

INTERESTING AND SUGGESTIVE FIGURES.

Bro. L. L. Munn, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, has prepared a statistical table of special interest and suggestiveness. The field that he has covered by his inquiries is a broad one, and it offers comparisons and contrasts of no slight value.

There are forty-eight Grand Lodges in the United States and its Territories, and in these jurisdictions there is an aggregate of nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-five Craft Lodges. The average is two hundred and four lodges for each jurisdiction. New York stands at the head of the list, having seven hundred and fifteen lodges; Illinois has six hundred and ninety-one lodges. Arizona is at the foot, having but five lodges; Wyoming has six, Utah eight, New Mexico ten, and Delaware twenty-one. The number of affiliated Master Masons in the forty-eight jurisdictions is 557,195, giving an average membership per jurisdiction of 11,608. New York has 70,700; Illinois, with nearly as many lodges as New York, is credited with but 44,627; Pennsylvania has 35,829; Ohio, 31,359; Michigan, 27,181; Massachusetts, 26,720. Arizona, the least in numbers, has 355, and there are six jurisdictions which have a total membership of only about 500 each.

The financial tables show wide discrepancies. All the Grand Lodges but four collect a *per capita* tax, the amount of the individual tax varying from 20 cents, the lowest in Connecticut, to \$3.50, the highest sum assessed, in Idaho. The average of the tax imposed is 88 cents. Twenty-four of the Grand Lodges allow mileage and per diem expenses to members in attendance upon Grand Lodge sessions. In several jurisdictions, viz: Ohio, Florida, and Montana, 20 cents per mile is allowed; in Maine and Iowa only four cents is paid; while in other localities the rate fixed

is between the two extremes. The per diem allowance ranges from \$1.50 to \$5.00. Ten Grand Lodges pay a salary to their respective Grand Masters. Illinois pays \$1,500 and North Carolina \$100; the average is \$460. The largest compensation paid a Grand Secretary is \$5,000; New York pays this amount. California pays its Grand Secretary \$4,500; Pennsylvania, \$4,200; Massachusetts and Illinois each \$2,500. Arizona pays the smallest salary, \$100. The salaries of Grand Secretaries do not seem to be altogether regulated by the number of lodges or Masons in a jurisdiction; thus Nevada with twenty-two lodges and 1,247 members, pays \$900 to its Grand Secretary, while Vermont, having 101 lodges and 7,739 members, pays \$375. In Nevada the tax per lodge toward the salary of the Grand Secretary is \$40.91; California, \$20.64; Louisiana, \$15.50; while in Kentucky the average payment per lodge is only \$2.12, and in several other jurisdictions the proportional tax is almost as low. Of course one explanation of this discrepancy is found in the fact that in some localities there are many lodges having but few members. Thus Kentucky with only about 15,000 members has nearly 500 lodges, so that the proportion of each lodge seems very small.

In several jurisdictions allowances are made for an assistant to the Grand Secretary and for office expenses. Twenty-four Grand Lodges make appropriations for a Committee of Correspondence. Missouri pays the largest sum under this head, viz: \$500. Vermont, Colorado, Indiana, appropriate \$50 each for the work of such a committee. The average allowance is \$178.33.

Reference to Bro. Munn's valuable statistical table is calculated to make apparent the fact that brethren manage their affairs in Grand Lodge somewhat differently; that they put a varying estimate upon the worth of their own services and the value of