

CHAPTER 61 1944 - 1945

PROPOSED DECENTRALISED DISTRICT SYSTEM.

Since the last Committee of Management Meeting two Past Grand Masters have passed away in BRO. ALEX SOMMERVILLE and PRO.

PAT MEADE. The first named was Deputy Grand Master in 1906 and Grand Master in 1907 and one of his first official visits was to open the Willyama District at Broken Hill on July 10th, 1907. He was a member of the Loyal Balmain Branch for the fifty eight years he was a member of the Society.

BRO. MEADE was Deputy Grand Master in 1914 and Grand Master in 1915. He took a very keen interest in all the work of the Society and for many years after leaving the Board was a welcome visitor to the Annual General Meetings up to the time of his death.

The February Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 5th. The Committee appointed to consider the District system held an initial meeting but could not discover a solution in one meeting and desired to hold a number of meetings before placing any concrete proposals before the Board. It was resolved that the Committee continue its activities and to submit their report to June Meeting of the Board.

The Grand Secretary reported the closing of two Adult Branches. The resolution sent down to the Board from the 1943 Annual General Meeting, to free members on the last rate of sick pay, from the payment of contributions was considered and after the Grand Secretary had reported fully on the cost of those who had not reached subvention age. The number under this heading on September Quarter returns were 360 and the estimated cost would be £1729. per annum. It was resolved:-

"That in view of the report of the Grand Secretary, the project be abandoned."

The Grand Trustees reported having invested £10000 as an advance subscription in the First Victory Loan.

A report in respect of the Xmas Parcels Appeal indicated that the total expenditure amounted to £1433 and the amount contributed was £1316. Up to January 10th, 1944 3122 parcels were sent out.

The Grand Secretary submitted a report in respect to members in Military Service. On January 11th, 1944 there were 4322 an increase of 34 since November 1943. The estimated annual cost was given at £10907 and the position of the Fund at the end of 1943 was that £4718. stood as the credit balance and by reason of this it was resolved:-

"That the levy for March Quarter be fixed at 1/8d per leviable member."

The Loyal Wilcannia Hall was again the subject of much discussion emanating from correspondence with the Branch and the Willyama District. The correspondence was received and the Willyama Council be informed the Committee of Management has now power to instruct the Branch to sell the property.

It was reported that the Nutshell News would be printed in time for issue with the March Summons Notices. The statistics revealed that there was an increase of 41 members in all sections for December Quarter 1943.

The death of BRO. GEORGE WALKER, Grand Auditor, was reported. He had, for a period of 30 years, been one of our Grand Lodge Auditors.

The regular Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on April 1st, 1944. The Statistical section showed that at the end of December Quarter there had been a gain of 137 members, the total membership being 37371. In the U.M.C. Fund 31 members were registered and the cost of all claims was £22. and the contributions received - £594. In the General Ancillary Fund the claims of 4240 members in Military service were dealt with during the Quarter and the cost of this period was £2724.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee of Management had held several meetings and finally decided to adopt a plan prepared by the Grand Secretary which was considered if adopted, would give the Society better supervision of Branches under a Decentralised District System with representation to the Annual General Meeting of the Society. It was resolved:-

"That the general principle embodied in the report of the Grand Secretary be adopted and placed on the Business Paper for the next Annual General Meeting."

improve the attendance at branch meetings and to create a better

It was decided upon to continue the suspension of contributions to and payments from the District Levy Subsidy Account in respect of June Quarter, 1944. Attendance at Branch Meetings was discussed and the resume of the decision of the meeting held on March 18th, 1944 had been issued to all members of the Committee of Management prior to the meeting. Having regard to the attendance of all members of the Committee of Management at the Conference and there being no opposition to the setting up of a Sub-Committee on Lodge attendances, the said Sub-Committee had been called together on March 31st and reached the following decisions:-

1. To set up a School under Officers appointed by the Committee of Management for the purpose of instructing P.M.Gs in correct Ritual working and procedure. From this School Superintendent of Schools of Instruction shall be appointed.
2. That District Council may establish Schools of Instruction in their respective Districts under approved Instructors from the Central Lodge of Instruction.
3. That the Committee of Management call for applications for a Director of Ritual and Procedure, a Deputy Director and an Honorary Secretary of the Central Lodge of Instruction and the appointments to be made by the Committee of Management. Such Officers when appointed shall constitute the Executive of the Central Lodge of Instruction.
4. The Committee of Management be requested to make available the Conference Room for Meetings of the Central Lodge of Instruction and the administrative costs be borne by the Committee of Management.
5. That the calling of Meetings of the Sub-Committee be left to the Grand Executive.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies refused to register the Maternity Benefit of 30/- and it was decided to pay this from the Incidental and Extension Fund. The Grand Executive reported that 4243 members were in Military Service and the Annual cost would be £10997. It was decided that the War Levy be 1/6d.

A reply was received from Mr. W. H. Cadogan accepting the position of Grand Auditor. On Saturday March 18th, 1944 a full days Conference was held of the Committee of Management and representatives from the Councils of various Districts. All the members of the Board were present and 37 representatives of the nine Districts invited to attend. Many decisions were reached all of them with a view to improve the attendance at Branch Meetings and to create a better

understanding of all matters appertaining to the welfare of the members and the Society.

The June Meeting of the Board was held on the 3rd, 1944. Drafts of Rule Amendments recommended by the Sub-Committee were submitted and were adopted. The details of the amendments which are of very considerable proportions make it impossible to give in full details the whole proposed alterations to the District System but the main object of the scheme is to close down the present 23 Districts with the exception of Willyama District and in place set up 46 smaller Districts each of which will hold an Annual Meeting and the Officers to be a District Master, Deputy District Master and District Secretary. A suggestion was made to the Committee of Management that there should be a competition for Juvenile Lodges along the lines of the Silver Rooster Competition operating in respect of Adult Branche. It was resolved to accept the suggestions and the Competition to commence from 1st July, 1944 on the same lines as the Adult Competition.

The Grand Secretary reported that BRO. R. S. KELLY son of BRO. A. G. KELLY exDistrict Secretary of Northern District had been killed in an Air Crash abroad, and on behalf of the Committee of Management he had sent a letter of sympathy. A letter of sympathy was also forwarded to BRO. W. ROYLE P.G.M. who was very seriously ill and reported that BROS. RIDLEY, SMEDLEY, HUTCHINSON and PENMAN had paid him a visit.

The recommendations in reference to the proposed new District scheme were adopted and the amended rules numbering seventy eight submitted were adopted and to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting. It is amazing the work that the Grand Secretary put into this scheme and when one considers the numerous amendments that had to be framed and the division of the Districts it only brings more vividly before the members of the Committee of Management and the members of the Society the magnitude of his task. Our Society is indeed favoured when as Grand Secretary we have BRO. H. J. RIDLEY without doubt a Peer in the Friendly Society Movement.

The first meeting of the Central Lodge of Instruction was held on June 9th - BRO. G. HANCOCK, D.G.M. presiding. Sixty six members were present including a visitor for Western Australia. The evening took the form of instruction in Chairmanship of a Branch meeting. P.G.M. BRO. BARRATT was the Noble Grand, P.G.M. BRO. MONTGOMERY acted as Financial Secretary. The next meeting will be held on July 21st when the Initiation Ceremony will be carried out by the team selected.

The death was reported of BRO. GEO. KING, P.G.M. and ex-District Secretary of Williams River District and a letter of sympathy was forwarded to the relatives.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 29th, 1944. The members in Military Service now totalled 4378 and the annual cost £10986. It was resolved to leave the War Levy at 1/6d.

A report was submitted on the second meeting of the Central Lodge of Instruction held on 21st July when 44 Officers and members were present. The Initiation Ceremony was conducted under the guidance of BRO. J. R. CURRAN, Grand Trustee as preceptor. The Sub-Committee recommended that as the Sydney and Parramatta Districts were not represented at either of the last two meetings of the Sub-Committee they be written to regarding their non attendance. The recommendation was adopted.

An amendment to Rule to provide that a Welfare and Social Officer may be appointed by a Branch whose duties shall be to work generally in improving the Branch attendance. The Grand Executive reported the opening of the Fred J. Cramp Juvenile Branch with 33 members. It was resolved:-

"That the Grand Secretary prepare an amendment to provide that a new Branch opened after the registration of the rule shall be named after the locality in which it is established."

The members of the Committee of Management stood in silent tribute to the memory of the late P.G.M. BRO. GEO. GORDON who had passed away on the 7th June at Bellingen. He was elected Deputy Grand Master in 1915 and Grand Master in 1916, he was initiated in 1883 and had a membership of 61 years.

The last meeting of the Committee of Management before the Annual General Meeting was held on September 2nd, 1944. The Grand Executive reported having granted a Dispensation for the opening of a new Branch at Berrima which had been organised by BRO. LINDLEY of the Gibraltar Branch. The War Levy was again fixed at 1/6d.

The Grand Trustees reported that approval had been given for the total removal of the Air Raid Shelter and tenders had been called for demolition and for the disposal of the material.

As a result of a happening at Young District, where a member who had returned from Military Service was unable to stand for a higher office than that which he held at his enlistment, it was resolved to place an amendment to the Rules on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting giving an officer the right to contest any higher office and if not elected for the higher office he shall automatically be elected to his former office.

The Grand Secretary submitted the statistics for June Quarter and this disclosed an increase for the quarter of 157 members.

The death was reported of BRO. WALLACE ROYLE P.G.M., he had been a member of the Society for the space of sixty one years, was District Master of the Hunter River District in 1916 and succeeded the late BRO. A. SNEESBY as District Secretary in 1919, which position he held for many years, was Deputy Grand Master in 1926 and Grand Master in 1927 when he was installed in his own City - Newcastle where the 1927 Annual General Meeting was held - BRO. ROYLE was a popular and ardent worker for the Order and his career as a member of the Society he prized so much was one that will be ever remembered by the legion of warm friends he had in the Order.

The Annual General Meeting of the year 1944 was held in Sydney on the 17th, 18th, 19th October. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership had increased from 37205 to 37632 an increase of 427 members. The total worth of the Society at June 30th was £876,968 being an increase of £25693, whilst the benefits paid out amounted to £134,453. The Hospital Fund again had a favourable experience the credit balance increased from £670. to £940. The credit balance in the U.M.C. Fund now stands at £202,96. The Castlereagh Street property showed a nett earning of £7347. equal to 3.66 per centum.

During the year the Grand Trustees invested £70000 in Commonwealth War Loans. The General Ancillary Fund claims for the year totalled £10831 for 4378 members registered and Levies received amounted to £9349. The total amount earned during the year in interest and building profit was £35490 equal to £4.7.4½d per centum. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. G. HANCOCK, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. C. CHAFFEY, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. CURRAN, W. MONTGOMERY, W. BARRATT, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, H. MARSH, J. BRICE, W. HUTCHISON, E. WHITE, S. JOHNSON.

