

amended so that the Rank fees in any Lodge shall in no case be less than the sum of five dollars per Rank. I am led to making this recommendation for the reason of having seen the beneficial working thereof in the lodges I have visited, and more particularly from the result of the adoption of the above rate in Frontier Lodge, to which I belong. It had long been said by our rivals that the Order could not amount to much when we only charged \$10.00 Rank fees, and the other orders were charging \$20.00, and after mature consideration it was concluded to advance the fees to \$5.00 per Rank. This was done and the result has been wonderful, the Lodge has since been constantly at work, and a better class of members has been obtained. The same result followed a like adoption in Ivahhoe Lodge, which was working along under great difficulties, striving to keep their heads above water, and I was informed, on the occasion of my official visit to that Lodge, that it was the increase of the Rank fees that saved its life, else the Lodge would have gone down. I trust you will give this matter your careful consideration.

I have had occasion since the last meeting to change my views on the question of sending some one out to introduce our Order in places where it is yet unknown, and I now believe the suggestion of Past Grand Chancellor Fleming to be a good one and well worthy the careful consideration of this Grand Lodge, and I would like to see some provision made to such an end. We must increase the Order in this Jurisdiction, and no secret order is likely to spring spontaneously into existence. We find that little work will start Lodges, but the trouble is, each one of us has his especial duties to attend to, and cannot well afford the time necessary to do the work of procuring applicants. If some good man could be found, who would be a credit to the Order, and sent out to work for its benefit, in a short time, in my opinion, you would see many new Lodges spring into existence.

I would suggest that this Grand Lodge express and place on record its opinion of the advisability of having a gathering of Knights from the several Lodges while the Grand Lodge is in session. While there can be no doubt that every public parade tends to bring the Order before the favorable notice of the public, yet when there is a large number of Knights in one place, there is always so much going on outside the Lodge room, that many Past Chancellors who would otherwise attend are drawn away from the business before the Grand Lodge, and the entire responsibility of the management and control of the Jurisdiction is thrown upon a few.

This should not be, as every Past Chancellor who can attend should be in his place and take his part in the transaction of all business for which the Grand Lodge is called together.

Then, too, many of the young Lodges desire to have the session of the Grand Lodge in their town, but the expense attending a due entertainment of the visiting brethren is so much that they are