

vention, and meantime he might say that he hoped to turn in several hundred dollars to the association from it.

On motion of Bro. Pettigrew, seconded by Bro. Allan, the report was adopted, and Bro. Robertson and his co-compilers of the handbook were congratulated on their excellent work in producing such a valuable book at so much labor and trouble to themselves.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:—

The Treasurer begs to submit the ninth report of the Association.

Balance from last convention and receipts	
of the year .....	\$559 99
Expenditure .....	269 95

Balance on hand .....	290 04
-----------------------	--------

ROBERT C. PETTIGREW.

Auditors: W. J. Webb, Wm. Bear and P. McNaughton.

On motion of Bro. Mooring seconded by Bro. Asselstine, the report as passed by the auditors was adopted.

Bro. Ryan presented the report of the committee on constitution and by-laws as follows: This committee recommends unanimously the following:

- 1st. That the per capita tax be reduced to 50 cts. per annum for all members in good standing.
- 2nd. That the doorkeeper and conductor be not elected but appointed by the president from the delegates present at each meeting of the Executive Council.
- 3rd. That in article 10 section 1 the word "deputy" shall be struck out and "Executive Officer" inserted.
- 4th. That all past presidents remain members of the Executive Council with full privileges, but they must defray their own expenses.
- 5th. That the committee does not see its way clear to hold its conventions bi-annually.

Bro. Dixon presented the following report of the committee on Good of the Order. Your committee appointed to consider this important portion of our Society's life and development, have given due thought to the many suggestions that have been presented, and would submit the following conclusions to the mature judgment of the convention.

The president's report in a spirit of fraternity, welcomes all to take part in the convention. He further adds that our society is neither a trades or insurance association, and consequently our expenses should be reduced to a minimum. The educational portion of our meetings should have some form of systematic teaching, and all who are able should be asked to participate in this necessary and useful work. We believe that an advance in this direction would be instrumental in raising our organization to a permanent and educated membership.

We believe the time inopportune to change the per capita tax as the executive have liabilities which must be met for the current year, and any action taken in the matter might be a source of discredit to the order at large.

The suggestion of bi-annual meetings we regard as a fatal blow at our very existence. The vitality of a society consists as much in its intercourse and annual settlement as it does in its financial strength, and while the desire to economise may be commendable, yet we regard this step as one which in a measure would be suicidal.

The cutting off of doorkeeping and conductor proceeds from the desire to further economise, but we submit that such a course may act prejudicially, inasmuch as the conferring of this honor on members of small or remote associations keeps a thread of connection that is frequently of eminent service to the Order.

The services of district deputies should be dispensed with, and in the locality requiring the service of an executive officer, any member of the executive should be delegated to discharge the duties of the office.

The bulletin at present issued monthly to the associations should be enlarged to an 8 page Journal. It could be made an avenue of interest and information to our membership, besides it could be placed in the hands of those eligible to join our ranks, and possibly add materially to our numerical strength. We are further of opinion that such a sheet, by proper management, could be issued free of expense, by a judicious system of advertising.

The office of executive secretary is one that should be held

for more than one year, as a greater degree of perfection could be reached in secretarial work by a continuous service. The price of stationery as furnished to primary societies is on the side of excess, and we would suggest that a reduction of 10 or 15 per cent. should be made on all future sales.

It is a matter of regret that our bill in the Dominion Parliament was thrown out on a technicality; but we trust the combined wisdom of the present convention will devise some method wherein our profession may have due recognition and legal protection.

Both reports were received, to be discussed in detail later on. In the meantime a general discussion took place on the effect of the proposed changes.

Bro. Ryan said other organizations larger than this had got into trouble through fixing their per capita assessments too high, and there were some members of the Montreal association with whom this was a serious matter. Bro. Moseley wanted to know, if this tax were reduced, where the funds would come from to make up the deficiency. Toronto No. 1 had no complaint to make, as it had double the membership of any other branch; but a reduction all around would leave a shortage. He thought it should be left for another year. Bro. Pettigrew was in favor of a reduction and the association was now in shape to make it. Bro. Dixon said that big societies could afford to have a low assessment. He wished to be on the side of economy, but the present time was not opportune, and the branch association should be consulted in such a matter. Bro. Robertson said that as far as the immediate future was concerned, the association at large really depended for its income on the handbook just issued.

After further discussion Bro. Dixon moved, seconded by Bro. Richardson, that the executive secretary issue a circular to all the branch associations, asking them to state their financial position and express an opinion on the question of reducing the per capita tax, a report to be presented on the subject at the convention of 1899.

In speaking to this motion, Bro. Ryan said Montreal No. 1 had already instructed him on the matter. Bro. McNaughton said the dues to the branch associations barely covered the expenses, and if the per capita tax were reduced it would give them a fund to work upon. Bro. Moseley said Toronto No. 1 had been able to make way and pay out \$200 in sick benefits in the last two years besides. Bro. Asselstine said Toronto was exceptionally well fixed. In Kingston, they found the tax quite a burden. Bro. Robertson said the big branches should help the little ones, if they wanted to see the institution grow; but he did not see how they were going to reduce the tax. President Philip, in reply to a question, said the proposed change in the officers would take off about two-thirds of the average loss from the reduced tax. On motion of Bro. Robertson, seconded by Bro. Moseley, the discussion was deferred; Bro. Dixon's amendment being lost.

On resuming discussion on the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, the first clause, proposing to reduce the per capita tax, was defeated.

On the second clause, Bro. Dixon thought that if these offices were retained, the delegates elected—especially if from a small branch—would go back to their branches as apostles of the association. Bro. Ryan held that there were as good men in the small branches as in the big ones for any office, but as these offices could be filled by any delegate present, it was only throwing money away to have them as a part of the executive machinery. On being put to vote, the clause was rejected, and the offices of doorkeeper and conductor retained.

Clause 3 was adopted, the effect being to do away with the "district deputies," and make each executive officer an organizer in the district in which he may be visiting, or may reside.

Clause 4 was also carried, giving past presidents the right to vote, etc., at conventions, but without transportation allowance.

Clause 5 was also approved, maintaining the conventions annually, as at present.

On taking up the report of the committee on "Good of the Order," the president said Mr. J. E. Taylor, of the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., would like to address the convention on the educational question. Permission being given, Mr. Taylor gave a history of the begin-