

CHAPTER 44 - 1924 - 1925.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES DRUG COMPANY LAUECHED.

The Annual General Meeting was held on October 21st, 23rd and 24th 1924. BRO. G. SANDS Grand Secretary, was absent owing to being in Hospital after a severe operation and BRO. H. J. RIDLEY was appointed as acting Grand Secretary. Greetings from England were received.

The Committee of Management's Report disclosed that the membership had increased from 38999 to 40288 a gain of 1289 members. The number of Branches opened were 29 and closed 6. The total worth of the Society at June 30th was £443566 and income for year £17400. Salaries for the year were fixed the same as at present. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. F. KINGSLEY, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. J. HAWICK, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, J. WHITE and W. SAYLE, Grand Directors - BROS. J. B. COX, W. ROYLE, JONES, BAINES, SMEDLEY and CURRAN.

The Hospital Fund rule was altered to provide for the optional issue of 2/6d or 5/-d tickets carrying benefits of 20/- and 35/- respectively.

Probably the most debated rule was BRO. WHITE'S amendment to create uniform levies for Districts and after a long debate was Lost. A special Motion was Carried in reference to National Insurance - viewing with alarm the introduction of this scheme on the lines forecasted by the Royal Commission. The matter of the increase in Sick Pay from 21/- to 22/6d was allowed to stand over until the Valuation of the Society was to hand. The Committee of Management's resolution to strike out the rule - "Admission to Funeral Fund" where the age of forty five years is mentioned so that no limit in regard to age of admission is quoted was Carried. The rule in reference to public installations was amended as follows "That the Grand Executive will grant approval and issue a dispensation to hold the ceremony" The motion enabling Council Master to insure for a five pound funeral benefit was Carried.

BRO. SIR AUSTIN CHAPMAN, Federal Minister in the Commonwealth Parliament, was welcomed at this stage and replied to the vote of

welcome extended to him. An honorarium of £50. was voted the Grand Master - BRO. H. BAINES. A special resolution congratulating the Acting Grand Secretary - BRO. H. RIDLEY for the very capable manner in which he handled the meetings of this Session was Carried. Auld Lang Syne concluded the 1924 Session.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 6th December, 1924. Since last meeting the large number of sixteen new Branches had been opened as follows:- Martins Creek, Wallarobba, Wards River, Vacy, Boolambayte and Gresford in the Williams River District - Colyton and Wilberforce in the Parramatta District, Glenfield and Wetherill Park in the Camden District, Bohnock in the Manning River District, Lawrence in the Clarence River District, Brighton-le-Sands and Advance Penshurst in the Illawarra District, Bundanoon in the Goulburn District, Wilcannia Juvenile in the Willyama District.

All the motions and resolutions referred back from the Annual General Meeting to the Committee of Management were dealt with. The resolution moved at the A.G.M. in reference to BRO. H. J. RIDLEY was given effect to and the sum of £25. was voted to him for his services at the meeting. BRO. H. BAINES, P.G.M. was presented with an illuminated address and a cheque on behalf of the Annual General Meeting. The December Quarterly Levy was fixed at 7d.

Since last meeting the Friendly Societies Drug Company Limited has been launched and Mr. Dudgeon has been secured as Manager and will start on the 1st March, 1925, and on the 1st April, it is hoped to be supplying metropolitan Dispensaries. The formation has not been easy as only six of the fourteen Friendly Societies have applied for shares. The prospectus was issued 5000 shares at £1. per share holding a further 1000 in reserve. Up to date 4067 shares have been applied for and it is anticipated that before long the shares in reserve will be placed for disposal.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday the 7th February, 1925. The Drug Company Ltd. had been registered on December 18th, 1924 and BRO. SANDS Grand Secretary had been appointed Secretary to the Company.

The following Dispensations had been granted to open the following

Branches - Carlingford in the Parramatta District, Markwell in the Williams River District, North Bondi in the Sydney District.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 4th April, 1925. The following new Branches were opened since last meeting - Croydon Park in the Sydney District, Westridge in the Goulburn District and Baulkham Hills in the Parramatta District.

Since last meeting BRO. W. GILBERT, P.D.M. Hunter River District had died and a resolution of sympathy to Mrs. Gilbert and the Hunter River District was Carried.

The next meeting was held on the 6th June, 1925 and the following Branches were reported to have been opened - Ungarie in the Cootamundra District, Lake Wyangan in the Murrumbidgee District, Rye Park in the Goulburn District and a Council Masters' Chapter called "The Riverina" was also opened. The levy was fixed at 9d for the June Quarter.

It was resolved to send the Organisor at the first opportunity to the South Coast with a view of establishing a new District between the Illawarra and Bega Districts.

The next meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 25th July, 1925. An application to open a new Council Masters' Chapter at Wentworthville was granted after a request from Granville C.M.C. not to grant the application was made. Representatives from the two bodies were present at this meeting and gave evidence to the Committee of Management. It was decided (after many requests had been made to have Calendars printed) to ascertain from Branches if they were prepared to pay and have many they would require.

New Branches were opened at - St. Marys and Gordon. The Committee of Management Meeting held in September was on the 5th the last before the Annual General Meeting. Replies has been received from the Branches in reference to Almanacs and it was decided to have 5000 printed and sold at 3d each. Branches were opened at Bateman's Bay, Epping and Nelligen. The report of the Committee of Management for the Annual General Meeting was finally approved.

Two Districts were submitting to the A.G.M. proposal for sub-division and it was resolved to ask the Annual General Meeting to refer the proposals to the Committee of Management.

The Friendly Societies Association had approved the following words being added to all initiation declarations - "I have not been a member of this or any other Friendly Society." The Executive stated that the words now used in the application form meets the purpose and a reply to this effect to be sent to the Friendly Societies Association.

A letter from the Camden District was received as follows:-

"At the District Meeting on the 22nd August the following resolution was moved and Carried - "

"That Branches at Homebush, Lidcombe, Berala and Auburn be included in the Camden District, and that Application be made to the Committee of Management forthwith"

Representatives of Parramatta and Camden Districts were present at this meeting and it was finally decided to suggest a re-arrangement of boundaries, so that Berala and other openings on the Lidcombe to Liverpool railway line be in the Camden District.

The Annual Meeting was held at Sydney on the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd of October, 1925. The Minutes of the last days session of the last A.G.M. were taken as read. BRO. ENGLAND, Grand Trustee of Queensland was present and a welcome was extended to him by the Grand Master. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that 32 adult and one juvenile Branch was opened and 3 adult and 1 juvenile closed. The membership increased from 40288 to 42076 an increase of 1788 members. During the year £102194 was paid out in benefits and the amount of income for the year was £184888 of this amount £27358 was for interest. The funds increased to £471462. The salaries were fixed the same as the previous year. Election of Officers resulted as follows- Grand Master - BRO. J. HAWICK, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. J. CURRAN, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, J. WHITE and W. SAYLE, Grand Directors - BROS. KINGSLEY, ROYLE, JONES, SMEDLEY, COX and GILLAM.

A resolution to amend the rule covering representatives by striking out words "and it shall not be lawful to elect more than two from anyone Branch" was Carried. The rule that no Executive Officer of the Committee of Management shall be allowed to sit as an Officer of the District was eliminated. The distance to constitute a Country member was altered from 15 to 30 miles.

A Resolution by the Committee of Management to form a new District

between the Southern boundary of the Illawarra District and the northern boundary of the Bega District and constituted of the Branches at Milton, Moruya, Boadalla, Batemans Bay, Nelligen and Mogo, and any other Branch that may be opened prior to the A.G.M. and that the remaining Branches in the Braidwood District - Majors Creek, Araluen and Braidwood - be associated with the Goulburn District.

This resolution meant the wiping out of the old Braidwood District at one time the second largest in New South Wales. The motion was Carried without any debate.

A resolution from Cootamundra District asking that the District be divided and a new District to be known as "The Lachlan" District be instituted was also Carried. A resolution to cut the Manning River District into two and if Carried the Manning District to define the boundaries was also Carried. A resolution to divide the present Hunter River District into two Districts was another division of Districts Carried. Two resolutions to make provision for a new scale for youths 16 to 20 years who desire to join adult lodges was referred back to the Committee of Management to consider and deal with it. A resolution to provide free of charge all rule books for newly initiated members was Carried, also a resolution to add a locker with the opening goods for all new Branches and the dispensation to be framed free of cost was Carried.

An amendment that where a Doctor is not available within 20 miles, sick members of a Branch may obtain certificates from a certified Bush Nurse; and also Certificates to enable a candidate to join a lodge under the same conditions was Carried. A bonus of £50. was granted as an honorarium to the retiring Grand Master - BRO. F. KINGSLEY. Installation of Officers terminated the proceedings of the 1925 Annual General Meeting.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on December 5th, 1925. Since last meeting BRO. P. J. NEWLAND, exGrand Secretary and BRO. W. MOFFIT BURNS had passed away and letters of sympathy had been sent. Approval was given to open a C.M.C. on the Bankstown Line and one at Gosford. New Branches had been opened at the following:- Mogo Mogo in the Braidwood District, Topi Topi in the Williams River District, Tareulla in the Southern District

and Carragabal in the Cootamundra District and Upper Dingo and Black Head in the Manning River District. At the conclusion of the meeting BRO. HAWICK, Grand Master, entertained the members of the Board to dinner. The South Coast District was opened at Batemans Bay on December 9th, 1925 and Maitland on December 12th. The Lachlan District was opened on December 18th at West Wyalong. The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 17th, 1926.

A Council Masters' Chapter was opened at Merriwa in the Northern District. The following new Branches were opened since last meeting - Ravensworth and North Hamilton in the Hunter River District, Wauchope and Rock Crossing in the Manning River District, Nepean Dam in the Camden District, Westlake in the Goulburn District. At the close of the meeting the members were entertained at the home of BRO. HERBERT SMITH, District Master of the Sydney District.

CHAPTER 45 1926 - 1928.

BRO. GEORGE SANDS - GRAND SECRETARY

RESIGNS.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 24th April, 1926. The following new Branches had been opened - Krambach, Bunyah and Wang Wank in the Manning River District, Eastlake in the Goulburn District, Lake Cargelligo, Girral and Tallimba in the Lachlan District, West Concord and Erskinvillie in the Sydney District, Stroud Road in the Williams River District and Bellbird in the Maitland District.

BRO. REV. R. C. SANDS of Star of Eden Branch visited New Zealand Lodges and submitted a report to the Committee of Management for which the thanks of the Board were extended to him.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 31st July, 1926. A Council Masters' Chapter at Failford in the Manning River District was opened since last meeting. The Grand Executive submitted a report in reference to a special collection to assist Hospitals and it was resolved to make an appeal for the Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children with which to endow a Cot.

The following Branches have been opened - Coralville in the Manning River District, Sydenham in the Sydney District, George H. Sands in the Hunter River District, Werris Creek in the Northern District.

The September meeting was held on Saturday, 4th. The Northern District protested against the removal of bullion fringe from the P.N.G. Collars and the protest was noted.

The Annual Report of the Committee of Management was considered and finalised for presentation to the Annual General Meeting next month-October 1926. BRO. JOHN A. WHITE sent a letter resigning his office of Grand Trustee and this was received and accepted. A letter was received from the Secretary of the Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children expressing appreciation with the appeal by the Committee of Management for funds to endow a G.U.O.O.F. Cot. The Grand Secretary reported that the amount collected so far was £31.8.0.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Sydney on the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd October, 1926. The Minutes of the last days session of the 1925 A.G.M. were taken as read. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that 34 adult Branches and 1 Juvenile Branch as well as 3 Council Masters' Chapters were opened, whilst 6 adult and 1 Juvenile were closed. The membership increased from 42076 to 43695 a gain of 1619 members. The number of candidates admitted were 6124 and the secessions from all causes 4418. The salaries were fixed the same as the previous year and the election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. J. CURRAN, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. ROYLE, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE, C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS. W. JONES, W. J. SMEDLEY, J. B. COX, F. KINGSLEY, G. GILLAM and J. HAWICK.

