

Two new lodges were instituted "in a thriving section," and one surrendered charter. This latter, Brother Hulce says, "lived as long as it could. Hard times scattered the members to the four winds, and what was left surrendered its charter." We hope the "present" mentioned below was duly appreciated by the "new lodge :"—

"I will also state that I ordered the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal to forward to Brother Wright the old secret work belonging to defunct London Bridge Lodge, No. 69, as a present to the new lodge at Martinsville, as said work was becoming more and more worthless each day by moths, rats, etc." (!!)

"Etc." leaves large room for the imagination ! Bugs ? Among his recommendations is the following, and his reason for making it. "A word to the wise is (or should be) sufficient :"—

"As to the office of Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, I recommend that the present salary, \$300.00, be increased to \$400.00 for the following reasons :

"(1) It is one of labour and vexation continuously. Many of the difficulties, as well as the work, are entirely unknown to this Grand Lodge and would surprise you, if you should be acquainted with them.

"(2) Under the new statutes the duties of this office have greatly increased and require the closest and strictest attention, and no man comes nearer earning his salary, if he performs his duty, than the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal; and this increase of \$100.00 would not be recommended by me except through a thorough knowledge of what has been done, what is now being done, and what must be done by and through this officer in the future pertaining to the welfare of the order."

The long list of official visits shows an earnest desire on the part of Grand Chancellor Hulce to do his whole duty as he understood it. The increase of 198 for the year brings the membership up to 4,563, though 346 were suspended. Three lodges were instituted, two charters forfeited, and there remain 54, with assets of \$64,595.50. The expenditure for relief was \$19,507.95. The Grand Lodge exchequer contains \$2,156.89.

Grand Keeper of Records and Seal Edwards has a suggestion that it will pay any lodge to adopt. He believes that "at least one half" of those suspended for n. p. d. would have continued in the order if they had been called on. He suggests that the lodges elect an active, earnest member as Master of Finance, and give him a commission of say five or ten per cent. for collecting the dues of the knights. This plan was adopted in the lodge of which the writer is a member; and the result was that nearly all in arrears paid as soon as called on, and those owing only one quarter were glad to be called on while the amount was small. Another result was that a large number of those in arrears, and who had not been in lodge for months, came back and are now regular attendants. Try it ! But be sure you get the right man for the position. We note that the committee on Fraternal Correspondence presented part of their report, and promised to try and complete it in time to appear in the journal. As only seventeen journals are reviewed we presume they were unable to catch up. This is to be regretted, as what does appear is very interesting reading. No Fraternal Correspondence Committee is announced.

Next convention at Danville in May 1896.

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