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## THE ENTERPRISE.

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### Annual Address.

OF H. G. STRUBE, M. W. GRAND MASTER OF THE R. W. GRAND LODGE OF OREGON, AT THE 23RD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, HELD AT PORTLAND, OREGON, ON THE 18TH DAY OF MAY, 1875.

Representatives—You have been chosen by your brethren to exercise the highly important legislative and judicial functions devolving upon the Grand Lodge of this jurisdiction. You have assembled here under circumstances, which demand your careful attention to the great and noble duty which has been committed to you by your brethren. The kind hand of Providence has again permitted this friendly and fraternal reunion of so many of the old veterans of our order, and we have reason to rejoice that so much prosperity and so many blessings have attended the progress of our order since our last session.

THE STATE OF THE ORDER. Although the past year has been marked as a season of great depression in business and prostration of industrial interests throughout the whole jurisdiction, I am happy to be enabled to state that this fact does not seem to have checked and retarded the growth and increase of our order. The ratio of the net increase in membership during the preceding year, the same being over 10 per cent on the total membership. Five additional lodges have also been organized under dispensation granted by the Grand Master, and are now pending for a charter at your jurisdiction. The glad tidings of substantial prosperity are sent to us. New halls have been erected, ceremonies established and other evidences of success abound on every hand. The total number of contributing members on the 1st day of January last, were two thousand five hundred and ninety, and I am justified in stating that at present, there are not less than 2,800 Odd Fellows in good standing in this jurisdiction. The aggregate sum paid by lodges for relief during the past year was \$12,461.47, of which the sum of \$8,686.25 was paid for the relief of sick brothers \$1,552.37 for the relief of widowed families, and the balance for burying the dead and educating the orphans. The number of initiations during the past year were three hundred and thirty three, of which one hundred and twenty two were admitted by card and twenty suspended members were reinstated. For further statistical details, I respectfully refer you to the report of the R. W. Grand Secretary, which will be submitted to you and contains much interesting and valuable information.

### NEW LODGES.

On the 28th day of August, 1874, a dispensation was granted, during my temporary absence from the jurisdiction, by T. M. Cady, acting Grand Master, for the institution of a new lodge at Hillsboro, Washington county, to be known as Montezuma Lodge No. 50 with six charter members. This lodge was instituted by H. O. Hyde, special deputy, on the 16th day of September, 1874, and has now a membership of 13 members. It started on the most favorable auspices, and gives promise of a prosperous future. Hence I recommend a charter for this lodge.

On the 2nd day of January, 1875, I granted a dispensation to 22 persons, being Scarlet degree members of Calapooia Lodge No. 43, and their wives, of Brownsville, Oregon, to form a Rebekah degree lodge at said place, to be called as Rachel Rebekah Degree Lodge No. 9. Bro. D. M. Thompson, P. G., and D. D. G. M. of district No. 3, instituted said lodge on the 9th day of January 1875, and inasmuch as said lodge is in a flourishing condition, I recommend the granting of a charter for the same.

On the 24th of March, 1875, I issued a dispensation for a new lodge at Marshfield, Douglas county, Oregon, to be called as Sunset Lodge No. 51, with 11 charter members. The same was instituted by Bro. Jay Tuttle, special deputy, on the 22nd day of April 1875. There is every reason to believe that this lodge is placed upon a permanent basis, and I therefore recommend a charter for the same.

A new lodge under the name of Cave Lodge No. 52, located in Union county, was authorized to be instituted by dispensation from this office dated March 28, 1875. This lodge with nine charter members, was instituted on April 25, 1875, by

Bro. J. W. Snodgrass, Gr. Rep. and special deputy, and commences its existence under most favorable auspices. A charter is recommended. On the 22nd day of April 1875, I granted a dispensation for the institution of a new lodge at Coquille City, to be known and called as Coquille Lodge No. 53, with eight charter members. The same was instituted by Bro. Jay Tuttle, special deputy on May 6th, and promise to be a valuable addition to our order. I recommend a charter for the same. I have also received the necessary papers authorizing the institution of two new lodges in Washington Territory, which will probably be instituted during the next month.

