

ABOUT OFFICES AND OFFICERS.

The following from the *Triple Link* is as good as it is true:—

Now that we are nearing the end of a term, and new men are to assume the official positions in the Subordinate lodges, seems an appropriate time to indulge a few reflections concerning offices and officers.

Of course the duties of the several officers of a lodge are defined in detail in the Constitution, but unfortunately a very large per cent. never take the trouble to read the same and therefore remain in ignorance of the very things they obligate themselves to do. The first and most important things for the officer elect is to thoroughly familiarize himself with what is expected of him—or rather with what he pledges himself to perform as an officer at the time of installation.

Not only this but he should also comply with the law requiring him to commit to memory the charges appertaining to his station. It is a very bad sign for the new officer to read his charges. If he begins that way the probability is that he will end that way.

We cannot too strongly urge upon the officers elect the necessity of prompt attendance upon their part if they would expect prompt attendance upon the part of the membership. Every officer should make it a point to not only be in his place every meeting night, but to be in his place on time. Open the lodge promptly on time, despatch business without unnecessary delay, and close on time. We believe it would work well for every lodge to fix upon a time for closing, and when that time comes close.

And remember one more thing. The fact that your brethren have honored you with official position does not mean that they have elevated you to the office of "Boss." A little brief authority makes a fool of some men. Their head suddenly grows to an abnormal size. The brother who holds office in this great Order, from outside guardian to Grand Sire, is the *servant* of the great membership—not a boss; and he upon whom honors have been bestowed who is not more humble, more modest, more courteous by reason of the complement, simply demonstrates that in his selection his brethren made a mistake.

OPPOSITION DISARMED.

As time goes on the unjust and unbrotherly feeling against the eligibility clause in the new Rebekah laws is gradually losing ground, and those who were at first led to believe the law unwise and fraught with danger to the perpetuity of the Rebekah branch of the Order, are now beginning to see the folly of the idea, and are becoming more favorably inclined to the new order of things. Only

one or two fraternal papers were ever hostile to the new law and they have become discreetly silent of late, for the tide of sentiment was so strongly in favor of it, they wisely foresaw they would soon be swallowed up in the maelstrom of progressive thought, and disappear from sight and memory "unwept, unhonored and unsung." The one or two Rebekah assemblies that passed resolutions condemning the new law, and asked the representatives from their respective States to labor for the repeal of the law this fall, are regretting the hastiness of their action, and would undo, if they could, what they now consider was an unwise act. Occasionally a solitary writer who has access to a newspaper column will come to the surface of publicity and show his head long enough to breathe a few words of opposition to the new law, but he soon sinks beneath the wave of popular approval to rise no more.—*The Popular Odd Fellow.*

A MIGHTY FRATERNAL ARMY.

The Statesman says: More than 4,600,000 persons belong to fraternal organizations in the United States and Canada, the Odd Fellows taking the lead with over 900,000 members followed by the Masons, Knights of Pythias, United Workmen, and thirty other organizations varying in number of members from 14,000 upwards.

In the old country fraternal organizations also have a strong hold on the people, the "Register of Friendly Societies" in Great Britain reporting that the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows has 703,000 members, with a capital of \$40,500,000, and that its juvenile branch has 482,000 members with a capital of \$100,000. There is another Order of Odd Fellows under the general title of Independent, which reports 57,000 members and \$250,000 capital. Besides these there are a number of so-called "unities" of Odd Fellows, with memberships ranging from 5,000 to 20,000. The Ancient Order of Shepherds, one of the very old organizations, reports 25,000 members and \$500,000 capital; the Druids, another ancient fraternity, 4,000 adults and 1,000 juveniles. The Free Gardeners have 60,000 members and \$500,000 capital, and paid out last year \$370,000 in benefits.

In addition to the above there are a large number of co-operative assessment societies, some of which are over 100 years old, showing that after the assertion that after a while the age will grow so old that there will be no one "left to pay the last man" is not tenable, the facts being that the average age of any progressive Order is no higher to-day than it was fifty or a hundred years ago.

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