Resolution to divide the Manning River District was Carried and that the District Council be allowed, if desired, to meet only once every half year was also Carried. The following resolutions were also Carried

"That male candidates pay an entrance fee of 5/- and female candidates 2/6"

"That applications by members for increased benefits to be approved by the Grand Executive."

"That Certificate of Justice of the Peace or Financial Secretary to operate where member is unable to obtain services of the Medical Officer under 7 miles."

"That candidates may be proposed into a Branch by any member of the Order."

"That to declare vacant position of District Officer absenting himself from three consecutive meetings of District Council. without leave of absence."

The Honorarium to the retiring Grand Master was fixed at £50. The next place of meeting was decided upon as Newcastle. The first meeting of the new Board was held on the 4th December, 1926. The various resolutions referred back to the Committee of Management from the Annual General Meeting were dealt with. It was decided to print Calendars for 1927 - 15000 to be distributed free and any more required to be charged for at 3d a copy. The following Branches have been opened - Kentucky and Inverell in the Northern District, Merimbula and Pambula in the Bega District, Minto in the Camden District, Cessnock in the Maitland District. At the conclusion of the meeting the Grand Master entertained the members of the Board

to dinner. An illuminated address and a cheque was presented to the P.G.M. - BRO. J. HAWICK.

The new Hastings River District was opened by the Grand Master - BRO. J. CURRAN on December 12th, 1926. The appeal for the Royal Alexandria Hospital resulted in £323 being in hand at the end of 1926 and it was expected to finalise the fund at the end of January, 1927.

The following new Branches had been opened - Corbie Hill in the Murrumbidgee District, Benandarah in the South Coast District. The changing of the name of the Wollongong and South Coast C.M.C. to Illawarra was approved. The Lachlan District applied for a dispensation to open a Council Masters' Chapter in connection with their District and permission was granted.

The Royal Alexandria Hospital appeal had now reached £527. and it was decided to close the appeal down finally at the 30th April, 1927.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 2nd April, 1927. The Royal Alexandria Hospital Appeal resulted in the nett amount of £522. being handed over to the Hospital to endow a cot for the number of years the amount will provide for. New Branches were opened - an adult Branch at Tulli and a juvenile Branch at Woolton.

BRO. H. J. RIDLEY was authorised to go to New Zealand on an official visit and will sail on the "S.S. Maunganui" on Friday April 22nd 1927. BRO. RIDLEY returned from New Zealand on May 17th 1927, and in his report on the visit expressed his pleasure at the splendid welcome extended to him and stated the Order in New Zealand was in very good hands and their enthusiasm could only bring success.

The June meeting was held on the 4th, 1927. The President Branch - Maitland District wrote requesting the Board to consider a proposal to increase the Management Contributions of the Branch by one penny per week. The Grand Secretary pointed out that the Branch had a credit in its Management Fund of over £700. The application was refused.

It was resolved:-

"That the Grand Secretary draft an amendment to the rules to provide for Juvenile members who desire to secure sickness benefits only, and for those who desire funeral benefits only."

The Committee appointed to draft a scheme for a Provident Fund for the employees of the Head Office Staff submitted their scheme and it was approved and submitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies and if accepted by him to come into force on 1st July, 1927. The valuation for the Quinquennium ending 31st December, 1924 had been received from the Registrar and disclosed a deficiency in Sick and Funeral Funds of £32161. The assets per pound liabilities being 19/6d. The Grand Secretary reported to the Board that the non mining experience for sickness was 205% above the estimated sickness. The mining sickness is 102.7% above the estimate and the whole membership 15.5% above. The ultimate decision of the Committee of Management was that the Hunter River, Illawarra and Maitland Districts send three miner representatives to confer with the metropolitan members of the Committee of Management and the decision of such meeting be deliberated on at the September Meeting of the Board which was to be held on the 6th. on

The Grand Secretary reported that he would voluntarily be vacating the office of Grand Secretary not later than June 30th, 1928. BRO. SANDS made a presentation of a travelling rug to BRO. H. RIDLEY on behalf of the Order in New Zealand. A similar rug was presented to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales when in New Zealand. A letter appreciating the splendid service to the Order in New Zealand was received also, and a fitting reply was forwarded to the New Zealand Grand Lodge.

A dispensation was granted to open a Branch at Como in the Sydney District.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st October, 1927 in the Oddfellows Hall Newcastle. The Mayor of Newcastle was introduced by the D.G.M. BRO. W. ROYLE and extended a welcome to the City of Newcastle. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership had increased from 43695 to 45361 a gain of 1666 members. Eighteen new Branches were opened and six closed, the total number of Branches in the Society being 498. The Interest earned during the year amounted to £29426 an interest earning of £6.10.6%. The total funds under the control of the Trustees being £451109. The salaries were fixed at the same as last year.

At this period of the Annual General Meeting, BRO. J. CURRAN moved

the following resolution by the Committee of Management:-

- " 1. That this Annual General Meeting place on record its sincere appreciation of the splendid services rendered by BRO. G.H.SANDS for the past 47 years and of this period 14 as Grand Secretary.
2. We most sincerely regret he is voluntary retiring from the office and we hereby direct that an annuity of two hundred and eight pounds (£208) per annum shall be granted to him commencing from the date of his resignation and to continue during his lifetime. "

Carried Unanimously.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BRO. W. ROYLE, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. H. SMITH, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, C. IRELAND, W. SAYLE, Grand Directors - BRO. J. CURRAN, W. J. SMEDLEY, G.GILLAM, J. HAWICK, J. B. COX and E. HARLOW.

The price of the Hospital Tickets were raised to 3/6d and 6/-d, and the probationary period raised from one to three months. A motion to abolish Scale E and F for higher benefits and no further admissions to new candidate was Carried. A motion to allow Juvenile members upon attaining the age of 16 years, to transfer to the Adult Branch without being medically examined, permission to be granted by the Committee of Management providing no sick pay had been drawn was also Carried.

The following resolutions were also Carried:-

"That to admit benefit members wives into the Order at a flat rate of 2/6d per annum."

"That the Regents Park Line including Berala Branch be included in Camden District."

Maning resolution in reference to National Health Insurance were on the Agenda Paper and Carried by the Representatives. As this scheme never became law any discussion on the matter would be unnecessary. A vote of thanks was tendered P.G.M. W. JONES in his retirement from Office. An Honorarium of £50. was granted the P.G.M. BRO. J. CURRAN. Installation of Officers closed the session.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on 3rd December, 1927. The Grand Master presented BRO. J. R. CURRAN, P.G.M. with an illuminated address and a cheque for his services to the Society. The Grand Secretary reported that he had received from many Lodges letters expressing sympathy with the relatives of the victims of the Greycliffe disaster. It was decided to send a special letter to

BRO. W. H. JONES expressing appreciation of his services to the Order. The Grand Secretary read a letter received from BRO. JOHN FLAHERTY Grand Master of England conveying fraternal greetings. The Calendars for 1928 were on view and were heartily approved by the Board.

New Branches had been opened as follows - Sefton and Carramar in the Camden District, North Belmore, Padstow Park in the Sydney District and a Juvenile Branch at Kensington in the Sydney District.

The February Meeting was held on the 2nd. BRO. F. KINGSLEY was presented with his P.G.M. Collar by the Grand Master - BRO. W. ROYLE. The Grand Secretary reported that a Willyama District Branch had ordered one roll of Gold Bullion and this was not forwarded as the Annual General Meeting had decided against it. The Grand Secretary's action was endorsed. Greetings were received from West Africa and Panama and reciprocal greetings had been forwarded.

A letter was received from Parramatta District asking for a Conference between Camden and their District. This was granted both Districts to confer with the Grand Executive and that body to report to the next Committee of Management.

It was resolved that the election of Grand Secretary take place at the April meeting of the Board, which was to be held on the 14th of that month.

The Parramatta District stated they required a Conference of the Metropolitan Districts and no good purpose would be served by only the two Districts meeting and therefore, they did not wish to engage in the Conference as suggested.

A requisition to open a Council Masters' Chapter at Burwood was granted, and the following Branches were reported to have been opened - Advanced Young Wallsend in the Hunter River District, Success of Goolgowi in the Murrumbidgee River District and a Council Masters' Chapter at Hornsby.

The election of Grand Secretary to succeed BRO. G. SANDS resulted in BRO. H. J. RIDLEY being elected. The appointment to take place from July 1st 1928.

The last Committee of Management meeting with BRO. G. SANDS as Grand Secretary was held on June 2nd, 1928, the Grand Secretary elect - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY was present. A letter was received from the

Registrar stating he proposed to make a valuation of the Society as at June 30th, 1928. The following Branches have been opened - Kurrajong in the Parramatta District and Maroubra in the Sydney District BRO. JONES resigned his position as delegate to the Friendly Societies Association and BRO. H. RIDLEY was elected in his stead. The following resolutions were Carried in reference to the retiring Grand Secretary:-

"That the Board extends an open invitation to BRO. SANDS to attend the Board Meetings until the Annual General Meeting."

"That the Board submit a resolution to the Annual General Meeting that BRO. SANDS be appointed an Honorary Director without vote or remuneration in recognition of his services to the Order."

"That an enlarged photograph of BRO. SANDS be hung in the Grand Secretary's Office."

At the third Annual Meeting of the Drug Compnay a dividend of 5% was declared. The Committee of Management entertained BRO. G. SANDS and Mrs. Sands to a complimentary dinner after the close of the meeting

INTRODUCTION OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONFUND.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday July 28th. The Grand Master extended congratulations to the Grand Secretary BRO. H. J. RIDLEY on assuming duty. The Grand Master also welcomed the exGrand Secretary - BRO. G. SANDS, who handed the Grand Secretary a silver cup for competition between the Districts in the State and conditions governing same. The Cup and conditions were accepted and BRO. SANDS tendered the best thanks of the Board.

Correspondence was received from new Zealand for Chain Regalia and it was decided to present same for the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

The Grand Executive reported that space was limited in the building and suggested meeting elsewhere for the 1928 Annual General Meeting, and it was decided to meet in the Y.M.C.A. Large Hall and this had been booked. It was decided to entertain the Representatives to a Presentation night to BRO. SANDS on Tuesday - Theatre Party on Wednesday and a Tivoli night on Thursday. A new Branch was opened at Cudal in the Bathurst District by the Organisor BRO. SMITH.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 1st September, 1928. The following new Branches had been opened - Matraville in the Sydney District, Heather Branch in the Camden District and Bethungra in the Richmond River District. The Annual Report for A.G.M. was considered and as amended to be placed in the hands of the Printer. It was decided to print the same number of Calendars as last year.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th of October, 1928 in the Y.M.C.A. Hall Sydney.

The Committee of Management's report disclosed that fourteen adult Branches and two juvenile Branches were opened and four adult and three juvenile Branches closed. During the year the membership had increased from 44061 to 44769 a gain of 708 members. The total worth of the Society at the end of the year was £552,516. Income was £222589 - Benefits paid £132229 - Interest earned £33848 - Surplus

for year £25291 - Sickness Experience - 13.22 days.

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. H. SMITH, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. G. GILLAM, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE and C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS W. ROYLE, J. CURRAN, W. J. SMEDLEY, J. HAWICK, T. STRICKLAND and C. H. PIGGOTT. The matter of a payment of £216. to exSecretary BRO. SANDS in respect to 14 weeks holiday being due and not taken was commented on by many of the representatives, but the Balance Sheets as submitted were adopted. The salary of the Grand Secretary was fixed at £300. per annum.

