

HISTORICAL



THE ORDER OF RAILROAD TELEGRAPHERS is an organization instituted for the purpose of uniting railroad telegraphers, train dispatchers, line repairers, levermen or interlockers, tower or train directors, agents located at railroad stations, telephone operators and staffmen employed on railroads, for the protection of their interests, to elevate their social, moral and intellectual condition, to promote the general welfare of its membership, to establish a protective fund, and to promote and encourage a mutual benefit department for the aid and comfort of the beneficiaries of deceased members.

The Order of Railroad Telegraphers organized June 9, 1886, at Cedar Rapids, Ia., as the Order of Railway Telegraphers of North America. Became a protective organization in 1891, and at that time its name was changed to the Order of Railroad Telegraphers of North America. Later its name was changed to the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

A. D. Thurston, founder, and its first Grand Chief Telegrapher, was succeeded in 1891 as Grand Chief by D. G. Ramsey, who, in turn, was succeeded in 1894 by W. W. Powell.

Title of Chief Executive was changed in 1899 from Grand Chief Telegrapher to President. M. M. Dolphin succeeded to the office of President in 1900, and in 1901 was succeeded by H. B. Perham.

The Mutual Benefit Department of the Order was established on January 1, 1898.

The first Grand Secretary of the Order was S. O. Fox, who continued in office until 1893, when he was succeeded by J. Weatherbee, who was succeeded in 1895 by J. R. T. Austin, who was in turn succeeded in 1897 by H. B. Perham, who held the position until 1901, when he was elected President, and was succeeded as Grand Secretary and Treasurer by L. W. Quick.

Headquarters were first established at Laporte City, Ia., later moved to Vinton, Iowa, and still later to Peoria, Ill., and in September, 1899, were removed to St. Louis, Mo., their present location.

THE LADIES' AUXILIARY

The Ladies' Auxiliary was organized at Atlanta, Ga., during the Biennial Convention of the Order held in that city in May, 1909. It aims to assist in the attainment of the general objects of the Order by an active interest in its social requirements, and in promoting the education of trade unionism among the ladies and friends of the Order.

