

thousand, has no more voice in the Grand Encampment than a Grand Commandery with a membership of less than two hundred. There are several Grand Commanderies whose membership is less than five hundred, each of which has the same number of votes as New York.

The revenue derived by the Grand Encampment is on an entirely different plan, the several Grand Commanderies paying a "per capita" tax or dues, and in this way New York pays more money into the Grand Encampment Treasury than perhaps a score of these smaller ones combined. This appears to me to be all wrong and entirely contrary to all rules of consistency and fairness. If the Grand Encampment takes the position that all Grand Commanderies be considered equal in regard to representation, it should, to be consistent, require each to pay the same amount of dues into its Treasury. According to the present condition of affairs, it is certainly a striking example of "Taxation without Representation," and should be remedied. I strongly recommend that a committee be appointed to take this matter under consideration, and adopt such course of action as to present before the next Conclave of the Grand Encampment, an amendment to the constitution which, in their judgment, will correct this unjust discrimination.

On the same subject the following report was adopted:—

We agree with the Grand Commander in his remarks concerning the unfairness of the present method of representation by Grand Commanderies in the Grand Encampment, and, while admitting the necessity of a change, the expression at the last Triennial Conclave is a warranty that the opposition to any amendment, which would base the voting capacity in the proportion of multiples of membership, is so universal that it cannot, at the present time, be carried on its merits.

To show the feeling in reference thereto we quote the expression of one correspondent, "it is a dead issue, and hence needs no further consideration."

Having failed to obtain what would seem to be the right of every Grand Commandery, viz: a voting power proportionate to its numerical standing, we claim it to be a fair inference that a majority hold that all Grand Commanderies are to be considered as equal in the councils and legislation of the Grand Encampment.

Such being the principle established, we believe that it should be carried further, and apply with the same strictness to the taxation on the several Grand Commanderies for the maintenance of the Grand Encampment.

To be consistent, the Grand Encampment should adopt the plan already in practice in another grand body, and require each Grand Commandery to pay as an annual tax—a specific sum—equal to each Grand Commandery. This would be in harmony with the principle governing the present plan of representation.