

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.

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OF THE
ORDERAlso of Fraternal Societies
in General and Their
Legal Status

At the request of many of friends in this city and throughout the state, I have consented to write briefly as to matters of interest connected with my journey to the National Fraternal Congress at Mackinac Island, Michigan. I am persuaded to write of this session of the congress and incidentally of other matters of interest for the reason that, as the only delegate from the great state of Oregon, by no other means will the fraternal beneficiary orders of this state receive specific information as to questions of importance discussed at this convention, and which are of vital interest to all such organizations. The main object of the National Fraternal Congress is to defeat by united effort all state and national legislation inimical to the life, growth and prosperity of all reliable beneficiary fraternal societies in the United States, Canada and Mexico. On August 23, in the opera house of the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, on Mackinac straits, 300 delegates, representing nearly three millions of membership and four billions of protective insurance carried by 59 of the greatest fraternal beneficiary organizations in the world, met to discuss matters of paramount interest to the millions of beneficiaries among the laborers, producers and professional citizens of America. When one stands upon the heights where this beautiful hotel and opera house are situated and looks far away across the green waters of the straits of Mackinac, dotted here and there with ships of commerce, and back again to the picturesque summits of the hills entwined in memory with many of the stories of Fenimore Cooper's interesting historical writings, and then reverts to the momentous questions that face every session of the fraternal congress, the change is from the sublime to the serious. Upon decisions of these sessions of the congress depend the welfare, prosperity and happiness of twelve millions or more of orphans, widows and other beneficiaries of these great orders. The opening address was made by the president, Hon. A. B. Talbot, at the head of the Modern Woodmen of America, and who was re-elected to this position later in the session. Talbot is a figure of interest—a strong, interesting character of national fame. He was law partner of Wm. J. Bryan several years ago, and today stands at the head of the fraternal congress and is head counsel of one of the greatest beneficiary fraternal organizations in the world.

The law committee selected at the congress of 1904 reported several contests on policies throughout the states, all of which were decided favorably except the Western case at St. Louis, Mo., which was decided adversely to the Knights of Pythias. An appeal to the supreme court is now pending, with every prospect of a reversal. Four thousand dollars were voted by the congress to carry this case, if necessary, to the supreme court of the United States. The writer has not sufficient time to enter into a discussion of the points involved in this celebrated case. Suffice it to say that if the decision of the Missouri court is affirmed by the highest tribunal of our country, fraternal beneficiary organizations will receive a blow that will retard their growth all along the line. The decision already given by the court is to the effect that a member of a fraternal organization stands on a plane with one belonging

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to an old line insurance company, and that he secures extended insurance, even if delinquent, after having paid his assessments for two years. The decision is based on a law of the Missouri legislature of 1873, and had heretofore escaped notice.

A strong content developed on the proposition to amalgamate the congress with the United Fraternities, another organization with aims and objects parallel to our own, representing some 40 small fraternal beneficiary organizations, with a membership of only 350,000. The debate was heated and lasted from 3 p. m. on the 24th, to 12:30 at night, resulting in the appointment of a committee to report action at next session, after conference with a like committee of United Fraternities. Another question of great importance was the proposed establishing of a fraternal sanatorium at Las Vegas, New Mexico, for tuberculous patients. The medical department showed that 13 per cent of all deaths in the fraternal beneficiary orders resulted from this terrible disease. The location is an ideal one for this great institution. The Santa Fe railroad offers the congress 1000 acres of land free. Las Vegas will donate 10,000 acres also. The great boulevard from Denver to El Paso, Texas, will pass through the proposed tract. The congress adopted a resolution endorsing the plan and appointed a committee of investigation, who will report to the session of 1906, which will be held in Montreal, Canada, in August, 1906.

