

**I. O. O. F. GRAND LODGE SESSION**

(Continued from First Page)

how and in what manner they could become residents of homes now maintained in this State, said persons being members of Lodges not connected with any of the Home Associations. I also know of many Lodges, that would not, under any circumstances, become members of a Home Association, but would gladly and freely contribute a per capita tax to a home or homes, in which all brethren in this jurisdiction could find a refuge in time of need.

It is but natural to assume that the corporations now maintaining homes and orphanages in this jurisdiction would be loath to part with the same, but I believe them to be large-hearted Odd Fellows, whose desire is for the general good of the membership, rather than the benefit of a few, and an equitable agreement, could, I believe, be made with them, whereby just and due compensation would be the basis of an amicable adjustment for the taking over of one or more of these homes.

If my view on this subject should meet with the approval of my brethren, it would be necessary to amend the Charter of this Grand Body, so that real property may be acquired, and I therefore recommend the enactment of proper legislation to accomplish that result.

The Grand Secretary's report showed that one Lodge in the State had surrendered its charter, Centerville Lodge of Centerville Station, and four new Lodges had been installed.

The number of members in the State Dec. 31, 1913, 126,294. Initiated in 1914, 8,050, admitted by card 1,193; reinstated, 468 making a total of 136,005.

Withdrawals in 1914, 1,571; suspended for n. p. d., 4,367; expelled, 39; died 1,678, a total of 7,655; making a total membership Dec. 31, 1914 of 128,350, showing a gain of 2,056 in the year.

The present number of Lodges in the State is 940.

After the reports of the officers had been accepted the Grand Master announced his appointments of standing committees. The representatives from Cuba, Alfred and Andover Lodges in Allegany County were honored with committee appointments as follows:

W. W. VanNoy of Cuba, as member of the committee on election returns, Wm. R. Beebe of Alfred, representative badges and J. Harvey Backus, Press reports.

**Tuesday Afternoon**

Tuesday afternoon, the delegates enjoyed a picnic and outing at Long Branch. Trolley cars were at the disposal of the representatives and visitors, and it was estimated that there were 3,000 in attendance at the outing.

On arrival at the beach, the delegates and visitors formed a procession, headed by Cunningham's Band, followed by the Syracuse Lodge of the Ancient Order of Humility and Perfection in full zouave uniform, and following the procession the Orientals gave an exhibition drill.

At three o'clock Grand Master McKnight and President of the Rebekah Assembly, Mrs. Annie E. Palmer, delivered addresses at the grounds.

The feature of the outing was an exhibition drill given by the Rebekahs of the following Lodges: Waneta of Baldwinsville, Evening Star, Lincoln and Twilight of Syracuse. The Lincoln team was under direction of Capt. Fred Sembach and the Twilight team under Drill Mistress Mrs. W. F. Egather. The work by the different teams was of a high order of perfection and it was hard to distinguish the winner. The judges awarded the prize to Lincoln Lodge.

Following the competitive drills a base ball game was played between the teams of Limestone Creek Lodge and Syracuse Lodge. In the evening, the delegates and visitors were entertained by a complimentary theatre party at the Strand Theatre.

**Wednesday Morning**

Rep. Pesoa, chairman committee on State of the Order, made report commending and legalizing the work of the Standing Committee during the year, which

consisted of the granting of new charters, incorporation of Lodges, changing of meeting nights of

Lodges, consolidation of Lodges, making contracts for the Grand Lodge printing, the recommendation of Honorable Veteran Jewels and other matters brought to the attention of the committee. The committee also recommended the acts of Grand Master McKnight and congratulated him on the increase in membership and the exceptional record he had made during his term of office, also approving of his action in the thorough investigation regarding the rumors of improper care of the occupants of the German Odd Fellows' Home.

The committee also reported upon the recommendation of the Grand Master regarding the Grand Lodge acquiring the several Homes and Orphanages in the State, and they recommended the following:

"That a special committee of five be appointed by the Grand Master to take into consideration the advisability and possibility of the Grand Lodge taking over and maintaining the four Homes now existing in this State, with power to confer with the managers of said Homes regarding such transfer, and to report thereon at the next session of the Grand Lodge, for such action as the Grand Lodge may see fit to take thereon."

After several hours of discussion the subject being the most important to come before the present meeting, it was decided to leave the appointment of a committee of five in the hands of the Grand Master, to investigate the problem. This committee will make an exhaustive inquiry into the matter and report to the grand officers by June 1, 1916, and action on the matter will be taken up at the next convention.

The Grand Master appointed the following committee: F. P. Trautman of New York, Thos. W. McKnight of New York, Fred F. Dansill of Buffalo, S. J. Daring of Albany and F. J. Greifenstein of Brooklyn.

