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ANNUAL ADDRESS.

OF H. G. STRUVE, M. W. GRAND MASTER
TO THE M. W. GRAND LODGE OF OREGON,
AT THE 20TH ANNUAL COMMUNI-
CATION, BEGUN AND HELD AT PORT-
LAND, 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 demands your heartfelt thankfulness to the great Almighty for His goodness and mercy to us and our order during the past year. 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 has been greater than 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 petitioning for charters in young hands. From nearly all parts of the jurisdiction, the glad tidings of substantial prosperity are sent to us. New halls have been erected, cemeteries established and other evidences of success abounding in 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 the 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. Gatch, acting Grand Master, for the institution of a new lodge at Hillsboro, Washington county, Oregon, 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 under the most favorable auspices, and gives promise of a prosperous future. Hence I recommend a charter for this lodge.

On the 23rd 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, Wasco county, Oregon, to be called as Juniper 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 Cove 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 22d day of April 1875, I granted a dispensation for the institution of a new lodge at Coquille City, to be known and hailed 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 a new lodge in Washington Territory, which will probably be instituted during the next month.

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REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES.

I herewith submit an application for a dispensation to constitute a Rebekah degree lodge at Pendleton, Umatilla county, Oregon, signed by the officers of the Grand Lodge, up to the present date, have been auditied and paid, and a balance of \$962.24 is retained in the treasury. The balance last year, however, was only \$344.77, although the receipts during that year nearly equaled those of the present year. The levy 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 funds.

DECISIONS.

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 the power to determine that its 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. 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.

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 by-laws, when the candidate had been rejected, 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 vote who are disqualified to vote upon such application under the by-laws, the ballot may be declared illegal and void by a majority of the lodge. (1871 journal Grand Lodge U. S. p. 193, 5, 244.) When this illegality is so ascertained and declared, it places all parties as if no ballot had taken place, and theron a ballot must be spread in strict compliance with the constitution of subordinates.

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 made no report, and I 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 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, its officers should be thoroughly and reliably informed as to the exact condition of the various subordinates, and such information can be best contributed by the district deputies. I therefore recommend that some committee be charged with the labor of preparing the form of an annual report for the district deputies, to consist of 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 un-written work. I found all of these lodges in good working condition, 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 to request contributions 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 to this jurisdiction to help subordi-nate lodges on the eastern seaboard, who had suffered by fire and otherwise, 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.

HOMME 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 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 long be developed to maintain, if necessary or desirable, a separate Grand Lodge organization.

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 be long be developed to maintain, if necessary or desirable, a separate Grand Lodge organization.

PENDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.
You will be called upon at the present session to consider some very important amendments to the constitution of the Grand Lodge, which were proposed at the last session. The first of these contemplates a radical change in the election of grand officers by constituting each subordinate Lodge a separate polling place, where each Past Grand of such Lodge may exercise at any particular time his right of suffrage for such candidates as have been duly nominated, the returns to be canvassed and the result declared by the Grand Master and his assistants prior to each session of the Grand Lodge. The particular merit claimed for this amendment seems to be the fact that every Past Grand, no matter how remote his residence, will have an opportunity to exercise his inherent right to express his choice in the election of grand officers, whereas under the present system, the choice is confined to representatives in actual attendance and such Past Grands as reside in the immediate locality where the Grand Lodge holds its session. 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, Yamhill and some other localities, the observances were of a very impressive 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.

ANNUIVERSARY.
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, Yamhill and some other localities, the observances were of 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 and 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 other lodges have rejected the same, but 176 individual members of these have opened 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, it insures the sum of \$518.50 to the widow or person designated as the beneficiary in the case of the death of a member. But four members have died, and the sums respectively paid were \$357.50, \$448, \$556.50, and \$518.50 on each assessment. The principle of this organization contains the entire germ of a system which, by the aid of experience, can undoubtedly be developed into a successful plan of mutual insurance. Many lodges are as yet undecided concerning it, and waiting to see the practical results of its operation. The principal objection urged by many seems to be that the young man of 21, whose lease of life may be fairly presumed to continue for a long period, is liable at his age to far greater prospective burdens than those imposed upon the man of 60, who may reasonably expect to reap the same benefit from the plan with a largely disproportionate outlay of expense. But, not being versed in the science taught by mortuary statistics, I leave the whole matter to your wisdom, with this simple recommendation, namely, that some law be enacted which will prevent any ballot from being declared illegal and void by a majority of the lodge.

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 made no report, and I 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 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, its officers should be thoroughly and reliably informed as to the exact condition of the various subordinates, and such information can be best contributed by the district deputies. I therefore recommend that some committee be charged with the labor of preparing the form of an annual report for the district deputies, to consist of 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.

DISPENSATIONS.
At various times during the past year I have granted numerous dispensations for the construction of Lodges, public installations and celebrations and festivities of a various nature. They are stated in detail in the record of the Grand Master hereunder, to which I refer for further particulars.

APPOINTMENTS.
The following appointments have been made by me during the past year: June 5, 1874, James Hay, D. G. M. in Idaho for District No. 8; June 5, 1874, F. E. Ensign, D. D. G. M. in Idaho for District No. 9; June 5, 1874, James Noble, D. D. G. M. for District No. 5; June 5, 1874, C. W. Tower, D. D. G. M. for District No. 27; June 9, 1874, D. E. Thomas, D. D. G. M. for District No. 26. Nov. 18, 1874, James A. Smith, D. D. G. M. for District No. 2, vice C. W. Tower, D. D. G. M. for District No. 29, vice J. C. Wing.

APPOINTMENT.
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 L. 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 operative force. I regret to state also that by reason thereof a factious spirit has manifested itself in one or two places, engendering hostile and bitter feelings. It became my official duty to give a construction to this resolution and I held in substance that the same did not amount to any absolute prohibition of the use and sale of intoxicating drinks by members of the Order.

The Grand Lodge of the United States has decided that it is contrary to the spirit and policy of our institution to pass any law on the subject referred to, creating a new test of membership in the Order.

The Lodge authority has also decided that Lodges cannot abdicate the liberty of the citizens nor dictate to him what he shall eat and drink. All good Odd Fellows, as such despise the abuse of intoxicating drinks and

been recorded, and are respectfully submitted to you for your approval.

HISTORY OF ODD FELLOWSHIP.

At the last session of the Grand Lodge a committee was appointed to contribute a chapter to the history of Odd Fellowship, now being prepared by our venerable and beloved brother, J. L. Ridgely, Grand C and Recording Secretary