

My reply was, that a Subordinate Lodge was bound by its obligations to pay due respect to the decisions of its superior officers, who have become such by the consent of the Subordinates through their representatives, and who, for the time being exercise the duty of Grand Masters in their respective jurisdictions, and are entitled to the same respect for their opinions and decisions; but should such officers at any time impose too heavy burdens, or make decisions contrary to law, Subordinates have their remedy by appeal to this Grand Lodge.

2nd. If a Subordinate Lodge persists in acting contrary to the decisions of a D. D. G. Master, what is the penalty?

I answered, should such action be a flagrant violation of any law by which we as Odd Fellows are governed, such Subordinates are liable to suspension or expulsion, as its Grand Lodge may determine.

3rd. It has been inquired, can a Subordinate Lodge resuscitate a suspended member, who has been suspended for non-payment of dues for a limited time; if such member should pay his indebtedness before the limitation expires?

My answer was, that they in fact become members in good standing on the Lodge books, the moment that the cause for which the suspension was imposed has been removed, and that it would not be legal to subject the brother to the ordeal of a ballot.

4th. Can a Noble Grand suspend a member for three months, for non-payment of dues, after fifteen months dues have accrued on the Lodge books?

My reply was as follows: that a Noble Grand has no power to extend the term of suspension, unless by consent of his Lodge, as provided by the Bye-laws.

5th. D. D. G. M. Vasey, Gore Lodge, No. 34, enquires if it is competent for a Subordinate Lodge to admit members in arrears or suspended for non-payment of dues, and of whose indebtedness they have no record, having lost all their books in the late fire on the 17th July last in Brantford, which destroyed their Lodge room furniture, regalia, and papers?

My answer will be found in the Digest of Grand Lodge of the United States, folio 509, section 11, which recites "that Subordinate Lodges may make such arrangements in regard to accumulated arrears of dues, as will secure the reinstatement of members who have lost their membership from disuse." (Journal 1885-1888, G. L. U. S.)

By section 12 of Digest, folio 509, Subordinate Lodges may settle by compromise their pecuniary claims, upon such of their members suspended for non-payment of dues as shall have established their residence in another State; and by virtue of such settlement may grant their regular Clearance Cards to (Folio 2496 and 2520, Journal Grand Lodge U. S.)

6th. The question was also submitted, can a Lodge receive evidence of respectable parties not members of the Order, to sustain a charge against a brother?