

From 1830 to Dec. 31, 1885, the sum of \$41,151,900 00 has been expended for relief.

A new feature in the reports this year is the statistics which have been collected respecting Odd Fellows Beneficial Associations in operation. These returns are admittedly incomplete, yet they show that payments have been made by these organizations to the families or representatives of deceased brothers amounting to nearly eight million dollars, and that they had funds on hand June 30, 1886, to the sum of \$516,820 55.

The following is an abstract of new legislation effected and of the construction which has been given to existing laws:

Grand Lodges and Grand Encampments may provide for the exemplification of the Degrees of the Order, while open in the Scarlet Degree. A Subordinate cannot expend its funds for a collation and ball even upon the celebration of the anniversary of the Order, nor has a Grand Body power to authorize its subordinates to make such expenditure, as it is not for the "legitimate purposes of the Order."

A revised Ritual of the Rebekah Degree having been adopted, the said Ritual is to be the only authorized work for this Degree on and after 1st January, 1887.

Salary due an officer cannot offset his dues to entitle him to benefits if taken sick and in arrears.

Standing of members in Encampment is not affected until one year after suspension in Lodge, if under no disability in Encampment.

It is illegal to fine a member for absence from Lodge meetings.

Lodges and Encampments may omit meetings when they fall on a National Anniversary, Thanksgiving Day, and other legally established or generally recognized holidays.

The mother, widow, and unmarried step-daughter of an Odd Fellow may receive the Degree of Rebekah or be admitted to membership in Rebekah Degree Lodge.

The Grand Sire to issue a proclamation annually calling on all Subordinate Lodges to celebrate the 20th October, or such other day as will be more convenient to the Lodges, as a Memorial Day, and to engage in appropriate exercises respecting their deceased members.

The memorial from this Grand Lodge, in support of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, to admit persons to membership at 18 years of age, appears in full at page 10,370 of the proceedings, and was, on motion of P. G. Sire Nicholson, ordered to be entered on the journals. The proposed alteration was rejected by vote of 77 against 67 in its favor.