200087. yeiled a nett earning of £6895. equal to 3.44 per centum. During the twelve months the Grand Trustees invested £85000 in War Loans. The salaries of the Grand Secretary, Grand Trustees and Grand Auditors were passed without alteration from the previous figures. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. H. MARSH, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. G. HANCOCK, Grand Trustees - BRO. W. BARRATT, J. CURRAN and W. N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, C. CHAFFEY, W. HUTCHISON, J. BRICE, H.CLIFFORD, H. VENABLES.

Amendments made by the Committee of Management under rule and registered by the Registrar since the previous Annual General Meeting were all adopted. The only one debated was the rule under which the Hospital Fund had no liability for any dependent children under the age of six months, and providing for the registration of subscribers to the Hospital Fund. Willyama District had an amendment to provide that a District Officer who is not a member of a Council Masters' Chapter must become a member upon his election to District office. An amendment was made in Secretaries salaries Rule. In future Secretaries will be paid on a per capita basis of Financial membership and no Branch can pay a fixed sum per quarter. The rate is still in the hands of the Branch but it must be paid in accordance with the financial membership at so much per quarter. One proposal to suspend contributions to the U.M.C. Fund for the duration of the War and another for the Fund to remain at the present balance were defeated.

The closest debate of the whole conference evolved around a proposal by the Hunter River District to limit the levying capacity of the Committee of Management under the Military Service Rule to 2/- for Males and 1/- fo r Females.

The Grand Master declared the proposal defeated by 35 votes to 34, and a request was made for a division. This resulted in a vote of 34 all, the Grand Master under the rules of the Society had to give a casting vote in the negative and the proposal was therefore lost.

The special resolution by the Willyama District in reference to the Hall at Wilcannia mentioned previously was defeated. The highlight of the Conference was BRO. LES UPTON'S moving of a proposal by the Williams River District to provide for a Maternity Bonus of 30/- to married female benefit members in respect of the birth of a child and this was Carried.

An Honorarium of £100. was granted to the Grand Master - BRO. BARRATT for his term of two years in that position. The Installation function at the Paddington Town Hall received the unanimous endorsement of all present. "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem closed the 1943 session.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 4th December, 1943. It was decided to continue the withdrawal of subsidies to Districts with the exception of Clarence River and Cootamundra Lachlan Districts.

The Committee of Management gave considerable consideration in the matter of the District system generally and the following resolution was Carried.

> "That a Committee of appointed to consider the question of the best method of supervising Country Branches, such Committee to confer with the Grand Executive in examining the District system generally and to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee of Management. Such Committee to be BROS. HUTCHISON, BARRATT, CURRAN and MONTGOMERY."

It was further resolved:-

> "That the same Committee also consider the best means of furthering the interest of the Voluntary Health Insurance Department."

At this stage of the meeting BRO. C. NEWLAND - Valuer - and Building Inspector of the Society was admitted to the meeting and was on behalf of the Society presented with an illuminated Address and an Amethyst Necklace for his Daughter Miss Newland. BRO. NEWLAND in his reply said he owed a lot to the Grand United. It gave him the privilege to attend Lodge meetings for over 60 years and these meetings had given him much pleasure.

The resolutions from the last Annual General Meeting -

1. To approach the Registrar for an increase in the sickness contributions to allow for a higher sickness benefit.

2. To approach the Registrar for a scale of contributions for a £2.2.0 sickness benefit

were considered and it was resolved:-

> "That in view of the very incomplete directions given the Committee of Management by the Annual General Meeting no useful purpose would be served in asking the Registrar for a scale of contributions."

The Grand Trustees reported having invested £33000 in the Fourth Liberty Loan. The Grand Executive reported that up to November 24th 4000 parcels had been packed of which 1958 had already been posted. The number in the Forces at the present date was 4288 with an annual cost of £10871. It was decided that the War levy remain at 2/-.

Following the decision to appoint the Committee to survey the position respecting Branch Meetings a questionaire was issued replied being requested by September 30th, 1943. The Grand Secretary reported that 69 Branches had still not replied but the tabulation was proceeded with the listing being on a District basis. The result disclosed that a total of 345 Branches had replied and it was found that 179 were meeting fortnightly, 71 monthly, 43 quarterly and 52 were not meeting at all. The Grand Secretary reported that some of the 69 had now replied and all of them were holding no meetings. The result of the tabulation showed that 5.5 per centum of the total membership was attending fortnightly meeting, 1.9 per centum attending monthly meetings and 0.8 per centum were attending quarterly meetings the total average attendance being 3.064 or 8.2 per centum of the membership of the Branches which replied. It was resolved:-

> "That as the beginning of a campaign to improve the attendance at Branch Meetings a Conference be called some time in 1944 of all Sistrict Officers in the Sydney, Camden, Illawarra, Northern Suburbs, Parramatta and Hunter River District together with two representatives each from the Goulburn, Maitland and Bathurst Districts with a view to the unsatisfactory attendance at Branch Meetings being discussed from the point of view of seeking a remedy."

The Loyal Wilcannia Hall caused a good deal of discussion and the correspondence which had passed between the Branch and the Wilcannia Municipal Council was requested to be furnished to the Committee of Management but the Branch had not furnished copies of the correspondence, it was resolved:-

> "That the matter be deferred pending a reply from the Wilcannia Branch."

Requests that the Society acwept membership in the Ex-Servicemens' Re-Employment Bureau, the Annual Fee being £2.2.0 was agreed to.