

taining their livelihood in this manner. The other is the rusty one, on account of not having been able to attend lodge for some time, or through living too far away from a lodge, so they had no opportunity of posting themselves. Neither should be encouraged, as in nine cases out of ten they are "tramps" and a disgrace to the order.

If the applicant is considered worthy, we usually pay his hotel bill, buy him a railroad ticket to the place he wishes to go, and a small sum of money is handed to him so that he shall not be penniless on the way. We always deal generously with a worthy brother in distress, but they are rare. In two instances, the applicants had the impudence to wait for a reply, although they were impostors and knowing we had telegraphed. On being threatened with arrest they made excuses, alleging some mistake in identity, but left town before a reply to a second message arrived.

The foregoing will show that only well-skilled and energetic men of considerable experience should be on that committee—men who are not easily led away by a plausible story, which in most cases is a lie from beginning to end.

If a brother belonging to the lodge requires relief or assistance, the initials of his name are only entered in the book, and on making the annual report to the lodge, as above mentioned, his name does not appear, but the amount paid him is entered under the headings for local relief, so that only the three members and the W. M. know who the distressed brother is. Of course the Lodge has the right to ask for the information, but has never done so yet. The books are audited once a year, together with the other books of the Lodge, and reported thereon on the night of installation.

Out of thirty-eight applications of transients, thirteen were considered unworthy and received no assistance.

Two Lodges have returned to us the amount paid, and three applicants have refunded the money advanced them. These are very rare cases. A great many promise as soon as they arrive at home or procure employment, to communicate with us and return the amount advanced, (for we always give as a loan only).

In the last eight years we have paid for relief the sum of \$488.63, exclusive of the Grand Lodge grants.

If every Lodge in Canada, where there is more than one Lodge in a place, would conjointly establish such Charitable Committees the tramp system would soon be a thing of the past, and a considerable amount of money would be saved to the brethren, especially to those who live on front streets or are easy of access. If a transient has to call on everyone for relief he receives more than in other places where he has to deal with a Charitable Committee. In most cases an individual Bro. would not trouble to examine the candidate, and he is out of pocket at least 25 cents, or if he is good natured or soft hearted, from 50 cents to \$1. If a subscription is made for local relief the good natured, soft hearted one is first called upon and another dollar is gone, and the Bro. who lives too far out of the way is never asked to give his share, but by having such a Charitable Fund every Bro. pays an equal share. If all Lodges would establish this system the transient nuisance could easily be suppressed. Another way the nuisance could be abated would be by having printed forms on which should be stated the name of the applicant, age, occupation, Lodge he belongs to, where he comes from, where he intends to go to, the amount given, also the cause of his distress stated, and sent by next mail, not only to the place he stated he was going to, but also to intermediate places, so that when he calls at the next place the Charitable Committee would be apprised and could act accordingly, by comparing notes, as in many cases