

The DOMINION ODD FELLOW.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGES OF ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

A weekly journal, double royal size, sixteen pages, devoted to the promotion of Oddfellowship and principles embodied in its motto: "Friendship, Love and Truth."

Having a large and rapidly increasing circulation, it offers special inducements to advertisers, circulation as it does among the most intelligent class of the community. No advertisements inserted offensive to pure taste or good morals.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—One Dollar and Fifty Cents per annum, in advance.

Address—THE DOMINION ODD FELLOW.

5 Jordan St., Toronto, Canada.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 5, 1895.

The Manchester Unity has no Grand Lodge Degree.

The fraternal work should be pushed from now on until next May.

There are 27 Cantons in Michigan with 700 Patriarchs Militant.

The office of Financial Secretary in a Rebekah lodge is now optional instead of imperative, as formerly.

Will somebody put a long, sharp pin in the chair of the brother who is always rising to a "point of order."

We think that slow and sure growth in a lodge is better than a spasm of excitement that brings in members by the scores at the same time.

To do good work in the lodge you must take an interest in it. Study the moral lesson you are exemplifying. Do not talk so much, but practice more.

Some members make it a point to carry application blanks for membership in their pockets every day to meet an emergency, should one arise. Would it not be wise for us all to do that?

In our opinion it is far better to start a lodge with ten charter members than fifty, and to initiate ten candidates on the first night than one hundred. This remark applies to Subordinate and Rebekah lodges.

The other day in Denver, George Dillingham, claiming membership in Courtland Lodge, 205, of New York, was arrested for attempting to impose on the brethren of that city. He was found guilty and sentenced to jail for thirty days.

The *National Rebekah* says: The ballot is secret, and properly too for the best of reasons; but its use is only to keep unworthy persons out, and not to stab reputation in the dark. If the lodge does not desire to admit those who are not related to the Order, have none such

proposed; but, for heaven's sake and the credit of the Order, do not blackball worthy people, who are innocent of your opposition to the law.

Autumn, the most pleasant season of the year, not hot, not cold, no wonder the lodges are taking on activity and new life. The prospects are bright for a busy season of fraternal work. New members are to be initiated, and later social events are in anticipation.

The question whether the officers of the Sovereign Grand Lodge should have their headquarters in Baltimore or Washington was definitely settled at the recent session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, when it was voted to purchase property in the former city at a cost of \$28,750.

Sister Seels, D.D.G.M., presided with tact and skill at the Rebekahs' concert on Wednesday evening of last week. All her friends were delighted to see her looking so strong after the painful accident that happened to her, and the results of which confined her to the house for several weeks.

Since the Rebekah branch of the Order was instituted in New Hampshire, not a lodge has been lost. This covers a period of twenty-four years. It is a singular fact that in the list of Subordinate lodges, Rebekah lodges and Encampments in that jurisdiction, there is not a missing number. Not a lodge lost for thirty-five years!

With such an array of talent as the Committee has secured the two Grand Concerts to be given in Massey Hall on New Year's day cannot but be successful. Among them we notice the following well-known names: Mrs. Clara Barnes Holmes, Contralto, Buffalo; Miss Virginia Eastman, Soprano, Chicago; Miss Jessie Alexander, Elocutionist; Mr. Harold Jarvis, Tenor, Detroit; Mrs. Blight, Accompanist. In booking such artists as these the committee are certainly to be congratulated. We bespeak for these concerts the cordial support of every member in Toronto.

Grand Secretary King is still confined to his bed. His physician reports him holding his own fairly well; but it will take a week or two yet before the invalid is sufficiently strong to venture down to his office. Meanwhile, Harry King—who, by the way, is the making of a good Odd Fellow so soon as he attains man's estate—is attending to the office work so well that few, outside the readers of this journal, were aware of the Grand Secretary's illness. It is gratifying to Bro. King to know that during his enforced absence from business no interest, thanks to his son's careful attention, has been allowed to suffer.

A CENTRAL FUND.

Our able correspondent, Bro. A. H. Blackeby, G.R., in our last issue urges the necessity of some central fund from which may be paid the "extended benefits" as they are commonly called. The reasons given are, we believe, valid ones, and will be accepted as such by all who read the communication referred to.

We believe, too, that the necessity for some measure of this kind has become, during the past two or three years, far more generally recognized. The apparently overwhelming opposition which met the advocates of consolidation (erroneously so called) was more in appearance than reality. Its origin was easily traceable to blind prejudice—or a superior ignorance of the question.

It is not necessary, or at all desirable, that our lodge system of government should be in any way changed or interfered with. Our lodge system, which Bro. Blackeby calls a "basic principle," has not been an unadulterated blessing. It has, under our present financial system, developed a form of individualism (we have named it lodgeism) not at all in conformity with the principles of Unity, which our Order teaches and illustrates with the "bundle of sticks."

At no period in the history of the Order has the principle upon which insurance contracts are based been so well understood by the members, generally, as at the present. The phenomenal growth of the friendly society insurance has educated the public in the principles of insurance till it is hard to find any one who reads who has not a fair general knowledge of the subject. It would seem, then, that the present is a very fitting time to undertake the solution and settlement of the difficulties which beset our financial system.

The establishment of a fund, as suggested by Bro. Blackeby, certainly appears to be a step in the right direction. If such a fund can be established and maintained upon a fair and equitable basis, having due regard to the burden of the insurance risk, it will, indeed, go far towards a solution of the problem.

The first thing to be done, however, is to secure a uniformity of benefit contract and rates charged. This is essential. It would materially simplify the undertaking to place the burden of paying benefits entirely upon the quarterly payments or dues, without regard to the initiation fee. Then without requiring each lodge to pay the same amount of benefits each lodge could charge the same rate per dollar of benefits that were paid.

We hope to hear from other brothers who have given this matter thoughtful consideration; and will again return to the subject in the near future.