The first business after the election was the special report of the Committee of Management on its proposal to alter the present system of Districts. The subject was discussed from the Tuesday afternoon until the session adjourned on Wednesday evening. The Grand Secretary moved the adoption of the report in the following form:-

"That the Special Report of the Committee of Management be received and adopted to the extent of affirming the principles of -
 (a) Decentralisation of Existing Districts
 (b) A reduced number of Officers on each District Council
 (c) A Centralised District Management Account and that each Rule Amendment be submitted and dealt with separately."

An amendment was submitted by BRO. R. CARPENTER - Hunter River District -

"That this meeting affirms the principle of:-
 (a) A Uniform District Levy
 (b) More equality in representation of Districts at Annual General Meetings
 (c) Assistance to Rural Country Districts."

Just prior to the 5 o'clock adjournment on Wednesday the vote was taken and the amendment by BRO. CARPENTER was Carried. On the third day BRO. CARPENTER moved an amendment to rule to provide a different basis of representation to the Annual General Meeting submitting a proposal that Districts send one representative for each 500 members or part thereof providing such part be not less than 250 members and this was Carried.

The Grand Secretary then submitted the following:-

District Management Fund delete the Rule and substitute.

"The Committee of Management shall control and maintain within the Management Fund of the Committee of Management a District Management Fund to defray the expenses of the Districts expressly provided in the Rules. To this

Account each Branch shall contribute from its Management Fund a levy fixed by the Committee of Management and chargeable in like manner and upon the same principle as the Branch levy to the Management Fund of the Committee of Management."

As from 31st December, 1944 the District Management Fund of the Committee of Management shall take over the Funds in the hands of the District as at that date, with the exception of an amount equal to the levy paid in respect of September Quarter of 1944 and of the amount invested by the Willyama District in its land and building in Broken Hill, and such consequential alterations as may be necessary to set up the Fund under the control of the Committee of Management and to empower Districts to expend moneys for the reasonable operations of the District and to receive refunds thereof; for the supply and review of quarterly statements and the accounts and vouchers relating thereto.

There was considerable discussion on the Grand Secretary's motion which finally was Carried - BRO. CARPENTER then moved to recommend to the Committee of Management to arrange for the appointment of a full time Officer to organise and stimulate Branches in Country Districts not holding regular meetings and as an alternative to make grants to one or more District Officers in each non-progressive Country area for the purpose of carrying out the procedure outlined in the first part of the motion. The passing of this motion disposed of the business relating to the District System.

The Committee of Management's amendment to the Hospital Rule under which the unfinancial limit is increased from 8 weeks to 16 weeks was Carried. An important amendment by Sydney District was Carried which will provide that all contributions including medical fees, but excepting Branch Management contributions (in certain cases) of members on the lowest rate of sick pay who are not subvention members shall be paid from the U.M.C. Fund was Carried.

The Committee of Management also had an important amendment providing that where a service member is discharged from Military Service and is not entitled to sick pay for a period of twelve months after discharge he may if he be unemployed and so wishes to register under the U.M.C. Fund. The Rule mentioned in the Committee of Management report on September 2nd 1944 in reference to members returning from war service and entitled to stand for any office was carried. A rule to give

A rule to give District Councils the right to confer the Degree of Past Noble Grand instead of by the Committee of Management was Carried. The probationary period of a son or daughter of a member of more than three years standing is granted exemption if he or she joins the Society prior to attaining the age of 17 years. Where a member cannot obtain the services of a Doctor under 7 miles, the Noble Grand or Past Noble Grand of a Branch may furnish a certificate of sickness. The Rule - District Levy Subsidy Account - to be amended to provide for the closing of the account at 31st December, 1944. There was some discussion over the place of meeting for the 1945 Annual General Meeting. Sydney was nominated but BRO. CLIFFORD carried an amendment to refer the matter to the Committee of Management with a view to arrange the meeting in some other place than Sydney. A vote of thanks to the two retiring members of the Board - BRO. VENABLES and BRO. CLIFFORD concluded the 1944 Annual General Meeting.

The Installation of Officers took place in the Paddington Town Hall where over 800 members were present to witness the splendid rendition of the Installation Ceremony by BRO. H. MARSH, P.G.M. A happy evening was enjoyed by all.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 2nd December, 1944. BRO. E. WILSON Past Grand Director and BRO. J. BRITTON Past Grand Director both on leave from their Units were welcomed to the meeting. A letter was received from BRO. J. CURRAN Preceptor notifying appointments as Instructors to Branches and suggesting out of pocket expenses be paid when officially visiting Lodges for instruction purposes and the appointments were approved.

The Grand Executive submitted a report of the conference on Numerical Progress called by the Committee of Management and held on November 18th and from this meeting many recommendations were submitted by the Grand Secretary all with the idea of improving the attendance at meetings, and the numerically position of the Society. It was decided to present an illuminated address to BRO. B. LINDLEY P.D.M. for his efforts in opening the Branch at Berrima. The Grand Secretary suggested the Bantam Rooster Competition for Juvenile Branches be decided on the Financial membership as at the 31st December in each year, commencing with the 31st December, 1945. The Grand Secretary also

reported there were 119 less in the Forces at the 15th November and the estimated annual cost would be £10565. It was resolved the war levy be the same as last quarter - 1/6 - each leviabale member. Reports were submitted by the Grand Trustees Mortgage Investment, the investment of £25,000 in the Second Victory Loan and the matter of Federal Land Tax in respect of Branch property. In this connection the Society had received a refund of £716 in respect of the four taxation years, decision having been reached that such properties are not included with other properties of the Society vested in the Grand Trustees. The Grand Secretary submitted statistics which showed a gain of 275 members for September quarter.

His report was read and approved. The Grand Secretary reported that the Grand Trustees had received a refund of £716 in respect of the four taxation years, decision having been reached that such properties are not included with other properties of the Society vested in the Grand Trustees. The Grand Secretary submitted statistics which showed a gain of 275 members for September quarter.

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PROPOSED HOMES FOR AGED MEMBERS.GRAND UNITED CENTENARY CENTRE.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd February, 1945. The Grand Secretary reported that the returns from Branches are not coming to hand as requested by Rule and it was resolved:-

"That Branches whose returns are not received by the Grand Secretary on or before 9th February, 1945 a fine will be imposed."

The Grand Secretary also submitted the draft for proposed new rule:-

Accumulation of Surplus:

"A member may pay any amount in excess of his contributions to the Funds of the Society wherever a member has a surplus of contributions such surplus shall be placed to his credit in a separate account to be known as the Cash Accumulation Account, which shall be kept within the Society's Investment Account and which shall be controlled by the Grand Trustees and administered by the Grand Secretary.

A member who wishes to withdraw his surplus may do so on giving seven (7) clear days notice and the amount of such withdrawal.

After a member has £1. to his credit in the Cash Accumulation Account such £1. or multiples of £1. shall after three months bear interest at a rate mutually agreed upon by the member and by the Grand Trustees provided that the Society shall not be required to pay interest at a rate greater than is permissible under any Federal or State Act or Regulation.

A member may when his surplus is sufficient make application for an advance to purchase a home such application to take precedence over those received from non members."

The recommendation was adopted.

The Grand Secretary recommended that the Sub-Committee on Branch attendance and numerical progress be merged into one Sub-Committee to be known as the Progress and Welfare Sub-Committee to consist of the Committee of Management and two representatives each of the Metropolitan Districts. Such Committee to meet monthly. This recommendation was also adopted.

Homes for Aged Members: The Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee of Management to enquire into the question of Homes for the Aged reported having met on 20th December, 1944. Six decisions had been reached and acting on advice the Grand Secretary of New Zealand has been approached to obtain certain information from certain New Zealand Cities which

conducted similar funds and Homes. A reply had been received a few days before the Board meeting, but the Committee had not yet considered the contents.

The Grand Trustees reported that £10000 had been invested as an Advance Subscription to the forth coming War Loan. The position of the Xmas Parcels appeal was that 3218 parcels had been sent to members £1271 was collected and £1402 was spent in the purchase of articles. The Grand Secretary reported that again Miss Denise Morris had assisted in the parcels appeal by forwarding 100 Dollars (£30.15.8 Aus.) and he had sent a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Committee of Management.

The Grand Secretary reported that the new District Management Account would start off with a capital of £2377 of which £600 would be left with the Districts for working expenses. It was reported that one District subsequent to the carrying of the legislation at the Annual Conference had returned the sum of £55. to Branches for levies. The report was adopted and the Committee expresses dissatisfaction with the action of the District.

The Levy for March Quarter was fixed under the new scheme at 4d for Male Members and 2½d for Female Members. The Grand Secretary informed the Board that he had resigned as President of the Federal Council of the Friendly Societies of Australia which included his office as President of the Federal Executive. The first Ritual Demonstration of the Welfare Committee was carried out at Rockdale on December 14th, 1944. BRO. CURRAN, Preceptor explained that the School of Instruction had been inaugurated by the Committee of Management. Meetings have been held at Head Office for some time and eleven expert ritualists had been appointed as Instructors. The ceremony of opening a Lodge, initiation and closing of a Lodge was worked and the carrying out of the business earned the approval of all present.

Since last meeting one of the best known workers for the Grand United in Broken Hill had passed away - BRO. JOE. HALLETT, P.D. M of the Willyama District and Financial Secretary of Federal Adult and Juvenile Branches at Broken Hill.

Veteran of veterans of the Society is BRO. JAMES IMRIE of Honeysuckle who celebrated his 100th birthday on January 6th, 1945. He has been a member of the Honeysuckle Branch for 64 years.

BRO. JOHN HENRY HUGHES of the Rose of Hamilton Branch passed away on January 28th, 1945 after 60 years of membership, although he never reached District or Grand Lodge honors he was one of those members of the Society we could ill afford to lose.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 7th April, 1945. The resignation of the Deputy Grand Master was received and in accordance with the provisions of Rule, BRO. E. WHITE Grand Director was elected to the vacancy and BRO. A. DANN next highest on the 11th count for Grand Director was elected in the place of the Deputy Grand Master - BRO. E. WHITE.

The Grand Secretary reported that the Registrar had registered the rules bringing into operation the Cash Accumulation Account and also that the rate of interest payable under the scheme would be 3 per centum calculated on the mean average balance as between the first and last days of the month.

Homes for Aged Members: The proposal of the Committee of Management to establish a Home for Aged Grand United Order of Oddfellow members in connection with the Centenary of the Society in 1948 has met with universal approval. A reply was received from Mr. Sheldon, Registrar of Friendly Societies, to the request of the Committee of Management that an amount of £30000 be made available from the 1938 surplus and he acceded to the request of the Society. It is, of-course, essential that the proposal to inaugurate the Homes and also for the transfer of the £30000 be approved by the Annual General Meeting and the Committee of Management decided to submit a recommendation to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. In the meantime steps will be taken to do some preliminary work such as the location of the Homes, new Rules and amendments.

The Grand Executive submitted a report of the Numerical Competition for 1944, and it was decided to order pottery water jugs inscribed "G.U.O.O.F. 1944" and to present to the successful winners. The matter of Insurance of District Officers was considered and it was decided to cover all District Officers. The War Levy was again fixed at 1/6d. Consideration was given to the resolution of the 1944 Annual General Meeting in reference to the 1945 Annual Meeting.

