

ten cents per week, while they were paying the thirteen cents in the lodge they left, to remedy these things trouble very often arises, and members refuse to pay the increased rate, alledging that they understood the charter members come in at the lowest rate.

There are some laws, which if taken in one light, means altogether different to what the object of making the law was intended; for instance, a general law was passed at last Grand Lodge session (see printed proceedings, page 49.) which says, Executive officers cannot hold non-executive office, except in case of Lodge Surgeon. Now the proper meaning of the law is, that Executive officers cannot hold office such as Trustees or Auditors, and was passed for the purpose of having thoroughly independent members to perform these duties. But the law has been construed to mean more, and to go further, and it is argued even by our very esteemed past Grand President Caddick, who is a great authority on law and constitution, that that very clause prohibits Executive officers from holding the position of delegates to this Grand Body. This was never the intention of that law, but if it is possible to construe it into such a meaning, why by all means alter it. In view of the fact that in two years the probability of considerable change in the laws would take place, lead me to order what I thought would cover that period; I am pleased to say I am within the mark, and that we have only about one hundred copies left, so that in the next edition the alteration at Galt and Barrie will be inserted. I have very carefully gone through the ritual and those parts of the Constitution which did not agree, and as far as I could suggested alterations to harmonize the same. A serious error seems to be becoming prevalent at our Grand Lodge sessions, that of hastily considering and rushing, at the last hours of the Grand Lodge, some of the most important and valuable suggestions for the benefit of the order, which too often receives the least attention. I trust that a system by which all these important propositions will be thoroughly examined and reported upon will be adopted by this Grand Body.

The correspondence of this year has very largely increased and in case of any apparent negligence, I beg to say that my anxiety to make a complete success of the Shaftesbury Hall enterprise, which is proving such a valuable adjunct to our Society, and has been the means of bringing us so prominently before the people of Canada, and receiving public recognition from all classes, may have caused on some occasions a little delay; but I ask the forbearance and sympathy of this Grand Body in the working out of this great undertaking, which will prove a powerful impellent in placing this Society in the front rank of public institutions.

In calling your attention to the financial and numerical aspect of this Order, I think we can congratulate ourselves upon the progress of the past year, which, while it does not quite come up to the previous years increased numerical strength, is nevertheless satisfactory. When elected to the honorable position of Secretary to this Grand Body in the year 1881, we had 13 Lodges with a membership of 938 all told, and a total Lodge fund of \$7,307. To-day, I am pleased to say, we have 40 Lodges in good working order, with a membership of 3,311, and a total Lodge fund of \$26,401. We need make no

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