

No doubt the object of sec. 169 is that the Subordinate Lodge shall, before electing its representative, have an opportunity of knowing what amendments are proposed with which such representative will have to deal, of discussing the same and of either choosing some one of whose views in the matter they approve, or of giving instructions as to his conduct in reference thereto. The representative is a representative of his Lodge and not as in the political sphere, a representative of the whole people; it would be more accurate to call him a delegate or even a "proxy."

The method pursued is certainly well adapted to the purpose of procuring the opinion of the members of the Order at large. And this is particularly so when the provisions of sec. 8 are taken into consideration. It reads thus:—

"Voting. 8. Each officer and representative shall be entitled to vote, but when the yeas and nays are called for by any ten representatives, and at all elections for Grand Lodge Officers, Executive Committee and Grand Trustees, each representative shall be entitled to as many votes as there were members of the Lodge represented by him or her at the date of the last annual report made by said Lodge to Grand Lodge; and the representative of any Lodge instituted after the date of the annual election of Subordinate Lodge Officers shall be entitled to as many votes as there were charter members of the Lodge represented by him or her."

It will seem that in all important matters, the representative has as many votes as his Lodge has members.

The indispensable prerequisite then is that a copy of "all such alterations and amendments to this Constitution" is "forwarded to the Grand Recorder on or before the 31st day of October"—this is "in order that" he may send a copy to each Subordinate Lodge in time for a full discussion of the proposed alteration or amendment before election of a Grand Lodge Representative.

That this has been the practice is plain: it is not denied.

What was done in the present instance appears from the records.

On November 1st, 1911, a circular was sent out to the Subordinate Lodges "as per Constitution I send you the following proposed amendments to the Grand Lodge Constitution, to be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its . . .