It was resolved the Grand Secretary make inquiries as to the possibility of holding the meeting at Newcastle or any other centre, the Grand Executive considers suitable.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on June 2nd, 1945. A report of the proposal to establish Junior Clubs in both Illawarra and Hunter River Districts was received and it was resolved to forward details of the scheme to the other Metropolitan Districts and Willyama District with a view of securing their co-operation by forming similar Clubs. The Grand Executive reported having approached Municipal authorities of a number of towns as to the prospect of holding the Annual General Meeting there. An amendment nominating Newcastle was defeated but a further amendment nominating Goulburn was Carried. The Town Clerk to be requested to arrange Hotel accommodation.

The Grand Trustees reported having invested £15000 in the Third Victory Loan making a total of £35000. The Grand Secretary reported having cabled the Grand Secretary of England joining with the British Brethren on the termination of hostilities in Europe. A reply expressing united thanks were received. During the meeting BRO. H. G. CLIFFORD, ex-Grand Director was presented with an emblematical illuminated address in recognition of his services as a member of the Board for five years.

The July meeting was held on the 28th. Consideration was given to the question of establishing under the Co-operation Act a Small Loans Society and it was resolved:-

"That the Committee of Management affirms the principle and a special resolution to provide the same be placed on the Annual General Meeting Business Paper, a sub-committee to be appointed to arrange details."

The Sub-Committee on Homes for the Aged reported having inspected a number of sites and the Grand Secretary submitted a series of special resolutions to be placed on the Business Paper of the Annual General Meeting. The Grand Executive reported that the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act of the Federal Government came into operation on July 1st, 1945. This Act provides a waiting period of seven days and this should be an assistance to our Society as sick pay is paid from the date of illness. Another help to the Society is that Friendly Society members can draw £2. per week under the Act as well as their Lodge sick pay.

The Grand Trustees recommended the formation of a 21 years terminating Building Society under the Co-operation Act with subscriptions payable direct at Head Office and the right to restrict investments to certain selected localities. The War Levy was again fixed at 1/6d. Two important items of information have now been received and in respect of the position of Friendly Society members who are also claimants for Sick Benefit under the Federal Government Unemployment and Sickness Benefit Act. To claim benefit from both sources -

- (a) Obtain usual certificate ("On, Progressive and off") from Lodge Doctor.
- (b) Write on the back of each the name of Lodge and Society and the name and address of his Lodge Secretary.
- (c) Hand them to the District Agent instead of to his Lodge Secretary.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on September 1st, 1945. A reply was received from the Federal Treasurer that the rate of interest provided in the National Security Regulations was 1½ per centum and it was decided to defer the Cash Accumulation Account.

Grand United Centenary Centre: The Grand Secretary recommended an amendment to Rule 279a General Ancillary Fund - to make provision for the Grand United Centenary Centre, the Grand United War Memorial Hospital and the Grand United War Memorial Convalescent Home.

It was also reported that acting through the Society's Solicitors, the Grand Trustees had now an option over the Northmead land given by the vendors.

BRO. C. V. MICHAEL, Chief Clerk, submitted a report on the visit he made to Goulburn to make arrangements for the Annual General Meeting. He stated all arrangements had been made for the meeting including train bookings, Installation Ceremony and accommodation for all attending the Annual General Meeting. It was resolved -

"That after hearing reports from Grand Lodge Officers who had visited Country Districts to place a rule amendment to the Annual General Meeting to provide for a maximum payment of 10/- for attendance at Annual Meetings and such fee of 10/- per day be applicable also to time travelling."

Also
"That an amendment of Rule be placed on Business Paper to delete proxies being elected (other than by the Branch they represent) to attend Annual District Meetings."

The War in the Pacific had ended and the Grand Master of England cabled in the following terms -

"Board in session rejoice with you in thanksgiving for Victory and Peace and remember with pride the service rendered by your Countrymen and Grand United members."

The Levy was again fixed at 1/6d. Sydney District submitted a Requisition for the formation of a Juvenile Branch at Marrickville. The Statistics revealed a gain of 315 members for the June Quarter. The proposed higher benefits and contributions rules were submitted and same will be placed on the Agenda Paper for the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Goulburn on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th October, 1945. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the increase for the year was most pleasing the number being 1057 the highest for many years. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. E. WHITE, Deputy Grand Master - BR. E. WILSON, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. BRITTEN, J. CURRAN, W. BARRAT, Grand Directors - BROS. W. SMEDLEY, J. BRICE, W. MONTGOMERY, W. HUTCHISON, H. MARSH, G. HANCOCK.

One of the most interesting questions before the Annual Conference was the Committee of Management's proposal to establish a Grand United Centenary Centre including a War Memorial Hospital and Convalescent Home. There were seventeen resolutions submitted by the Committee of Management. The resolution as follows was one of the seventeen -

"That in recognition of the services rendered the Nation and the Society by Grand United Members who served in the World Wars of 1914-1918 and 1938-1945 and to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of those who lost their lives in such wars, there shall be erected and maintained within the Grand United Centenary Centre a Hospital and Convalescent Home to be known respectively as the Grand United War Memorial Hospital and the Grand United War Memorial Convalescent Home."

The resolution to approve of the transfer of £30000 from the valuation surplus to be a nucleus of the Funds required for the Grand United Centenary Centre was Carried. Another resolution to give the Grand Trustees power on behalf of the Society to invest the Funds of the Society subscribed or obtained in any way whatsoever for any or all of the objects set out in these resolutions to the establishment and maintenance of the Grand United Centenary Centre in the following ways -

(a) In the purchase from the Haymarket, Land and Building Co. of 55, York Street, Sydney of land and improvement situated at Hammers Road, Northmead, Parramatta approx. 80 acres.

(b) In the development of the arear. The Grand Secretary moved the resolutions and BRO. HUTCHISON seconded.

The Annual Meeting gave power to the Committee of Management to form a Building Society and providing sufficient support is forthcoming membership will be restricted to members of the Order. The term of the Society will be 22 years on a four per centum basis.

A very important amendment to rule was Carried enabling candidates to join the Society without a medical examination. Special application forms will be printed and on the quarterly return, Financial Secretaries must mark in brackets the letters (A.W.M.C.) to enable Head Office to keep records of such members which stands for admitted without Medical Certificate. Another amendment altering the admission without initiation to allow members to retain their membership without initiation the twelve months period being eliminated.

The Installation Ceremony was conducted by BRO. E. WHITE, P.G.M. and a very enjoyable programme of entertainment given by the Goulburn Broadcasting Station made up a very happy evening. The Grand Secretary at the close of the Session paid a tribute to the "Goulburn Evening Post" who had during the four days of the session detailed a very accurate report of the whole of the proceedings.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 2nd, 1935. The Grand Secretary reported that the Committee had decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order. The Committee also decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 2nd, 1935. The Grand Secretary reported that the Committee had decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order. The Committee also decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 2nd, 1935. The Grand Secretary reported that the Committee had decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order. The Committee also decided to purchase land at Northmead, Parramatta, for the purpose of building a new hall and kitchen for the use of the Order.

PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY

AND

PROPOSED SMALL LOANS SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on December 1st, 1945. The Grand Secretary submitted a statement as to the cost of the Goulburn Annual Meeting in comparison with that held at Sydney in 1944. The Goulburn Meeting cost £1013 and the Sydney Meeting £711.

It was resolved that the appeal for Christmas Parcels for 1945 be abandoned and the moneys donated be returned to the source of collection. Consideration was given to the regular meetings of the Committee of Management having regard to the fact that the Business Papers are now very lengthy and with the work associated with the Centenary Centre, the proposed Building Society and the Small Loans Society will become even greater. After discussion it was resolved that the next meeting of the Board be held on the first Saturday in February, 1946 commencing at 9.30 a.m. and that subsequently the Committee of Management will meet on the first Saturday in each month commencing at 12 o'clock and sitting until the completion of business.

The contribution scale submitted by the Registrar to provide 15/- Sickness Benefit and £20. Funeral Donation was considered out of all reason and it was decided to abandon any intention of bringing the scale into operation. The Grand Executive reported that the members of the Grand United in Military Service during the War numbered 7000. Apart from the £33525 subscribed by Levy the Districts and Branches subscribed £4588 for the Christmas Parcels Appeal and also £1275 in the year 1941 for the relief of our British Brethren. This total of £39368 is a record the members of the Grand United should be proud of.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 2nd, 1946. The Grand Secretary reported that the Solicitors had notified the Solicitors to the Vendors that they were prepared to settle and a cheque for £2641.13. 9 being the balance of the purchase of the Northmead land was drawn and paid to the Society's Solicitors. It was recommended and adopted that any person donating ten guineas or more be appointed a Life Governor of the Centre.

The Rule making it compulsory for Subvention members whose Management dues are paid from the Benevolent Fund to pay 6d a quarter was discussed and it was decided that the Grand Secretary issue a circular to the District Secretaries for distribution to Branch Auditors explaining the provisions of the Rule and the system of administration as between Head Office and the Branch and the Subvention members, to ensure that all Subvention members receive quarterly notices, and that every effort be made to ensure the collection of such Management contributions as a member is himself required to pay under the Rules.

The Grand Executive reported that owing to the Printers' strike the leaflet that had been proposed to issue to Branches in lending arrears had not been printed, but the Grand Secretary had issued a circular from Head Office to Branches throughout the State. The Registrar of Friendly Societies wrote suggesting the Society should affiliate with the Co-operative Institute of New South Wales Ltd. and affiliation was approved and the report adopted.

Following correspondence with the Committee of Management - England, the Board decided to adopt a Grip, Recognition Sign and Conversational Form of recognition to be used in connection with the first P.N.G. Lecture. The resignation of BRO. J. E. LAWSON, who has been the Assurance Agent at Bega since the Department was instituted in 1903 - having reached the age of 88 years, was accepted and a letter of appreciation sent him for his splendid services to the Order.

The regular monthly meeting of the Committee of Management was held on March 2nd, 1946. The Grand Secretary submitted a report in reference to the visit of BRO. MICHAEL, Chief Clerk, to Orange for the purpose of making arrangements for the 1946 Annual General Meeting in which was pointed out the difficulty of securing accommodation for the Delegates. The report was received and further inquiries were to be made.

The Terminating Building Society was discussed and it was a recommendation to the Grand Trustees that the amount of advance to the Building Society be not less than £50000. The Grand Secretary reported that up to date 23 members had taken up 358 shares totalling £19690.

Bonus for New Branches: It was voted that the bonus for same be 10/- per member with a minimum of £7.10.0 and a maximum of £12.10.0 calculated on the number of adult members joining by initiation on the night of opening, providing not less than one half the number be new members.

and this was adopted.

Bathurst District wrote requesting a donation be made from the District Management Account towards a presentation to the District Secretary - BRO. W. CRANE, P.G.M. who was resigning his office, and it was resolved the sum of £10.10. 0 be voted from the District Management Account.

