

Correspondence.

[While we give full publicity to the views of our correspondents, we wish it to be distinctly understood, we do not hold ourselves responsible for them.]

A National Association.

To the Editor of the Anglo-Saxon:

Dear Sir,—The action of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the S. O. E. at Hamilton in declining, as a Society, to take united and concerted action in support of their principles (which are imposed on each member by the Constitution and Obligation) now deeply affected by the political issues before the electorate, is a matter that has filled many of us with feelings of the most profound disgust—indicating as it does not the climax of noble, resolute and patriotic purpose, but simply the meanness and power of rival factions.

Every foe of England must look on and rejoice at such an utter abasement of noble principles to suit unscrupulous partisans.

The decisions of majorities must prevail—those who disagree may elect to try, try again or prefer the alternative course, to start a National Association of Englishmen, who from the word go will be prepared to abjure or subordinate every other tie or influence which may militate against their legitimate feelings and aspirations.

The S. O. E. as a Benefit Society could then be allowed undisturbed to pursue its way—and would then cease to be the will-o-the-whisp to those who joined it for loftier reasons than to participate in the distribution of a few loaves and fishes.

A National Association of Englishmen that required of every member absolute unity of purpose and concerted action—especially at the ballot box—on the specific matters of whatever directly or indirectly affected the Unity of the British Empire and the interests of Protestant liberties as against the ascendancy and domination of Romanism—coupled with the advantages afforded by national association—would secure for Englishmen their legitimate influence in public affairs.

Such an Association need cost, beyond initiation fees, a merely nominal sum per month, and be thoroughly representative of all classes of Englishmen. Having no financial burdens to carry, it available funds could be applied as the majority decided in most effectually upholding their principles.

A newspaper, such as the ANGLO-SAXON, could be supplied freely to each member, and the feelings and sentiments of Englishmen could find there a free expression and influence.

I hope through your columns to elicit replies to this proposal, and shortly to be able to announce to our fellow-countrymen the birth of *The National Association of Englishmen*. All interested in this matter should let it be known, so that they may be written to hereon.

Your obedient servant,

F. J. ALEXANDER.

Ottawa, Feb. 2nd, 1891.

GRAND LODGE S. O. E.

REPORTS OF SUPREME GRAND PRESIDENT J. C. SWAIT, AND RICHARD IVENS, SUPREME GRAND VICE-PRESIDENT.

HAMILTON, Feb. 10th, 1891.

BRETHREN:—

I have the honor of welcoming you to this our sixteenth Convention of Supreme Grand Lodge.

I do this knowing that your lodges in selecting you as delegates have done so having confidence that you will do what you consider best and to the advantage of our beloved Order.

May our proceedings and deliberations on the various subjects before us be so conducted that they may redound to our credit; that harmony and good will may prevail throughout our session.

At the commencement of my official year after consulting my colleagues in office, I appointed 38 District Deputies, and I have to thank them for their very able and satisfactory reports. They report that our Order throughout the districts is progressing in numbers and usefulness.

I have officially visited 64 Lodges during the year. I regret that the time at my disposal would not admit of my visiting more. We have opened 26 new lodges during the year.

I found that the members and officers of the lodges are very desirous of receiving a visit from the Supreme Grand President or some other of the executive board.

In all cases the members of the lodges visited, acknowledged the benefit derived from these visits. Our order is growing in such large proportions that it will be impossible for the Supreme Grand President to give the time to it that it requires. And I think he should call upon the executive to assist him in the future, which I am sure they will be willing to do. In fact it is

only a matter of a few years when our order will have to divide the work into district lodges who will be responsible to Supreme Grand Lodge.

I found that on examining the bonds giving by the Supreme Grand Treasurer for \$500 and the Supreme Grand Secretary for \$300 are nine years old. And secured by certain brethren of the order. I would recommend that the Supreme Grand Lodge increase these to \$1,000 each as the money passing through these brothers hands has more than doubled since the making out of the above bonds. And the security given should be through a guarantee firm. This bond might include the beneficiary fund also, that branch paying its share of the costs. I instructed the Grand Lodge Trustees to make certain deposits of Grand Lodge funds in their names. I would suggest that the Executive and Grand Lodge Trustees meet as soon as possible after Grand Lodge meeting and arrange for a more simple and comprehensive system of depositing and withdrawing the funds. In doing this I do not condemn any of the officers but the system in my opinion is wrong. I also would advise that all supplies such as goods, printing, &c., be tendered for and that the committee appointed bring in a report of the best method to carry this out. That the tenders be confined to members of our Order if possible.

During the year I have given my opinion on a number of constitutional questions and other matters relating to our Order. I regret that I have not been able to place them in my report. They are in the letter book of the Grand Lodge, and owing to the short time that the Supreme Grand Secretary as at his disposal. I could not get them in time, but I will endeavour to have them in the printed report of Supreme Grand Lodge. I am pleased to report that the beneficiary department will in a very short time reach the thousand dollar limit.

During the year several juvenile lodges have been inaugurated. This branch of our Order like all other institutions was crude at starting but the experience gained by the brothers having these lodges in charge will no doubt be utilized by the committee of this Grand Lodge to whom it will be referred.

I regret very much that the C. W. Allen case did not end at last Grand Lodge. But was revived before the Attorney General by Mr. Allen making certain charges against us which we had to defend at considerable cost.

We, however, had the satisfaction of sustaining our position defeating all the charges brought against us by him.

