

That the Report of Grand Medical Examiner be referred to a committee of five at least, three of which to be medical men.

That the Reports of District Deputies be referred to Committee on State of the Order.

All of which is respectfully submitted in E. I. and U.

On motion of Representative Roe, seconded by Representative Hamilton, the report of the Committee on Distribution was received and adopted.

The Grand Commander appointed the following committees:

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF THE ORDER. Past Grand Commander W. J. Porte. Representative J. B. Dale, of No. 98.

COMMITTEE ON REPORTS OF GRAND RECORDER AND GRAND TREASURER. Representative M. D. Carder, of No. 68.

COMMITTEE ON REPORT OF GRAND MEDICAL EXAMINER. Representative Dr. L. West, of No. 66.

Grand Recorder Leubsdorf called the attention of the Grand Legion to certain facts connected with the Manitoba Legions, and on motion of Past Commander MacWatt, seconded by Grand Medical Examiner Dr. King, the matter was referred to the Committee on Laws.

He also presented for settlement a certain account against Ferguson Legions No. 28, which that Legion refuses to pay, and on motion the matter was referred to the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

No other business being ready, it was decided to proceed with the selection of a suitable place where to hold the annual session of 1892.

Nominations were made as follows: P. Cdr. MacWatt nominated Toronto.

Grand Trustee McCrady, nominated Brockville. Representative Hudson nominated Ottawa.

Booker nominated Hamilton. Grand Standard Bearer Ulley nominated Montreal.

The Grand Commander appointed Past Commander Watson, Grand Trustee McCrady, and Representative Dale to be scrutineers.

A ballot was taken with the following result:

Toronto received.....88 votes. Montreal.....83 "

Ottawa.....13 " Brockville.....13 " Hamilton.....2 "

Total.....99 votes. Necessary for a choice, 50 votes.

None of the competing places having received a majority of the votes cast, the Grand Commander ordered a new ballot to be taken, Hamilton withdrawing from the contest.

The second ballot was taken and resulted as follows:

Montreal received.....55 votes. Toronto.....46 "

Ottawa.....4 " Brockville.....3 "

Total.....108 votes. Objection was taken to the validity of the ballot and the Grand Commander ordered it to be taken over again.

This was done and the result was as follows:

Toronto received.....61 votes. Montreal.....41 "

Ottawa.....1 " Brockville.....1 "

Total.....104 votes. Necessary for a choice, 53 votes.

Toronto having received a majority of the votes cast, the Grand Legion ordered that the tenth annual meeting should take place in that city.

DOCUMENT No. 5. Moved by Representative Keith, seconded by Representative Boulter:

"That the Reports of the Grand Officers be sent to the Representatives at least twelve days prior to the annual session."

Moved by Grand Recorder Leubsdorf, seconded by Past Commander MacWatt:

"That document No. 5 be laid on the table until the proposed amendments to the Constitution have been considered."

The motion prevailed and the document was ordered to lay on the table for the present.

DOCUMENT No. 6. Dr. King, Grand Medical Examiner, presented the following Report from the Ritual Committee:

Toronto, 20th May, 1891. To the Grand Commander, Officers and Comrades of Grand Legion, Select Knights of Canada.

SIR AND COMRADES: We, the Committee appointed by the Grand Commander to consider the question of a new Ritual for our Society, having thoroughly considered the matter, beg leave to report the following resolutions for adoption, viz:

Resolved, firstly, That the strength and influence of the Select Knights of Canada is such as to merit the best possible Ritual that can be compiled.

Resolved, secondly, That such Ritual should be attractive and comprehensive, not only setting forth the initiatory forms, principles and teachings, but should, at the same time include the additional ceremonies of Installation of Officers, the Funeral Rites, Institution of New Legions, Dedication of Hall, and providing for uniformed as well as ordinary Legions, etc., etc.

Resolved, thirdly, That the importance of Ritualistic ceremonies is such that the most mature experience and best thought should be given to perfect an enunciation of the Order's principles and teachings.

That the first order of business after recess be the election of officers." The motion was adopted.

