

Coming to the affairs of our Canada, more especially our Western Grand Lodge:

I am sorry to say that the Mutual Insurance, in connection with this Grand Lodge, is not prospering to the extent that I could wish. One would have thought that after so much agitation in its favor by members of this Grand Lodge, that a larger number of the Brethren would be induced to join it, and I cannot but think that if the Masters of Lodges would bring the matter properly before the Lodges there would soon be a different state of affairs in connection with our Insurance Society. I hope that Masters of Lodges will take up this matter in earnest. They must see the great necessity that exists for something of the kind, as so many of our Brethren have died leaving their families totally unprovided for. I would also suggest that a committee be appointed to draft a model code of by-laws for Benefit Lodges, in order that we may the better cope with other societies which are purely Benefit Societies; this code of by-laws to be formed on a purely financial basis of monthly dues, so that a given amount of weekly sick dues can be paid out to those who are entitled to it, so that Lodges that choose to become Benefit Lodges may have a code of by-laws already prepared that they could depend upon as formed upon a proper basis. If such Lodges were formed, and with our Mutual Insurance Society, it would tend much to keep our Brethren from joining other Benefit Societies.

Brethren, the reason for the postponement of this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge from its usual time was in consequence of the local elections taking place—nominations on the 20th, the day of our meeting, and polling on the 24th inst. I could not, in justice to the members of this lodge, take them away from home at a time when no doubt they were using every available moment, working either for themselves or for some candidate whom they wish to be elected. In fact, had I done so I should have virtually been acting in concert with a government, which not only denied us our just rights, but added insult to injury by first passing the Orange Incorporation Bill and then advising the Lieut.-Governor to withhold his sanction from it.

I congratulate the Brethren on the stand they took in the elections, and hope that at no distant day we will have the pleasure of seeing the men who refused to grant Orangemen their just rights relegated to the Speaker's left.

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