It was Carried that should a vacancy occur in the Office of Grand Secretary between Annual General Meetings the position should be filled temporarily until the next Annual General Meeting when the Delegates would have a voice in the elections. The resolution to eliminate the entrance fees of 5/- and 2/6d was Carried. The Rule to allow only the wives of benefit members could join as Honorary members for 2/6d per annum was altered to allow the wives of any member to join.

The following amendments were Lost:-

"That a probationary period of six months before payment of sickness benefit."

a further amendment:-

"That sickness benefit be paid after six months membership, but in the case of an accident immediate benefits be paid."

This was Carried, also the following resolutions:-

"That to have only one class in the juvenile section ages 6 years to 16years."

"That we revert back to the old bullion type of Regalia."

The George H. Sands Cup was presented for the first time to the winners Cootamundra District and accepted by the District Secretary - BRO. F. SMITH. The matter of the Parramatta and Camden Districts in reference to Branches was referred to the Committee of Management. The honorarium to the retiring Grand Master was fixed at £50. This concluded the business. On the first evening of the session a complimentary function was tendered the exGrand Secretary - BRO. G. H. SANDS in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. Mr. Maynard Wilkinson had arranged a delightful programme which was broadcast over the air. The Grand Master - BRO. ROYLE presented to BRO. SANDS an illuminated address

and a cheque as a state wide appreciation of his services to the G.U.O.O.F.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on November 24th. A report was received from the Order in New Zealand in which stated that the membership had reached 515 members with every promise of increasing the membership. A requisition from Forbes to open a C.M.C. was approved, and the following new Branches were reported to have been opened - Bethungra in the Cootamundra District, Banksmeadow in the Sydney District and Tottenham and Bogan Gate in the Central Western District.

The Grand Executive reported that in consequence of the Report that the free issues of the "Oddfellow" be discontinued. The Grand Executive reported that at the A.G.M. it was Carried to introduce a probationary period of six months before entitled to sick benefits for sickness other than accidents. The Grand Secretary reported that the Manchester Unity had the question on their Business ^{Paper} and was unable to carry it. It was then resolved:-

"That the registration of the Rule passed at the Annual General Meeting be delayed until the Annual General Meeting of 1929."

The levy was fixed at 9d.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on February 2nd, 1929. The Committee decided to offer prizes of Grand United emblematic medals in a membership campaign; four difference medals for 20-15-10-5 candidates introduced who must be financial at the 30th June, 1929.

BRO. E. L. KINGSLEY had passed away since last meeting and a letter of sympathy had been forwarded to the family and relatives of our late Past Grand Master. The New Zealand Society asked for information regarding the establishment of a Council Masters' Chapter in the dominion and the necessary matter was to be forwarded by the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Secretary began a series of lectures to Branch Secretaries in the Lodge Room 337 Pitt Street, Sydney on March 22nd 1929 and each month will continue the series; for the benefit of those who cannot attend, the whole of each lecture will appear in the "Oddfellow".

The next meeting was held on April 6th 1929 - it was resolved that 5000 each of Cigarette and Match Box Holders be procured and an advertisement in reference to the Order be placed thereon. It was also resolved to increase the subsidy to the Staff Provident Fund from one to one and a half per centum.

The Grand Executive reported the arrangements made for Anzac Day and these were approved. The question of regular reports from Districts were discussed and the Grand Secretary prepare for next meeting and report on general lines regarding the position of each District.

The following Branches had been opened since the last meeting - Warialda and Manilla in the Northern District. It was decided to ask the Printers of the "Oddfellow" to keep the type set with a view to issuing a booklet for the use of Secretaries, this is in respect to the addresses of the Grand Secretary to the Secretaries of Branches.

The levy for the quarter was fixed at 9d.

The June meeting was held on the first of the month. The Loyal Balmain Branch made another claim for the refund of the amount transferred wrongly, but it was decided to inform them the Committee of Management could not do anything more in the matter.

The Boundaries of Metropolitan Districts as outlined by the members of the Board in the Metropolitan area was submitted and approved. BRO. S. KEEGAN, who organised the Order in New Zealand was engaged to do organising work and started at Clovelly in the Sydney District. A new Branch at Kogarah Bay was reported as instituted since last meeting. It was decided to give a ritual demonstration at a social evening tendered to the representatives at the 1929 Annual General Meeting and the arranging of the team be left in the hands of the Grand Executive.

The Grand Secretary submitted his report in connection with Districts and recommended the amalgamation of the Illawarra and South Coast Districts and the North Eastern and Richmond River Districts. The Grand Executive reported that the Rose of the Valley Ladies Branch had been opened at Petone New Zealand and the first Council Masters' Chapter was also opened in the Wellington District, New Zealand.

The usual meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 27th July, 1929. The Grand Secretary reported the Aeolin Hall, Pitt Street, Sydney had been booked for the Annual General Meeting. Dispensations were issued to open the following new Branches - Barraba in the Northern District, Clovelly, West Leichhardt and Clemton United in the Sydney District, West Ryde in the Parramatta District, Bomaderry in the Illawarra District.

BRO. J. B. COX, P.G.M. Had been presented with his Past Grand Masters Collar at Goulburn by the Grand Master. The replies from the Districts in reference to amalgamation was received as follows- Illawarra District favoured amalgamation - South Coast, North Eastern, Clarence River and Richmond River Districts apposed any suggestion of amalgamation.

It was decided to launch a progress and propaganda campaign for the year ending June 1930. A Dispensation to open a Council Masters' Chapter at Casino Richmond River was granted.

The September Meeting of the Board was held on the 7th day of the month 1929. The proposed new rule for the Unemployed Members' Contribution Fund was dealt with and it was resolved:-

That the rule provide for a regular contribution of 3d per week in lieu of a levy system and the limit of 10 weeks be increased to fourteen."

The opening of the following new Branches was approved - Pyree in the Illawarra District, Weethalle in the Lachlan District.

It was decided to take no further action in regard to amalgamation of Districts.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Aeolin Hall, Pitt Street, Sydney on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th October, 1929. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership had increased from 44768 to 46581 a gain of 1312 members - the best result for seven years. The number of adult Branches opened during the year was eighteen and six adult and one juvenile were closed. The total worth of the Society at June 30th was £57852 - Benefits paid £137659 - Interest earned £36122 - Surplus for year £26336 - the average sick pay per member for the year was 13.85. The profit on the Hall realised £1804 equal to £7.10.3%. The Trustees stated in their report that they were not lending money under 7% and any old loans earning

below would be raised accordingly.

The Grand Secretary's salary was fixed at £675. and the Auditors and Grand Trustees' salaries were fixed at the same as last year.

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master -

BRO. G. GILLAM, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. S. BURNS, Grand Trustees -

BROS. W. SAYEE, J. JPESSEN, C. IRELAND - Grand Directors - BROS.

J. CURRAN, W. ROYLE, W. J. SMEDLEY, H. SMITH, C. PIGGOTT and

T. STRICKLAND

A resolution by the Committee of Management as follows was Carried:-

"That no new Districts be created unless such District and the remaining part of the District from which it has been formed shall have at least 500 Adult members."

A resolution lowering the contribution of Widow's and Widower's as agreed upon by the Registrar for Funeral Benefits was Carried.

The resolution moved by the Grand Secretary:-

"That each member of the Society shall contribute a weekly contribution of one half penny except that same shall not be chargeable in respect of subvention members to an Unemployed Members Contribution Fund for the purpose of keeping the contributions of genuine unemployed adult benefit members within the financial limit and paying the medical fees of such members; subject to the conditions laid down in the succeeding clauses of this rule."

The debate on this most important new rule was of a very high order and the Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY in moving the resolution excelled himself in the very excellent case he placed before the meeting. Two Amendments were moved but each was defeated and the resolution was Carried on a division by 47 to 38.

A motion by Sydney District that Scales E. and F. be again brought into force and the Committee of Management to have the right to reject any application was Carried. A resolution by Sydney District to have two new scales introduced to pay (No.1) 26 weeks at 30/-, 26 weeks at 15/- rest of illness at 5/-, (No.2) 26 weeks at 42/-, 26 weeks at 21/-, rest of illness at 10/- was defeated, but an amendment to introduce (No.2) only, was Carried. The high rate of sick pay of 42/- for first six months, 21/- next six months and 10/- rest of illness has now been passed ready to submit to the Registrar for registration. The proposal to bring in probationary period of six months was Lost.

The Grand Secretary moved the suspension of standing orders to re-submit the Unemployment Fund Rule and on permission being given added a clause to exempt from contributions Female Members under Scale D, or under Scale C for Funeral Benefits only, and this was agreed upon. A resolution to hold a competition for Juvenile members the same as exists for adult members was Carried.

The usual honorarium of £50. was voted to the outgoing Grand Master.

The meeting of the new Board was held on December 7th, 1929.

The following new Branches were opened since last meeting -

Silverwater in the Parramatta District, Wickham in the Hunter River District, Kangaroo Valley in the Illawarra District, Oxley Island in the Manning River District, Urbenville in the Richmond River District.

A letter was received from the Clarence River District agreeing to the transfer of Advance Whiporie Branch to Richmond River District.

Letter was received from the Grand Secretary of New Zealand detailing the activities of the Order there and extending fraternal greetings to New South Wales. The letter was received and fraternal greetings reciprocated. BRO. H. SMITH, P.G.M. was presented with an illuminated address and cheque.

CHAPTER 47. 1930 - 1931.

SOCIETY AFFECTED BY FINANCIAL SLUMP.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday February 8th, 1930. The following new Branches had been opened - Tabita in the Murrumbidgee District, Rosebery, Camperdown, and Annandale Juvenile in the Sydney District, George H. Sands Juvenile in the Hunter River District, Alstonville in the Richmond River District.

Consideration was given to the question of a Juvenile Competition submitted from the Annual General Meeting and it was resolved:-

"That a competition be conducted for Juvenile members securing Juvenile Candidates as from the 1st January, 1930 to December 30th 1930, and prizes to be one half of the adult competition."

The levy for March quarter was fixed at 9d. for Adult Male and 6d for Females. The next Committee of Management meeting was held on April 26th, 1930. Two resolutions in reference to Anzac Day celebrations were Carried.

The Grand Executive submitted a report in connection with Unemployed Members' Contribution Fund and stated that up to April 14th claims had been made from 95 Branches on behalf of 651 members. BRO. W. H. JONES, P.G.M. wrote notifying his intention of visiting England and sought permission to attend at his own expense, the Annual Moveable Conference as an endorsed visitor. The Grand Executive recommended permission and BRO. JONES and the Grand Secretary of England to be notified by Cable. The Quinquennial Valuation result had been received and a Committee was appointed to consider it and report to the next meeting of the Board.

The following dispensations for the opening of new Lodges was approved as follows- South Bankstown in the Sydney District, Newrybar and Bangalow in the Richmond River District.

The Friendly Societies Drug Company paid a dividend of 6% for the year ended May 1930.

The June Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday 7th. The Grand Secretary submitted a report in reference to the Unemployed Members' Contributions Fund and stated that 142

Lodges had made claims for 970 members and the cost for the period January 1st 1930 to May 27th 1930 was £1125.

It was further resolved that an amendment to Rule be drafted providing only those who contribute to the fund shall receive benefits and submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

The Grand Executive reported that the Druids Hall has been engaged for the next Annual General Meeting. The following new Branches were opened since last meeting - Bilambil United in the North Eastern District, Peakhurst in the Illawarra District, and Warne United in the Bathurst District.

The regular Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 26th, 1930. Letters were received from BRO. W. JONES and the Grand Secretary of England in reference to the Annual Moveable Conference at Southport England. BRO. JONES gave details of the Meeting and indicated the warmth of his welcome. He was presented with an illuminated address by the Grand Master of England - BRO. JOHN GROOM and extended greetings from Australia.

The Grand Executive reported the experience of the Unemployed Members' Contributions Fund stating that 190 Branches had made claims for 1600 members.

