

the lodge are his pendants, or, more commonly speaking, waiting the outcome of two limitations:—(1) the expiration of the Transfer Card or (2) election of the holder to membership in any other lodge.

While those who compose the first two groups are quite numerous, those who are represented by the third one form by far the larger contingent—with the latter class we will therefore have more particularly to do in this article. In answering them, we trust we may also inform the first and second.

First, let it be understood by all, that the inspiration, conception, origin and purpose of the Transfer Card, was to the end that thereby a means might be furnished whereby membership in a subordinate lodge might be transferred without in any respect disturbing existing Pythian rights, privileges, benefits, emoluments or advantages, because of the issuance of such Transfer Card—or, during the life of such card—or, until the regular election of the holder of such card to membership in the lodge in which he may have deposited same. In the light of that intention must be read all the legislation providing "for the issue and to regulate the uses of card: for transfer of Lodge membership." Let us see if the words of the statute do not indicate that the intention of the framers may be obtained from the words of the enactment itself.

The legislation which provides for application for, issuance of and deposit of, a Transfer Card is to be found in Title IV., Chapter VI., Sections 268, to 275 inclusive, of the Supreme Statutes. Passing by the instructions with reference to preliminaries, we find that in Section 268 it provides that the applicant for Transfer Card is required to accompany the application with "dues in advance to the first of the month succeeding the presentation of such application to the Lodge."

Next, we find that the form of the Transfer Card itself, as found in Section 270, says to the lodge to whom such card may be presented for deposit:—

"Should this lodge receive notice from you that, within 90 days from this date, the holder of this card has been elected a member of your lodge, his membership in this lodge will be deemed to have ceased upon such election, otherwise this Transfer Card shall be null and void."

And further, in Section 271, in providing for the continued life of such Transfer Card, during the 90 days it is to run, it says, that when depositing same, his application for membership in another lodge shall not only be accompanied by the Transfer Card, but also "with an official receipt showing the payment to the lodge issuing the card of all dues, fines, and assessments to the first of the month succeeding the date of the deposit of such Transfer Card." In this connection it may also be well to state that when the system of Transfer Card was originally adopted, in 1894, it then provided that the application for the issuance of a Transfer Card should be accompanied by dues in advance for 90 days, or during the whole period of the life of this card—this, however, was modified in 1896, by the adoption of the words last above quoted, so as not to require dues for the entire 90 days to be paid in advance, but only month to month in advance, as the same accrued.

Next, turning to the question of the effect of the issuance and deposit of a Transfer Card, so far as tenure of office is concerned, we find still further evidence of the intention of the framers not to disturb any existing right, by the issuance of such card. Evidently fearing that some doubt might prevail as to the effect that such issuance might have upon the rights of the holder of an office, the following provision was made, and appears in Section 273, which we have divided into paragraphs as follows:—

"273. 1. The rights of a holder of a Transfer Card as an officer in the lodge of issue, or as Grand Representative from such lodge, shall not be impaired by reason of the issue or deposit of such Transfer Card until his election to membership in the lodge in which it is deposited, but thereupon any such right shall forever cease and determine.

2. If the lodge of deposit of a Transfer Card be within the same domain as the lodge of issue, the rights of the holder thereof as an officer in his Grand Lodge, or as a Supreme Representative from such Grand Lodge shall not be affected or impaired by the issue or deposit of such Transfer Card.

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