

That we can find no law, or know of none, relative to the above subject, further than such is left to local legislation, and as our Constitution does not provide for any such benefits, we would submit that Lodges are at liberty to alter or amend their By-laws in this respect to suit their own views on the subject of benefits to widows.

We would therefore recommend that the refusal of the Grand Chancellor to allow of such an amendment be not sustained.

Respectfully submitted.

JAS. SMITH, of No. 2.

R. J. VILLIERS, of No. 1.

Representative Gardner, of No. 4, from the Committee on Returns and Credentials, presented the following Report, which was adopted :

Your Committee on Returns and Credentials, to whom was referred that portion of the Report of the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal relating to "Returns of Subordinate Lodges," beg to report :

That we have examined the Semi-Annual Reports of the various Lodges, and find from the date of their receipt by the G. K. R. S., that some of the Lodges have been very dilatory in sending them, and we co-incide with the remarks of that officer upon this subject.

Your Committee would recommend that the Representatives bring this matter before their respective Lodges, and further, that the D.D.G.C.'s be instructed to pay particular attention to the law in regard thereto ; as, if each will follow the instructions in the installation form, there need be no trouble. The law also requires that the Reports be transmitted to the G. K. R. S. within one week after installation.

Respectfully submitted.

W. J. VALE, of No. 3.

A. GARDNER, of No. 4.

W. H. CHILDS, of No. 3.

Grand Prelate Peace, of No. 3, from the Committee on Appeals and Grievances, presented the following Report, which was adopted :

Your Committee on Appeals and Grievances, to whom was referred the appeal of Bro. McBain, C. C. of Mystic Lodge, No. 1, against the action of his Lodge in reversing his decision, beg leave to report :

That it appears that the M. of F. of Mystic Lodge gave an official receipt to a member as being clear on the books, while he was actually in arrears, and the error was not discovered until the brother came to an untimely death by drowning, when a request was made for his funeral benefits.

By reference to the Lodge books it was found that the member was nearly five months in arrears, and the ruling of the chair being asked, a