The Grand Executive recommended the following Rule amendments to adjust the deficiency in the Valuation as follows:-

1. No Sick Pay for females in respect to any disease or disorder of the generative organs or an illegal operation.
2. No Miner receiving Workers' Compensation Benefits to receive Lodge sick pay.
3. A married female engaged solely in domestic duties shall not be permitted to join the Society under a higher scale for sick benefits than Scale D.
4. A single female member having joined under a higher scale than D shall within six months of her marriage transfer to Scale D.
5. To eliminate the scale for sick pay benefits of 35/- and 42/- per week.

A Competition for new members introduced during period 1st July, 1930 and June 30th, 1931 by any member for prizes of £5. down to £1. was approved. The following Branches were opened since last meeting - Doon Doon United, Chillingham United in the North Eastern District,

Cedar Party in the Manning River District and Bellbrook in the Raleigh District.

The Committee of Management were requested to arrange a ritual competition between the winning teams in the Sydney, Illawarra and Parramatta Districts and this was consented to and details to be arranged by the Grand Executive.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday September 6th 1930. The Grand Executive reported the death of BRO. R. LOVEDAY a very old and highly esteemed member of the Society and Secretary of Pride of Willoughby Branch for over 40 years.

The Registrar wrote approving of the proposed amendment to Rules as adequate to meet the deficiency in the Valuation of the Funds. The Grand Executive reported that 208 Branches had claimed on the Unemployed Members' Contributions Fund for 2110 members. It was resolved to place an amendment to the Rule on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting to accept liability in respect to members who are self employed or primary producers in the event of drought, flood, fire or other causes resulting in destruction or loss. The following new Branches were opened since last meeting - Woronora Dam in the Illawarra District, Pride of Allyn and Salisbury in the Williams River District, North Turrumurra in the Northern Suburbs District. It was decided to issue no Calendars for 1931. The draft copy of the Committee of Management was approved.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Druids Hall on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th October, 1930. The Committee of Management report disclosed that the membership had increased from 46581 to 48137 a gain of 1556 members for the year. The total worth of the Society at June 1930 was £601144 the benefits paid £140623 and the surplus for the year £22292. Twenty one adult and two juvenile Branches were opened and eight adult and one juvenile closed during the year. It was also reported that the Society in New Zealand consisted of ten Branches with a membership of 633 members. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. S. H. BURNS, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. C. PIGGOTT, Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE and

C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS. H. SMITH, G. GILLAM, J. CURRAN, W. J. SMEDLEY, W. ROYLE and T. STRICKLAND. Some of the amendments to Rule are herein mentioned but to traverse every amendment that appeared on the Business Paper would take up much too great a space and only those of a vital nature have been dealt with.

The Unemployed Members' Contributions Fund engaged the minds of the representatives for a considerable time there being so many alterations decided upon during the session to bring the Rule into proper working order.

The amendment for members self employed to come into the Fund was Carried. Also single female members in domestic duties in their own homes when their parents or guardians were unemployed, and a married female member engaged in domestic duties if her husband is unemployed would be eligible for benefits. The amendments to the Rules in reference to the high rate of sick pay viz - 35/- and 42/- per week was Carried, leaving the highest rate of sick pay available at 21/- week. The amendments mentioned in the report of the Committee of Management Meeting in July 1930 in respect to female and mining members was Carried also the following amendments:-

"That the entrance fee for Honorary Members be reduced to 5/-"

"That Mothers of juvenile members permitted to join as Honorary members on the same conditions as the wife of a benefit member."

The George H. Sands Cup was won by the Willyama District, Broken Hill. Installation of Officers and their reply expressing appreciation for election closed the 1930 Annual General Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on December 6th, 1930. Letters of sympathy sent the relatives of the late Mrs. Curran, BRO. ANDREW CURRY, P.D.G.M. and BRO. A. BAMFORD, P.D.M. were endorsed and a resolution of Sympathy Carried in silence.

A letter of congratulation to BRO. W. T. ELY, P.D.M. Assistant Minister for Labour and Industry in the State Government together with his reply was received.

The issue of dispensations for the following openings of Branches was approved - Karkatt in the Manning River District, Pride of Bowning

in the Goulburn District, Frederickton United in the Raleigh District and Durrumbul United, Nobbys Creek and Goonengerry in the North Eastern District and Shallow Crossing in the South Coast District.

The Grand Executive reported having submitted the preferential system to the Registrar for incorporation in the rule amendments. In the absence of details the Federal Senate election system had been sent in. BRO. H. J. RIDLEY, Grand Secretary, at the Annual Meeting of the Friendly Societies Association was elected Hon. Secretary and the Grand Master extended congratulations. A protest was received and noted from Maitland District regarding the mining legislation passed at the Annual Meeting. The Grand Master presented to BRO. GEORGE GILLAM, P.G.M. an Illuminated Address. At the conclusion of the meeting the Grand Master - BRO. BURNS entertained his colleagues to refreshments, being the first meeting of the new Board and the last for 1930.

The first meeting of the year was held on February 7th, 1931. A resolution endorsing the action of the Grand Secretary in sending a message of sympathy per medium of the Grand Secretary of New Zealand with the sufferers in the New Zealand earthquake was Carried. Protests over the miners sick pay legislation were received and the necessity of exempting members over the age of 45 years was a request contained in one of the protest letters. It was decided to pay the contributions of members with ten years membership but not medical fees or other charges.

The Illawarra District submitted a question as to whether a mining member who was on the last rate of sick pay and £2. per week Workers' Compensation prior to the amendment of Rule could still draw his sick pay. It was resolved that the member was not entitled to same.

The matter of unemployment was a vital matter discussed and there was no use disguising the fact that this is becoming more acute and the financial condition of many who are employed has been lowered to the point of embarrassment. It was back in 1929 when the first rumblings of the industrial collapse were heralded by the coal dispute and the Society set about to make provisions to return benefits

for unemployed members and established the Unemployed members' Contribution Fund. At the time many were hostile to the provision but some of these had already drawn the limit. (The Fund limited its benefits to fourteen weeks in any one year, and unfortunately the period is not sufficient as many who have drawn the limit are still in the ranks of the unemployed.)

This Committee of Management meeting was the first for a long number of years that no new Branches were reported opened, and the unemployment all over the State is already showing its effects on the Society. Branches have been asked to assist their members and where necessary keep them good on the books of their Lodge.

On the 17th February, 1931 - BRO. GEORGE BRETNALL, P.G.M. passed away. He joined the Hastings Lodge at Port Macquarie in 1871, and had a membership of 60 years. He was Grand Master of the Society from 1882 to 1885. BRO. BRETNALL was Deputy District Master of the Sydney District when the first official residence of the Order was erected by his District and at the laying of the foundation stone he welcomed the Mayor of Sydney. He was a Brother of undoubted ability and played his part in the building up of the Society in the early years of the Society's work. Another old member - BRO. JOE CLARKE crossed the bar into a haven of rest. He joined the Society in 1874 and was instrumental with others in the opening of the Lily of St. Leonards Branch and for many years Financial Secretary. BRO. CLARKE was a Past Grand Master and held in the highest of esteem by all who were privileged to know him.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Saturday April 11th, 1931. The Unemployment in the State was still increasing and the Society was feeling the impact in the increased number of unfinancial members being listed in the returns from the Branches. The Finance Committee appointed to consider the matter of Finance recommended the following amendment to Rule be placed on the Business Paper for the next Annual General Meeting.

1. The Fee for attendance at Board Meetings be reduced by 5/-.
2. The Fees for Grand Executive Meetings to be reduced from 5/- to 2/6d.
3. Where members of the Staff were receiving over the award, all their salaries to be
out by 71d =

The Grand Secretary requested his salary to be reduced 7½% - amounting to a reduction of £52.2.6. The Grand Trustees also requested the same reduction - £15 less. The Organiser was also reduced by £24. per annum. The District Propaganda vote was eliminated amounting to a sum of £300. It was also resolved that the Grand Secretary move the suspension of standing orders at the Annual General Meeting to move that the allowances for attendance be reduced to 15/- City and 25/- Country - an estimated saving of £118.

An amendment to cease paying Audit Fees to Branches over a membership of 50 members was accepted and to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting, and if this was Carried would result in a saving of about £600. It was resolved to ask the Grand Auditors to accept the same 7½% reduction in their salary.

BRO. GEORGE SANDS in a letter offered a donation in respect of Unemployed Members, however this was not accepted. He also offered a per centum reduction on his annuity but the resolution to accept same was defeated.

Letters were received from the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Workers' Industrial Union of Australia objecting to the action taken by the Society in respect of coal mining members. Paragraphs relative to the same in the Newcastle Herald and the Labour Daily were exhibited to the Board. No action was taken.

The Illawarra District submitted to the Registrar for hearing, the case of the mining members on the last rate of sick pay and £2. per week Workers Compensation prior to the registration of the mining Rule. The Grand Secretary was appointed to act for the Committee of Management. The Sydney District held a meeting of representatives of each Branch and submitted the following resolutions:-

1. "That the Society approach the Government to amend the Act to make available the interest earned be used for the benefit of unemployed members."
2. "That at the expiration of 14 weeks, if the member is not able to pay his contributions, that he be transferred to the scale of Honorary members without fees having the same right as an honorary member, and on again being employed he be transferred back to his original scale."

It was resolved to inform the Sydney District, that the Friendly Societies Association was dealing with No. 1 and that No. 2 was impracticable.

BRO. W. H. JONES, P.G.M. was in attendance at the April Meeting and exhibited a beautifully illuminated scroll address presented to him at the Southport A.M.C. England.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 6th June, 1931. Since last meeting the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales closed its doors on April 22nd, 1931 and a large number of Branches in the Order, approximately 90 per centum, and nearly all the Districts had their accounts with this Bank. The amount on deposit being just under £25,000. The Grand United had ample funds available to meet all benefit claims as the Grand Trustees had some time ago made provision for liquid assets, should the necessity arise. A letter was received from Mrs. Sands stating that BRO. G. H. SANDS was very ill and a letter of sympathy to be sent was endorsed.

With a view of the need of economy it was decided that the representation of Grand Lodge Officers to the Annual District Meetings be suspended.

A suggested plan to suspend benefits for Unemployed Brethren was considered outside the jurisdiction of the Committee of Management. The Grand Secretary submitted a recommendation in respect to the above, but the Registrar would not approve and no action along the lines submitted could be put into action. The meeting sat until 7.25p.m. and it was then decided that the rest of the business stand over until the next meeting, as a ritual premiers competition was taking place the same evening and two Grand Lodge Officers were adjudicating. The Camden District was the successful District in the team.

The death was reported of BRO. W. J. LERMOND, P.D.M. of Sydney District, Billy as he was so favourably known, was a sterling Oddfellow. A letter of sympathy was forwarded by the Grand Secretary.

SEVERE DROP IN MEMBERSHIP.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 25th, 1931.

A report was tabled showing that the membership in New Zealand had increased to 725 and three new Branches were opened during the year. The Society was in the same unemployment difficulties as we here in New South Wales and the numerical progress made under these conditions was considered good.

The amendment to the Rule "voting" was dealt with and accepted. The Grand Secretary moved the suspension of standing orders so as the ballot can be Carried out under the new preferential system. The number of claims dealt with under the Unemployed Members Fund now stood at 2763 and the cost £2647.

The following new Branches were opened since last meeting - Martinsville in the Hunter River District, Chullora United in the Sydney District and Pride of Princess Juvenile in the Willyama District. It was decided that the Annual General Meeting be held in the rooms - 337, Pitt Street, Sydney.

A rule to give the power to the Committee of Management to postpone or dispense with an Annual General Meeting was approved and same placed on the Business Paper. It was also decided to suspend standing orders to enable a resolution to be moved by the Grand Secretary -

"That evening sessions be held and a fee of 5/- paid so as to reduce the time of meeting to three days."

