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THE "ASSOCIATION SPIRIT" AND THE "CLIQUE."

In order to insure the success of an organization such as ours it is necessary that it have at least four fundamental essentials, each playing an imperative part and taking an important place in the firm foundations that are so vital as a basis upon which to build a successful association. A truly representative membership,—energetic and enthusiastic officers,—money, and—the "association spirit."

The first we undoubtedly have. The second we believe we have. We have never, up to the present, been actually held up in our good work for want of the third. The fourth necessity, which, after all, should be the easiest of the four to obtain, is oftentimes the weakest cornerstone to the foundation. One hundred per cent membership, irreprouachable officers in every sense of the word, the money of the world and no "association spirit" and the result will be—nothing—and you will get—nowhere.

And what is the "association spirit"!

We believe it to be that same creed that is preached, but, alas, so rarely lived up to, the whole world over by fraternal societies, labor unions and numerous other bodies. "All for one and one for all." "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Don't think "me," think "us." Don't consider "I," consider "we."

If such are our thoughts and considerations, then, surely, we are cultivating the "association spirit" and our individual and collective (for the two must be taken together) success is assured.

Oftentimes, because they think, sometimes we regret to say, rightly but happily more often, incorrectly, that the "association spirit" does not prevail in their branch, members become disheartened and disgusted and cease to interest themselves in the good work that is being done in their midst. If these men would but realize how very inconsistent is such an attitude, we are of the opinion that fewer cases of this kind would be noticed. If members who conscientiously endeavor to live up to association ideals cease activity because they think that those same ideals are not lived up to by others,

surely they are quitting a duty that obviously confronts them. For instance, to take as an example the case one is always hearing cited, if members think that their branch is controlled by a "clique," what is the alternative! A so-called clique is surely nothing but a minute organization but vaguely outlined. If there are good reasons for believing that such a thing is in existence in your branch, we would suggest that the remedy is another clique.

Organization is always necessary in order to meet organization successfully. If you are right in your surmise as to the selfishness of your local clique, you will be doing good work to get together and oust them out of the way. Should your surmise be wrong, we feel convinced that such sudden activity upon the part of those so seldom heard from would be met with rejoicing by those who are 'always present' and who, because they are always present are called the "clique" and come under the category so ably referred to in a poem published in these pages recently.

However, do we find such opposition cliques formed! Nine times out of ten, No. And why not! Because nine times out of ten that clique contains a big majority of all the "association spirit" that is to be found in your branch and which is so necessary in all of us if our organization is to grow in the right sort of manner.

Should your branch be in the possession of what is termed a clique, first cultivate the "association spirit," then you will either be in the clique yourself or vigorously opposing it, and, furthermore, we hope and believe that you will come under the first mentioned.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

A casual glance at the cost of mail transportation in some of the larger cities makes one wonder if the time will ever come when the public service will be conducted along similar lines to any decent private enterprise. Can you imagine your local manufacturer calling for contracts for the conveyance of his goods to the railroad. A few cheap "Fords" and the necessary drivers attached to each city office and a great economy would result.