DOCUMENT No. 10. Representative Booker, of Mystic Legion No. 46, submitted the following amendments to the Constitution and Laws of General Application:

A.—IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LEGION. Add after Section No 2 the following:—

OBJECTS OF THE ORDER. Proposition 1.—The Objects of the Order shall be:— 1st. To unite fraternally all white men of sound bodily health, and good moral character, who are socially acceptable, and between eighteen and fifty years of age.

2nd.—To give all moral and material aid in its power to its members, and those dependent upon them.

3rd.—To educate its members socially, morally and intellectually; also to assist the widows and orphans of deceased members.

4th.—To establish a fund for the relief of sick and distressed members.

5th.—To establish a Beneficiary Fund, from which, on the satisfactory evidence of the death of a member of the Order, who has complied with all its lawful requirements, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars shall be paid to his wife, children, relatives of, or persons dependent upon such member, as limited and described in the laws of said Order relating to Benefit Certificates, as he may direct in accordance with said laws.

Proposition 2.—Add to Section 6 the following words:—"District Deputy Grand Commanders," after the word "Legion" in the 4th line.

Proposition 3.—Erase in Section 13, page 8, the words "Semi-Annually as" in the 2nd line; also the words "the sum of (50) cents" and insert in lieu thereof the words "One Dollar"; add between the words "be" and "forwarded" in the fifth line the following words: "payable semi-annually and."

Proposition 4.—Erase in Section 18 the words "or employment" in the 3rd and 4th line.

BENEFICIARY ARTICLE. Proposition 5.—In the preamble, add the words "and seal" after the word "books" in the 15th line.

Proposition 6.—Add to Section 40, at the end of the 4th line, as follows: "the sum of One Dollar as the fee for issuing the beneficiary certificate, which sum must be forwarded to the Grand Recorder to be placed by him in the General Fund of the Grand Legion, and one advance assessment to the Beneficiary Fund to be fixed by the amount of certificate applied for as follows:—"

If for a certificate for \$1,000 the sum of.....\$.50c. " " " " 2,000 " " " " ".....1.00 " " " " " 3,000 " " " " ".....1.50

Erase all of Sub-Sections A and B. Sub-Section C.—Erase all from the beginning of the word "cents" in the 3rd line; also the words "One Dollar of" in the 6th line.

Proposition 7.—Add to Section 50, between the words "forfeiture" and "by" in the 5th line, the following, "provided he is in good health."

Proposition 8.—Add to Section 69, after the word "Legion" in the 6th line, the words "as an advance assessment."

Proposition 9.—Erase in Section 70 the words "Grand Legion" in the 6th and 7th lines and insert in lieu thereof the words "Endowment Department"; also in the 10th line add the word "Endowment" between the words "the seal."

Proposition 10.—In Section 95, 10th line, erase the words, "fifty cents," and insert therefor the words "one dollar."

Proposition 11.—Erase in Section 99 all after the word "Legion" at the top of page 98 and insert in lieu thereof the words "a fee of twenty-five cents."

After Section 100 add a new section, as follows:— Proposition 12.—Medical Examiners' Fees.

"The fee of the Subordinate Medical Examiner shall be at least two dollars (\$2.00) for each examination, which fee must be paid to the Subordinate Examiner by the applicant when presenting himself for examination."

B.—IN THE GENERAL LAWS OF THE ORDER. Proposition 13.—It is recommended that Section 18 be amended so that all moneys be deposited in the name of the Legion subject to the joint cheque of the Commander and the Treasurer.

Proposition 14.—It is recommended that Section 15 be amended so that the approval of bonds be not left to the Installing Officer, but rather that they should be approved by the Legion.

C.—IN THE CONSTITUTION FOR SUBORDINATE LEGIONS. Proposition 15.—Amend Section 22, page 87, as follows:—"The degree fee for charter members and for applicants to existing Legions shall not be less than five dollars (\$5.00), three dollars of which must accompany the application."

Proposition 16.—Add a new section as to dispensation fees as follows:—"Every application to the Grand Commander or a District Deputy Grand Commander for a dispensation, excepting a dispensation for a charter for a new Legion, shall be accompanied by a fee of one dollar (\$1.00), to be paid into the General Fund of the Grand Legion."