Several Districts wrote seeking rates for the purpose of holding Annual District Meetings. The matter was discussed in relation to funds available and it was decided to inform the Districts that advances must be limited to the amount of June levies.

The Committee of Management again met on the 5th September, 1931. It was decided to issue no calendars for 1931. A letter was received from the Cootamundra District stating that the opinion of their Officers that their District and Lachlan District should be amalgamated and the Committee of Management was favorable to the suggestion.

The matter of subvention has been engaging the minds of the

Friendly Societies for some considerable time owing to the Government's action in the matter of altering the Friendly Societies Act to stop payment of sickness benefits. Many conferences have been held and it is still possible that pressure brought to bear by the Societies may be successful and stave off this serious amendment.

Unemployed: The Grand Secretary submitted a report respecting unemployed members giving inter alia, the following information:-

Number of Members Unemployed 31.7.1931	8937
Percentage of total membership	22.34
Balance of U.M.C. Fund Cr.	£197.
Estimated Balance 31.12.31 Dr.	£300.
Estimated Quarterly surplus of payments over receipts	£330

The cost per annum for 8,000 members would be £7,100. It was resolved that the Grand Secretary frame an amendment to rule to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting. In view of the heavy sickness experience of female members, consideration was given to the necessity of some action being taken. Resolved:-

"That an amendment to Rule be placed on the Agenda Paper to eliminate the payment of sickness benefits to female members in respect of diseases or disorders of the generative organs."

The draft of the Annual Report of the Committee of Management was considered, amended and ordered to be sent to the Printer.

Subvention: A mass meeting of Friendly Society members was held in the Town Hall, Sydney on October 7th, 1931 the large hall was full to capacity. Two resolutions were submitted and Carried - one entering an emphatic protest against the action of the State Government and the other that a special Vigilance Committee be formed for the purpose of making recommendations calculated to protect the interests of the Subvention members and the Societies. The rule to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting was submitted by the Grand Secretary and approved. The principle of the rule summarised is that each adult benefit member under 65 years and female member under the age of 60 years except those under Scale D and for Funeral benefit only under Scale C, shall contribute to the fund - 1½d per week. An unemployed member taking advantage of the Rule is entitled to sickness and funeral benefit during the first three months of unemployment.

At the end of that period the funeral benefit is continued but all other benefits cease. During unemployment the member pays no contributions and when re-employed resumes his former status in the Order without meeting the arrears of contributions which otherwise would accumulate during the period of unemployment.

The Annual General Meeting of 1931 commenced on the 17th and continued on the 18th and 19th October. The Committee of Management's report disclosed as was expected, a loss in membership. This amounted to the membership decreasing from 48137 to 45784 a loss of 2353 members - what a tragedy for the Society when every interested member was looking for 50000 members at the end of the year. The total worth of the funds increased by £11293 to £612437. Benefits paid were £132923. Sixteen Branches were opened during the year and four were closed. A total number of 7056 were unfinancial at the end of the year and with the unemployment still rife one shudders to think what the end of 1932 will show. We can only hope for the best and carry on.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BRO. C. H. PIGGOTT, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Grand Secretary- BRO. H. J. RIDLEY, Grand Trustees - BRO. S. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE, C. IRELAND, Grand Directors-- BROS. H. SMITH, J. CURRAN, W. J. SMEDLEY, W. ROYLE, T. STRICKLAND and R. PENMAN.

The following important amendments to rule were decided upon:- The voting for Branch and District Officers to be under the exhaustive system as in operation up to 1930, and the Annual General Meeting elections to be under the preferential system.

All the reductions of allowances as mentioned in the Committee of Management Meeting of April 1931 were agreed upon.

Increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per week to the Unemployed Members' Fund making the Contribution 1d was Carried.

The elimination of additional Benefit Scales - Scale 3 Table 4, Scale E Table 6 and Scale F Table 7 providing for sickness benefit beyond 21/- per week and members contributing under these scales to be compulsory transferred to Scale A as at 31st December, 1931.

To provide additional sick fund contribution of 2d per week to be paid by a person joining the Society subsequent to the 31st December, 1931

and employed at the time of or during the two years prior to applying for membership as an underground worker in a coal mine.

Automatic registration of the wife of a member who has completed 10 years membership and who has been married not less than that period.

No sick pay to female members for diseases of the generative organs.

The question that occupied the main time of the Annual General Meeting was the amendment to eliminate from the Rule Book the clause wherein sick pay was not paid to a member following the occupation of a miner when in receipt of Workers' Compensation of £2. per week.

BRO. R. PEEHAN was the mover and he was commended for his splendid speech. He had carefully prepared it and displayed a clever marshalling of his points and was well delivered.

BRO. H. RIDLEY put up the opposition case in a masterly manner, but when the vote was taken the miners won the day. Installation of Officers ended the 1931 session.

The last meeting of the Committee of Management for the year was held on December 5th, 1931. The Grand Master welcomed the two new members of the Board.

A letter was received from Parramatta District asking that the Committee of Management make available quarterly reports concerning the welfare and progress of the Society to each District so as to enable them to be in a position to carry out their duties more proficiently. The request was agreed upon.

Two Districts made application for a grant, but the request was not met with. The designation of BRO. J. H. SMITH, Organiser was altered to Sickness Inspector and Organiser and all Districts notified of the appointment and requested to furnish any information he may require.

The Annual Report of the Friendly Societies Association was submitted and the report was adopted with the following motion being Carried:-

"That the Committee of Management favours the principle of a Medical Referee."

The levy was fixed at 9d and 6d the same as the last quarter. The

Friendly Societies' Act Amendments were introduced into Parliament by the Government. The Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY and many prominent members of the various Societies were present during the debate. The main amendment was in connection with Subvention, most of the other amendments Carried were asked for by the Friendly Societies Association. The Subvention curtailment provision briefly was:-

A fixed sum of £50000 per annum the amount to be apportioned to an applicant Society, will bear the same proportion to the sum of fifty thousand pounds as the membership value of that Society ascertained in accordance to the aggregate of the membership values of the applicant Societies, and was made retrospective from June 30th, 1930. The amount apportioned to an applicant Society for the purpose - firstly of paying the contributions in respect of funeral donations and/or medical attendance and medicine for male members of the age of 65 years or more or for female members of the age of 60 years or more and - secondly for the purposes of its sick and funeral fund and for no other purpose. The reduction by the Government amounted to approximately 40%.

An amendment giving Societies the right to transfer from sick and funeral fund, each year, an amount not exceeding one per cent to a fund established in accordance with the rules of the Society for the purpose of enabling grants to be made towards the payment of contributions of any member of the Society who satisfies the Committee of Management that he is unable to pay any such contributions.

Where a transfer is made, the Registrar may by writing, require the Society to impose such levy as may be deemed necessary to maintain the financial position of the Society. The amount so levied to be recovered as a subscription due. The February meeting of the Board was Held on the 6th Month 1932.

The Grand Executive reported having arranged a Conference between the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary and the District Secretaries of the Young, Cootamundra, Lachlan and Southern Districts regarding boundaries. The Subvention alteration already dealt with was reported on by the Grand Executive.

The Committee appointed to consider the sickness experience of the Society and to suggest if possible alterations to existing rules to improve the heavy drain on the Sick Funds.

Many amendments were adopted to be placed on the Business Paper for 1932 Annual Meeting and one of the most important to be submitted was for compulsory clearances.

The Grand Executive reported that the Grand Secretary had held Conferences with the Secretaries of Sydney and Hunter River and Maitland Districts. It was also reported that the British Medical Association had agreed to accept on their quarterly lists without remuneration a number of unfinancial and unemployed members, not exceeding 10% of the paying members for a period of twelve months commencing from April 1st, 1932.

The regular Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on April 4th. The Grand Executive submitted a report on the transactions of the Hospital Fund for the half year ending - December 1931, and reported that the operations were being carried out at a loss. The matter was referred back to the Grand Executive for further consideration.

The Registrar wrote enclosing a statement showing overpayments of sick pay and the list covered 161 over payments amounting to £381. It was resolved that the declaring on certificates of sick members must be submitted for the endorsement of the Grand Secretary, prior to sick pay being paid. It was decided to submit to the Annual General Meeting a proposal to re-arrange the five Districts into three to be known as the Lanchlan, Southern and Young Districts, thus eliminating Cootamundra and Murrumbidgee Districts.

The Friendly Societies Association issued a report after the important conference held since last meeting and this was dealt with and the recommendations from the conference be placed on the Annual General Meeting Agenda Paper in reference to 26 only one being classed out.

An amendment to War Sickness Rule was approved:-

"That a Candidate accepted as a member after 30th April, 1917, shall not be entitled to receive sick pay for any sickness as a result of War, and in respect of which he is in receipt of a military pension."

As a result of investigations made by the Grand Secretary in respect of sickness experience and the financial position of the Benefit Funds,

the Grand Executive summoned a special meeting of the Committee of Management which was held on April 23rd, 1932. The Grand Secretary dealt extensively with the increase in the ratio of excess average sick pay over average benefited contributions. This excessive sick pay lessened the amounts considerably received from Branches and the funds at the disposal of the Grand Trustees had diminished in so far that in 1929 the amount available was £103666 and in 1931 £35440. These figures of course, were affected by many mortgagors being unable to meet their principal repayments. The following amendments were approved and to be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting:-

1. Eliminate immediate sick pay benefits and fix six months period before entitled to sick pay.
2. Only half sick pay be paid to a member, receiving Workers' Compensation benefits.
3. A certificate from a hospital will not be accepted respecting an out-patient.
4. Limitation of benefits:- After the second six months eliminate remainder of illness 5/- and insert "next fifty two weeks 5/- per week and rest of illness 2/6 per week".
5. A certificate of birth to be produced by a candidate for admission to the Society."
6. Three adult financial members to be appointed by each Branch as an investigation Committee."

A copy of these amendments to be issued to all Districts and Branches. The death was reported of BRO. T. MUGRAVE and Past Grand Master of the Society.

The June Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd. The Grand Executive reported that 2080 members had made a claim on the Unemployed Members' Fund.

The Grand Secretary's action in sending the following wireless message to the Annual Moveable Conference at Yorkshire - England was approved. "Fraternal greetings New South Wales - Times difficult, Courage and determination will bring a return to prosperity." The reply from England was - "Conference gave cordial reception your timely message welcome greetings reciprocate express confidence your ability pull through all difficulties join you in work of reconstruction."

The Grand Executive made recommendations respecting the

Sickness Benefits of female members. After consideration the Board instructed the Grand Executive to prepare rule amendments to provide:-

- (a) That as from 1st January, 1933 all female members be transferred to Scale D with the right to contribute for funeral benefits up to £20. under Scale C.
- (b) That married females joining after 31st December, 1932 not to be permitted to contribute for nor receive sickness benefits.

One new Branch had been opened since last meeting at Bandon Grove in the Williams River District, and it was reported that the large number of nine Branches had been closed.

A new Government being in power under Mr. Stevens, who had taken sides with the Friendly Societies over subvention, a deputation called on him and the Conference resulted in £10000 being added to the grant of £50000 making £60000 available to the Friendly Societies.

The Friendly Societies' Drug Company at the seventh Annual Meeting recommended a dividend of 6% to share holders - the profit for the year being £1175.

The loss on the amount received in Subvention from the Government amounted to £3921 equal to 28%.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on July 30th 1932 commencing at 9.30a.m. It was resolved not to admit the press at the next Annual General Meeting.

A report on the Hospital Fund disclosed a debit balance of £687. and it was decided to place on the Annual General Meeting Business Paper an amendment to provide for an annual fee of 5/- with a benefit of 25/- for eight weeks. The Grand Executive reported that BRO. G. SANDS, P.G.M. was an inmate of the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley and it was resolved a letter of sympathy be forwarded to him. The Executive reported the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting to be the heaviest on record and invited the Board to consider variation of sessions.