FINANCES. I am justified in saying that the finances of the Grand Lodge, during the last fiscal year, have been prudently and economically managed. The Grand Treasurer's report will show the expenditures and disbursements in detail. All the debts of the Grand Lodge, up to the present date, have been anticipated and paid, and a balance of \$862.24 is reported in the treasury. The balance last year on hand was only \$34.47, although the receipts during that year nearly equaled those of the present year. The power of the same assessment for the ensuing year upon the subordinate lodges will enable the Grand Lodge to become financially independent, without resorting to annual loans, provided economy and prudence is exercised in the disbursement of the Grand Lodge funds.

### DECEASES.

During the past year I have made, among others, the following decisions: 1st Question. Can the officers of several lodges, located in different towns, be installed jointly at the same time and place? Answer. No; the installation of officers is a part of the work of the lodge, and the lodge must perform its work in the place designated in its charter as its local habitation. If a lodge has a candidate, that candidate's officers shall be installed one mile from the place where it is located, it would have the same right to determine that the installation should take place ten or fifteen miles or more distant.

2d Question. Is it proper for a person not an Odd Fellow to appear before the committee of five on charges, as attorney for either party concerned? Answer. No; the relations of attorney and party are of such a confidential and intimate nature, that it necessarily involves the disclosure of matters pertaining to the business of the lodge which none but members should know.

3d Question. Is it proper for a person not an Odd Fellow to appear before the lodge as an attorney for either party concerned in the trial? Answer. In the negative. No person not an Odd Fellow has a right to appear before the lodge while in session, in any capacity whatever.

4th Question. Has a lodge a right to reconsider a ballot on rejection of an application for initiation any time previous to the expiration of six months, because members had inadvertently been permitted to vote who were not entitled to vote under the provisions of the constitution? Answer. No; the Grand Secretary notified, and his name placed on the black book?

Answer. A legal ballot cannot be reconsidered under the circumstances above mentioned. But when brothers who are disqualified to vote upon such application under by-laws, the ballot may be declared illegal and void by a majority of the lodge. (1871 journal Grand Lodge U. S. 9, 193, 5, 244.) When this illegality is so ascertained and declared, it places both parties as if no ballot had taken place, and thereupon a ballot must be spread in strict compliance with the constitution of subordinates. Only one ballot and one reconsideration can be granted a candidate, but the proceedings above indicated cannot be deemed a reconsideration, because it is not predicated upon a legal ballot. A ballot participated in by disqualified persons is void *ab initio*, and when so declared, the proposition of the candidate, report of the committee, and the action of the lodge receiving such report, are all null and void. A ballot is again before the lodge to be disposed of by a legal ballot, in which none but duly qualified brothers should participate. If by reason of such void ballot a person's name is wrongfully placed upon the black book, the lodge owes it to itself to promptly cause the erasure of that name.

5th. A sister of the Rebekah degree cannot act as V. G. in a subordinate lodge, when opened in that grade. 6th. Question. Is a lodge which has adopted the plan of the W. & O. R. A. bound to pay assessments for brothers who are six months in arrears and not entitled to sick benefits according to its by-laws? Answer. In the affirmative. Until a suspension or expulsion takes place, the lodge must continue to pay such assessments. I have made a number of other decisions, but in as much as they were simply declaratory of ordinary provisions of law contained in the digest and journals, I have deemed it best not to encumber this report, nor the Grand Master's record book, with the same.

### APPEALS FROM ABROAD FOR AID.

On the 20th day of February last I issued a proclamation authorizing the R. W. Grand Lodge of Nebraska county, to be known as from all the subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction, to keep many of our brethren and their families in that State from suffering and starvation, owing to

the fearful ruin and devastation caused by the visitations of the grasshoppers and other insects, which scourged that and other States and Territories in the Union. I have no official data to ascertain how much was contributed in this behalf, but from unofficial sources I am enabled to state that the response to my appeal was quite liberal and generous. Several applications to me for authority to request contributions in this jurisdiction to help subordinate lodges on the eastern seaboard, who had suffered by fire and other reasons, have been refused by me for reasons not now necessary to state. The correspondence herewith submitted will show all the facts in the case. I respectfully ask the approval of the Grand Lodge of my actions herein.

