

Ranks are being conferred." (S. L. Jour., 1888, 4123, 4409, 4580, 4581, 4659).

While that fairly well provided for the necessities of this case, it failed in many respects in definiteness, but it had at least the merit of having laid the foundation for the present provision which was prepared by the Constitutional Commission, and adopted by the Supreme Lodge in 1894, remaining unchanged to the present time. The Constitutional Commission deemed this matter of sufficient importance to give it a Chapter to itself in the Supreme Statutes—it is found under Title IV Chapter II., Section 307, and is designated a statute "relating to the selection of a presiding officer other than the Chancellor Commander or Vice-Chancellor."

As the section referred to is a lengthy one, for convenience of our readers and a better understanding of it, we have divided it as follows: 307. "Par. 1. The Chancellor Commander is the executive officer of a Subordinate Lodge, and in addition to his duties as such, it shall be his duty to preside at all the conventions of his lodge.

"Par. 2. In the event of his absence at the time fixed by law for calling a convention to order, or in case he is present at that time and fails or refuses to call the lodge to order within fifteen minutes of the time fixed by law for opening the Lodge, and a quorum is present, the Vice-Chancellor shall take the chair and perform, for the time being, the duties of Chancellor Commander.

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"Par. 3. If both of these officers are absent, or are present and neglect or refuse to preside, the members present shall proceed to select by vote, some one from among themselves to preside, voting first upon the Past Chancellors, and, in case of failure to secure a presiding officer from among them, then upon those who have received the Rank of Knight.

"Par. 4. The person so selected to preside shall have, while in the chair, the same power to conduct the business of the lodge and to preside while the Ranks are being conferred, that is devolved by the law upon a Chancellor Commander."

Accustomed as the average American is to the "town" convention, and the methods pursued in regard to calling such meetings to order, we presume that the Constitutional Commission did not deem it necessary to designate the manner in which the members present should bring the meeting to order, for the purpose of making the selection named—in all other respects, the law is plain and clear, free from ambiguity, and only open to but one construction and that is comprehended in the closing words, "that is devolved by the law upon a Chancellor Commander."

Some readers of the "Pythian Tribune" may possibly question the breadth of the provision, as to its being sufficiently specific, particularly in view of the fact that where the statutes provide in regard to a knight being called to the chair to assist in conferring the Ranks, or when the work is by a "team," it is declared, in Section 256, that the semi-annual password "must be communicated only by the Chancellor Commander or (in his absence) by the Vice-Chancellor of the Lodge."

In reply to this, the "Tribune" can only say that the very fact that the closing portion of Section 307, above quoted, is devoid of details, makes it all the stronger—instead of picking out certain things which a temporary officer might do, that Section uses the language "shall have, while in the chair, the same power to conduct the business of the lodge * * * that is devolved by the law upon a Chancellor Commander."

It seems to us that it would be impossible for anything to be made more comprehensive—surely, no one would expect that the temporary officer would be clothed with any more than the regular incumbent. Again, the restrictions placed upon and made in connection with the duties contemplated in Section 256, are entirely proper—such appointed may only occupy the chair for the purpose of conferring the Rank of Ranks—he is not there, in any sense, as the presiding officer.—The "Pythian Tribune."

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A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The following clipping is copied from the "Kootenay Mail," Revelstoke. We commend the C. C., Bro. Gill, for the Pythian spirit displayed and the example set:

RECEPTION TO K. OF P.S.

Last evening Chancellor Commander Gill, of Gold Range Lodge, Knights of Pythias, held a reception at his home, to which all brethren of the local Lodge and visitors were invited. A