

ADDRESS

Of the late Great Excellent Sir Knight General Commander, F. M. Wilder, delivered in the City of London, Ont., on the 3rd of Feb., 1881.

SIR KNIGHTS AND BROTHERS,—

With the calling of this meeting, I have aimed for a fraternal meeting, not one of strife and jealousy. In doing so, I have invited the prominent members of the Order, together with the old Executive, to be with us, give their advice and aid in the promotion of brotherly love, and for us to get the benefit of the past experience of those who have held the position I now hold, only the place I now take is one not to be envied by any, yet shunned by many.

The first act of this Executive Body, elected from the joint meeting of the Great Camp and Supreme Tent, K.O.T.M., is to carry out all of the ACTS, INTENTS, and the CONTRACTS of those bodies, and live up to them to the VERY LETTER of the law, so to speak, if we have one; and I, in my position, can know no law before those CONTRACTS, and none can I sanction that do not conform with said contract; and a Constitution that does conform with said contract will be one that, when sanctioned by this Executive Council, will be the Constitution of this Order of the K.O.T.M. from this time on.

But before I proceed further, I wish to call the attention of all present to the proceedings of our meeting at Port Huron, how our various Committees worked on both sides, and then reported to the respective bodies; and, finally, the TERMS of our UNION. The words and intents, as I understand them, were these, and they were approved by each body separate, then by them in union, viz:

FROM PROCEEDINGS OF GREAT CAMP, Jan. 12th, 1881, Committee on Reunion reported at 11 A.M., that the Committee from the Supreme Tent had submitted the following as their ultimatum, viz: "That we meet in Joint Committee, in Convention, in your Hall, immediately elect officers from the floor of the house under the Constitution of the Supreme Tent, and act under the same until a new Constitution is completed by Sir Knights Stanton and Boynton."

THE GREAT CAMP UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED NOT TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSITION. After a recess, 1.30 P.M., again the Reunion Committee entered the hall, and reported that the Supreme Tent HAD AGREED TO ADOPT THE NAME OF "THE GREAT CAMP" FOR THE SUPREME GOVERNING BODY, AND TO ADOPT THE TITLES OF THE GREAT CAMP OFFICERS; and here the Committee from the Supreme Tent was admitted, and presented certain amendments to the Supreme Tent Constitution to complete the legal reunion. LATER, THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE RESPECTIVE OFFICERS—an agreement by which the officers were equally divided, and their respective duties understood complete, with equal rights and powers, and each of them following their respective Constitutions until the new one was formed by Sir Kts. Boynton and Stanton, and that they should choose a third party to settle disputes. NOW, ONE OF THE EXPLICIT AGREEMENTS OF THE FIRST UNUNITED AND AFTERWARDS UNITED BODY WAS THE NAME OF SUCH BODY AND TITLES OF OFFICERS. Now, for my part (personally), I care not what the titles are called; but it was not the agreement and intent of the body from whom I was elected that such SHOULD BE CHANGED. It may not have been done; I have seen no new one; but the UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE GREAT CAMP WAS AGAINST IT, AND THE SUPREME TENT ACCEPTED IT, AND IN JOINT SESSION THE OFFICERS WERE ELECTED AND INSTALLED BY THOSE NAMES OR TITLES; AND THE DUTIES WERE EXPLICITLY UNDERSTOOD BY EVERY MEMBER OF EACH BODY. Now, to keep up the united brotherly feeling of the Order in all parts of the country, all of the acts of our greater body, or the body from whom we are elected, must be complied with. Members are anxiously awaiting for laws, supplies, etc.; widows are waiting for their money.

I have postponed this meeting, that we could do all of our work at once, only waiting a Constitution to work from. New Tents are being formed, and as such, which Constitution is the one for them to follow? It must be one from this united body, that can be amended by them as well as us; but, Brother Sir Knights, let us fulfil every letter of the feeling and vote of our united body at Port Huron. AND I HOPE THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS MADE TO CONFORM WITH OUR AGREEMENT, AS ONLY AS SUCH CAN IT BE MADE A LAW. THAT AGREEMENT ASKS ALL AND BINDS ALL THERE PRESENT TO STAND BY THE OFFICERS THERE ELECTED, AND IMPLIES THAT THE OFFICERS MUST STAND BY THE AGREEMENT. It asks that the agreement be made such that from then on the amount be \$1000, by special resolution. No assessments have been made; many deaths are reported; our offi-