### HOME LODGE NO. 34.

Circumstances seemed to render necessary the surrender of the charter of Home Lodge No. 34, located at Monroe, Benton county, Oregon, which was accordingly done on the 20th day of July, 1874. I appointed Bro. J. M. Bacon, Grand Secretary, as special deputy to demand and receive the charter and all effects of said lodge, which duty he successfully accomplished. A schedule of all the articles in his possession will be submitted to you by him. This is the only blank number in this jurisdiction.

### REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES.

I herewith submit an application for a dispensation to constitute a Rebekah degree lodge at Pendleton, Umatilla county, Oregon, signed by twenty-one applicants. Inasmuch as the same was received by me just prior to the present session, I took no action, but refer the application to you.

I regret that I am not in a position to furnish you much information concerning the condition of the Rebekah degree lodges in this jurisdiction. Of nine have made their reports to the Grand Secretary. These were from Oregon City, Jacksonville and Canyon City. Our respected sisters are undoubtedly accomplishing much good in their respective localities; but they should let others know the history of their progress and success, so that they can profit by and emulate their example.

### AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION OF SUBORDINATES.

I recommend an amendment to section I, article III, constitution of subordinates, so the same may be conformable to the decision of the Grand Lodge of the United States, made at its last session, (see journal pages 6, 293 and 6, 292), which places a construction upon the well known rule that no more than one ballot and one reconsideration can be granted a candidate for membership. I am anxious that the proposed amendment, made at its last session, (see journal page 1, 351) has held that although section I, article III, may indicate that several ballots can take place, yet that no ballot is actually held until the result is declared by the Grand Lodge. But this seems to be a clear and illogical evasion of the doctrine as expounded by the Grand Lodge of the United States. This question comes up to me for decision from Valley Lodge No. 12, which has a pending application, and not wishing to take the responsibility of declaring any part of the organic law to be unconstitutional, I reserve the decision, and submit the matter for your action.

### CHARTERS.

All charters that were authorized at the last session of the Grand Lodge, were duly issued to the respective lodges. In compliance with former legislation on the subject, new charters were also issued and delivered to all the lodges in the jurisdiction, in lieu of the old charters, which were ordered to be cancelled.

### REPORTS OF D. D. GRAND MASTERS.

I herewith submit the annual reports made to me by the various district deputies. Those from districts Nos. 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 20 have no report, and 12 have caused citations to be issued as required by law. Some of these contain valuable information and useful suggestions. But about one-half of these reports are very meager, which fact I ascribe more to the want of a law defining fully and specially what such reports should contain, than to any want of ability or disposition on the part of the deputies to comply with the law. Since, under the present regulation, the Grand Master cannot in person visit all the lodges, many of his active field duties necessarily devolve upon his deputies. To enable this Grand Lodge to legislate intelligently to supply the wants of the jurisdiction, its officers should be thoroughly and reliably informed as to the condition of the various subordinates. I therefore recommend that some committee be charged with the annual report for the district deputies, at the same time a variety of questions, which must necessarily elicit from the deputy such answers, in detail, as will give all the statistical data and other information required by the Grand Lodge. These blanks should be printed, and forwarded to the deputies in due season by the Grand Secretary.

### OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

My opportunities to visit lodges have been necessarily restricted during the past year. I have, however, been enabled to meet with lodges in Portland, Oregon City, Salem, Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, Olympia and Seattle, to the members of which I exemplified the unwritten work. I found all of these lodges in good working condition,

and notably so in Southern Oregon, where a very marked revival has taken place during the past year. A great deal of new material has been added, taken from the most respectable and influential elements in the community. A bright and prosperous future may be safely predicted for these lodges. I found a few lodges with a large membership, all of which paid their dues with punctuality and discharged all their outward obligations as Odd Fellows; but the faces of many members were rarely seen in the lodge room. This want of frequent attendance has a discouraging tendency upon the other members, and wherever I met lukewarmness in the work, the cause could nearly always be traced to slim lodge meetings, a consequent lack of interest and general inefficiency in the work of the order.