On the closing day of the session General John C. Black, former U. S. Commissioner of Pensions, that old hero of the war of 1861 to 1865, white-haired, old and feeble delivered an address that electrified the assembly. Not an orator, but with the romance of the great civil war clustered around him, his clear voice and remarkable personality, charmed and enthralled his hearers. His address was replete with matters of history and charming in its purity of thought and purpose. To give a full statement of the interesting incidents and purposes of this great convention would require more time and space than are at my disposal. Let me say, however, that the National Fraternal Beneficiary Congress stands behind all the leading orders of this character in the world, and through its vigorous efforts the old line insurance companies will not be able to engraft upon the constitutions of the several states of the Union legislation adverse to a perpetuation of fraternal beneficiary organizations. It was my pleasure to meet the great leaders of the Maecobees, Modern Woodmen, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Foresters, Ladies Foresters, Independent Foresters, Ancient Order United Workmen, United Brotherhood, and, in fact, the leaders of all the orders present at this session of the congress. Hon. I. L. Roak, head counsel of the Woodmen of the World, was a conspicuous figure at the convention, as was our old gray-haired veteran, J. Collier Root, of Omaha, who is head counsel of our sovereign jurisdiction, and who was the beloved colleague and friend of Head Consul Falkenberg during the years now gone. Morton of Los Angeles, McMasters of Vancouver, Wash., ex-Head Consul Keith of Butte, Mont., and Head Consul Roak, my colleagues representing the Woodmen of the World, were favorites at this session of the congress and men of brilliant attainments, and during the discussion their speeches received marked attention and consideration.

In conclusion, our trip from Chicago to Mackinac Island, the entire length of Lake Michigan, 360 miles, on the palatial steamer Manitowish, in company with our colleagues and wives, was one of unalloyed pleasure. Crops throughout Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio are most abundant, the very best for years. Thousand of acres of corn in these states stand from 10 to 14 feet in height. Wheat in Michigan turned out from 25 to 40 bushels per acre. Hay, two to four tons per acre. During our entire trip, except in Illinois,

we were favored with cool, pleasant weather. Our visit to the great irrigated district, from Minidoka to Twin Falls, cannot be described in this article. It would require several columns to properly treat this subject. Allow me to say that this country has tremendous possibilities, with all prospects pointing to a quick realization of a country that shall blossom like the rose, where for ages past no sound has been heard but the sullen roar of Shoshone Falls and the sounds of the natural denizens of the sage brush desert. What most impressed me is that all eyes of Eastern people are turned toward Oregon and Idaho as the best states for future homes. We took special pains to tell them that Woodburn alone is the center of the garden spot of the world.

WALTER L. TOOZE.

The Deadly Pistol

Harvey Wilson, deputy sheriff of Wallawa county, was accidentally killed at 4 o'clock Tuesday. He was sitting in his office with a revolver in his hip pocket, his feet elevated on a table, when the revolver fell from his pocket and was discharged, the bullet entering the body at the left of the spine and passing through the breast. Death was almost instantaneous. He leaves a wife and child. He was a popular official, and was much esteemed.

Manifest Error.

Molly—He is a student at one of the big colleges.

Polly—Nonsense! He talked with us for an hour when he was here yesterday, and never used a bit of slang.—Somerville Journal.

A. Crono, son of Hon. C. B. Crono, of Toledo, is reported lost in the mountains near Grants Pass. Young Crono is a timber cruiser, and one of the best mountaineers in the state, but it is feared that he has met with a serious accident and is unable to help himself.



Mrs. E. R. Thomas, formerly Miss Linda Lee, of Louisville, Ky., and a famous Southern beauty, is seriously ill at her summer villa, "Stone Arch," Newport. She is one of the most popular society women, and her illness is generally regretted.

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In compliance with a request from the secretary of the National Prison Association, the governor yesterday appointed delegates to the next annual congress of that organization, which will be held in Lincoln, Neb., October 21 to 26, inclusive. Delegates from all over the United States will be present. Not all of these will be officially connected with prisons and reformatories, but they will all be persons who have taken an active part in the effort to improve the conditions in restraining institutions throughout the country.

Following is the list of delegates appointed: Mrs. Low Hatch, Rev. E. P. Murphy, Sept. Looney of the reform school, Rev. E. W. St. Pierre, Salem; Rev. J. A. Levisque, Woodburn; Mrs. M. L. Trumbull, Woodburn; Mrs. T. Gardner, H. H. Hawley, Ir. T. L. Elliott, Ben Selling, Portland, and J. S. Hunt, Oakland.

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