It was resolved that the visiting Grand Lodge Officers inform the representatives of Districts to the Annual General Meeting-the Board believes night sessions will be necessary. It was decided to consider at the September Meeting of the Committee of Management all amendments from the Committee of Management to be placed on the Agenda Paper for the 1932 Annual General Meeting.

The September meeting of the Board was held on the 3rd. The proposed re-distribution of Districts was dealt with and as the replies from the individual Districts were in opposition the Committee of Management decided not to take any action.

The Grand Executive reported that three Districts had nominated more candidates than were required in respect of the Annual General Meeting elections. In view of this the following amendment to Rule be placed on the Business Paper:-

"That a District, Branch or Representative could not nominate more candidates than there are vacancies in respect of any office."

It was reported that no District at the end of June 1932 had increased its financial membership so the GEO. H. SANDS CUP has not in accordance with the conditions been won by any District. Resolved:

"That the Cup be recalled to Head Office."

It was resolved to place on the Business Paper an amendment to the Juvenile Rules - providing for a medical examination for all entrants and a probationary period of six months in respect of sickness benefits.

The Annual Meeting was commenced on Tuesday 18th October, 1932.

The Committee of Management's report disclosed a most disturbing note in connection with numerical summary. The membership had fallen from 45784 to 41695 a loss of 4089 members, making a total loss in the two years of unemployment of 6442 members. This severe loss in members is to be regretted, seeing we were up to 48137 at the end of 1930 and looked as if we were easily to reach the 50,000, however it was not to be and the Society is still in the throes of difficult times and the end is not yet in sight. We can only carry on and do all that is possible to stop the losses.

During the year, three Branches were opened and the large number of Branches closed totalled 18. The total worth of the Funds at June 30th 1932 was £629077. Benefits paid £118702. Surplus for year £16729. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. W. N. MONTGOMERY, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. T. STRICKLAND, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE and C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS. C. PIGGOTT, J. CURRAN, H. SMITH, W. J. SMEDLEY, W. ROYLE, R. PENMAN.

The amendments to Rules by the Committee of Management were generally

The female question was the first to take a considerable time in debate and a new Rule reading "after 31st December, 1932, a single female shall not be permitted to join the Society and contribute for a higher rate of sickness than 10/- per week, but may contribute for additional Funeral Benefit under Scale C."

The Rule "that married females admitted after 31st December, 1932, shall not be permitted to contribute for sickness benefits" was Carried. also "A female member contributing for higher benefits than the 10/- per week must transfer at the 31st December, 1932 to the lower scale" Carried. "The weekly rate of sickness benefit after 52 weeks be reduced to 2/6d per week for rest of illness". Carried. "The sickness certificate must be sent to the Grand Secretary before paying claim for sick pay." Carried.

The amendment to introduce a probationary period "that a member shall not be entitled to receive sickness benefits until a membership of six months has been completed and shall have contributed for at least six calendar months" Carried

Compulsory Clearances: The proposal by the Committee of Management was adopted. The two Juvenile amendments - "that medical certificate must be produced by new candidates and a probationary period of six months the same as adults" Carried. The following special resolutions were Carried:-

"That the Committee of Management be requested to submit to the Annual General Meeting of 1933 a proposal for a system of Uniform District Levies or an alternative in respect of the District System."

"That the Committee of Management be asked to print calendars for 1933 the same to be supplied to Branches at a price not to exceed 3d."

"That a suitable Emblem be provided for presentation to the Juvenile Past Noble Grands."

All entertainments for Delegates were eliminated and the Installation of Officers and the usual Auld Lang Syne closed the 1932 Annual General Meeting.

CHAPTER 49 1932 - 1933.

SOCIETY STILL FEELING DEPRESSION.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on December 2nd, 1932. A letter was received from BRO. G. L. COULTER, Grand Secretary of Victoria.

Protests against compulsory clearances were made by quite a number, some went so far as to approach the Registrar over the matter and others requesting the Committee of Management to receive a deputation. It was decided that no action could be taken as the Annual General Meeting carried the amendment. It was resolved that wherever the words "Committee of Management" appears in the Rules they be altered to read "Grand Lodge".

The Grand Secretary of New Zealand wrote requesting consideration of the writing off of the loan granted them when the Order was established in view of the difficult position of the Order in New Zealand due to the depression, and it was decided that the interest due to be written off and that the loan in future be free of interest.

It was reported that six branches were closed since last meeting. The Grand Secretary stated that 4750 calendars had been ordered and 5000 printed.

The Grand Master presented an illuminated address to P.D.M. - BRO. C. PIGGOTT, as portion of the presentation voted to him by the Annual General Meeting.

The Government of the day made advances available and this can be designated "Subvention's Happy Ending". The amount of £10130. was advanced to our Society, which will be deducted from the two years subvention due - ended 30th June, 1932.

The Committee of Management at their February meeting held on the 4th of the month 1933 decided to immediately distribute medical fees to Branches up to 31st March, 1933 for refund to members who had paid them. On February 6th the Grand Secretary will distribute £3254 to Branches which had already lodged claims accompanied by a letter informing them that claims for medical service to March 31st, 1933 would also be paid and that the Committee of Management does not now require subvention members to advance their own medical fees.

The Board decided to submit a special resolution to the Annual General Meeting that permanent pass words for Adult, Juvenile and Council Masters' Chapters be fixed by the Board at the December Meeting of 1933. The Camden District wrote requesting the closing of Heather Branch and this was agreed to. This demonstrates the harm done by the depression - the Branch won a ritual competition a few years ago from all the winners in the Metropolitan Districts Competition and now it has passed out.

BROS. HINDS and WHITE on behalf of a Committee asked to interview the members of the Board in reference to compulsory clearances, however it was decided there was nothing to be gained and the request was refused. The Grand Secretary reported that 2353 claims were received for the December Quarter. Advance Cargelligo in the Lachlan District was reported as closed.

A special meeting of the Committee of Management was held on Friday, February 24th to consider the position in respect to compulsory clearances. Following the decision of the Committee of Management at the February meeting, the Grand Secretary was visited by BRO. J. WHITE and as a result of the interview the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary interviewed BROS. JOHN WHITE, M. HINDS, J. BRITTEN and W. JOHNSTON. Subsequently the Grand Executive received a letter withdrawing all opposition and falling in with the Committee of Management in their efforts to administer the rule.

The next meeting of the Board was held on March 31st, 1933. The compulsory clearance rule came up for discussion and the Grand Secretary reported having sent circulars to 230 Branches with a slip to fill in stating that the Branch did not have any members coming under the rule or otherwise and further stating the time for issue of clearances expired on the 31st March. Of the 230 slips 32 Branches had so far replied. Illawarra District wrote asking consideration of the position where Branches refuse to accept Compulsory clearances and it was resolved that the District be informed that the Grand Executive will frame a rule amendment to meet such cases and that Branches be requested to re-issue any returned clearances.

A new Branch was opened at Belmont by the Hunter River District. Once

Once more it has to be announced the closing of Branches, no less than ten were closed since last meeting making 12 closed since the Annual General Meeting. The Society is still being hard hit with the distressing circumstances surrounding unemployment.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management was held on the 3rd June, 1933. In connection with the Registrar's repeated references to over paid sick pay it was decided that the amounts so paid by Branches be charged against the Central Sick Fund accounts of the Branches concerned.

The Grand Secretary reported that 1932 Subvention Claims had been prepared at Head Office and sent to Branches for the necessary signatures and returned, when the final claims will be lodged in a few days. The Grand Executive had given consideration to the Female members coming under the Unemployed Members Contribution Fund with a contribution of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per week and the recommendation was adopted. The problem of financing Districts was a knotty one and the Grand Secretary in submitting the proposed amendments to the rule dealt extensively with the whole of the Districts giving a summary of the Levies and per centum of expenditure in relation to them as for the year 1932. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee of Management based its deliberations on reports from the Grand Secretary and it was decided by the whole Board to submit to the 1933 Annual General Meeting the following recommendations.

Each District shall Levy its members not less than 4d per member per quarter - Female members to be charged the same and the following Districts shall annually contribute to an account, to be named, the following levies calculated on the mean average leviabale membership for each financial year:-

Sydney District	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Illawarra "	4d
Hunter River "	4d
Nthn Suburbs "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Willyama "	3d

and a further recommendation that the fund be subsidised from the Extension Fund by an amount of £100. or 30% of the amount so raised from the five Districts - Parramatta, Camden and Maitland not to be participants in the scheme.

The July Meeting was held on Saturday 29th of the month 1933. Since

last meeting another five Branches have been closed. The Grand Executive reported that with the exception of two Branches all Lodges had reasonably complied with the Compulsory Clearance Rule.

The District Finance Rule amendments were submitted and approved for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. A report on the U.M.C. Fund disclosed that 2273 claims for last quarter were made. A Branch wrote seeking a ruling of the Registrar as to the right of the Society to collect B.I. & E. Fund contributions under Scale C. The Grand Executive sent the request on and the Registrar said the rule was too indefinite to give a decision. It was resolved the Grand Executive prepare a rule amendment to provide for the payment of a contribution to the B. I. & E. Fund and to be obligatory under Scale C. The Drug Company had another good year and a dividend of 5% declared.

The last meeting of the Board before the Annual General Meeting was held on September 2nd, 1933. The Grand Secretary's report in reference to declaring on certificates - sickness experience - hospital fund - unemployed members contribution fund and over paid sick pay was adopted. One Branch was closed since last meeting. The Grand Secretary reported that the South Coast District Council consisted of 3 members from Bateman's Bay and two from Milton. The rules state where five Officers comprise the Council no more than two members from any one Branch can hold District Office. The District Secretary reported that the two Branches mentioned were the only ones represented at the Annual Meeting of the District and requested the Council be left as at present - it was decided the District be informed the rule must be observed and it was also resolved to write the Illawarra and Bega Districts to ask if they were agreeable to absorb the South Coast District.

The Annual General Meeting of 1933 commenced at the Grand United Hall Sydney on Tuesday 17th of October. The Grand Master - BRO. N. MONTGOMERY presided. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the year was the most disastrous in the history of the Society - no less than 5731 members being lost to the Society. The membership since 1930 has gone back in the short space of three years 12173 members - a great loss to our Society, we were doing

so splendidly until the economic depression hit the Country and until there is a tendency to an improvement we can see no prospects of progress. During the year one Branch was opened and thirty three closed, the number of Branches operating at the close of the year was 467. The total worth of all Funds at June 30th 1933 was £648052. the surplus being £18975 for the year.

The sum of £104182 was apd away in benefits. The elction of Officers resulted as follows:- Grand Master - BRO. T. STRICKLAND, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. R. PENMAN, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN, W. SAYLE and C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY, J. CURRAN, W. N. MONTGOMERY, J. BABIDGE, C. PIGGOTT and P. GRAHAM.

The Committee of Management's report provoked more discussion than was usual the case. The bone of contention being the action of the Committee of Management discontinuing the payments from the Benevolent Fund of the Management contributions of Subvention members. For the first time for a great number of years an amendment was moved by BRO. W. HUTCHINSON of the Hunter River District:-

"That portion of the Report relating to the action of the Committee of Management in charging at September 30th, 1933 Management contributions to subvention members be eliminated."

BRO. J. WILLIAMS seconded the amendment and BRO. E. BRISTOW moved a further amendment to provide "That Management contributions shall not be paid by Subvention members". This further amendment was Lost and BRO. HUTCHINSON'S amendment on a division was lost by 40 votes to 31, and the Committee of Management's report was adopted. The second day of the Conference brought forward another prolonged debate on the District Finance Scheme. The amendment to rule was Carried by 38 votes to 33. The full text of the amendment was previously stated in the Committee of Management meeting of June last.