The Illawarra and Sydney Districts representatives who were invited to the Meeting in connection with the allocation of territory served by the Tempe - East Hills Railway were in attendance and gave their views on the boundaries to be observed. A decision was reached and accepted by both Districts. The Grand Executive reported that the Grand United Centenary Centre had now been registered under the Charitable Collections Act. It is now possible for all parts of the Order to proceed with functions to raise funds for the Centre.

A letter was received from the Grand Secretary of England indicating that their Board of Management would like an opportunity of providing something practical that could be woven into the structure of one or more of the proposed buildings in order that the parent Order may be attached to the Memorial. It was agreed upon by the New South Wales Board that special entrance gates may be a form acceptable to all parties. Allotment of Voluntary Labour was decided upon to work at the Centre and the dates fixed for each Metropolitan District for the following seven weeks.

The Rules for the Terminating Building Society were submitted and approved.

The passing of well known Oddfellow - BRO. R. C. HARIVEL, P.G.M. came as a profound shock to his fellow members and many friends in the Society. He was elected Deputy Grand Master in 1936 and Grand Master in the following year. For 25 years, Secretary of Loyal Balmain Branch, 20 years Secretary of the Sydney Council Masters Chapter and Secretary of the Balmain U.F.S. Dispensary. The Grand Secretary who delivered the Funeral Address said "During the long and honourable period the Grand United has been established in New South Wales we have laid to rest many worthy men and women who served the Society zealously, faithfully and honestly and who monument is a Society which has guarded the welfare of its members. I question however, whether it will ever had a more worthy member than BRO. REG. HARIVEL."

Bankstown Juvenile Branch Opened: What a wonderful opening it was at the South Bankstown Juvenile Branch on February 28nd, 1946. There were 71 initiations and the Oddfellows' Hall was crowded, over 160 members being present. Congratulations to the Organisers - BRO. & SIS. LAWSON.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 6th April, 1946. The Grand Secretary reported that at the 31st March the position with regard to the Co-operative Building Society was - No. of Applicants - 168, No. of Shares - 2800, Share Capital - £154000. The Grand Secretary recommended that the formation meeting be held on Tuesday the 30th April, 1946.

The Grand United Centenary Centre Sub-Committee recommended the Society conduct an Art Union to raise a nett amount of £1000 and that a prize list be prepared for submission to the next Committee of Management Meeting.

BRO. GOLD, Financial Secretary of Canowindra Branch suggested the sale of Bricks by the Branches - each to be one shilling and cards of Bricks to be of the value of £10.10.0, the sale of this amount of Bricks to entitle the Branch to nominate a member as a Life Governor.

Further correspondence in reference to the accommodation for Delegates and Visitors to the Annual General Meeting at Orange was submitted by the Grand Secretary from the Strangers Refuge Branch and it was now known that there would be no difficulty in arranging for the booking required.

Numerical Progress Competition: The results in the Numerical Progress Competition were reported to the Board, The Grand Secretary advising that 106 Branches had been successful in gaining trophies, the initiations by these Branches totalling 1700 members.

It was decided to place an order for 6000 Calendars for the year 1947. Further consideration was given the matter of boundaries of the Sydney and Illawarra Districts. The decision arrived at was - "That the territory formed by the East Hills Line as far as Salt Pan Creek shall be allocated according to which District is able to establish a Branch or Branches, and the area west of the Creek including Padstow, Revesby, Panania and East Hill be allocated to the Sydney District."

It was disclosed that the number in Military Service had dropped to 2765 and the estimated Annual cost would be £6296. The War Levy was fixed

at 1/-.

It was resolved:-

"That Sydney City Council be asked for permission to renovate the Society's Memorial in Hyde Park and that quotations be obtained and submitted to the May Meeting of the Committee of Management."

The Statistical section was submitted and received. The figures for December Quarter disclosed an increase of 210 members. The total membership now being 39214 members.

The "Oddfellow" of April 1946 had a number of paragraphs headed with the Voluntary workers at Northmead on their first day out - JIM CURRAN was Ganger on this day and he had working a great body of members that augurs well for the voluntary work being of great assistance in the preparation of the grounds for tree planting, roads and building areas. During the period from the 23rd March to the 7th April inclusive the number of members attending for voluntary work totalled 101 a very fine response.

The regular monthly meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 4th May, 1946. The Sub-Committee of the Centenary Centre reported that the Architects had inspected the site of which they approved and had arranged to prepare a location plan - when this is ready the Architects will confer with the Board. BRO. W. MONTGOMERY was in charge of the voluntary work on April 28th and reported that 36 members were present and they did excellent work. It was resolved that all Branch be invited to plant a tree or shrub in memory of fallen Service Brethren of World Wars 1 and 2, such plantings to be in the entrances.

Consideration was given the matter of re-alignment of Districts in the Southern Area of the State and replies from the Cootamundra Lachlan and Young Districts were received. It was resolved that the proposed re-alignment of the Southern, Young and Cootamundra Lachlan under which the Southern, Murrumbidgee, Cootamundra and Young Districts be formed and submitted to the Annual General Meeting as a special resolution.

The Directors of the Building Society elected at the Formation Meeting on April 30th were as follows - Chairman - Mr. L. WILSON, Directors - Mr. J. BRICE, Mr. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Mr. C. V. MICHAEL and Miss L. HUDSON. Secretary - Mr. H. J. RIDLEY.

The regular Committee of Management Meeting was held on the 1st June, 1946. The Grand Secretary reported the Commonwealth Treasurer consented to the registration of the Grand United Oddfellows (N.S.W.) Co-operative Building Society No. 1. Ltd. and to that Society borrowing £125000 from the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society on the 14th May, 1946.

Centenary Centre: The Grand Secretary submitted a report of the inspection made of the Centre Area by the Chairman of the Cumberland County Council, Councillor TATE who made certain recommendations in regard to the area.

Tree Planting: Report of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on May 29th was submitted and consideration given to the plan and planting list, together with quotation submitted by Hazlewood Bros.

Voluntary Work: It was resolved that BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Director, be appointed Officer in Charge of all voluntary work at the Centre. He is to appoint his own Deputy for any occasion upon which he is unable to himself attend. The charge of the Centenary Levy of 4½d. per adult member was objected to by one or two Branches, but the imposition of this Levy has met with general approval.

Bricks: It was resolved that 10000 celluloid "bricks" be purchased from Patrick Ltd. to be of a uniform type to sell at 1/-.

Bantam Juvenile Rooster: The Pride of Willoughby wrote to the effect that the Branch had learned per medium of the "Oddfellow" that it was impossible to secure a Silver Rooster Trophy for the Juvenile Branches. The Branch offered to the Committee of Management for the sole purpose of presentation each year as a "Bantam Rooster" for Juvenile Lodge competition a Silver Rooster for acceptance. This offer was accepted.

Small Loans Society: The Grand Secretary recommended:-

1. That the Small Loans Society be a feature of the September issue of the "Nutshell News."
2. That such "Nutshell News" contain a coupon which is an application for shares.
3. That if the replies be favourable, the Society be formed to operate as from the 1st January, 1947.

These recommendations were adopted.

The Grand Secretary reported that on May 6th, 1946 BRO. RBT. RICHARDSON, P.G.M. had passed away. He held the office of Grand Master in 1904-5, and he had sent a telegram and floral tribute from the Committee of

PROPOSED ERECTION OF ADDITIONS TO
GRAND UNITED BUILDING.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on 6th July, 1946. The closing down by Government Proclamation of Hospital Contribution Funds operated by Hospitals or groups of Hospitals has afforded the Grand United Order's Hospital Fund a golden opportunity to expand and prosper.

Its great need is membership and the Committee of Management decided to take radical steps to alter the rules to make our Fund as attractive as any other. The changes made were as follows:-

1. Hospital Fund membership is now also available to persons not otherwise members of the Grand United.
2. The family subscription is reduced to 6d a week the contributions of all persons under the age of 21 years and all single females is reduced to 3d per week.
3. If the subscriber has discharged his liability to the Hospital this 6/- per day is payable to him direct.
4. Subscribers to "closed down" Hospital Funds over the age of 55 years may transfer to our Fund by paying subscriptions from July 1st, 1946.
5. All collectors for the Fund will be paid a Capitation Fee of 1/- for each 6d per week subscriber enrolled after 1st July, 1946, and 6d for each 3d per week subscriber enrolled after 1st July, 1946.
6. Secretaries, Collectors and Agents will receive 5% Commission on all Hospital Fund Subscriptions collected.

On the evening of Friday July 5th the Honorary Architects in Association - Messrs. A. Nangle and Mr. W. J. Reilly submitted draft plans of the layout of the Centenary Centre and of the proposed four Unit Building for the housing of aged residents. Grand Officers freely availed themselves of the opportunity of discussing the Architects' proposals. At the meeting of the Committee of Management next day, it was resolved:-

"That the suggested lay-out as submitted be approved and adopted in principle. That in respect of cottages to house residents, the matter of variation in type of building be decided from time to time as the necessity to erect more accommodation arises."

The Grand Secretary reported that up to July 5th, 241 Branches had applied to plant trees and shrubs in the Memorial Drives. He also reported that the planting dates suggested were Saturday July 20th and Sunday July 21st, 1946. The levy for September Quarter 1946, for the

Centenary Centre be 6d. and in the opinion of the Board such levy should be imposed each quarter for a period of twelve months. The Architects were requested to proceed as quickly as possible with the establishment of :-

Childrens' Playgrounnd
Shelter Sheds
Canteen
Recreation area to the extent of such being available
for Picnics and Sports

Applications were also called for Caretaker and applications to close on September 30th, 1946.

The Grand Secretary reported the number in Military Service had fallen to 1044 and that the Fund had a credit balance of £5357. A new Branch was opened at Medowrie in the Williams River District, the Organisor being BRO. L. UPTON, D.D.M.

The August Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 27th July, 1946. The Grand Secretary recommended that a sum of £500 be appropriated for advertising the Hospital Fund especially in the Country Press. The recommendation was adopted.

The Grand Secretary reported that in accordance with the wish of the Committee of Management he had arranged District Conferences to be held in the Board room for the five months left in the year 1946.

The tree planting at the Centenary Centre on July 20th and 21st was attended by close on five hundred members. One hundred and ninety eight Branches were able to plant trees. It was necessary to draw for positions and 30 Branches were unfortunately eliminated as there were more applications than trees available. Forty Lodges who made late applications were excluded as well and they were advised there would be further plantings at a later date in which they will participate. One very appropriate remark was made to the Grand Secretary as follows:-
"Only big men and women could have attempted such and undertaking"
"One day not far distant some fortunate or unfortunate Brother or Sister will thank God for the good work you and company are doing. Keep up the good work, you are assured of a reward - that of a very thankful and grateful Brother and Sister. All said and done, that is the Grand United way."

The September Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 7th September, 1946.