### WASHINGTON AND IDAHO.

No change in the relations between this Grand Lodge, and the lodges in these Territories have taken place during the past year. Greatly owing to the kind and fostering care which has ever been extended by this Grand Lodge, the order in these Territories has had a steady and prosperous growth, and in Washington, at least, sufficient strength will before long be developed to maintain, if necessary or desirable, a separate Grand Lodge organization.

### ANNIVERSARY.

On the 20th day of February last, I issued a proclamation enjoining the observance of the 56th anniversary of our order and also a general dispensation authorizing lodges to appear publicly in the regalia and jewels of the order on that day. I am glad to be able to state that the occasion was properly celebrated in all parts of the jurisdiction by processions, orations, friendly reunions and other festivities of an appropriate character. In Hillsboro, Canyonville and some other localities, very observable were a conspicuous nature and exhibited in a very favorable light to the outside world the love and attachment of the brethren toward the principles of our order.

### WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

This organization, which was created by the Grand Lodge at its last session, is conducted and managed under its auspices, has been in successful operation during the past year. Twenty-two subordinate lodges, aggregating a membership of 867, have formally adopted the plan submitted by the Grand Lodge. The \$25.00 on each assessment, but 176 individual members of these have opened a personal account with the Grand Secretary, and are now contributing members of the association. The total number of members at the present time being 1,037, \$25.00 on each assessment, it increases the sum of \$25,175.00 to the fund. The principal object of this association is the relief of the widow and orphan in the case of the death of a member. But four members have died, and the sums respectively were \$387.50, \$448, \$556.50, and \$25.00 on each assessment. The principal object of this association is the relief of the widow and orphan in the case of the death of a member. But four members have died, and the sums respectively were \$387.50, \$448, \$556.50, and \$25.00 on each assessment. The principal object of this association is the relief of the widow and orphan in the case of the death of a member. But four members have died, and the sums respectively were \$387.50, \$448, \$556.50, and \$25.00 on each assessment.

Several other constitutional amendments of minor importance are pending and will be brought to your particular notice in due time. Our constitution is the code of fundamental and organic law, which governs and vitalizes to which various inferior systems of laws, rules and regulations of grand and subordinate lodges, and restrains and limits the sphere to which they extend. No amendment should be proposed which would alter the fundamental principles of the constitution, and the remedy appropriate, certain and adequate. The spirit of change and renovation is always alive in this progressive age and too often ill-advised measures are hastily adopted, without the importance of deliberation which the importance of the subject requires. Hence I invoke at your hands a careful and close scrutiny of these amendments and their probable result if adopted, and such action as the welfare of the jurisdiction may seem to require.

### THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

The following resolution was adopted by this Grand Lodge at its last session: Resolved, By this Grand Lodge, that we discontinue the use and sale of all intoxicating drinks by members of the I. O. O. F. in this jurisdiction. The adoption of this resolution has given rise to considerable discussion and controversy in various parts of the jurisdiction as to its true construction and the extent of its operation. I regret to state that at the present session, the labor imposed upon this committee is very arduous and difficult to accomplish. The legislation proposed to be embodied in the Digest consists of resolutions, amendments and other enactments, which are scattered over the nineteen volumes constituting the Journals of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. A proper execution of this requires the committee to classify and arrange the various subjects under appropriate heads and titles, to eliminate the points and substance from the various reports of committees and answers, to bring together and incorporate the various amendments and motions into the original acts and to reject all repealed, inoperative and obsolete enact-

ments and decisions. When properly completed, this Digest will be of great utility and benefit to the Order in this jurisdiction. It will present to the lodges and members all local legislation in compact form, readily enabling all to ascertain a disputed point; it will secure a better compliance with the laws and uniformity throughout the jurisdiction; it will avoid many frivolous controversies and appeals and will materially lessen the labors of the grand officers, and save time and expense in degrading the business of the Grand Lodge. I therefore recommend that the continuation of the committee with the injunction to proceed with all convenient speed.

