

assembly—that he must have neither eyes nor ears except at the call of the house. Nothing can be more discouraging to a Chief Ranger or injurious to the Court than that the member who has been selected for the chair for his superior energy and resource should be reduced to silence and compelled to witness things bungled, which, with a few words, he might set straight. The true position of a presiding officer is that he is the chairman of a working committee and his duty is to facilitate business and see that what is necessary shall be carried through. Therefore, whenever in his opinion the proper course is not being followed, he should good-naturedly, but clearly, suggest the proper course. This, it is true, may bring down the objection that “it is not right to discuss things from the chair.” But it must be remembered that the Chief Ranger is the very man most interested in everything passed, as, being by the nature of his office a member of all committees, he is therefore charged with the execution of everything that passes his own gavel. It is manifest, therefore, that a Chief Ranger has no need to hide his fertility and fervor. But at the same time he must avoid the opposite error of running a one-man lodge. He must permit and protect the fullest discussion, preserving order and killing technicalities and generally displaying broadmindedness, good nature, courtesy and decision.

#### THE FINANCIAL OFFICERS.

In selecting the officers whose duties are to see that the records and receipts, disbursements and correspondence are promptly and methodically attended to, geniality of character must not be allowed to count. A brother may be “a very decent fellow” and yet be totally unfit for an office where business habits are required. No amount of good nature will atone for negligence in forwarding assessments or inaccuracy in keeping accounts.

If the present incumbents of these tiresome and responsible offices have proved themselves worthy of trust, do not by any means allow them to escape a further term. Especially if you have a good financial secretary, cling to him as you would to a good bargain.

#### THE RITUAL.

All officers whose duty it is to give a portion of the ritual should be able to deliver their parts with fluency and force. Nothing so damps an initiation ceremony or gives a candidate so poor an opinion of an order, as a halt, lame, hesitating and mangled garbling of the sonorous phrases of a ritual. Officers who are deficient in this matter should, during an initiation, get other members to take their places and not practice on the suffering ears of the brethren.

#### THE COURT “KICKER.”

In nearly every lodge of every order there is one lean-witted brother who “wants to see things done right”; and for this purpose insists on raising points of order, laying charges, holding useless investigations and carping and criticizing until every other brother pronounces him a “crank.” If you follow this brother home to the society of his wife, you will usually find him the second-best man in his own domestic circle. He uses the snug security of the lodge-room to let off his repressed ambitions and enjoy for a brief interval the rights of man.

It is sometimes the fatal good nature of the lodge brethren to try and satisfy the “kicker” by giving him an office. Don't do it brethren, unless you want to lose the prosperity of your Court or to require a commission from headquarters to set you right. Put the “kicker” in cold storage and keep him frozen up.

#### Notes.

A great deal of time was consumed in the preparation of the copy for the new Constitution and Laws owing to the fact that every amendment made by The Supreme Court had to be harmonized so that there might be no contradiction between any of the three hundred odd sections contained therein; but this work has now been accomplished and the Executive Council are pushing the work through with all possible despatch, and they hope to have them in the hands of each member by the 1st of December.

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We congratulate the High Court of California in the selection it made of the High Treasurer, Bro. Gen. Wm. E. Reavis, of Los Angeles, who is peculiarly adapted for the position, and we doubt not but that he will make not only one of the best Treasurers that any High Court could have, but will make a wise counsellor and member of the High Standing Committee.

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Each Recording Secretary will be good enough to send his post office address to the Supreme Secretary, so that it may be registered, and everything got ready for the new order of things which goes into effect on the 1st December. In cities and towns the Recording Secretary should give the street and number, so that the chance of a letter miscarrying may be reduced to a minimum. Court Deputies will cease on the 1st of December to be the corresponding officers through whom communications are passed between the Court and The Supreme Court and the High Courts, but they will still continue to be the law officers of the Court to decide all questions which may be brought before them on appeal.