cers have not filed Bonds; the delay of this meeting from other causes prevented bonds being made. This Order must be known as on a sound basis; and we must conduct the business in a business way, and on a monetary system. Every member, if he choose, should know there is not a crooked hole for any officer to fail in carrying out the obligation to "Protect the widow and the orphan." Therefore, I would recommend the immediate filing of good and sufficient bonds by the Record and Finance-keeper; that the assessments be immediately made, and that on the back of each assessment be placed the amount received by the previous endowment call, and in the future it be put on each death-call issued, also copies of receipts from the claimants, with their address, and, if possible, with room on blank, age of deceased, amount of money paid into the Order by the deceased, and length of time he has belonged to the Order, cause of death, duration of illness, and also, as near as possible, the total number of Tents and members in good standing at date of issue. I would also recommend that all books and property belonging to the respective officers be delivered over to the new officers, and that a uniform system of books, returns, form of reports for Tents, etc., be adopted; that a monthly report be rendered by the Finance-keeper, as well as is above by the Record-keeper. I would also recommend the APPROVAL OF THE ACTION OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO BUFFALO, a report of which we have here with us. I would also recommend the reinstatement of old Tents upon the payment of such sum as would be for the best interest of the Order, either 50c. per capita or \$10 for each Tent, with each member passing the required medical examination of the Order; and that each Tent can reinstate old members for such sum as they may choose in their by-laws, not less than 50c., with the re-examination; yet allow that we deal liberal with them all, and endeavor to have none but true and healthy men; that the death-calls during suspension are not to be paid by the members or Tents; that there be a regular per capita tax of Tents, either monthly or quarterly, of a small sum to defray Great Camp expenses, provided the sale of supplies will not suffice; that there be issued now a new password to Tents, as none has been given this term; that all dropped members must be re-examined before reinstatement; that all members dropped or suspended must get a withdrawal card from old Tent before they can join another, and that if it be deposited within three months in another Tent no examination be required; also that he hold there his endowment, if he pay for the same during the time; if not, such examination must be made and approved by the Great Medical Examiner before he become an endowment member; that all applicants for new Tents, except as above by withdrawal card, must have their examinations approved before charters are issued, and the fees to Great Medical Examiner to accompany the examination papers in all cases: this will not leave an opening for persons of over age, etc., to become members unconstitutionally. There are three old members of Tent No. 231 that have paid all fees and endowments, and never had their certificates. If they have complied with the laws under which their Tent has been working, I would recommend that their certificates be issued.

By the Constitution of the Great Camp I have decided that at a regular meeting notice cannot be given of a regular meeting to be held the next night by merely stating it in open review; but a notice must be given in person, or delay the meeting and send due notice to every member; but an adjourned meeting may be held.

I would ask this Executive Committee to ask any member of the Order at large to present a new Ritual, in manuscript, at the meeting in Toronto, in August next, for approval.

The new appointment of Deputies has not been made, as at Port Huron all old ones were requested to act for the present. I now think that all commissions should be withdrawn or rescinded, and new ones given, and would ask the Tents in the various districts to recommend their man. The State Deputies will be taken into advise before appointment. I therefore would ask the old officers to give me the names and address of the old Deputies.

TRIALS, ETC.—A member gains his admission through the Subordinate Tent, and must go out by the same door, either by being dropped, withdrawal, suspended or expelled. He, in cases of expulsion, can only be expelled from the Order by his Subordinate Tent. If he can get no just trial, a change of venue may be granted to another near Tent; and after such trial, the irregularities by appeal may be made to the Great Body, and there decided; but the penalties must be made by the Subordinate Tents, as the greater body cannot expel a member of the Order, nor can an officer declare such an expulsion; but in all cases charges must be made in the Tent to which such member belongs; and if they be proven, the Tent must make the penalty.

That no legal work can be done by the Tents meeting in saloons, and they are requested never to so meet.

Rejected members in one Tent cannot become a charter member in the formation of a new Tent until after six months may elapse; and should a person be proved to be over age at the time he becomes a member of this Order, his certificate shall be cancelled, and he become an honorary member.

If a withdrawal card be refused a member of a Tent, charges must immediately be preferred, and such charges be disposed of before said card is granted, after which time said Tent must grant a withdrawal.

As Tents cannot do legal work on the Sabbath day by statutes, therefore no Tent be allowed to meet regularly or do any business of the Order, except for funeral preparations, during Sunday.

With these views and recommendations for our future work, I aim to hold up one of the finest and noblest Orders of the land: they may conflict with the now Constitution, and with opinions sent abroad by circulars; but let the world know that there is truly integrity in the management of the K.O.T.M., and that this Order is not the by-word of the past. We may talk freely here, differ in opinion, but let us work without the feeling of jealousy, and let the pride of the K.O.T.M. be the brotherly feeling here this day shown to our brothers away in the battles of life.

OFFICERS OF THE GREAT CAMP OF THE K.O.T.M. OF THE WORLD.

