

Supreme Lodge, and, upon there being exhibited to them a list of the officers and members of this body, they each testified that the name of their informant appeared upon the rolls as a Supreme Representative. Further than this no information as to the authorship of said article could be obtained.

Third. As to the direct charges in the article reflecting or tending to reflect upon Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal White, we find from the testimony submitted that Brother White is not a stockholder or director in a bank, trust company or other financial institution; that he is not a stockholder in the Brandon Printing Company nor interested therein in any manner and never was; that he is not and has not been directly or indirectly interested in any contracts of any character made by or in the interests of the Supreme Lodge; that since becoming Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal he has not been engaged in any business, devoting his entire time and energies to the discharge of the duties of that office, and that the allegations, direct and implied, as to those or similar matters in said article are absolutely false and without foundation. We further find from the records of the Supreme Lodge that \$2,400 was appropriated of the moneys of the Supreme Lodge to defray office rent and incidental office expenses of the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal for two years. We find that this appropriation was a direct and specific grant of that sum to the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal, differing from the appropriations for expenses of other offices in this that in the other appropriations there was a stated sum appropriated, "or so much thereof as necessary," while in the case of the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal it was the stated sum of \$2,400. We find that out of this sum the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal has paid his office rent, heat, light, and incidental expenses, and while we have been unable by reason of all receipts and other papers being in the office of the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal at Nashville to investigate personally each item of expense, we find from the testimony submitted to us that practically the entire sum has been so expended, the testimony showing that in some months the expenditure would

be greater than \$100 and in others less, but the whole approximating \$2,400.

Fourth. As to the charge of extravagance and waste, we find from such investigation as we have been able to make that the officers and members of this Supreme Lodge, including, of course, those mentioned in the article referred to, have in all things conducted the business of the Supreme Lodge honestly, fairly and for the interests of the Order universal, and that all insinuations in said article contained are absolutely false and without foundation. We further find that there has been large sums of money expended in what might seem to some a useless manner, but we also find that all such expenditures are the result of direct legislation on the part of this body and authorized by it, and that the officers in making the expenditures were acting simply as the instruments of this body in carrying out its dictates.

Fifth. In the opinion of your committee the data before the Finance Committee and this Supreme Lodge should include a detailed statement of all expenditures for the preceding term to form a proper basis for intelligent action by either the committee or this body in the matter of appropriations for salaries and expenses. In this connection we would suggest that it is impossible for this committee, the Finance Committee or this Supreme Lodge to make such a critical examination regarding the matters of salaries and expenses as is desirable, because of the absence from the city of all the books, records, receipts and other documents which would disclose all items for which expenditures of money have been made. We are of opinion that it is impracticable to carry all such books, records, receipts and other documents which would disclose all items for which expenditures of money have been made. We are of opinion that it is impracticable to carry all such books, records, etc., about with the Supreme Lodge, and would therefore suggest that the Supreme Keeper of Records and Seal be requested to prepare before each session of the Supreme Lodge a detailed statement showing the amount of work as near as may be performed by each officer during the preceding two fiscal years and the expense of each officer during the same time, and what the different items of expense were, so

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