The proposal regarding Female members contributing to and receiving benefits from the Unemployed Members' Contribution Fund was Carried.

The amendment to close down the Hospital Fund by the Committee of Management was Lost. An amendment to abolish the Compulsory clearance Rule was defeated. A Special resolution to print calendars for 1934 was Carried. The resolution by the Committee of

Management for a permanent pass word was Carried. Power was given the Committee of Management to close a District if considered necessary. The presentation of the Geo. H. Sands Cup to BRO. G. HANCOCK - Northern Suburbs District - installation of Officers and a vote of thanks to the two retiring members of the Board - BROS. H. SMITH and W. ROYLE ended the 1933 Annual General Meeting.

The December meeting was held on Saturday the 2nd, 1933. The Grand Secretary reported that the September Quarter showed an improvement on the June Quarter as the loss was only 191 members. It was decided to present P.G.M. Regalia to BRO. H. SMITH at the Loyal Love of Liberty Branch and to BRO. W. ROYLE at the City of Newcastle Branch, but in future all P.G.M. regalia will be presented to the immediate P.G.M. and to those P.G.Ms who have not received regalia the same will be presented to those who leave the Board.

The Grand Executive reported that four more Branches had been closed since the last meeting. It was resolved to inaugurate a membership campaign and the Grand Executive were requested to consider the matter and report to the next Committee of Management meeting. Considerable discussion ensued upon a report of the Grand Executive respecting the advisability of re-adjusting District Boundaries with a view to absorbing those Districts which are not functioning satisfactorily and a Committee was formed to go into the matter and report to the next meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NUMERICAL PROGRESS COMPETITION.

The first meeting of the year 1934 was held on the 3rd February. The Grand Executive reported that the returns for December Quarter showed a further loss of 374 members - when is this serious depletion of our numbers going to stop.

The Grand Executive submitted the following reports:- Declaring on Certificates, Sickness Experience, Deaths and membership - these were approved. The Committee appointed to consider the District Subdivisions made the following recommendations -

1. Hastings District close and Branches transferred to Manning River and Raleigh Districts.
2. South Coast District close and Branches transferred to Bega and Illawarra Districts.

In reference to the Southern portion of the State it was recommended that two Officers from Young, Cootamundra, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Southern Districts attend a Conference to consider the idea of splitting up these Districts into a smaller number.

It was resolved that the Hastings and South Coast Districts be closed as from the 31st March, 1934. It was decided to again conduct the Shield Competition and the end of June 1934 be the date for the closing of the first contests. A Committee was formed to assist the Grand Executive who had completed a large amount of detail work in connection with the inauguration of a competition for membership increase and to act on the decisions arrived at by that Committee.

The regular meeting of the Committee of Management in April 1934 was held on the 7th. The Grand Executive reported on declaring on certificates, sickness experience, mortality experience and membership. The Grand Executive approached the Railway Commissioner in respect to the Society paying all the fares direct to the Railways on behalf of representatives attending the Annual General Meetings of the Society, and their consent was given and the Board approved of the alteration. It was reported that another nine Lodges had been closed and the closures approved. The Grand Executive reported that December claims on the Unemployed Members' Fund numbered 2085. The Grand Secretary of Queensland - BRO. E. BEARD

wrote suggesting that the practice in New South Wales of beginning letter with "Dear Sir and Bro." be altered to the Queensland way "Dear Brother" it was adopted to be used throughout the State with the members surname.

The Committee for Progress and Propaganda is meeting regularly and holding meetings in the Sydney Metropolitan and Hunter River Districts, but no final decisions have so far been arrived at. A very old Oddfellow - BRO. W. GODBOLT, P.D.M. Manning River District passed away in his 92nd year. An Oddfellow for 63 years and respected by all who knew him.

The next meeting of the Board was held on June 9th, 1934. The Grand Executive reports on the usual undertakings were adopted. It was reported that 6000 copies of the "Oddfellow" for the May issue were distributed. The membership loss for March Quarter was given as 447, this made the loss for the nine months of the year 1186 members.

The Executive submitted a full report of the workings of the District Finance Scheme and satisfaction was expressed at the report. The Progress and Propaganda Committee were still holding meetings and further meetings were being arranged. The Grand Executive reported that the Conference of Southern Districts was held at Junee on the 16th April and the decisions arrived at were:-

1. Murrumbidgee and Southern District to amalgamate.
2. Lachlan to be absorbed by Cootamundra District.
3. Young District to remain.

Protests were received on the closing of the Hastings District and from Murrumbidgee against their amalgamation. Both protests were noted. The Annual Meeting of the Drug Company was held on 29th June when a 5% dividend was declared. It was decided to increase the Capital by issuing 10000 new shares at £1. making a Capital of £20000. It was also decided to change the name of the Company to The Commonwealth Drug Company Ltd.

The July Meeting was held on the 28th of the month. One new Branch was reported opened and one closed. A report was tabled in reference to the District Finance Levy Subsidy Account and adopted. The Grand Secretary invited consideration to a proposal to set aside

a sum from the Benevolent Fund to loan to members at three per centum for the purpose of paying their 14 weeks' contributions and reserve value to enable them to resume membership in the Society. To apply only to members of not less than five years standing, to be repaid in 12 months equal monthly installments and it was resolved that the Grand Executive prepare a report on the proposal and submit to the next Board meeting.

The regular meeting in September was held on the 1st. Three Branches were declared closed since last meeting. The Grand Secretary reported when the Annual Report of the Bega District was received it included an amount of £34.5.6 as income from the Bega Council Masters' Chapter that had been closed without the sanction of the Committee of Management, and it was resolved the amount be returned to the Bega Council Masters' Chapter.

It was decided to place on the next Annual General Meeting Business Paper a special resolution:-

"That the degree of Past Grand Master be conferred on BRO. H. J. RIDLEY - Grand Secretary."

It was resolved that a rule amendment be placed on the Business Paper for the Annual General Meeting to reduce the contribution to the U.M.C. Fund by one half. The recommendation of the Grand Secretary for loans to reinstate members was approved and the necessary regulations governing the Fund placed on the Business Paper. It was moved to increase the salary of the Grand Secretary from £623. to £650 per annum.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Society's rooms on Tuesday October 16th. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the loss of membership for the year was 2065 bringing the membership down to 33899 a loss in four years of 14238 members. Four years of downward trend surely we must very soon receive some encouragement and see the Society return to the days when progress was so marked. Total worth of Funds - £670776, Benefits paid - £98534, Surplus for year - £22724. Sixteen Branches were closed during the year and no new Branches were opened. The number of Branches of the Society being 451.

The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master -

BRO. R. PENMAN, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. M. HINDS, Grand Trustees - BROS. W. WAYLE, J. JEPSEN and C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BRO. W. J. SMEDLEY, J. CURRAN, W. N. MONTGOMERY, J. BABIDGE, H. SMITH and C. PIGGOTT.

The following amendments to rules were Carried:-

A member cannot be elected as a Delegate to the Annual District Meetings if absent when election taking place, unless he has given his consent to stand in writing

The election of District Officers may be carried out under the Preferential or Exhaustive system.

A Grand Lodge Officer must become a member of a Council Masters' Chapter.

Allowances to representatives to the Annual General Meeting was altered to increase the fees from 15/- to 20/- a day for town members and from 20/- to 25/- for Country members. This rule was immediately registered and the allowances applied to the 1934 meeting. The Committee of Management shall determine the area to comprise the several Districts of the State.

An important amendment by the Committee of Management to make the registration of a widow automatic for twelve months after the death of a member, and the Grand Secretary to notify the widow of her registration and of the quarterly contribution payable - if not paid within twelve months all claim by the widow is forfeited.

The amendment by the Committee of Management to make the registration of a husband automatic as is the registration of a wife after ten year membership and ten years married was Carried. An amendment by the Hunter River District provides that the Management contributions of subvention members whose income is less than £2. a week shall be paid from the Benevolent Fund.

There were 15 special resolutions submitted and only three were Carried as follows:-

1. "That Calendars be issued for 1935."
2. "That the rank of Past Grand Master be conferred on the Grand Secretary - BRO. H. J. RIDLEY, this rank was also conferred on BRO. J. JEPSEN and C. IRELAND, Grand Trustees."
3. "That the revision of ritual was referred to the Ritual Revision Commission."

A Cabaret was held on the first night of the Session at Mark Foy's

Empress Rooms and was voted by all a huge success.

Before attending the Cabaret the Committee of Management entertained the Past Grand Masters of the Society to a dinner - also present were six members of the Committee of Management who were not Past Grand Masters, the sitting Grand Master - BRO. T. STRICKLAND occupied the chair and after the Loyal Toast proposed the "Past Grand Masters" - BRO. HENRY HERRON, Senior Officer replied to the Toast.

The first meeting of the new Board was held on December 1st. The Grand Secretary of Queensland - BRO. J. BEARD - was present, he was en route to Colombo on a holiday. The Committee of Management at the conclusion of the meeting, entertained him at a Dinner. One new Branch was reported opened and two closed.

The Grand Executive reported on Declaring On Certificates, sickness experience, unemployed members' contributions Fund and nature of illness particulars. The Progress and Propaganda Committee reported a loss of £14.19.6 on the Cabaret and recommended it be made an annual function and this was approved.

Correspondence from Bega District and Council Masters' Chapter regarding the transfer of funds was received and it was decided to secure the advice of the Registrar and upon receipt of the reply the matter be left with the Metropolitan members of the Committee of Management to decide.

It was resolved:-

"That in view of the Cash Balances of the Bathurst and Clarence River Districts the subsidy from the District Finance Fund be withdrawn for the time being."

The Grand Secretary reported that 7500 Calendars had been ordered from The Epworth Press. During the afternoon tea engagement - P.G.M. BRO. T. STRICKLAND was presented by the Grand Master with a cheque for £50., the Honorarium passed at the last Annual General Meeting.

The regular meeting was held on the 2nd February. The Grand Executive reported that the Progress and Propaganda Committee had suggested a new competition and this was approved by the Committee of Management and is as follows:-

A prize will be given to all Branches who initiate any number of candidates beyond ten and the prize is to be a very handsome

pennant which may be exhibited in the Lodge room. The Pennants will be classed as follows:-

Class A	30	new members	or members	re-admitted
" B	25	"	"	"
" C	20	"	"	"
" D	15	"	"	"
" E	10	"	"	"

Two new Branches were opened both in the Illawarra District at Huskisson and Tomerong. Another Class D was added to the Pennant Competition for 5 to 9 members.

The matter of the Bega Council Masters' Chapter was finalised, the Chapter being closed and the Balance of £34.5.6 made available to the Bega District.

It was resolved to ascertain the cost of a Conference of District Officers from North Eastern, Richmond River, Clarence River and Raleigh Districts at Grafton also the question of a Conference in Sydney to be attended by a representative of each District outside the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The sympathy of the Committee of Management was extended to P.G.M. - BRO. G. SANDS who was seriously ill at his son's home.

The Grand Executive submitted a report in connection with the "Oddfellow" this showed a loss on the last half year of £363. and it was resolved to delete the Cooking, Theatres, Beauty and Fashion pages.

Reports regarding the Hospital Fund, Benevolent Donations, and re-instatement Loans were adopted. The Grand Executive reported that the Sydney and Metropolitan Districts held a Conference in the Lodge Room Sydney and many important matters were discussed and to be considered by the Progress and Propaganda Committee.

The April Meeting of the Board was held on the 6th. The matter of holding the Conference at Grafton was discussed and it was decided that three representatives from each of the four Districts attend with representatives of the Committee of Management and details be arranged by the Grand Executive. Reports on membership, District Finance, Unemployed members' contribution Fund and mortality experience were approved. The Grand Executive reported negotiations

with a view to amalgamating the Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Bathurst District with the Assurance Department and it was resolved to inform the Bathurst District that the Committee of Management were prepared to consider an amalgamation when the Fund informs who are members and the exact position of the Fund.

