

With the exception of Vermont and the Lower Provinces, all the Northern, Western and Pacific jurisdictions were fully represented. Of the Southern Jurisdictions, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas were still unrepresented.

The Reports of the Grand Sire, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer were very able and gratifying—papers well stored with items of interest, conveying to us the assurance of prosperity to our Order. The decisions of the Grand Sire submitted for approval were:

1st. "The customs and usages of the Order prohibit the initiation of a person whose physical deformity prevents a compliance with the requirements and laws of the Order. The decision of the question as to the applicability of the general principle to special cases of partial deformity, rests with the local authorities and especially with the subordinate Lodge to which admission is asked."

2d. "Until cards suited for the purpose are issued by the Grand Lodge of the United States, State, District or Territorial Grand Lodges may have prepared and issue a certificate or card to members of extinct or suspended subordinate Lodges in their respective jurisdictions, said certificate to set forth on its face the circumstances of the case; to be signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary under seal, and to have the same force and effect as a regular withdrawal card."

3d. "An 'Ancient Odd Fellow,' who can satisfactorily establish his claim to be so considered, and can prove himself in the Initiatory work, is not required to be re-initiated into the Order. His rank or standing in the Lodge to which he may be admitted will be determined by the Lodge upon the report of the Committee appointed to make the necessary examination."

4th. "One principal purpose to be subserved by the office of Grand Representative, being the communication of the A. T. P. W. to the Executive of his respective jurisdiction, before the first day of January following the session of the Grand Lodge of the United States, a State Grand Body has the right to instruct its Grand Representative as to the mode by which the A. T. P. W. shall be communicated to the Grand Master or Grand Secretary, whether personally or otherwise, due regard being had to safety."

5th. "A member of an extinct Lodge who did not regularly withdraw therefrom prior to its extinction can be admitted to membership, only upon the presentation of a card from the officers of the Grand Lodge under which the defunct Lodge formerly existed."

The above decisions were approved.

From the Grand Secretary's Report I glean the following: Total paying membership 137,623, 19,334 of these belong also to the Encampment Branch of the Order. No. of Lodges and Encampments 3,584; Initiates 16,769 during the year; Families relieved 2,542; Brothers relieved 18,730; Paid for relief of Brothers, Widows and Orphans, Education and Burial \$462,134 99. Total receipts \$1,161,828 65.

In regard to the finances of the Grand Lodge of the U. S. we learn from the Grand Treasurer's Report that the available assets were in cash and Registered U. S. 5-20 Bonds at par value, \$13,766 28. Estimated demand upon that for Mileage and per Diem, and Printing \$12,850. The revenue of the Grand Lodge from ordinary sources for the year had been \$11,822 40. The disbursements had been \$13,334 12. This excess of disbursements is accounted for by the special expense incurred in the printing of the revised Journal and New Digest.

The Wilkey Monument Fund amounted to \$11,862 38 and from the Report of the Committee on Monument, about \$2,500 more was required to erect a monu-