DOCUMENT No. 11. Grand Commander Lewis offered the following amendments to the Grand Legion Constitution:

Proposition 17.—L Amend Section 4 by striking out in the second line thereof the words "third Wednesday in May" and inserting in their place the words "second Wednesday in March"

2. Amend Section 10 by striking out in the third line thereof the word "March" and replacing it by the word "December."

3. Amend Section 20 in the eleventh line on page 18 by striking out after the word "off" of the words "July, October and January" and inserting in their place the words "April, July and October."

4. Amend Section 29 by striking out the first part of the second sentence thereof and inserting "they shall within seven days after the first day of the months April, July and October, and within thirty days after the 31st of December of each year, examine the books and documents of the Grand Officers."

Proposition 18.—Amend Section 20 by striking out after the word "immediately" in the first line on page 18 the words "pay to the Grand Treasurer" and insert the following: "deposit the same to the credit of the Grand Legion, Select Knights of Canada, in such chartered Bank or Banks, as are designated by the Finance Committee of the Grand Legion of Ontario, each fund deposited by itself, taking itemized receipts in duplicate for the amount so deposited. He shall daily forward the original receipts to the Grand Treasurer, and the duplicates thereof to the Chairman of the Finance Committee."

Proposition 19.—Amend Section 6 by striking out the words "and such Sitting Commanders from Subordinate Legions are as Past Commanders."

Proposition 20.—Amend Section 83 by inserting between the words "character" and "may" the following: "each having been duly examined by a legally qualified medical practitioner on the proper form prescribed by the Grand Legion and the Examination approved by the Grand Medical Examiner."

Proposition 21.—Also strike out the last clause of said Section 96 on page 19, viz, the words "and is capable of performing military duty."

DOCUMENT No. 12. The Grand Recorder submitted the following amendments to the Constitution of the Grand Legion, and moved their adoption:

Proposition 22.—Add a new Section to the Beneficiary Article to read as follows:

"It shall, on and after July 1st, 1891, be the duty of the Grand Recorder to set aside every month, under the direction of the Finance Committee of this Grand Legion, a sum equal to ten per cent, of the Beneficiary Fund received during the preceding month, which shall form the Reserve Fund of the Beneficiary Department. The amount so set aside shall be deposited in Bank, and the interest shall be added to the fund, which shall not be touched—principal and interest—until there have been collected eighteen assessments in the Beneficiary Department during any one calendar year. The Fund shall be deposited to the credit of the Grand Legion, and shall only be withdrawn on a Warrant signed by the Grand Commander, Grand Vice-Commander, Grand Lieutenant Commander, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and on Laws."

Proposition 23.—Amend Section 47 in the following manner:—Erase in the twenty-fifth line thereof the words, "Provided that no certificate shall be assessable on any death, or disability, that occurs previous to the issuing of said certificate by the Grand Recorder;" and replace them as follows: "and every certificate shall be liable on any assessment either for death or disability levied after the day of its issuance."

Proposition 24.—Add a new Section to the Grand Legion Constitution, reading as follows:

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Persons possessing the same qualifications as are laid down in Section 96 of this Constitution, and residing in places where no Legion

NIAGARA'S FIRST BRIDGE

A Wire Cable That Carried an Iron Basket  
—Many Women Passengers.

In the Historical Society's rooms in the Library building Buffalo, stands an iron basket of latticed and riveted iron strips, painted red, with room for two persons to sit vis-a-vis on a wooden bottom—altogether a rough and ancient looking contrivance. It was used in years long past to convey human freight across Niagara's gorge, and in imagination one can see the queer-looking object on grooved wheels running on the small cable above, shoot down the cable's deflection till the centre was reached, then climb the opposite incline and by other aid finally reach the Canadian bank.

The basket has an interesting history, as the following letter in the possession of the secretary of the society will show. It was written by Judge Hulett of Niagara Falls, and has never before been published:

George F. Barnum, Secretary Buffalo Historical Society.

DEAR SIR: It gives me much pleasure to be enabled to furnish you with the history of the "iron basket" which was a preliminary means in the construction of the great railroad suspension bridge that now spans the Niagara River, the admiration of the world. The data I will give you are taken from a diary kept by me during the work.