The Ritual Revision Committee reported that the Council Masters' Chapter Ritual was completed. It was reported by the Grand Executive that the Western Australian Society had opened a new Branch the first for 22 years.

CHAPTER 51. 1935 - 1936.

GRAND MASTER SUSTAINS SERIOUS INJURIES IN
CAR ACCIDENT.

The June meeting of the Board was held on the 1st of the month 1935. One Branch was closed since the last meeting, and a resolution Carried to disband the Progress and Propaganda Committee and the business of this body revert to the Committee of Management. It was resolved that the Lodges of Instruction now being conducted will in the future, be under the control of the District Councils.

The Grand Executive reported that the Grafton Conference had taken place and the Grand Master and Grand Secretary had represented the Committee of Management. The report was adopted. The Anzac Memorial Commemoration Service this year was held at the Y.W.C.A. rooms, but the attendance was below expectation.

On July 7th, the Grand Master - BRO. R. PENMAN met with a serious motor accident when returning from Goulburn where he had visited to make a presentation to BRO. J. B. COX, P.G.M., when travelling between Berrima and Mittagong the steering gear broke while going down a steep hill; the car overturned three times and struck a tree with the result that each member of the party received injuries - those of the Grand Master being very serious indeed. The Bowral District Ambulance rushed the sufferers to the Bowral District Hospital. The Grand Master's injuries consisted of a very badly fractured leg, arm and collarbone also shock and abrasions. The other members in the car who were injured, but not seriously, were BROS. R. KENDALL, A. TRITTON and BROS. HOPKINS and HAWKINS.

The Grand Secretary on Monday morning received the first intimation of the accident being gleaned from The Sydney Morning Herald. He immediately had a telephone talk with the Bowral Doctor and arrangements were made for Dr. Glissan of Sydney accompanied by a special Anaesthetist with an Oxygen Anaesthetic plant to go to Bowral and at 10.30p.m. on Monday night Dr. Glissan operated on the Grand Master and amputated the left leg at the knee joint. The Doctor reported that the Grand Master had come through much better than was expected, and for the days immediately following bulletins were received twice a day by the Grand Secretary and on Friday the

hospital report was that BRO. PENMAN was going along satisfactorily and was practically out of danger. Letters of sympathy from all over the State poured in all of which BRO. PENMAN received at a later period.

The next meeting of the Board was held on the 27th July, 1935. The Deputy Grand Master on opening the meeting referred to the tragic accident to the Grand Master to which all the members of the Board expressed their sympathy. Three new Branches were opened at Menindie, Wentworth and Pooncarie. Reports were received and adopted on membership, declaring on certificates, assurance and the "Oddfellow". The Ritual revision Committee reported having completed its work and the Branch Ritual and the Composite Ritual were in the Printer's hands, delivery was expected prior to the end of the month.

It was resolved that the Willyama District should not contribute to the District Levy Subsidy Account as four of their Branches were up to 200 miles distance. This to be a recommendation for the next Annual General Meeting. It was resolved that £400. be transferred from the Benevolent Fund to Management Account.

The matter of insuring members of the Committee of Management against accident risk while on official duties was referred to the Grand Executive to deal with. The Grand Executive reported that BRO. HOPKINS had been recommended to the Royal Humane Society. On one of the brightest pages of the history of the Grand United will be the story of BRO. HOPKINS' wonderful and successful efforts to succour his brethren after the very severe accident on July 7th last. The impact of the crash was so great that not one member of the party actually knows just what happened and BRO. HOPKINS was the first to regain consciousness and though bleeding copiously from a deep cut under the right eye realised that the Grand Master and BRO. TRITTON were very seriously injured - both bleeding terrifically, and in spite of his own condition he applied tourniquets to BRO. TRITTON'S wrist and the main artery of which had been severed, and also the GRAND MASTER'S leg, which had subsequently to be amputated.

It was most fortunate that BRO. HOPKINS had an excellent knowledge of first aid which enabled him to do the right thing at the right time and it is without doubt his action saved the lives of our

Grand Master and BRO. TRITTON.

The regular meeting of the Board was held on September 7th, 1935. The Grand Secretary reported the death of BRO. SAME LANE, P.D.M. of the Hunter River District and a letter of sympathy forwarded. Letters from the four members of the Illawarra District who were in the car accident when our Grand Master was so seriously injured were received and BRO. A. TRITTON attended in person to also convey their thanks. A letter was sent to BRO. R. PENMAN, G.M. expressing the pleasure of the Board with the progress he was making and the hope that he may be able to take his place at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. It was resolved to print pocket rituals embracing the opening, closing and Initiation Ceremonies of the Lodge Ritual. The matter of the Insuring of the Grand Lodge Officers was discussed and the inclusion of District Officers in the scheme recommended. The Grand Executive to finalise the matter as soon as the rates are received from the Underwriters Association. The Grand Executive reported the valuation had been received and the surplus of £20616. was considered satisfactory.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th October, 1935. BRO. M. HINDS, Deputy Grand Master being in the Chair. Unfortunately the Grand Master - BRO. R. PENMAN was not recovered sufficiently to be in attendance.

The first resolution passed at this meeting was offering heartfelt sympathy and rejoicing that BRO. PENMAN had been spared for further service in our loved Order. This resolution was conveyed by telegram and a reply received from BRO. PENMAN expressing sincere thanks. The Committee of Management's report disclosed that the membership showed a decline of 83 members. After the heavy losses of the last four years this is most re-assuring and it can now be said that we have turned the corner and can surely look forward to 1936 with much brighter hopes. The membership at the end of the year was 33004 members. Seven new Branches were opened and eleven closed and the number of Branches remaining at June 30th, 1935 was 447. The election of Officers resulted as follows - Grand Master - BRO. M. HINDS, Deputy Grand Master - BRO. E. BRISTOWY, Grand Trustees - BROS. J. JEPSEN,

W. SAYLE and C. IRELAND, Grand Directors - BROS. W. J. SMEDLEY,
W. N. MONTGOMERY, H. SMITH, C. PIGGOTT, R. PENMAN and W. HUTCHINSON.

The following is a brief review of the important amendments passed at the meeting.

By Willyama District -

"Providing that District Officers must be financial members of a Council Masters' Chapter if living within 20 miles of the meeting place of a Chapter."

By Committee of Management -

"That each Grand Officer except the Grand Secretary retains his seat and office at the Annual General Meeting until the close of the Annual General Meeting next succeeding that at which he was elected."

By Committee of Management -

"That the approval of the Grand Executive must be obtained to sell tickets or solicit donations and subscriptions for entertainment."

By Illawarra District -

"That the probationary period in case of accidents has been eliminated."

By Manning River District -

"That the Matron of a Hospital can give certificates to Hospital Fund Benefit members who were inmates of the Hospital under her supervision."

A vote of thanks and appreciation was Carried on behalf of BRO. J. CURRAN who did not seek election and BRO. J. BABIDGE who missed being elected - both members responded. BRO. J. CURRAN installed the Officers at the express wish of the Grand Master. Immediately after, the conference closed at 10 to 7 p.m. on Friday evening.

The first night of the session a Cabaret was held in the Town Hall, Sydney and was voted a huge success. The Grand Secretary had approached the Registrar after the favourable valuation for a review of the sickness rule in respect to altering the five shillings period to ten shillings and the last rate of sick pay from 2/6d to 5/-, but in both cases the Registrar was adamant and refused both requests.

The day after the Annual General Meeting - October 19th - no less than nine cars journeyed to Bowral for the purpose of expressing and showing appreciation to Gibraltar Branch and its members for their

valuable assistance and untiring attendance to our immediate Past Grand Master - BRO. R. PENMAN. The Bowral Hospital was visited before the meeting and all were pleased to see BRO. PENMAN looking so well. At 8 p.m. the meeting opened with 49 members from Sydney including BRO. E. BRISTOW the newly elected Deputy Grand Master.

Grand United circles were shocked on the morning of November 14th, 1935 to learn of the death of BRO. GEORGE H. SANDS - Past Grand Master and exGrand Secretary. For three years our exGrand Secretary had not enjoyed good health and a stroke hastened his death. The name of BROTHER GEORGE SANDS is an household word in the Grand United. He held the position of Financial Secretary of the Prince of Wales Branch for thirty one years. Deputy District Master of the Sydney District in 1891, District Master in 1892 and 1893. In April 1893 elected Grand Master and on the retirement of BRO. H. HERRON was elected Grand Secretary in 1914 and held that position until June 30th, 1928 when he retired of his own account. With the exception of the years 1902 to 1907 - BRO. SANDS was a member of the Committee of Management continuously since 1895. Those of us who knew him so well will always remember him for his wonderful enthusiasm for the Society. A man of strong personality and administrative ability enhanced his reputation for leadership. Very fitting and appreciative reference was made at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium by P.G.M. BRO. J. CURRAN regarding BRO. SANDS' long and active associations with, and his valuable extensive influence in, our Society and the Friendly Societies of the State. There was always a wealth of meaning and message in his radiant face and in his simple and sincere testimony when in a gathering of the members of his Society that he gave his long years of service on their behalf, and there was "no moaning at the bar" when he put to sea, his passing hence was very peaceful.

The regular meeting of the Board was held on 7th December, 1935. The Grand Master - BRO. HINDS in opening the meeting expressed pleasure at the presence of BRO. R. PENMAN who replied and stated he hoped it would not be long before he could once again resume

his activities as a Grand Lodge Officer.

It was resolved that in future the Bank Certificate be attached to the copy of the quarterly return sent to Head Office, and also to request the Registrar of Friendly Societies to allow a transfer from the valuation surplus to meet the cost of the Sick Visitor, the cost of checking the declaring on certificates at Head Office, and the cost of the Medical Referee, with an additional amount of £500. per annum.

The Grand Executive reported having covered the Grand Lodge Officer for the following benefits:-

1. Death by Accident £500.
2. Loss of two limbs or two eyes or one of each £250.
3. By accident 12 weeks at £5. per week.
4. Medical Expenses limited to £25.

Two new Lodges were opened both in Cootamundra District at Kikoira and Arian Park and three were officially closed.

Reports on the District Levy Scheme, declaring on certificates, assurance, mortality experience and the "Oddfellows" were submitted and approved. The regular meeting was held on the 1st February, 1936. The Grand Executive submitted a letter of sympathy sent through the Premier in connection with the death of his late Majesty King George V, together with the Premier's reply and the action of the Grand Executive was endorsed.

A reply was received from the Registrar giving his approval for a transfer of £4000 from the Sick and Funeral Fund to the Management Fund of the Society. It was resolved to thank the Registrar for the consideration given.

One Branch was reported opened at Gundagai in the Lachlan District and six were officially closed. The Grand Executive reported that fourteen Districts had insured their Officers and it was decided to write the remaining Districts and bring under their notice the advisability of their acceptance of the scheme. The usual reports were submitted and approved. The financial statement of the Cabaret in the Town Hall Sydney was submitted and showed a loss of £4.10.6.

The April meeting of the Board was held on the 4th. The Grand

Executive submitted a report in connection with the U.M.C. Fund which showed that there were still a large number unemployed as for December 1935 there were 1304 claims on the Fund. In the matter of the Branches with Management debits it was decided to subsidise a pound for pound on the improvements effected during the year 1936.

Reports were submitted and approved on Bnevolent donations, Pennant Competitions, "50000 for 1936?" Campaign, Propaganda meetings and visitations.

Messrs. David Jones Ltd. wrote asking consideration in regard to Regalia supplies and it was decided to call tenders as from the 1st January, 1937. The Grand Secretary submitted an extensive report showing interesting comparisons in membership and sickness figures and he was thanked by a resolution on the information supplied.