

tended, so far as it legitimately may be, to prevent an unnecessary expenditure of the funds of the lodge. They are not the property of the lodge, to be used as it may seem fit to its members, but are held in trust, and pledged to meet the calls which must surely come from those entitled to our benefits." And what is the answer to those of the Order who desire to be disloyal to the Supreme Lodge in all its edicts, when admonishing against these innovations? Well, others do it, and are not stopped; but are rather encouraged and commended by members of the Supreme Lodge. Why can we not have the same privilege of beautifying our work? Brethren, the law of God and man says, "Thou shalt not murder." Shall we become murderers because, forsooth, some escape the punishment due the crime?

Brethren of the Order, in authority, do you appreciate the fact "that a chain is no stranger than its weakest link," and while you thunder your anathemas at the many private enterprises, advertising in the name of the Order for private gain, do you first pause and consider how far you are responsible for such a condition of things. The power and authority of the Supreme Lodge set at naught or carelessly considered by those who should be first and strongest to uphold it, but invite the incursions of the depredator or lawless all along the line. "The Supreme Lodge is the source of all true and legitimate authority in the Order of Knights of Pythias wheresoever established."

Let us see to it then, as members of this great and beneficent Order, that we exercise fidelity to the vows that are upon us; and let those in authority enforce respect and obedience to this supreme authority; but if we consider this authority onerous, let us still be men—renounce the Order and absolve ourselves of the vows that are upon us. I would not be understood as discouraging beautiful and impressive ceremonies. The labor bestowed during the best part of my life, for the beautiful and impressive in our work, will prevent that misunderstanding. Nothing can be too beautiful or impressive. But I claim that it can be accomplished through and by the work of the ritual. My love, zeal and ambition for the Order of Knights of Pythias is such, that I would desire for it the most beautiful, impressive and perfect ceremonies that it is in the mind of man to conceive, or his genius to execute, but I want it enstamped with the "Dirigo" of the Supreme Lodge.

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SUPREME LODGE REVENUE.

First Practical Operation of the New Law Requiring a Per Capita Tax from Each Grand Domain.—Grand Lodges Will, on Oct. 1st, 1899, Pay the Supreme Lodge \$18,803.32.—The Law and Its Origin and Operation.

Knights of Pythias, the world over, will clearly understand the provisions of the amendment made to the Supreme Statutes at the 1899 Convention of the Supreme Lodge, in connection with the new improved system of direct taxation, or per capita tax from each Grand Domain, based upon the membership of the Order for the

year ending December 31st.

It will be recalled that the original suggestion met with considerable opposition at the outset, but after the matter became more thoroughly understood and generally discussed, and the membership of the Order became advised that some such proposition was necessary to provide a fixed and sure revenue, the suggestion was taken up and approved with popular accord.

This, of course, required an amendment to the Supreme Statutes, and the following was adopted by the Supreme Lodge and went into force and effect December 31st, 1898:

27. Each Grand Lodge shall pay to the Supreme Lodge, semi-annually, on the first days of April and October, each year, such per capita tax as may be determined by resolution at each biennial convention of the Supreme Lodge, for each member in good standing on the 31st day of December next preceding; and the first semi-annual payment of the per capita tax herein provided shall be due and payable on or before the first day of October, 1899. Provided, that if the tax herein provided for shall not be paid at the dates named, a penalty shall be added of one dollar per day for every day that shall elapse until the same shall be paid; provided, also, that until the said per capita tax and the penalty, if any, shall be paid, the grand domain so delinquent shall not be entitled to representation in the Supreme Lodge, and the Supreme Chancellor shall in his discretion arrest its charter.

On the afternoon of the ninth day of the 1898 Convention, the Committee on Ways and Means presented their report, recommending that the tax be fixed at "sixteen cents" for the ensuing term of two years, to be paid at the rate of four cents for each semi-annual term. An amendment was offered, suggesting "twelve" and "three" in place of "sixteen" and "four," but same was rejected and the report of the Committee was adopted as presented.

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