

SONS OF ENGLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Objects, Aims and Benefits of the Order.

ORGANIZED IN TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1874.

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen:

Gentlemen and Fellow Countrymen,—

As the question is being so often asked: "What are the objects of the Sons of England Society?" we have been led to present this circular with the view of giving the desired information.

The objects are to unite all honorable and true Englishmen, who are in good bodily health and between the ages 18 and 60 years, in an association for mutual aid; to educate our members in the true principles of manhood, whereby they learn to be charitable, to practice true benevolence, and to keep alive those dear old memories of our native land; to care for each other in sickness and adversity, and when death strikes down one of our number, to follow his remains to their last resting place.

The government of the Order is vested in a Grand Lodge, and Subordinate Lodges. The Grand Lodge is composed of delegates elected by Subordinate Lodges to represent them. The Grand Lodge is supported financially by a per capita tax of ten cents per member per quarter. The Grand Lodge officers are elected annually.

Subordinate Lodges are supported by initiation fees, and weekly dues; they have control of their own monies, elect their own officers, make their own by-laws (subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge) and in every way conduct their business to suit the majority of their members. We meet in our lodge rooms at stated times in fraternal intercourse, learning each other's wants, giving words of encouragement, and good cheer, and to those in trouble or distress, substantial assistance. The moment we enter the lodge room all distinctions are lost sight of and we meet on one common level, and by this constant association and intercourse an amount of love and interest is felt for each other, which is made manifest by the good work accomplished.

The rapid growth of the Order has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders, and is steadily extending itself in the hearts of our countrymen, and we are confident that when the Objects and Aims are more generally understood it will become one of the

grandest and most useful of Benevolent Societies.

The Order has branches as follows:—One in Cornwall, Belleville, Kingston, Oshawa, Whitby, Bowmanville, Port Hope, Port Perry, Lindsay, Barrie, Collingwood, Galt, Woodstock, Bracebridge, Uxbridge, Almonte, Newcastle, Brantford, Dovercourt, West Toronto Junction, Windsor, Little York, Aylmer, Ont.; Weston, Exeter, two in St. Thomas, Peterborough, Orillia and Hamilton; four in Montreal, Ottawa and London, five in South Africa, and fifteen in Toronto, and we hope by bringing this circular to the notice of our fellow-countrymen, to imbue them with our enthusiasm and to swell our thousands into tens of thousands.

Though our Society is a secret society, there is nothing in that secrecy except to enable us to protect each other and to prevent imposition; our language of signs and grips enables our members to travel to places where we have lodges, make themselves known as members of the Order, when they will find brotherly influence surrounding them, receive advice, and if needed, pecuniary assistance.

In our initiatory ceremony and conferring of degrees, there is nothing but what will raise a man's self respect and kindle his patriotism and inspire him with benevolence; and the Order only requires you to live up to its teachings, honour your obligations, be true to the country and its laws, faithful to your families, and true to the Brotherhood and to God.

We recognize the teachings of the Holy Bible.

No political discussions are allowed in the lodge room.

The Sons of England Society offers advantages peculiarly suited to your nationality, and is second to none, and whatever benefits you receive and are not charity but your right, and paid to you by the proper officers without explanations or apologies, and all that is required of you is a small initiation fee, and prompt payment of your dues. Nearly thirty thousand dollars have been paid out for benefits.

The Beneficiary Department enables us to insure their life for 500 or 1000 dollars, and has already proved a great source of strength to the Order. By the payment of a small graded as-

essment, at the death of a member substantial aid is secured to the surviving relatives, which will assist them in being independent of the cold charity of the world. Members becoming totally disabled and unable to follow any occupation, receive half the amount insured for, if required; the other half is paid at the time of death.

The benefits and medical attendance and medicine, on joining, and sick benefits after being 12 months a member; in case of sickness the benefits are \$3.00 per week for 13 weeks, and \$1.50 for the next 26 weeks, \$30.00 on the death of a member's wife, \$7.00 on the death of any of his children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and \$75.00 on the death of a member. If the deceased member has no family nor nominee, the lodge undertakes the funeral.

The initiation Fees are, 18 to 30.... \$ 3 00
30 to 45.... 4 00
45 to 50.... 7 00
50 to 55.... 10 00
55 to 60.... 15 00

The subscriptions are
weekly, from 18 to 30..... 10c
30 to 45..... 13c
45 to 50..... 15c
50 to 55..... 20c
55 to 60..... 25c

On the formation of a Lodge, charter members are received on the first scale of payments, as regards initiation fees.

In conclusion we ask you to take this matter into your earnest consideration, and if there is not a lodge near you, agitate among your fellow countrymen, and soon as you can get 12 good men together, notify the undersigned, and all the assistance required will be given to organize you into a lodge; you will then be astonished how your membership will increase, and will wonder how it was so many Englishmen were living all around you without being known. Any information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto,
March 1st, 1888.