

I. O. O. F.

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**ANNUAL  
REPORTS**

—OF THE—

**GRAND PATRIARCH  
GRAND HIGH PRIEST  
GRAND SENIOR WARDEN  
GRAND SCRIBE  
GRAND TREASURER  
GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN  
GRAND REPRESENTATIVE**

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**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**November 15, 16, 1920**

# THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

1920 I. O. O. F. OF ILLINOIS 1920

## Annual Report of Samuel E. Erickson Grand Patriarch.

*To the Officers and Representatives of the Grand Encampment,  
Illinois I. O. O. F.:*

Dear Patriarchs: In reviewing the work of the year, I deem it expedient to suggest important legislation of vital interest to the Order, which should receive careful consideration. I therefore offer the following recommendations:

### FUNDS.

There are no funds available to provide for constructive work. It is inconceivable that the Order with its vast resources should be hampered in its development and growth by lack of adequate means for improvement and extension of necessary work for the advancement of the Order.

### PROMOTIONAL WORK.

The Order has passed the experimental period into a state of prosperity and success and now stands second to none as a fraternal institution. Still our aim has not been accomplished. We must continue to expand our field of usefulness and activity. This can only be done through a continuation of effective work. To serve this end it is essential to make provisions for a promoter or a field man, whose duty it shall be to visit weak and dormant Encampments, to instruct and advise in the development of the work, to arouse enthusiasm and inject a stronger feeling of co-operation in order to obtain the desired results.

The success of the Subordinate Lodges depends upon the splendid effort of promotional work adopted by the Grand Lodge. I cherish the hope that you will give this matter serious thought and deliberation.

**FIELD MAN.**

I would respectfully recommend that the sum of three hundred dollars or whatever amount of money the Grand Encampment considers necessary, be appropriated to defray the expenses of a Field Man, such fund to be paid out from time to time as the Grand Patriarch deems expedient to carry on the work. Mileage and per diem and a reasonable expense allowance should be paid for services upon the order of the Grand Patriarch. All vouchers for such services should be approved by the Grand Patriarch before they are honored by the Grand Treasurer.

The Field Man should be selected by the Grand Patriarch because the work should be under his jurisdiction. Those eligible for appointment should be a Past Elective or Appointive Grand Officer, District Deputy or P. C. Patriarch.

**PER CAPITA TAX.**

In view of the rapidly broadening interest in the Subordinate Encampments, I find that the revenue is inadequate and the resources of the Grand Encampment are entirely insufficient to carry on effective work to enlarge the scope of activity along broad and progressive lines. Under existing conditions we are handicapped for want of proper means to provide a live plan of action that will give promise of success in the promotion of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship.

In consideration of these facts, I would earnestly recommend an increase of the per capita tax of the Subordinate Encampments to sixty cents, to meet the necessary demands for the extension of promotional work. I trust that this proposition will receive your approval.

**PRIZE BANNER.**

A precedent was established some years ago whereby the Grand Officers of the Grand Encampment donated a banner to the Encampment making the largest net gain in membership during the year. Owing to the increased cost of banners at the present time, I would recommend that this donation by the Grand Officers be discontinued and that the Grand Encampment appropriate the sum of fifty dollars as a prize to the successful Encampment.

**DIGEST.**

I find there is an urgent need of revising and compiling the present Digest of the Order. This important matter has been neglected for some years. The last revision was made in 1905. Under present conditions the Grand Patriarch or Committee on Laws are unable to render a proper decision involving questions arising out of misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the laws of the Order. In view of this fact I would earnestly recommend that the Digest be brought up to date, revised, codified and consolidated, so that legal problems may receive prompt attention. I recommend that the sum of three hundred dollars be appropriated for this purpose. The Grand Patriarch should be authorized to pay out so much of the sum appropriated as may be found necessary to complete this important and essential work.

I heartily recommend the approval of the foregoing projects and earnestly believe that legislation along these lines will prove profitable and beneficial to the progress of the Order.

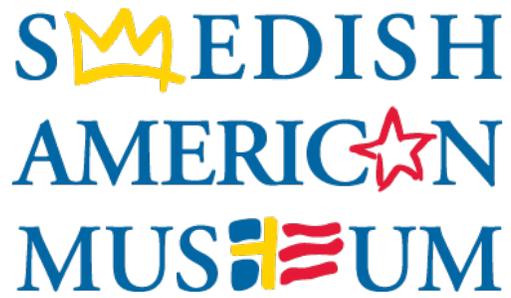
**DECISIONS AND APPEALS.**

Harmony and cordiality prevail in the Encampments. This is evidenced by the fact that all vexed and complex problems have been amicably adjusted. No appeals have been taken upon decisions rendered.

**RE-APPORTIONMENT.**

My personal experience and observations convince me that the present districts comprise too many Encampments to function effectively for good work. I am of the opinion that centralization, compactness and unification of Encampments would prove highly beneficial in the promotion of the interests of the Order. From a purely fraternal point of view, it will promote a closer contact of co-operation and social relation, thereby developing a better understanding of problems for greater efficiency in the advancement of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship. It would not only tend to increase a stronger friendly interest, but would help to lessen the cost and expense of District Deputies.

It must be admitted that it is a physical impossibility for a Deputy to fully discharge his duties under present conditions. This truth will be instantly apparent to every Patriarch who gives the matter a moment of serious reflection. Believing a



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