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Correspondence received from the Grand Secretary in England indicated that the matter of the English Board being indentified with the Centenary Centre had been placed before and discussed by the Annual Moveable Conference of the Order in England held in June last, when the plan and photographs of the site had created intense interest. Delegates had assented with enthusiasm to a suggestion that the Order in England should take part in the Centenary Celebrations of the N.S.W. Society and had authorised payment of a levy for that purpose. The Grand Secretary of England stated he was sure his Board would desire to make such contribution as would meet the cost of the special entrance gates, and requested particulars of the approximate cost. The Grand Secretary advised the Honorary Architects had been asked to quote the approximate cost of the gates.

It was resolved that a special resolution be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting to send an invitation to the Grand Lodge of England to send a representative or representatives of the Board of Directors England to the opening of the Centenary Centre in October 1948 and that the cost up to £500 be paid from the Management Fund of the Committee of Management. The Grand Secretary recommended that the following special resolution also be placed on the Business Paper:-

"That the approval and consents given the Committee of Management at the Annual Meeting of 1945 in respect of the acquisition, establishment, maintenance and management of the Grand United Centenary Centre be re-affirmed by this Annual Meeting of 1946."

The Grand Trustees Minutes of August 9th and 23rd 1946 were adopted and the transactions except that recorded in Minute 46216 "Castlereagh Street Property - development of vacant land and investments recorded therein" are consented to by the Committee of Management. The following Special Resolution be submitted to the Annual General Meeting at Orange:-

"That the Grand Trustees for and behalf of the Society, and they are hereby with the consent of this Annual General Meeting of the Society empowered to invest the funds of the Society in the following way -

- (a) In the demolition of the buildings erected on that piece and parcel of land known as numbers 151 and 153 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, and in the erection of a Building (which shall be attached and be an addition

to the existing and adjoining building known as the Grand United Building - 147 and 149 Castlereagh Street, Sydney and which also is the property of the Society) comprising basement, ground floor, and seven storeys or so much thereof as may be permitted under any Government regulation at a cost not to exceed £55000 exclusive of partitions erected for and by arrangements with tenants occupying portions of such building.

(b) Such building on completion -

1. To be used as to part thereof for additional Executive offices of the Society and for the purpose of holding the meetings and transacting the business of the Society - and -
2. The remainder thereof leased in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions as the Grand Trustees with the consent of the Committee of Management deem most advantageous and revenue producing - and -
3. Generally to do all acts and things incidental to and consequential upon the foregoing and expend moneys necessary in carrying same into effect

(c) In the erection of walls and partitions for the accommodation of the Society and/or the tenants thereof, to an amount and extent decided by the Grand Trustees with the consent of the Committee of Management.

After consideration it was decided that the Committee of Management's recommendation regarding those salaries fixed by the Annual General Meeting, as follows, be placed on the Business Paper - Grand Auditor £140 per annum, Grand Trustees - £70 each per annum, Grand Secretary - £1000 per annum.

In accordance with the August Meeting of the Committee of Management consideration was given to the retirement of seven District Secretaries and it was decided to send to each a letter of appreciation. Consideration was given by the Board to telephone installations in the home of Secretaries and paid for by the Branches. The Grand Secretary suggested that future installations be in the name of the Society and Branch and it was resolved to place on the Business Paper a rule governing the allowances payable for telephone charges and rent where portion of such are charged against the Society or a Branch thereof.

The Grand Secretary reported that there were still 1467 members registered in the Forces and the credit balance of the Fund was £5341, and the following Special Resolution be placed on the Business Paper:-

"That in the event of there being a balance in the Ancillary Fund which is no

longer required for the purposes of Rule 279b the Committee of Management with the approval of the Registrar transfer such surplus to the Capital Account of the Grand United War Memorial Hospital as a component of the Grand United Centenary Centre."

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 6th October, 1946. The Grand Secretary reported that the Formation Meeting of the proposed Small Loans Society will be held in the Conference Room on November 7th, 1946 and up to date 28 members had sent in coupons denoting their intention of applying for shares.

A report was received and it was resolved:-

"That as Bro. GEO. HANCOCK had indicated his intention not to seek re-election as Grand Director, that his long and valuable service to the Society be placed on record."

The motion was supported by all members of the Board and Carried.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Orange on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th October, 1946. The Mayor of Orange tendered a Civic Welcome and the Grand Master replied.

The salaries were fixed and the Grand Secretary's salary was raised to £1000 per annum. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership had increased to 39670 being a gain of 981 members.

Four new Branches were opened - one adult and three juvenile Branches were closed. The total funds of the Society had reached the sum of £924640. The surplus for the year was £26658. Benefits paid amounted to £137506 as follows -

Medical Attendance and medicine	£55630
Funeral Benefits for 714 claims	17343
Sickness Benefits for 9914 claims	48622
Assurance Department	4936
Hospital Fund	4577
Ancillary Fund	6398

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. E. L. WILSON, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. R. CARPENTER, Grand Trustees BROS. W. MONTGOMERY, BARRATT and J. BRITTEN, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, E. WHITE, J. BRICE, W. HUTCHISON, H. MARSH and A. DANN.

The Special Resolutions in reference to the Grand United Centenary Centre fully mentioned in September Committee of Management Meeting were Carried, also the resolution inviting a member of the English Grand Lodge. A resolution Carried provided for the publication of a

booklet of the history and development of the Order in New South Wales to be a feature of the Centenary Celebrations.

A new clause in members in Military Service Rule 279b provides that for the purposes of the Rule the termination of the War shall be at the 31st December, 1946. There will be no new registrations but those who continue in Military Service away from home are still entitled to the privileges of Rule 279b. This concluded the business side of the Conference and apart from this the Annual General Meeting was a complete fraternal and social success.

The first official act was the placing of a wreath on the Shrine of Remembrance by the Grand Master - BRO. E. A. WHITE. Following this solemn and dignified ceremony the representatives assembled in the Conference Room where the Mayor Alderman J. P. Jaeger and the Town Clerk welcomed the members to Orange. The Strangers Refuge Branch tendered a reception to the representatives and visitors at a Branch Meeting and Social when three candidates were admitted. The evening was a grand success - many thanks to the Officers and members of the Branch.

On the Wednesday evening the Grand Lodge Installation function was another particularly well managed and excellently organised event for which the Society is again indebted to the Strangers Refuge Committee. The entertainment by prominent Artists were enjoyed by all and the dancing was kept well in hand. The Installation Ceremony was carried out by BRO. WHITE. The George H. Sands Cup was presented to Parramatta and Richmond River Districts. Past Grand Masters Regalia was presented to BRO. E. WHITE and BRO. LES WATT and the members of his Branch were tendered many thanks for a most enjoyable Annual General Meeting.

There was also a surprise at election time when BRO. JIM CURRAN declined nomination for Office and with BRO. GEO. HANCOCK who also was not a contestant there passed from Grand Lodge Office two members who will always be remembered for their long years of unstinted service for their Society.

The election of BRO. E. A. WHITE as Grand Master and BRO. LES WATT as Grand Secretary was a most successful one.

It was also reported that BRO. CURRAN undertakes the compilation of the Historical Section of the Society so that the booklet can be published for the Centenary.

CHAPTER 65 1946 - 1947.

MEMBER OF ENGLISH BOARD TO ATTEND
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 2nd November, 1946. The Grand Master extended a welcome to the two new members of the Board - BRO. R. CARPENTER and BRO. A. DANN. He also welcomed to the meeting BRO. JOHN SCOTT, Treasurer of Victoria.

The Grand Secretary reported that all steps necessary for the four Districts to be inaugurated had been finalised and that the cost be paid from the District Management Fund of the Committee of Management. The Grand Secretary reported he could not ascertain definite information as to the exact date the Travellers Home Branch was opened in October 1848. The report was received and it was resolved that the Centenary of the Society be celebrated in October 1948 and coincident with the Annual General Meeting for that year.

In the matter of trophies for the Numerical Summary Competition it was decided to send 10/6d each to the successful Branches to purchase a suitable trophy. It was decided also to consider the appointment of an Organiser for the Society at next meeting of the Board.

Appointment of Caretaker to the Centenary Centre, applications were received from 20 members and 7 of these were interviewed at the meeting. The final decision was the appointment of BRO. E. HALL of Wingham a member of the Star of Wherrol Flat Branch.

The First Unit: Tenders were received for the first Unit of four apartments under one roof and the tender of Messrs. Hutchison Bros. for £4874. was accepted.

The last meeting of the year 1946 was held on December 7th. The Registrar of Friendly Societies furnished scales for higher benefits for Males and Females. These were considered when it was resolved that having consideration to the considerably higher contributions required no action be taken.

The Board gave consideration to the formation of a Sub-Committee to draw up and submit from time to time a programme for the Centenary Celebrations involving all matters associated therewith as a special report for the Annual General Meeting of 1947.

It was also resolved that BRO. SMEDLEY undertake the compilation of the Historical Section of the Society so that the Booklet can be

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published in connection with the Centenary Celebrations.

In reference to the shortening of the Ritual referred from the Annual General Meeting it was decided to eliminate the Secretary's charge, and it was further resolved that the Juvenile Ritual be added to with a charge as drafted by the Deputy Grand Master for the Superintendent of the Juvenile Branch.

Many matters affecting the new additions to the present building were dealt with and approved. The Grand Master requested the Committee of Management to consider the possibility of establishing a Factory Shop or Industry Branches Medical Service to be through the Voluntary Health Insurance Department. It was decided that the Grand Secretary examine the matter with a view to recommending any rule amendments, and in the meantime the Grand Master be thanked and granted approval to establish one at his place of employment.

The number still registered in Military Service was 943, but the Grand Secretary expressed an opinion that this number would be reduced very considerably if the Branches had been notified by the member of his discharge.

The Small Loans Society: The Grand United Savings and Loan Co-operative Society Ltd. held its formation meeting on November 7th. The Directors elected were the same as those of the Building Society.

It was resolved that no action be taken at present to appoint a full time Organiser, but that an endeavour be made to awaken interest in part time District Organisers with the added inducement of a retainer of 50/- per quarter being paid to each part time Organiser approved and appointed by the Committee of Management.

A telegram of congratulations had been forwarded to BRO. HENRY HERRON P.G.M., who had recently attained his 80th birthday. A letter of thanks was received from Bro. HERRON.

The Grand United Centenary Art Union was drawn on the 10th December, 1946. The nett proceeds being £1106.8.7 a creditable result.

Since last meeting another veteran has passed away - BRO. CHAS. NEWLAND being 90 years of age. He joined the Lily of St. Leonards Branch on the 4th August, 1885 and had been a member for 62 years. Our late Brother, after the death of the late BRO. GEO. BROWN was appointed Valuer and Building Inspector. As Clerk of Works on the Grand United Building he achieved marvellous results at a very advanced age and showed

amazing agility on the building of which he watched every detail of operations in the interest of the Society. In 1943 he was the recipient of an illuminated address from the Committee of Management.

