

was referred to the Committee on State of the Order :

OWEN SOUND, June 1st, 1881.

To the G. C. and Members of the G. L. K. of P. of Ontario :

DEAR BRETHREN,—Allow me to address a few remarks to your honourable body, in the interest of our Order.

In my opinion a publication should be established in Ontario, entirely devoted to Knighthood, and at as light a cost as possible, say one dollar per year. I made an estimate some time ago, and offered to start one on certain conditions, but found no support from the members, and had to give up the project. If Grand and Subordinate Lodges would give it their support and approval it could be done.

Another matter is the cost of instituting lodges. Although a reduction has been made, it is still too high, and much could be done to still further reduce it. The price of G. L. supplies might, I think, be made \$30.00 instead of \$35.00. The account and other books might be made to cost less. The three books for \$1.25 each might be made so as to be supplied to lodges for 50c. each. The receipt book could be made to sell at \$1.00, and the officers' roll book and warrant book reduced to 50c. and 75c. respectively; a ledger at 50c., and minute book, 200 pages, at 80c., would be large enough. These items alone are something for a new lodge. Then there is the expense of the Instituting Officer, \$30.00, and his expenses. This might be reduced to \$15.00, and expenses. The cost of the work used in the several Ranks you cannot do much, if anything, with. I hold in my hand prices of these articles, and I must say they are outrageously high. Think of the work for the third Rank being \$7.00, and the second, common, \$8.25. Both ought to be supplied for \$4.50 each, and the first for \$30.00, instead of \$50.00. I speak rather strongly on this subject, as it is one that is doing much to prevent good lodges from being established.

I have tried to start a lodge here, but could not succeed, as the cost is too great for a small number, and there are a number of lodges here already of other orders, some of them charging from \$3.00 to \$8.00 for all degrees and entrance fee, and the cost of instituting is from \$50.00 to \$100.00; so you can see what I have to contend with.

I would make the following suggestions :

- 1st. A good monthly paper in connection with the Order in Ontario.
- 2nd. A reduction in the price of supplies for new lodges.
- 3rd. An attempt to obtain properties for the Ranks at one-half the present cost.
- 4th. To ask Supreme Lodge to allow Grand Lodges to reduce the fees for the three Ranks to \$6.00.
- 5th. To again ask Supreme Lodge to do away with all national