

ally as worth just what is paid for its degrees, and no more. If this is little, it is valued as little, accordingly. If this is much, it is valued more highly. Except in a few select Lodges, which understand this fact, the cost of degrees to make a man a Freemason has been too little. Instead of \$15, the minimum cost should be \$80, and the maximum whatever the individual lodge chose to make it—even to \$100, if that is the determination of its members. With fees at \$50, thirty makings will have paid into the lodge \$1,500, and which, invested in four-per-cent bonds, will give \$60 a year interest, or \$5 to pay the necessary expenses of each meeting of the lodge. Additional makings will increase the principal, and the interest of which only should form the fund with which to meet the necessary expenses of the Lodge, the principal, gradually increased, being invested in four-per-cent bonds, and remain as the irreducible lodge fund. Let temporary and Grand Lodge calls for money be met, *pro rata*, by the membership to provide for such calls, at the meeting at which they are presented; this arrangement to include the payment of a representative to Grand Lodge, if, by a majority vote, such a representative is decided upon. Let dues, as such be unknown, in manner as they have ever been unknown in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The Grand Lodge of a State being composed of the Lodge representatives of that State, has but to do this, that is expunge from the constitution the word "dues," and insert in the same the minimum fees increased to not less than \$80, and this reform will be

established. The additional reform will be to expunge the recognition that the Grand Lodge will pay mileage and per diem to lodge representatives. This done, a contribution from its lodges of, in the aggregate, \$5,000 a year is sufficient to pay all the necessary expenses of the largest Grand Lodge, in numbers, in the United States. If a working Lodge is not sufficiently interested in being represented in its Grand Lodge annual meeting, and such is its decision by a majority vote of the full Lodge, all right; it is not obligatory upon the Lodge that it shall be represented, and let this be made the law.

Except the Grand Secretary, no other grand officer should receive a salary. He should receive enough to give his whole time to the business, and if he does, he can attend to it without an assistant. Except the very new Grand Lodges, \$10 each from the Lodges of any given jurisdiction will be ample to provide for all necessary Grand Lodge annual expenses. A man who is competent can attend to the business of five hundred Lodges. But few States have more. The large majority have less. As has been done in Connecticut and Rhode Island satisfactorily for nearly a hundred years, so can be done in every State of the Union, unless it may, perhaps, be Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, and in which their Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia temples, aforementioned, will be a drain upon their Lodges throughout those States, and their cry be that of the horse-leech's daughter for evermore. Their condition, however, should not prove a bar to those States which have no