

If the majority of the Ontario delegates who can attend S. G. Lodge at trifling cost cannot see the disadvantage under which those living a thousand or fifteen hundred miles away are laboring under, and feel themselves justified in pledging their respective lodges to submit to a levy for the formation of a fund from which, the costs being pooled, all the lodges will pay a like share of the expenses incurred by delegates attending Supreme Grand Lodge. Then the Western brethren have but the alternatives of either applying for and forming a Territorial Grand Lodge, or applying to the Manitoba local legislature for a charter under the Friendly Societies Act for letters of Incorporation as the Independent Order of the Sons of England or any other appropriate name which may be selected, a Manitcha Charter being as good in Manitoba as an Ontario one in Ontario, each having the same disadvantages in doing business outside its province.

That the readers of the ANGLO-SAXON may more fully understand how easily the cost of all the delegates visiting Supreme Grand Lodge in Session and thus enabling the most distant lodges to attend, can be calculated. Free Lance would suggest first, the limiting the number of delegates from each district to say, one delegate to every 150 members (lodges not being a factor in this connection) though each delegate shall have a vote for each lodge he represents in his district. Ascertaining the mileage of each delegate, distant or near, adding together the whole mileage of all the delegates, then finding out the cost of fare on all the railroads by the mileage ticket system, thus we shall be able to find the cost for mileage of the whole of the delegates in the aggregate. Then by counting heads of the members of all the lodges on a basis, as declared by them in their last Quarterly Report, we can divide the mileage cost by the membership per capita, and find the exact amount of levy required from the membership. It will be found that the cost to each individual member of the Order will indeed be obtained by bringing the most distant membership in touch with the Supreme authorities thus giving them a chance of voting intelligently upon who shall, and who shall not sit upon the Executive Board, and it is to be sincerely hoped doing away with not only a useless but harmful group of individuals who are forever tinkering at the Constitution till they have knocked it so out of shape the original founders of the Order would never know it for the creature they of honest and set purpose caused to spring into being some quarter of a century since.

The Constitution of '89 with some changes in relation to rates, and responsibilities to the membership was indeed far preferable to the one in present use with its irritating attempt at initiating the cast iron rigid frigidity of such purely BUSINESS confederations as the Workmen or the Foresters. The old form of Constitution, if at times it was somewhat vague, left every chance for a liberal interpretation being put by the lodges upon its mandates, and one would think that in what should in every sense be a truly fraternal and patriotic society, such as the S. O. E. it is just what is required.

If new lodges at times made mistakes it was usually

in a fraternal spirit and in the right direction, furthermore the lodges were alone the sufferers, not the Order or the S. G. Executive.

Experience teaches even in lodges. But it seems as time goes on that the Executive, having become used to the subservient of the lodges in patiently yielding to their demands for more money, and being apparently content to submit without protest to be shorn of many of their privileges, at length over-reached themselves when they launched the proposition to insist upon handling the Sick Benefit Fund of the sub lodges; this was the last straw which in an illcalculated stretch of greed came well nigh into breaking the back of the patient animal. It is about useless for the Record to tell the membership "there is no such proposition before the Order now." That there ever was is sufficient of itself to suggest to every one how the cat jumps in the S. O. E. Executive Chambers.

Well may they withdraw such a proposition. But it is too late, we know only too well by the experience of the past, how dearly our Executive does love to handle large sums of money. How efficiently they invest it has been made manifest by the Shaftesbury Hall episode, to say nothing about the S. G. Officers Grand Tour, and more recently the Sons of England scheme—all of these adventures were, no doubt, profitable enough to individuals, but by no means so to the Order to whom the money belongs. In connection with their last great fund handling scheme, let us for a moment give play to fancy and imagine a case in which after the S. B. Fund has been sent to be administered in Toronto, a brother falls sick, say in Winnipeg. Having declared on the lodge his sick pay is voted; the lodge secretary not being a very prompt individual, takes a week to send the order to the S. G. secretary, it is three days on the road, and when it arrives at its destination it is probably pigeon-holed by the Grand Vizier for a few weeks till the S. G. Executive hold a meeting. After passing, and being duly vided by these august members of the Order at this, or a succeeding meeting a month hence, it again finds its way to the Grand Vizier, then owing to accumulation of work in this G. V.'s office, the order is not mailed for some two or three weeks more; again after another three days on the road, arrives the day after the sick members lodge meeting and further action remains over till the next, when the W. Secretary will have a chance to pay it to the 1st Com. man, who at his leisure will convey it, some two or three weeks later to the unfortunate brother who has by this time either long since recovered, or is dead and has been buried, and become almost forgotten by all save the members of his own family.

In connection with, though not within the article itself in which the Record tries to placate the Western brethren, it seeks to draw another herring across the track under the head line "Facts and Figures" in which it gives us the astounding information that "Lapses" are not a benefit to the Beneficiary Dept. Is the Record silly enough to suppose that any member who knows anything about Life Assurance will for a moment suppose that in a Mutual Assessment Association a lapse can be a benefit.

In only one sense is it possible, and that is when an old life is replaced by the addition of a young one, even then it would be better to keep both, and in this connection it may be stated that this great Northwest as a recruiting ground for the Beneficiary is an invaluable acquisition as a recruiting ground as it is *par excellence* a young man's country, and a majority of the new members are young men.

Let the S. G. Executive and its mouth piece ponder these things, while in the meantime it furnishes its next text to be commented on by Winnipeg Free Lance.

THOS. C. ANDREWS.