

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION, B. P. O. ELKS

of Trustees, and a copy given to each delegate as he registered.

PRESIDENT GRAKELOW:

We will now have the Treasurer's Report.

BROTHER HENRY GOUGH, Harrisburg, No. 12:

The report of the Treasurer is printed in the condensed report which was distributed to each Brother as he registered. I was told by some of the Brothers that these reports were not in their envelopes.

PRESIDENT GRAKELOW:

If not, the Secretary will hand them a copy. Your President feels that his report would not be complete if it did not contain a report of the state-wide tour made by the officers of this Association last winter. I believe you should take back to your respective jurisdictions an intimate knowledge of the details in connection with that trip.

Officers, Delegates and Members:

The State-wide Tour which took place last February was an innovation in fraternal activities both in its conception and in the results attained. Your State Officers, realizing that industrial unrest was likely to culminate in some definite depression that would seriously affect the thought of a selective membership increase among the Lodges in Pennsylvania, decided on a rapid-fire campaign.

This decision resulted in your President, with Secretary, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Louis N. Goldsmith, Brother William H. Derr, official photographer, and the Rev. Thomas W. Davis, lecturer of Philadelphia Lodge, visited the cities of Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, New Castle, Erie, Williamsport and Scranton, our present convention city, having previously called together the exalted rulers, officers and chairmen of new membership committees of the Lodges in each district, for a conference on a matter of importance.

These preliminary meetings were very generously attended and the keenest of interest was shown. To demonstrate what increased membership had done for one Lodge in the Order pictures of the coast-to-coast trip of Philadelphia Lodge were shown and explained in detail by Dr.

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Davis. Those in attendance at the various meetings returned to their respective jurisdictions and seven weeks later our present Grand Exalted Ruler, J. Edgar Masters, the District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers of Pennsylvania, the Officers of the State Association and the uniformed units of Philadelphia Lodge, making a party of about 150, visited the cities named, as you well know from reading the report in the *Elks Magazine*.

All of the meetings were attended by capacity crowds and in every city thousands were turned away.

As a result of this tour more than 3,000 candidates were initiated into the Order at a series of meetings which thrilled Elkdom in the entire State. The ideals of the Order, exemplified on the stage of theater, opera house, armory, auditorium or memorial, as the case happened to be, brought renewed enthusiasm to Elks of years standing and so favorably impressed the candidates that their introduction to Elkdom will forever remain a bright spot in their memories.

Fifty-four Lodges actively participated in the movement by sending to the central cities their candidates, obtained through the selective membership activity conducted by painstaking officers and advisory and investigating committees. The cream of those citizens not already Elks became a part of the Order in each of the cities and towns affected.

To undertake this movement the Lodges participating contributed from their initiation fees the sum of \$17,833.54. In carrying the tour to a successful completion, with every bill paid, the sum of \$14,629.14 was expended, leaving a total of \$3,204.40 unexpended balance, or about 18 per cent. of the amount contributed, to be returned to the Lodges, which disbursement has been made.

In addition to the cities in which initiations were held stops were made at Beaver Falls, Sharon, Renovo, Lock Haven and Milton. In every city but Beaver Falls the party staged a street parade, the time at that live Elk center being too restricted to attempt a demonstration.

In just a few isolated cases do we find an individual who has his misgivings regarding membership increase. The reader will be delighted to furnish a list of the Lodges that contributed in candidates to this activity and would

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most strongly urge upon such a member the importance of dressing of a communication to any of the members in relation as to their experience and the results of their work. Your State Officers will rest their entire confidence on the evidence.

BROTHER BLEWITT, Scranton, No. 123

Your paper as read here this morning and I think should receive more than passing notice. While I have no desire to be a member of the Order, I move that the report be referred to a special committee to make report and observation later in the Convention.

Motion seconded and carried.

PRESIDENT GRAKELOW:

I appoint the following: William H. Post, of Mahanoy City Lodge, No. 970; Jonas M. Rudy, of Harrisburg Lodge, No. 12; J. W. Matthias, of Charleroi Lodge, No. 695; J. W. Post, of Mahanoy City Lodge, No. 695; J. W. Post, of Mahanoy City Lodge, No. 695; J. W. Post, of Mahanoy City Lodge, No. 945.

PRESIDENT GRAKELOW:

My brothers, the next order of business is the standing committees. As it would hardly be possible to break in on them, as they should be acted upon, I believe it would be better to postpone their consideration until the afternoon session, which will begin at two o'clock. The Chair will at this time carry out the motion for the adjournment of this Convention here at two o'clock this afternoon.

BROTHER POST, Mahanoy City, No. 695

I would like to say a few words to the members before we adjourn. I want to take them back to the beginning of Elkdom. There were days when we were not so numerous as it looked as if the boat would sink almost at any time. Up to the year 1912, there came into the State Association work a brother Elk who has never sought membership in any subordinate body, or in the State body, or in the National Elks, but for the past ten years he has done so. He has done the State Association the wonderful success that it has today to be. He did so from the standpoint of his