The first meeting of the Committee of Management for the year was held on the 1st February, 1947. The new Medical Agreement proposed by the British Medical Association was reported on by BRO. BRICE who represented the Society at the Friendly Societies Association at its meeting on December 9th, 1946. Agreements were made available and are as follows -

Male	Members under 21 years	City	18/-	Country	22/-	per year
Female	Members	"	30/-	"	33/-	"
Adults	with dependents	"	36/-	"	44/-	"

The wage limit is £364. per annum plus £26. per annum for each child under 16 years. Accouchment fees due are to be £6.6.0. The report was received.

The report of the inaugural meeting of the Centenary Celebrations Sub-Committee received from BRO. A. J. DANN, who had been appointed Secretary was considered by the Committee of Management and all of the recommendations accepted and to be placed on the Business Paper for the 1947 Annual General Meeting. The Grand Secretary reported the Builders had commenced work on the first Unity of the Centre on January 13th, 1947. The Northern Suburbs District Centenary Centre Appeal Committee wrote suggesting the holding of an inter-District Queen Competition.

It was resolved:-

"That the principle embodied in the suggestion be adopted; that a State Wide Queen Competition be conducted the coronation of the successful candidate to be a feature of the Centenary Ball.

The Grand Secretary reported on the experience of the Hospital Fund for quarter ended 30th September, 1946, receipts from subscriptions totalling £2891 and payments including claims commission and advertising £1479. The value of the Fund at the 30th September, 1946 was £2193 cr.

The report was adopted. The requisition to open a Council Masters Chapter at Canberra was granted.

All arrangements for the Anzac Commemoration Service on April 20th, 1947 at 3 p.m. were completed. The Grand Secretary reported that since the inception of the Maternity Bonus payment 152 claims had been met totally £228. The statistical section of the Business Paper was adopted.

The Grand Secretary reported the death of BRO. DAVID GOW at the age of 86 years. He had been a member of the Society for 58 years and he was gifted with a simple self-understanding and his friendship was cherished by all those associated with him. His passing leaves the Society considerably the poorer - may his influence live long after him.

Another veteran also has gone home - BRO. TOM ALLEN, who passed away on the 4th February, 1947, the Grand United lost one of its picturesque and outstanding characters. He was initiated in the Loyal Love of Liberty Branch on the 15th October, 1879 so that he had a period of continuous membership of 67 years and during the whole of that time he held some Office in his Lodge. He was best known for his sympathetic fraternal discharge of the duties of Sick Visitor in which he was most assiduous.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 8th March, 1947. The Architects were present and submitted nine tenders for the proposed additions to the Grand United Building. In each case the amount of the tender exceeded the permissible limit in the "consent" resolution carried by the Annual General Meeting of 1946.

Subsequent to the opening of the tenders the matter of the proposed additions was discussed at length and the Architects answered many questions submitted by members of the Committee of Management. After the retirement of the Architects the matter was further considered and the following resolution was Carried:-

"That a Special General Meeting be called and held not later than eight weeks from this day (March 8th)."

"That the Committee of Management shall at a meeting to be held on March 29th next decide the business to be placed before the Special General Meeting and to fix a date thereof."

The Grand Master reported he had opened his Agency at the Clyde Waggon Shops on February 19th with eight complete enrolments.

The new rules of the Voluntary Health Insurance Department to take in Group Branches was submitted and the necessary rules to be incorporated in the Voluntary Health Insurance Department were approved.

The Grand Secretary reported that we still had 350 members on active service lists and it was decided to submit to the Annual General Meeting a resolution to close down the Fund and registrations hereunder as from the 31st December, 1947.

The proposal of the Grand Secretary that the manuscript prepared by BRO. SMEDLEY be retyped up to six copies as a permanent history - one copy to be presented to the representative of the Board of Directors England, visiting the Centenary Celebrations. The Grand Secretary prepare an abridged colume for sale during the Centenary at around 10/- per copy. The nature of matter to be published to be in the hands of BRO. SMEDLEY and the Grand Secretary.

A letter was received from the Grand Secretary of England acknowledging the invitation for a representative of the Society in England to attend the Centenary Celebrations.

The report submitted to the Committee of Management was to the effect that the erection of two Units and the Voluntary Workers Machine Store Unit was proceeding. The Architects were asked to submit a design and estimate for the Entrance Gates - information for which the Committee of Management in England was asking in order to decide the amount it will be required to levy. Mr. Reilly Architect was agreed that the price would be in the vicinity of £400 to £450. The Grand Secretary suggested to the Board that he should send a speculative estimate of £500 to England and at the same time suggest it may be possible to make an arrangement under which the benefit of exchange might go to the Centre and/or the Society in New South Wales if the invitation is accepted. The English Society pay the return fare in England and the Society in Nrw South Wales meet the cost of the Entrance Gates in Australia with an adjustment either way.

The Grand Secretary reported a converstation with the Secretary of Vaucluse House Trust to the effect that the foundation stone of the demolished G.U.O.O.F. Club Building is now in the grounds of Vaucluse House and suggested the Society may care to have it. It was approved that the Society obtain the stone and that it be transferred to the Centenary Centre.

In accordance with the decision of the 1946 Annual General Meeting the Committee of Management was required to decide the place of the 1947 Meeting and it was decided that the meeting beheld in Sydney.

The Bantam Rooster Juvenile Competition for the year ending December 31st, 1946 won by the Rose of Hamilton Juvenile Branch with a membership of 172 members.

CHAPTER 66 1947.

FIRST RESIDENTS IN CENTRE AND

UNOFFICIAL OPENING.

The months of June, July and August of 1947 may be classed as momentous months in the history of the Society as the installation in the homes of deserving elderly members. The first four Unit Building having been completed ahead of the original schedule has made this possible.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday 19th July, 1947.

Juvenile Propaganda Film: The Grand Secretary reported publication in the "Oddfellow" of the need of the Committee of Management for some member prepared to take up the matter of the Juvenile Film where BRO. COLLINS left off, but without result.

Grand Director - BRO. A. DANN indicated the possibility of his being able to make arrangements for the Film to be completed in Newcastle. The suggestion of BRO. DANN and the Grand Secretary's report to the next Committee of Management Meeting.

The Grand Secretary reported on many matter in connection with the Centenary Centre and made reference to the roadways within the Centre, plans for Hospital, Entrance Gates, Electrical Reticulation and Inspection of the Centre by noted Citizens and members. The reports were received.

It was resolved that the Centenary Centre should be the subject of a Special Report to the Annual General Meeting and not incorporated in the report of the Committee of Management. The programme was arranged and adopted by the Committee of Management for the Centenary Celebrations to be sent on to the Annual General Meeting in October 1947. It was also resolved that during the holding of the 1947 Annual General Meeting, opportunity be given to the Representatives to inspect the Grand United Centenary Centre and the time occupied be classed as attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

Members in Military Service: The Grand Secretary reported at the 30th June, 1947 there were still 401 members registered under Rule 279b as being in Military Service. He estimated the quarters expenditure to be £226. and the balance at credit in the Fund at the above date would be approximately £4181.

The Annual General Meeting being asked to close this Fund as at December 31st, 1947 and having regard to the proposed erection of the War Memorial Hospital the Grand Secretary suggested -

"That application be made to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the immediate transfer of £3000 to the Grand United War Memorial Hospital and for the subsequent transfer of any further balance in the Fund at December 30th, 1947."

Food for Britain: The Grand Secretary reported that several requests had been made in recent months by Branches for consignments of Food to be sent to Grand United Members in Britain. The Grand Secretary then wrote the Grand Secretary of England by Air Mail and received a reply submitting a list of towns and counties, chiefly industrial, where the Society is well established and stated that, if our Branches or members would select a particular Town, and he would obtain names and addresses of members to whom parcels of food could be sent.

BRO. ELVERD, Grand Secretary said the Society in England is very grateful to the Order in New South Wales for the intention to help in this way.

Leave to visit England: Misses Lily and Mirry Hudson, sisters in the employ of the Society had applied for seven months leave of absence to allow them to visit the United Kingdom. The Grand Secretary recommended the request be granted, and it was resolved that the applications of the Messes Hudson for seven months leave be granted.

It was also resolved that the Grand Master - BRO. WILSON, Grand Trustee - BRO. MONTGOMERY and the Grand Secretary - BRO. RIDLEY be a Sub-Committee to consider the question of Long Service Leave to all paid full time employees of the Society and to report and recommend to the next meeting of the Committee of Management.

The Grand Secretary reported that enrolments to the Hospital Fund during the period 11th April to the 4th July, 1947 comprised 142 members of the Society and 123 members joining the Hospital Fund benefits only. During the same period the claims paid totalled £1738.4.0.

Levies: The Levies for the September Quarter were fixed at

Committee of Management	Males 10d	Females 7d
District	" 4d	" 2 2/3rd.
Centenary Centre	all members 6d.	

The Grand Secretary reported that the question of the prohibition of a minor for the office of Financial Secretary is being constantly raised

and with a view to elimination of argument which often occurs over this matter recommended the following Rule Amendment:-

Duties of Financial Secretary: "That Financial Secretary of a Branch must be of the age of 21 years."

This was approved. The Statistical section was submitted and adopted.

Informal Inspection of Centenary Centre: On September 12th, 1947 the informal inspection was held when a large number of the members of the Society and other interested persons were present. The day was fine and between six and seven hundred people inspected the work already completed. The centenary Sub-Committee beforehand had completed all arrangements and guides in charge of BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Trustee were despatched at regular intervals with parties and followed a certain route laid down for the inspection. All points of interest were surveyed including the position where buildings will be erected at a later date - that is the War Memorial Hospital and other Units.

There were twelve residents in occupation of apartments who gladly co-operated in throwing open their apartments for inspection, thus doing their part in making the day a success.

The September Meeting of the Board was held on Saturday the 6th. BRO. A. J. DANN, reported that the film as taken by BRO. COLLINS had been exhibited in the presence of the District Officers of the Hunter River District and Mr. Merrilees, the photographer who had agreed to take this film and also shots at the Centenary Centre. The District Council has been requested to select a ritual team of Juveniles and is taking action to that end.

The Grand Secretary reported that tenders for the Hospital had not yet been called; the Architect desired first to be reasonably assured of Department permission to erect it, also that an ex-army hut had been purchased and was being erected at the picnic area.

The Grand Secretary reported the results of the Queen Competition held in aid of the Centre, to have been :-

Camden District	£503. 8. 0
Parramatta "	894.10. 1
Nthn Suburns "	429. 2. 1
Illawarra "	262. 4. 7

The Registrar of Friendly Societies wrote approving the use of £3000 surplus Military Service Levies for the purposes of the Grand United Centenary Centre.

Centenary Celebrations: The Grand Secretary reported that it was possible that arrangements could be made with Messrs. David Jones Ltd. to hold some portion of our Centenary Celebrations somewhere in their George Street Store, which is popularly supposed to be on the site of the "Star Inn" where the Society was founded in 1848. On the upper floor of the present David Jones Building there are Staff Club Rooms, a large portion of which are actually on the site of the "Star Inn". A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary of David Jones Staff Club stating although the Club Rooms are not allowed to be used for outside functions the occasion of the Society's Centenary is entirely without precedent and the use of the rooms would be approved if required by the Society..