I have also to regret that certain circulars should have been placed in circulation without the consent of the Executive. This in my opinion should be stopped at once or some dissatisfied brother, which there is bound to be in an institution so large as our own will lead us into some serious complications as only one side of the case is brought down in these circulars. For instance one brother writes to the ANGLO-SAXON, a letter which to the members of our Order has the appearance of being issued by consent of his lodge. And we find the lodge does not know the first thing about it and very much disapprove of it.

There is an appeal from Norfolk Lodge remoulding has been settled, also from Windsor Lodge re James. From what I have seen I think the Grand Lodge should meet at least one month later.

The Auditors and Supreme Grand Secretary complain that they have not the time to go over their work owing to the reports from the various Lodges not being on time.

In reference to an official newspaper, your Executive have no report to make. The Naval Brigade of our Order I believe is doing well. I have not received a report from them. From correspondence received from some of the lodges I find that harmony does not prevail. This should not be, the matters in dispute often being trivial and could be easily settled if the brothers would meet and quietly discuss their grievances admitting errors where they have committed them. They are often more the errors of the head than the heart, true charity, friendship, and fraternity should be in our midst.

I cannot conclude without referring to the good work of our Rev. brother Hobson has been doing in British Columbia. We have now five lodges in that District and they are all doing well.

I can only repeat what has been repeated at every Grand Lodge meeting. That our Order was never more prosperous than it is to-day. I have to express my thanks for the very kind and able support I have received from my colleagues in office.

Also for the kind and courteous welcome I received from the brethren in general and may we feel at the conclusion of this session of Grand Lodge, that there has been one week in our lives that has not been wasted. And that we at least have done our share to better the condition of our beloved brethren.

Yours fraternally,
JOHN C. SWAIT,
Supreme Grand President.

HAMILTON, Feb. 10th, 1891.

BRETHREN:—

It is with unbounded satisfaction that I welcome you to this, the Sixteenth Annual Session of our beloved Order, and I pray that our deliberations may be conducted harmoniously and result in profit to ourselves and in increased prosperity to our Society.

We have during the past year made gratifying additions to the number of our lodges, nine of which I have assisted to institute. My experience has been that the organizers have very generally adhered to the principle of careful selection of members and also of energetic and useful officers, and I of energetic and useful officers, and I here tender my hearty thanks to those brethren who, though often so little known, have quietly and unassumingly

spread the tenets of our Order, and as a result founded new lodges.

Whilst we have added largely to our membership substantial progress and improvement have been made in the general conduct of the lodges. The officers perform their duties more intelligently, and the ritualistic and secret work is done better. I am pleased to notice that in many lodges the use of books is not necessary, and when caution is used to avoid straying from the text, the result is added impressiveness to the ceremony and increased respect for the officers.

A growing desire is evinced by the brethren to make the lodge meetings enjoyable, by the introduction of lectures, addresses, discussions, music and other recreative and educational methods; and I find that where this system has been carried out most successfully, there is greater harmony, less unnecessary argument, better attendance, more initiations, and a nearer approach to perfection in the work than in lodges that make no effort in this direction.

I am pleased to report that many of the District Deputies have done Yeomans' service, and have been of great assistance to the Grand Executive. Some deserve special mention; they have given evidence of their duties, and an interest in the well-being and growth of the Society, which should earn for them the gratitude of this grand body.

I am of opinion that their valuable assistance, and especially the persevering and successful efforts of the majority have not received the recognition which they deserve. The order is now becoming too large and too widespread to be handled as in earlier years, directly by the Grand Executive; and as a necessary consequence, the duties of D.D. will become more onerous and the office more responsible. It is therefore imperative that the appointments be judiciously made, their duties clearly defined, their annual report duly handed in, and their services receive deserved recognition.

The Beneficiary has developed into a very important and attractive department, and already again and again has the widow and the orphan had cause to tearfully thank the worthy brethren who planned and carried to a successful issue this flourishing branch. In this connection I am disappointed to find that in some lodges the clause in the order of business referring to "applications for beneficiary policies" is passed over without the notice that a very serious matter should claim. I would strongly urge that in all cases this order of business should receive special attention.

The Building Society is doing good work, and under careful management and direction will be an additional source of strength to the Order.

The Naval Brigade has made steady progress both in Toronto and Hamilton, and deserves the moral, financial or active support of every member of the Society. No brother who has attended one of the Brigade meetings, or witnessed their drill, but will be proud of their efforts, and will leave fully convinced of the desirability of encouraging a department, the success of which will attach a body of healthy, stalwart, loyal young men to the Order, in whom we may justly take pride.

One of the most pleasant tasks I had to perform during my term of office, was that of instituting a juvenile lodge. Train up a child in the way he should go, is a well recognized axiom.

The loyal English sentiment inculcated into the minds of the juvenile members will make the juvenile lodge an admirable training school for the adult Son of England.

Experience during my year of office impressed me with the paramount importance of some reorganization of the Executive Council, and whether in or out of office it will be my endeavor during the coming year to formulate some scheme which may tend to systematize the work of that body, so that the business of the Order may be transacted promptly, with careful deliberation, avoiding real or apparent centralization, and that the Executive earn and receive the confidence, sympathy and loyal support of the Order in general.

In conclusion, the forty-nine official visits I have made in addition to many others unofficial, have convinced me that the members of the S. O. E. B. S. are not only actuated by affection for the Order and for the personal benefit to be derived, but are, as a body, whatever shade of politics, intensely loyal to Queen and Country and determined, at all hazards, not to forego that for a trifle which was bought with blood.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD IVENS,
Supreme Grand Vice-Pres.

Church Disestablishment.

London, 20th.—In the House this evening, Morgan's resolution in favour of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales, was rejected by 236 to 203. The close vote was greeted with loud Opposition cheers.

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