

reunite with said Lodge, than upon the application of a stranger. But persons who, from no fault of their own, are illegally initiated, cannot be discharged from membership for that reason, but are entitled to all the rights enjoyed by other members of similar rank; and the same rule governs the case of an unworthy person, who may have been inadvertently admitted.—*Digest 307, Section 17.*

The above decisions were made by the R. W. Grand Lodge upon reports of the Committee on the State of the Order, upon decisions of the M. W. Grand Sire, made during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

The following decisions, reported by the Committee on the State of the Order, were adopted:

The presiding or sitting N. G. of a Subordinate Lodge, has no right to sign an annual or semi-annual report returning himself as a Past Grand, he not having previously passed the Noble Grand's chair.

Officers of Subordinate Lodges may confer the Degree of Rebekah upon widows of Odd Fellows in good standing, after application in open Lodge.

The certificate of either the Recording Secretary or the Permanent or Financial Secretary of a Subordinate Lodge, under the seal of the Lodge, of the standing, etc., of a member thereof, is sufficient evidence for an Encampment to act upon—but that local legislation may make it exclusively the duty of either Secretary.

The following decisions of the Committee of Appeals were adopted:

No person, on being admitted to membership in this Order, thereby loses any rights he had in possession as a citizen. His right to protection by the civil authorities is not impaired by becoming an Odd Fellow—the laws of the land and the courts which administer them, are the surest and most proper means by which justice can be attained; especially is this so in regard to civil contracts, frequently involving, as they do, long, intricate and conflicting accdunts; requiring close and patient scrutiny, and impartial investigation. This class of questions of difference should always be submitted to the legal institutions of the land, rather than be attempted to be adjudicated by any authorities within the Order.

This was a case in which a brother refused to permit his Lodge to interfere with his pecuniary transactions with another brother, and for that reason was expelled for contempt. He was restored to membership.—*Appeal of P. G. Cutlin.*

The Order does not, in every case, recognize the "legal representatives" of a brother deceased, as entitled to his benefits.—*Appeal of P. G. Adams.*

A Treasurer of a Subordinate Lodge became pecuniarily involved by the accdnts in business; he informed his Lodge of the fact, and made security to them which they accepted as satisfactory, and released his sureties. It then became unlawful to prefer charges against the delinquent brother for appropriating the funds of the Lodge to his own use.—*Appeal of P. G. Seaman.*

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

Rep. Kennedy, of Southern New York, moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Legislative Committee be instructed to report such action, if any is required, to enable the Grand Secretaries of Grand Lodges to issue proper certificates to members of defunct Lodges, who are in good standing, to enable them to make application for membership in another Lodge.