- W D McGlochon, Acting Great Ex. Sir Ft. G.C. London, Ont.
John Andrew, jr., Great Commander, Detroit, Mich.
Jas Walters, Lt. Lieut.-Com., Napanee, Ont.
Rev. M Dimmick, London, Gt. Prelate.
Rev. S. Beswick, Strathroy, Gt. Prelate.
C K Jones, Gt. R.K., Lock Box No. 267, London, Ont.
J F Cryer, Gt. F.K., No. 140, Clarence street, London, Ont.
T D Huffman, Gt. Sergeant, Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Thos Dowling, Gt. Master-at-Arms, Brantford, Ont.
Wm P Usher, Gt. 1st Master of the Guards, Cambridge, Mass.
G T Reed, Gt. 2nd Master of the Guards, Ill.
Jas Jenkins, Gt. Sentinel, Newark, N.J.
G H Grafton, Gt. Picket, St. Marys, Ont.
— McKay, Belleville, Gt. Gen. Commander for Province of Ont.
Captain Wm H Weston, Toronto, Gt. G.C. for Ontario.
Wm P Usher, Cambridge, Mass., Gt. G.C. for Mass.
Jacob D Bunker, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gt. G.C. for Iowa.
Wm Fuller, Brantford, Gt. G.C. for County of Brant, Ont.
Jas Jenkins, Newark, Gt. G.C. for New Jersey.
Wm O'Hara, St. Marys, Gt. G.C. for Ontario.
M F Sanford, Belleville, Gt. G.C. for County of Leeds, Ont.
E H Hogg, St. Marys, Gt. G.C. for County of Perth, Ont.
Joseph Thomas, Brantford, Gt. G.C. for Province of Ontario.
John H Balra, Newark, Gt. G.C. for Newark, New Jersey.
J Montgomery, Napanee, Gt. G.C. for County of Lennox, Ont.
Chas B Perry, Napanee, Gt. G.C. for County of Addington.
Thos A Meraten, St. Marys, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Huron, Ont.
G King, Brantford, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Haldimand, Ont.
R W Brooks, Brantford, Gt. G.C. for County of Wentworth, Ont.
Thos Bowdance, Newark, N.J., Gt. G.C. for New York City.
D D Chandler, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gt. G.C. for Cedar Co.
E O Manville, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gt. G.C. for Marion Co.
W Hamilton, Brantford, Gt. G.C. for County of Lincoln.
R D Wing, Suspension Bridge, G.C. for State of New York.
John Wilson, London, Gt. G.C. for Ontario.
L F Gilchrist, Bozeman P.O., Gt. G.C. for Montana Territory.
M D Kamshaw, Brockway Centre, Mich., Gt. General Commander for Monroe Co.
John Bowie, Gt. Gen. Com., Macomb Co., Mich.
W J McDougall, Gt. Gen. Com., Oakland Co., Mich.
A McKay, M D, Gt. Gen. Com. for State of Mich.
Thos Walton, Gt. Gen. Com. for County of Wellington.
W D Morgaridge, Gt. G.C. for State of Illinois.
Peter Grant, Gt. G.C. for Province of Prince Edward.
M A Robinson, Gt. G.C. for County of Prince Edward.
E Fitzallan, Gt. G.C. for Co. of West Middlesex.
Hugh R Jolly, Gt. G.C. for Prov. of Manitoba.
Thos H Francis, Gt. G.C. for Prov. of Nova Scotia.
R J Halle, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Kent., Ont.
C M Smith, Gt. G.C. for Ontario County, Ont.
Levi Broughton, Gt. G.C. for Prov. of Ont.
Geo Dunlop, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Waterloo.
C Waldrick, Gt. G.C. for Benton Co., Iowa.
C W Dairs, Gt. G.C. for Iowa Co., Iowa.
D C McDonald, Gt. G.C. for Prov. of Ont.
C Cooper, Gt. G.C. for St. Clair Co., Mich.
Jesse Richhart, Gt. G.C. for Black Hawk Co., Iowa.
W H Moncer, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Bruce, Ont.
W F Sanford, Belleville, Gt. G.C. for County of Hastings, Ont.
J W Carder, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Halton, Ont.
G T Reed, Gt. G.C. for Monroe Co., Ill.
J G Bottomley, Gt. G.C. for Prov. of Ont.
T Donagha, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Grey.
Jacob M Foster, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Victoria.
Robt. Welsh, Gt. G.C. for Co. of Peterboro.

J. G. Jarvis says that he never defrauded his creditors, and infers from an article that appeared in THE TENT paper some time ago that we charged him with having done so; and on these statements of his we retract anything that might infer that he did.

List of Tents in direct communication with the Great Camp and who have paid all Death Calls.

Table with columns: Name of Tent, No. Where formed, R.K. Lists various tents and their locations across North America, including London, Ontario, Chicago, Illinois, and many other regions.