The Sub-Committee appointed to consider a proposal for long service leave for Head Office employees reported and recommended the following:-

After 20 years service	12 weeks leave
" 30 " "	an additional 4 weeks
" 40 " "	" " "

making a total of 24 weeks leave after 40 years service. The recommendation was approved.

The levies for December Quarter were stood over until after the Annual General Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 4th October, 1947. BRO. MICHAEL, Acting Grand Secretary reported that 100 ft. of 16 m.m. colour film had been bought by BRO. W. GRAY, District Secretary of Illawarra District, and forwarded to Head Office and BRO. A. DANN reported that Mr. Merrilees had been able to secure more colour film also, for use if required.

The Grand Master BRO. E. L. WILSON reported that in conjunction with Mr. Nangle, Architect, and BRO. R. ERKSINE, District Secretary Sydney District, they had interviewed Mr. Matthews, the Minister for Building Materials, at his Office in the Lands Department regarding the necessary permit to proceed with the Grand United War Memorial Hospital. Up to this period consent has not yet been given.

The Board considered many matters in connection with the Centenary Centre, comprising the following - State Wide Queen Competition - Open Air Concert - erection of Nissen Hut and Public Convenience, Centenary Celebrations, and the reply from the Grand Secretary of England regretting that no Officer was available to visit the Celebrations

CHAPTER 67 1947.

INTERESTING FACTORS OF THE ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of 1947 was held in the Conference Room Grand United Building commencing on Tuesday October 21st and finishing on Friday the 24th, 1947. BRO. LES WILSON, Grand Master presiding.

The Committee of Management's report disclosed that during the years 1946 - 1947 the membership had increased by 3773 members, the total now being 43443 an increase over the previous year 3773 members. This being the last Annual General Meeting report to be included in this manuscript it may be of interest to show just how the membership is made up, so that a correct record will be recorded.

Financial Adult members	32600
Unfinancial Adult "	1017
Financial Juveniles"	290
Honorary 170 "	1344
" 171 "	1300
Hospital Fund Only "	<u>3303</u>
	<u>43443</u>

The total worth of the Society at June 30th, 1947 was £949,688 and for the year an increase of £25048. Herewith is a detailed summary of all accounts operating in the Society to make up the sum of £949688 -

Committee of Management Funds -

Central Sick Fund	£758009
General Account	5967
Centenary Centre	37595
Assurance Dept.	51618
Unemployed Members Con. Fund	28012
Gen. Ancillary Fund	
Active Service Members	4401
Guarantee Fund	3030
Hospital Fund	2462
Benevolent Fund	4183
Incidental & Extension Fund	518
District Management Account	<u>1959</u>
	<u>£897814</u>
Branch Management Fund	34354
Branch Medical Fund	17062
Council Masters Chapters	<u>458</u>
	<u>£949688</u>
Total Funds - June 30th, 1947	

Benefits Paid year ending 30th June, 1947.

Sickness	£52251
Medical & Medicine	60098
Funeral	15982
Hospital	7216
Assurance	3669
Benevolence	104
U.M.C. Fund	691
Active Service Members Conts.	899
Subvention Contributions	466

£141377

The Grand Trustees report disclosed that the Society had invested in Commonwealth Loans the sum of £342,690. During the year the Trustees invested the sum of £116278 and the Interest earnings for the year on all monies under the control of the Grand Trustees which was £868805. returned £3.19.11.66 per centum.

Castlereagh Street Property: In the operations for the year there was an improved nett yield for the property which earned 3.72% as against 3.47% for 1945-1946. The costs of Management have increased from £5838 in 1941 to £8051 to June 30th, 1947. An approach is being made to the Rent Controller for increases in rents.

The Contractors have commenced operations, old buildings have been demolished and the basement excavated. All available space has been allocated in the Additions and applications from hundreds of disappointed applications had to be declined.

The Special Report of the Committee of Management Grand United Centenary Centre dealing with the numerous phases associated with the operations dealt very extensively with the whole of them, commencing with the Enabling Resolutions carried by the 1945 Annual General Meeting at Goulburn, up to the launching of various financial proposals including an Art Union, the planting of portion of the Memorial Avenues, and the calling of Tenders for the erection of the first Home Unit. The story is taken up from these respective points.

The first erection move was made towards the end of 1946 and it seemed that no one was prepared to tender for the building of the first Unit. Mr. Reilly, the Honorary Architect in Association induced Messrs. Hutchison Bros. to tender. Another tender was also secured through the Agency of one of our Grand Lodge Officers. However, the tender of Messrs. Hutchison Bros. was accepted at the price of £5064. subject to a "rise and fall" clause. The permit for the erection was received on the 14th November, 1947 and the work began on the 13th January, 1947.

The same Contractors tendered for the erection of the Voluntary Workers Quarters, Garage, Machine and Tool Storerooms at a price of £3032., which was accepted. In February 1947 the Committee of Management decided to erect number 2 Unit and Messrs. Hutchison Bros. consented to erect this Unit at the same price as the first and this was accepted. It was also decided by the Committee of Management to have sketch plans made for a War Memorial Hospital which have been completed and accepted after alterations. As no permit has yet been granted the Hospital tenders cannot be called, strong pressure is being brought to bear in the right quarter and permission may not be far away.

Entrance Gates: As reported at the 1946 Conference the Entrance Gates of the Centenary Centre are being presented to us by the Board of Directors England on behalf of the Society in the United Kingdom. It seems that it will be impossible to get permission for Bricks to be used but there is a possibility that it will be possible to have these erected in Stone.

Very heavy expenditure has been incurred in the installation of Roadways, Water Mains, gas mains and electricity reticulation but all have been successfully installed. The Society has to thank the many authorities for their very great help, advice, and assistance in the above works.

Caretaker and Acting Superintendent: BRO. HALL who had been Caretaker at the Centenary Centre from 11th November, 1946 has given every satisfaction. With the care of the plantations, erection of boundary fences and other necessary work it was deemed necessary to appoint another employee to assist, and BRO. NORMAN HALL, son of the Acting Superintendent BRO. HALL, who had been raised to this position from Caretaker, was appointed to assist in the work.

Mrs. Hall, has been particularly helpful and with the admission of the first bachelor residents on the 23rd August, 1947, she accepted the responsibility of boarding them, taking charge of their domestic affairs, a circumstance without it would not have been possible to admit bachelors to the Centre at all.

Voluntary Workers: Voluntary work is performed at the Centenary Centre on every alternate Sunday, where it is in the hands of a very consistent band of workers. These very earnest men and women have been inestimable value to the project. They meet all their own expenses of travelling

provide their own refreshments and their only reward is a pride in the work they are doing. The Voluntary Workers have continued during the year under the direction of BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Trustee, whose interest in and enthusiasm for this aspect of the Centre is boundless. In conclusion it is hoped that the support and work for the Centre will excite the imagination of Grand United members and the fundamental principles of our Society applied so that there will be no scarcity of supporters and workers for so admirable a project.

Centenary Celebrations: The recommendations of the Sub-Committee in the matter of appropriate means to celebrate the Centenary of the Order in October 1948 was dealt with by the Annual General Meeting Delegates and the following programme accepted -

1st Day: Saturday October 16th, 1948.

Morning - Settling in period
2 p.m. Gala Day, Conducted Inspection of the Centre;
Impromptu Games, Refreshments provided.
8 p.m. Camp Fire and Organised Concert

2nd Day: Sunday October 17th, 1948.

Morning - Leisure Period. Finalising of opening arrangements.
2.30 p.m. Official Opening
7 p.m. Church Service
8.30 p.m. Sacred Concert

3rd Day: Monday October 18th, 1948.

Evening Demonstration of oldest available ritual by a team from Sydney District

4th Day: Tuesday October 19th, 1948.

9.15 a.m. Opening of Centenary General Meeting.
Evening - Night of relaxation

5th Day: Wednesday October 20th, 1948.

9.15 a.m. Centenary General Meeting
8 p.m. Concert/Film Exhibition

6th Day: Thursday October 21st, 1948.

9.15 a.m. Final Session of Centenary General Meeting
8 p.m. Grand Lodge Installation.

7th Day: Friday October 22nd, 1948.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Harbour Cruise
8 pm. Grand Centenary Ball in the Sydney Town Hall

8th Day: Saturday October 23rd, 1948.

10 a.m. Sports Day G.U.O.O.F. Championships.
8 p.m. 1. Evening arranged by Council Masters Chapters
2. Programme arranged by Younger Sets
3. Complimentary Dinner by Committee of Management to Past Grand Officers, visiting Interstate and Oversea Grand Lodge Officers and distinguished visitors.

The following summary of the effect of Amendments of Rules passed at the Annual General Meeting. These important rules as amended are now in operation.

District Officers: "Upon election a District Officer is required to become a member of a Council Masters Chapter within three months of election, should he fail to do so his office shall be declared vacant."

Duties of Grand Masters: "It is not now mandatory that cheques be signed by the Grand Master."

Financial Secretary: "To hold this Office a member must be over the age of 21 years."

Funds: "Allows the investment of Funds in advances to any Society registered under the Co-operation Act."

Branch Audit: "The District Council shall decide the method by which Branch Books shall be sent to and returned from the place of Audit. The Fees for Audit of Hospital Cards will be paid by the Committee of Management."

Fees Audit: "Branch Auditor is now entitled to be paid travelling expenses not exceeding five shillings; should such expenses exceed one shilling."

Associate Members: "This new Rule gives a member the right to join as an associate member another Branch providing the member is contributing for any of the benefits of sickness, funeral or medical. Associate members shall pay a fee of 2/6d per annum. Others eligible are -

1. The wife or a member of that Branch
2. Any other female applicant approved by the Branch
3. The Mother or Father of a Juvenile member.

Members in Permanent Military Forces: "are only entitled to Sickness Benefits for the period covered by a sick leave pass."

Removal under Medical Advice: "A new rule has been registered to provide that if a member be advised by his Medical Officer to temporarily remove to a locality outside the jurisdiction of the Branch a member is not required to obtain any permission to go away except the Medical Certificate."

Automatic Registration: "The rule now provides that the wife and children of a member which constituted his family at the date of his entry are automatically registered after two years of financial membership as a Funeral Benefit member. A member contributing for six months to the Funeral Fund and then marries his wife is automatically registered. Children born after a member joins the Society are automatically registered after attaining the age of six months. Children born prior to the date of entry to the Funeral Fund can be registered by a payment of 6d. Funeral Donation on behalf of Children is now paid from date of registration."

Unemployed Members: "The rule now allows members on the Fund for six months to stay on for a further period of six months!"

Benevolent Fund: "Amendment to this Rule provides that a subvention member whose contributions are payable from the above fund can now have an income up to Three Pounds per week."

Hospital Fund:

"This rule now provides a voluntary double benefit for a double subscription to a subscriber who has over two years membership in the Fund. Approval to transfer to the higher scale is at the discretion of the Grand Executive. Alteration to clauses now eliminates the non-payment of claims when Hospital charges are payable under industrial or business enterprises."