After discussion by Reps. Borst, McKnight, Burr, Mosher, Joyce, Kane, Frankel, and Joyce, Spooner, Hirschburg, Young, Kane, Frankel, and Krone, Rep. Burr Mosher moved that the committee compile its report, have it printed and that the Grand Secretary mail same to each Subordinate Lodge in the State on or before June 1, 1916, so that each lodge would have an opportunity to digest such report and intelligently instruct their representative to the Grand Lodge of 1916 regarding such matter.

Rep. Mosher that the committee be allowed \$200 or so much thereof as necessary for expenses carried.

After an able address of invitation by Rep. Lewis of Buffalo, which was seconded by Past Grand Master Friday of Brooklyn, Buffalo was chosen for the meeting of the session of 1916 without a dissenting vote.

**Wednesday Afternoon**

At this time, the amendments which were laid over from last year were taken up for action. After discussion by Reps. Trautman, Spooner, Backus Wright and Carr, the amendments were all adopted.

The first one is to amend Article 3, Section 8, Constitution or specially, as each may determine. The annual session of each District Grand Committee shall be held on the second Wednesday in April in each year, at such hour and place in the District as may be previously fixed upon by such committee; or in default thereof by the District Deputy Grand Master of the District.

Rep. Haubenestel, chairman committee on Credentials, reported that there were 537 regular present at the session.

Rep. Sauerwein, chairman committee on Grand Lodge Degree, reported that the Grand Lodge Degree had been conferred at this session on a total of 663 Past Grand: 438 on Monday night, 135 Tuesday, 87 Wednesday and 3 Thursday, making one of the largest classes ever given the Grand Lodge Degree at any Grand Lodge session in the State.

**The Parade**

Over 6000 Odd Fellows and Rebekahs formed the Grand Lodge parade which occurred

Wednesday evening and proved one of the most spectacular parades ever seen in the city of

Syracuse. The parade was a subordinate Lodges, that an appointive officer who absents himself for three successive meetings his seat shall be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the lodge.

The amendment to Section 3, Article 2, of the Constitution of time for the election of representatives to the Grand Lodge from the first regular meeting in June to the last regular meeting in June in each year.

Several other amendments to the by-laws of the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges regarding the finances of Lodges and trial of its members, were adopted.

The amendment changing Section 1 of Article 2 of the Grand Lodge by-laws was adopted, the change making Section 2 read as follows, so that hereafter the annual meetings of the District Grand Committees will be held the second Wednesday in April instead of the third Wednesday in March:

Section 2. The District Grand Committee shall hold their regular sessions monthly, quarterly, by two miles long and consumed nearly an hour and a half in passing the reviewing stand in front of the Wisting Opera House the parade being reviewed by Major General W. C. Gurney and staff, Grand Master McKnight and officers of the Grand Lodge.

The parade drew out a record-breaking crowd and it was estimated that over 30,000 people reviewed it from the side lines, and not since the days when Ka-Noo-No Karnival was at the height of its popularity have so many witnessed a street spectacle in that city.

**Thursday Morning**

The committee on appeals reported on the cases brought before it. With the exception of one the recommendation of the committee was sustained. As an evidence that the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows has no lobby to defeat its procedure or check or clan to run its deliberation it is only necessary to point to the action of the body in turning down the proposal of the committee on appeals in the case of Effie G. Young to appeal their case to the So. G. L. The committee recommended denying her request but after just one speech from a representative, the action of the committee was reversed and almost unanimous consent was given her to take her case to the highest court in the order.

The regular business of the Grand Lodge session being completed, Grand Master McKnight proceeded to install the newly elected officers, appointing Past Grand Master H. L. Gardner as Grand Marshal, and Past Grand Master F. J. Greifenstein as Grand Guardian. He then installed the following officers of the Grand Lodge: Grand Master, Geo. E. Judge, Buffalo; Deputy Grand Master, Lyman J. Cheney, Salamanca; Grand Warden, James Wingate, Schenectady; Grand Secretary, Harry Walker, Brooklyn; Grand Treasurer, John F. Bullenkamp, Brooklyn; Grand Representative, H. V. Borst, Amsterdam.

The appointive officers were filled by the Grand Lodge officers as follows: Grand Chaplain, Rev. Geo. E. Price, Leroy; Grand Marshal, Harry G. Froby, Buffalo; Grand Conductor, Leo J. Solomon, New York; Grand Guardian, Arthur C. Pearce, Rochester; Grand Herald, George A. Dunn, Watertown.

Following the installation, the newly elected Grand Master addressed the Grand Body, and at the close of address, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, presented a beautiful Past Grand Master's jewel to retiring Grand Master Thomas W. McKnight. He was followed by Grand Chaplain Geo. E. Price, who on behalf of admiring friends of Past Grand Master McKnight presented him with a beautiful diamond ring.

The retiring Grand Master in a very feeling, humorous and interesting address, responded to the two presentation addresses, and closed by congratulating the newly elected Grand Master, George E. Judge.

This closed one of the most interesting sessions that has ever been held by the Grand Lodge in this State.

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