

consideration of the present practicability of giving effect thereto, and of the query, how can this be done?

Action, with which all present are probably familiar, was had at the last session of this body with the object of ascertaining the views of the brethren within this jurisdiction scattered over the Dominion, upon the subject now under consideration. It was anticipated that, in response to the circulars directed to be addressed to, and presumably received by, every Lodge in the Dominion, such a general expression would be given as would afford strong encouragement.

The extent and character of the answers returned may be briefly stated. 69 Lodges have made returns. In these all are favorable to the publication of an organ, and a large majority prefer that it shall be published by the M. W. G. Lodge. Nearly all express themselves in favor of a book room. 489 subscriptions are guaranteed, with the promise that the number shall be doubled on the actual commencement of the publication; of these, 256, or more than one-half, come from New Brunswick. There are 46 proposals to take shares in a Joint Stock Publication Company.

Your Committee must frankly state that these few responses do not, of themselves, indicate the existence of that general sympathy with the movement, on the part of British Templars, which is absolutely necessary to ensure success or afford a reliable basis upon which the enterprise may be undertaken. Your Committee, however, believe that there is a broader and fuller sympathy alive though unexpressed, while they are without a tangible evidence of its existence with which to deal.

Having said this much your Committee would, for convenience sake, reverse the order of the suggestions in the reports, and—

1st. As to a "Book Room," your Committee do not feel justified, as at present advised, to recommend any further immediate action, unless it be the action of inquiry as to the probable expense that will be involved, and the probabilities of such an establishment becoming self-sustaining; at the same time they would suggest that a "Book Room" might, as a natural consequence, follow or grow out of the establishment of an organ or a publishing house.

2nd. With regard to a "Publishing House," by which term is meant an establishment at which all printed matter of whatever kind, required by or for the organization and its members, literary, social, moral, or official, may be produced, your Committee suggest that if this M. W. G. body decide that all such matter shall be printed at one establishment—that establishment to be the same from which the proposed organ is issued—it would form an important item in the calculations of those who may propose to undertake the work of printing such organ. It will remain for the M. W. G. Lodge to determine whether they can control Grand and Subordinate Lodges so far as to ensure their patronage to such an establishment for official documents; whether, so far as they can exercise control, they are disposed to do it in the direction suggested, and to what extent they are prepared to enter upon or encourage the publication of matter not merely official.

And, 3rd. As relates to an organ for the whole Order, your Committee would premise that an essential feature in warranting the success of a paper for the Order is the character of permanence. With the support that may reasonably be expected from members of this Order, without reference to the outside support that a properly conducted sheet would command, the paper, after its character became established and its continuance assured, would, your Committee think, prove self-sustaining. But meantime it has to be brought into existence and its character shaped.