Members in Military Service:

"The provisions of this Rule cease as at the 31st December, 1947 and all members registered under this rule as at that date shall pay their own contributions."

Re-instatement when arrears exceed 40 weeks:

"A member is now entitled to sickness benefit after 20 years membership and unable to submit a Medical Certificate of good health and having been re-instated by the Grand Executive the probationary period being six months."

During the Session a visit was made to the Centenary Centre. Three full bus loads left Sydney for the Centre and upon arrival the Delegates commenced the tour of inspection under the guidance of Grand Lodge Officers. The residents at the Centre extended an enthusiastic welcome. Morning tea was supplied by the Acting Superintendent and his Wife - BRO. & SIS. HALL assisted by the lady residents and greatly appreciated by the Visitors.

The election of Officers for the year 1947-1948 resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. R. CARPENTER, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. J. BRICE, Grand Trustees - BROS. MONTGOMERY, BARRATT, BRITTEN, Grand Directors - BRO. S. WILSON, SMEDLEY, MARSH, HUTCHISON, DANN and BLOOMFIELD. The Officers elected will be the members of the Grand Lodge when the Centenary Centre is officially opened on the 17th October, 1948.

The presentation of the George H. Sands Cup was carried out by the Grand Master, the successful Districts being Parramatta and Clarence River. A vote of thanks to the retiring Grand Lodge Officer - BRO. E. WHITE was moved by BRO. R. CARPENTER and responded to by BRO. WHITE.

The installation of Grand Lodge Officers took place in the Paddington Town Hall on Wednesday evening when a most successful dance was held - BRO. WILSON was the Installing Officer.

FACTS EMANATING FROM ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING AND CONCLUSION.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on November 8th, 1947. The recommendation to the Board to transfer 75% of the contributions from the U.M.C. Fund to the Management Fund of the Committee of Management was not accepted.

It was resolved that the Committee of Management Levies be increased by four pence and the District Management Account by one half penny for each Quarter as from the 1st January, 1948.

Payment for Quinquennial Returns: This matter was referred to the Grand Executive to draw up a scale of fees and submit to the December Meeting of the Board.

Subvention: The matter submitted for consideration was in respect to the payment of Medical Subvention for members who joined after June 30th 1932. It was resolved - "That the Friendly Societies' Association of New South Wales be requested to make the approach to the State Government."

Medicine Service: The Annual Meeting had directed that an endeavour be made to ensure revision of the drugs supplied under the Chemists' Agreement with a view to inclusion in the Medicine Service of the newer drugs. This was referred to the Friendly Societies Association. It was resolved that no numerical competition to be held for the year 1948.

Juvenile Ritual: Revision was left over until next meeting when sufficient copies of the alterations will be in the hands of Grand Lodge Officers.

Juvenile Propaganda Film: The Grand Secretary reported that adequate supplied of film appear to be assured. The shots of the Centenary Centre taken on September 13th, the film had been developed and is now ready for exhibition. Mr. Merrilees advised the making of a copy in case of the original being lost or destroyed. This was agreed to and BRO. DANN to arrange for the taking of this copy.

Centenary Centre: The Grand Secretary reported that the permit for the erection of the War Memorial Hospital were still held up.

Entrance Gates: The Architect - Mr. Nangle - had prepared a drawing of the Entrance Gates and is now rather confident they can be suitably

erected in rubble stone.

Centenary Celebrations: A letter was received from the Grand Secretary of England stating he had called a Special Conference to be held in the month of November, it being the desire of the Board of Directors that every step be taken to accept the invitation if at all possible.

Accommodation - Centenary Celebrations: The Grand Secretary suggested there may be a problem in respect of accommodation, not so much for representatives attending the Centenary Annual General Meeting, but for visitors coming to Sydney for the Celebrations. It was also suggested that early in the new year a circular be sent to all country Branches enquiring if any members apart from Representatives are likely to desire to come to Sydney for the Centenary of the Society, and if they will require accommodation. The suggestion was adopted.

In reference to the B.M.A. Agreement, it was decided to approach the Friendly Societies' Association to consider approaching the Prices Commissioner to ascertain if the Doctors in the Newcastle area were entitled to increase their fees to the extent advised, without approval of the Commission.

The Grand Secretary reported the death of BRO. DAVID RITCHIE, P.G.M., who died on October 14th, 1947. Messages of sympathy were forwarded and BRO. J. BRITTEN P.G.M., Grand Trustee, BRO. H. HERRON P.G.M. (ex Grand Secretary) and the Grand Secretary BRO. H. J. RIDLEY, P.G.M. attended the funeral. BRO. RITCHIE joined the Order in March 1886 and was a member for sixty one year.

The last meeting of the year 1947 was held on Saturday December 6th, the following were discussed.

Quinquennial Returns: The Grand Executive submitted their report in connection with the payment to Financial Secretaries for compilation of Quinquennial Returns and their suggestion to pay one penny per financial member (that is sick and funeral) and per widow registered for funeral benefit, providing these returns are submitted before the 30th September, 1948, and the minimum fee to be 2/6. This was approved.

Art Union: The prizes for the Centenary Centre Art Union was considered and the only suggestion accepted was that a 8 horse power Austin Sedan Car be purchased for the first prize. All other prizes have been referred to the Sub-Committee and submitted to the January Board Meeting.

War Memorial Hospital: There is still no sign of a permit being given to us for erection of this Hospital, but it was decided to make application to build two more Units as in the event of refusal to build the Hospital the two Units can be gone on with.

Film on Centenary Centre: This film was shown to the Committee of Management at this Meeting by the Vized Equipment Pty. Ltd, who are tenants of the Grand United Building, at 11 a.m. and without any doubt was very good. The title of the Film was left to the Grand Secretary, and it was resolved to send a letter to Mr. Merrilees for his work in connection with the shotting of the Film and its development.

Centenary Celebrations - Invitation To England: A letter dated November 3rd was received from the Grand Secretary of England stating that BRO. ALFRED SHAW, P.G.M. Grand Trustee and Editor of the English Magazine has been asked to represent the English Society at our Centenary Celebration and providing he is satisfied that he can do justice to his Society will be almost sure to make the trip. The Grand Secretary sent on to England the programme as arranged for the Centenary Celebration, and asked particulars as to way of travel, time of stay, the route he intends to travel and the probable date of Departure from England. When this information is to hand a full itinary of the visit will be sent to BRO. ALFRED SHAW. If the Grand Officer does accept the invitation he can rest assured that the Oddfellows in New South Wales, and most likely the other States and New Zealand, will give to him such a welcome that he will go back home with the happiest of memories. The members of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales are building hopes that they will be able to welcome such a distinguished Oddfellow as Past Grand Master - BRO. ALFRED SHAW of the Grand Lodge of England.

Proposal for Committees arranging functions during the Celebrations was considered and the Grand Secretary made suggestions to the Committee of Management which were considered and it was decided to refer the matter to the Centenary Centre Sub-Committee for further consideration and report to the January Board Meeting.

The Grand Secretary submitted suggestions in regard to invitations outside New South Wales to the Centenary Centre Celebrations and it was approved to issue same to the Representatives of Committee of Management, England, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, West Australia, United

States of America and the Gold Coast.

Ritual: The oldest ritual available is one received from the Grand Secretary of England dated 1854 and this will be used by the Sydney District Ritual Team at the Celebrations.

British Medical Association Agreement: Information is to hand that the Friendly Societies' Association and the Executive of the B.M.A. have come to terms in respect of the new Agreement and this will come into operation from the 1st January, 1948. The rates are exclusive of medicine.

Juveniles under age of 16 years	4/6	per	quarter
Single Females Sydney			
Metropolitan Area	6/9	"	"
Single Females elsewhere	8/3	"	"
Other Adults Sydney and			
Metropolitan Area	9/-	"	"
Other Adults elsewhere	11/-	"	"

All members who joined a Friendly Society prior to the 1st January, 1940 and who are still members are entitled to be placed on the Medical list irrespective of what their income may be. Members who joined since January 1940 and prior to the 1st January, 1948 are entitled to be placed on the list subject to an income limit of £416. per annum with an additional allowance of £26. per annum for a wife and £26 for each dependent child. A member who joins after the 1st January, 1948 the wage limit is £364 per annum and the allowance of £26. for wife and each dependent child.

Granville C.M.C. & Camden District Officers: On the 13th November the decision of the Committee of Management was conveyed to the District Secretary of the Camden District that all members of a District Council must join a Council Masters Chapter as per rule. On the 17th November a letter was received signed by all the Camden District Officers resigning their office in the District.

The Grand Executive considered the resignations and came to the decision to request the District Council to carry on until the end of the year 1947, so as to enable the Committee of Management at their December Meeting to consider the position. The reply from Camden District was received and their consent to accede to the wishes of the Grand Executive. The matter was dealt with at the December Meeting of the Committee of Management and the decision arrived at was :-

"That the Camden District Officers be notified that their resignations had been accepted as from the 31st December, 1947, and that the Grand Secretary will call a Special District Delegate Meeting from

all Branches early in January, 1948 and the affairs of the District after the end of December will be carried on from Head Office."

The Hospital Rules were altered to include the payment of Hospital Benefits to read in Clause 6 after deleting the words "obstetric cases" and substituting "a confinement, pre-natal or pre-maternity treatment, or for miscarriage cases after a period of nine months membership."

Anzac Day - 1948: It was decided to commemorate Anzac on the day it falls on April 25th, 1948. The Statistical section was adopted.

Final Remarks: The records of the Society, particularly the most important ones, have all been mentioned and where considered necessary comments have been made to make the remarks as clear and accurate as it was possible to do. If one were to place on record everything that happened from October, 1848 to December 1947 a space of over 99 years the outcome would be a stupendous manuscript that many years would intervene before finality was reached. In its preparation it is hoped, that this condensed record will meet with the approval of those who may read the contents. Many honored members have shared in the welfare of the Society over these long years and to the present generation of the Grand United Order in New South Wales, there must have been some moments in their every day life when a kindly thought must have arisen in thankfulness to the fine members who in 1848 brought into being the Society and those that followed on under extreme difficulties, but won out at the end, and to-day we rejoice that our Society is still carrying on and has reached such a high standard in the Friendly Society world.

Our Society stands dedicated to the well being of all of its members. It reaffirms the basic elements of human goodness. The changing lands we live in with its miraculous standard of living, its advance from the more simple life of the early years of our Society has never outstripped human kindness. Good acts may flow so gently through our lives that we may not always realize how heavily the good deeds and the good members of our Society outnumbered the bad. We can and will obtain the happiness for which our progress was destined, only if we have the wisdom to pick up the threads from the homely wall motto of - "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Others Do Unto You". It is nearly 2000 years since that need was expressed through the birth of the

"Christ Child". In all the books and through all the years, there has never been a better guide for the solution of our problems. Right now we are at a turning point faced by the aftermath of war.

In conclusion may the members of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows in our State and all over the World live up to that message of nearly 2000 years ago, is the earnest wish of - Yours Fraternally -
W. J. SMEDLEY - Past Grand Master.