21. The immediate publication under existing regulations of the Digest, when submitted to and approved by the standing committee of elective grand officers, to be published with the Constitution of the Grand and Subordinate Lodges and such public ceremonial and other matters as is now permitted to be published by the laws of the Order and determined by said standing committee. 22. The first expense of publication to be paid by the Grand Lodge. 23. The number of copies of the Digest to be printed and the price of each copy to be fixed by said standing committee. 24. A resolution that each subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction shall purchase at least two copies. 25. If the financial condition of the Grand Lodge will permit, I would also recommend a reasonable compensation to the members of the digest committee for the laborious task imposed upon them, which requires local and general learning, as well as patient exertion.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The very voluminous correspondence of this office, together with a detailed statement of all my acts and doings as Grand Master, is herewith submitted to be referred to and examined by the proper committee.

### RECEPTIONS.

I recommend a law making it an offense to criticize and improperly comment on the actions and motives of a brother who chooses, in good faith, to exercise his prerogative of black-balling a candidate for membership. Nearly all of the unfriendly feeling which has ever existed in Lodges is attributable to this habit. A brother casting a black-ball should be held amenable, when actuated by malice or improper motives, by putting him on trial *instanter*, but no uncharitable criticisms or impugning of motives ought to be allowed.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The O. S. N. Co., O. & C. R. Co., O. G. R. Co., N. P. R. Co. and perhaps other lines of transportation have generously extended a reduction of fares for officers and members of this Grand Lodge. To all these companies suitable acknowledgment ought to be made.

### CONCLUSION.

I cannot close my report without expressing my gratitude to Deputy Grand Master Cady, who officiated in my place during my temporary absence of three months, and to the various District Deputy Grand Masters, for the aid which they have so efficiently rendered to enable me to discharge the responsibilities of my office. I also feel deeply indebted to the very prompt and efficient Grand Secretary, Bro. J. M. Bacon, who was ever ready to assist me with his counsel and advice, which was rendered doubly valuable by his many years of experience and arduous labor in the cause of Odd Fellowship.

I surrender into your hands the authority of my office with a great sense of relief from the responsibilities which it involves, and also with the deepest gratitude for the honor and honor conferred upon me by all Odd Fellows, here and abroad. During the past year personal trials and difficulties have fallen to my lot, and I cheerfully bear to discharge the great trust of the Brotherhood in this jurisdiction nobly exemplified in their conduct toward me the principles of faith, friendship, charity and brotherly love. I trust that harmony and zeal may characterize our deliberations, and that the result of your labors may redound to your credit and the honor of our Order.

Submitted in the bonds of Friendship, Love and Truth.

HENRY G. STRUBE, Grand Master.

PORTLAND, OR., May 18, 1875.

INDIA RUBBER SIDEWALKS.—India rubber sidewalks are coming into fashion out west. For small towns they are admirable—combining economy with durability. The first experiment was made at Danville, Iowa, where three hundred yards were put down on one of the principal streets. All the boys in the place ran over it, but there was no noise. A leading merchant stopped in front of his store. The elastic forces hidden in the rubber threw him over the gate to the roof of the piazza. But after a few trials he was able to alight on the steps with the graceful accuracy of a young squirrel. The chief drawback to the walk is its odorous familiarity in hot weather, but it can be neutralized by a weekly wash of borax and cold tar. Its principal advantage is that it can be stretched. As the town grows it is pulled out toward the suburbs. Two yoke of cattle can lengthen it three miles a day.

PUT IT OFF.—An economical farmer's daughter in Massachusetts put off her wedding day because eggs were up to forty cents per dozen, and it would take two dozen for the wedding cakes and pudding.