During the winter of 1846 the State of New York granted a charter to the International Bridge Company to build a suspension bridge across the river, and the same winter a similar charter was granted in Canada to the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge Company for a like purpose. These two corporations formed a joint Board of Directors and entered into a contract with Charles Ellet, Jr., a noted engineer and bridge builder of Philadelphia, to build a wire railroad bridge across the Niagara River about two miles below the Falls.

In the latter part of January, 1847, the engineer arrived at the village of Niagara Falls. The inhabitants were all astir on learning of his arrival and flocked about the "Eagle Tavern," where Mr. Ellet was stopping, eager to hear the news. I was among the number, and while there was chosen by the engineer to take charge of the iron part of the structure, he being unable to be present all the time. He then stated that some immediate means of communication across the gorge without the trouble of going to Lewiston, seven miles below, must be established. He planned the erection of a wooden tower on either side, 25 feet in height. Over these towers he proposed to stretch a 36-strand wire cable, with a deflection of 25 feet. On the cable he would place a saddle or yoke with two grooved wheels, and suspended therefrom a car or basket large enough to carry two persons with all their necessary tools. The basket was to be propelled from the bank on either side by means of a drum geared to a crank shaft. The thing to be considered now was what kind of a basket could be constructed that would have sufficient strength and be of the least possible weight. He showed me a sketch of one constructed of wood that he thought would weigh not to exceed 15 pounds. I suggested iron instead of wood for its structure, and as an outcome each of us constructed a basket of our favorite material, when it was found that my basket weighed ten pounds less than his. This basket cable was a preliminary structure to another that was to precede the main structure of the bridge. The second preliminary was the erection of two wooden towers on either bank of the gorge, 75 feet in height and 50 feet apart. Two cables were thrown across the chasm, resting on these towers, and across them, at intervals of six feet, were placed strips of pine 3x2 inches in size. Below these strips of wood, in wire loops, were placed light needle beams, on which were placed light needlebeams, on which were laid a flooring of one-inch pine boards.

When these two independent bridges were finished they were drawn together, giving the cables a lateral course of about 15 feet on either side, and forming a platform from which the railroad bridge was built.

It was while these temporary platforms were being constructed that an incident occurred that can but give this iron basket precedence as a life-saving device. The north platform had been finished and hung to the iron cables—4 feet in width—without any side railings. It was being used by some venturesome persons. Four men had carried the south platform out about 200 feet from the cliff where it swung, when a sudden gale of wind struck it, and to the horrified onlookers from the shore seemed to tear the unfinished structure into shreds, throwing the platforms over and across the little basket cable that hung in the centre. This destruction was the work of but a moment. The four workmen were caught in the wreck, and hung to the slender wires with no foot rest save the shifting debris of the shattered flooring while, 150 feet below them darted the angry water. So the men hung until the violence of the gale had subsided, when the writer made inquiry for a volunteer to go out in the basket and rescue the men. A brave young man named William Ellis stepped forward, saying, "I am your man." He was told to take off but one man at a time, as the amount of weight resting on the little cable could not be estimated. But when he had reached the men he could not withstand the desire to afford the unfortunates immediate relief, and the four men were taken off safely at the first trip, though the exhibition was paralyzing to those witnessing it from shore. This occurred on Oct. 10, 1848.

It is a curious fact that of the thousands of persons crossing the gorge by the little basket, three-fourths or more were ladies. It was intended to seat comfortably two persons, though four were sometimes crowded in. The first passage was made in the spring of 1848 by Engineer Ellet.

The preliminary means of hauling over the first cable were by means of a kite string. The writer offered \$10 to the boy who would get a kite string of sufficient strength to haul a clothesline across the river. This offer brought a regiment of kite-flyers into the field, and finally a boy named Homan Walsh was successful, and received the prize. From this small beginning the greatest suspension bridge on earth has resulted. There are but few of the original actors in the above described enterprise still living. Engineer Ellet was "General Ellet," who conceived and constructed the famous ram boats on the Mississippi River during the American rebellion, and who was killed by a flying splinter while his boat was passing a rebel battery.

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