

ONTARIO'S GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The following letter has been addressed to each Recording Scribe in this jurisdiction :—

DEAR SIR AND PATRIARCH:—At the last session of the Grand Encampment of Ontario, held at Picton, on the 23rd of July, 1895, the Committee on Districts reported (in part) as follows:—

"Your committee are decidedly in favor of an extension of the district system, wherever it is found practicable, but find that the limited time at our disposal does not permit of anything like a satisfactory grouping. We therefore recommend (carrying out the suggestions in Paragraph 3 of the Grand Patriarch's report) that a Special Committee be appointed by the incoming Grand Patriarch to gather the necessary information during the recess, and report to this Grand Body at its next session."

This report was adopted, and carrying out its recommendations, the Grand Patriarch has appointed a Special Committee consisting of Patriarchs A. H. Blackeby, of Galt; S. D. Swift, of Petrolia; W. J. Graham, of Toronto; Robt. Meek, of Kingston, and Frank B. Jeffery, of Stratford.

This committee has decided that the jurisdiction might, with advantage to the Order, be grouped into twenty-five districts, and they have further agreed to the following grouping:—

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| No. 1—Windsor.
Essex. | No. 13—Toronto (2).
Newmarket.
Aurora. |
| No. 2—Chatham.
Blenheim.
Wallaceburg.
Dresden. | No. 14—Oshawa.
Bowmanville.
Whitby. |
| No. 3—St. Thomas.
Aylmer.
Woodstock.
Ingersoll. | No. 15—Port Hope.
Cobourg. |
| No. 4—Brantford.
Waterford.
Norwich. | No. 16—Lindsay.
Peterboro' (2).
Norwood. |
| No. 5—St. Catharines.
Niagara Falls. | No. 17—Belleville (2).
Trenton.
Picton.
Stirling. |
| No. 6—Hamilton (2).
Dundas.
Jarvis. | No. 18—Kingston (2).
Napanee. |
| No. 7—London (2).
Mt. Brydges.
Strathroy.
Parkhill. | No. 19—Ottawa (2).
Carleton Place.
Arnprior. |
| No. 8—Sarnia.
Pt. Edward.
Petrolia.
Forest. | No. 20—Brockville.
Cornwall.
Prescott. |
| No. 9—Goderich.
Exeter.
Wingham. | No. 21—Rat Portage. |
| No. 10—Stratford.
Guelph.
Berlin.
Galt. | No. 22—Chapleau. |
| No. 11—Walkerton. | No. 23—Fort William. |
| No. 12—Collingwood.
Barrie. | No. 24—Montreal (1).
St. Johns.
Farnham. |
| | No. 25—Quebec.
Sherbrooke. |

Will you please have the matter brought before your Encampment for discussion and notify the undersigned, by letter addressed to Galt, Ont., whether this draft of groups is satisfactory to your members, and if not satisfactory what changes they have to suggest.

The silence of your Encampment will be taken to mean that you are in favor of the districts as herein drafted. With fraternal good wishes, I am, faithfully yours,
A. H. BLACKEBY.

GRAND LODGE SESSION AT SARNIA.

DEAR EDITOR,—In your issue of October 31st, I note an article in which you argue in favor of a permanent location for the Grand Lodge meetings, the ground of objection being the decision to hold the meeting of the Ontario Grand Lodge in Sarnia. The question for the place for the next meeting was fairly fought out at the last session of the Grand Lodge, and was fairly won for Sarnia by a presentment of the superior advantages of our town as a place for the meeting, and I do not think it is fair to "go behind the returns," and raise objections after the question has been settled. If Sarnia had lost, the Sarnia representatives would have cheerfully accepted the decision of the Grand Lodge, and we think that those who opposed us should do the same. The Sarnia representatives made a good and successful fight for their town.

The Odd Fellows of Sarnia will do their best to make the Grand Lodge welcome, and make the meeting a success; and they hope that all the members of the Order everywhere will join loyally with them in doing the best they can for the Grand Lodge meeting, and for the cause of Oddfellowship in general. We have excellent and sufficient hotel accommodations, good railway facilities, the best climate in Canada for a summer place of meeting, with our cooling breezes from Lake Huron and the St. Clair; and against these advantages the only objection that anybody has been able to advance is that it will cost some of the lodges a dollar or two more to send representatives to Sarnia than it might to send them somewhere else. The members from the west never raised that objection when the meeting was held in the East, and it is not fair for the eastern people now to urge that as an objection against a meeting place in the West. Fair play should be the motto, and the same rule for all.

A SARNIA ODD FELLOW.

[We have not said a word against Sarnia as a place for holding the next session of the Grand Lodge. It will answer just as well and no better than a score or so of towns that might be mentioned. Our plea was for a central, permanent location, where our annual meetings could be held with the least expense to the membership in Ontario, and with the greatest comfort to the representatives. We are very sure that the Sarnia brethren will do everything in their power to give a hearty welcome to Grand Lodge next August; and that the visitors will have a pleasant outing on that occasion goes without saying.—EDITOR.]

A lodge in Trenton, N.J., has a band made up from its own members. A good thing; we ought to have more of them. This is the case in Belleville, Ont.

AN ACTIVE BROTHER.

In every lodge there is at least one active member, who is at the head and front of every movement. If there is to be an anniversary celebration or social gathering of any kind, under the auspices of the lodge, the active brother is the prime mover therein; with his tireless activity and persistent push, whatever is undertaken is made a success. But for him each Lodge would have to chronicle a series of ignominious failures.

And so with the regular affairs of the lodge. He is ever to be found in his place in the lodge on meeting nights, and in the absence of officers is ready and willing to fill any of the chairs. If there be any subject for discussion, he is the principal speaker, not that he is in love with the sound of his own voice, or that he is unduly opinionated, but because he knows more than any of his fellow-members about the question at issue, having given more time and thought to lodge matters than any of the others.

If a committee is to be appointed to perform a given work, he is naturally picked out for its chairman, for it is known that if there was any work to do by that committee he will do it, and what he can't do himself he will inspire others to do.

Upon his back is heaped whatever burden presents itself. The active brother is made a drudge and cart-horse of the entire Lodge, and he is weighed down and driven remorselessly.

And what thanks does he get for it? If mention be made of his many activities, the usual response is: "Oh, he likes it, it just suits him," and the members who do nothing rather pride themselves on their good nature in permitting the active brother to work himself to death.

The fact is they are willing that he should do the work, and when their conscience accuses them of sloth and recreancy to duty, they try to justify themselves by impugning the motives of the active brothers.—*Lodge Secret.*

To Smokers

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