

Office Force of the Woodmen of the World Headquarters



MEMBER AND WOMEN WHO LOOK AFTER THE DETAILS OF THE GREAT LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS THAT IS CARRIED ON BY THIS WONDERFUL FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

W. O. W. BUILDING DEDICATED

Impressive Ceremonies Mark Completion of Skyscraper.

SUPREME OFFICERS PRESENT

Many Visitors Come to Omaha from Distant Points to Witness and Participate in the Dedication Program.

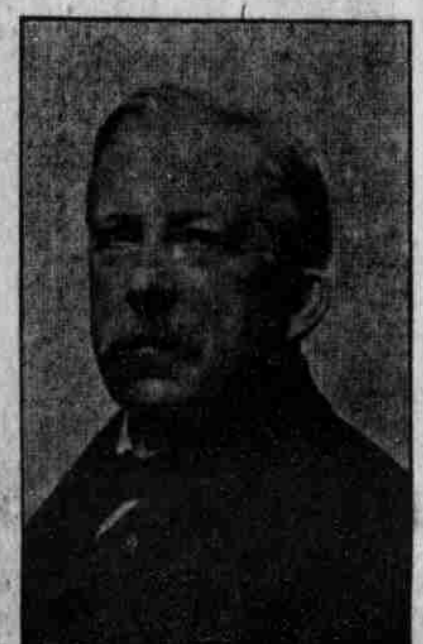
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brings most forcibly to the attention of the country the Woodmen of the World, the objects for which it stands and the movement of which it is a part. We are dedicating today the largest fraternal insurance order headquarters building on the globe. This fact cannot but awaken an emotion of pride in the heart of every member of the organization that has constructed this palace of fraternity and of every citizen of Omaha, the city whose growth and enterprise make it a fitting location for so splendid an edifice. The language of eulogy would be parodied to describe in adequate terms the progress and significance of the Woodmen of the World. The achievements of this order are the most eloquent evidence of its glory. Woodcraft, needs not the tongue of hierarch to praise its excellence. It finds sufficient tribute in this architectural wonder, at once a marvel of utility and a dream of art. It finds sufficient tribute in more than \$1,000,000 of insurance in force in all its branches and jurisdictions, with which it shelters more than 500,000 American homes. It finds sufficient tribute in the army of 80,000 members now gathered beneath its standards, a number growing so rapidly that soon 1,000,000 sovereigns will answer the working sign and salute the flag of Woodcraft. It finds sufficient tribute in the \$7,000,000 it has paid the beneficiaries of its dead. It finds sufficient tribute in the \$800 monuments erected above the ashes of its departed. It finds sufficient tribute in an emergency fund of over \$2,000,000, a fund destined to become a veritable "Rock of Ages" as each year's accumulations anchor it more firmly in the foundations of financial strength, a fund invested in bonds of the highest character, both as to safety and productiveness. It finds sufficient tribute in the thousands of dollars with which it has relieved the destitution and disabilities of age, in the care it has bestowed upon the sick, in the sympathy and love with which it ministered to the unfortunate and the distressed. It finds sufficient tribute in the hearts of mothers, in the smiles of infants, the laughter of children reclaimed from hunger and despair.

The building we now dedicate constitutes the headquarters of the sovereign jurisdiction by which it has been erected. The sovereign jurisdiction is the largest and the parent organization of the Woodmen of the World, with a membership of 600,000, an emergency fund of nearly \$1,000,000 and benefit distribution since the beginning of over \$2,000,000 with other features in proportion. It comprises the territory of the American union outside the extreme western states, which are known as the Pacific jurisdiction, with headquarters at Denver. The other divisions are the Canadian jurisdiction, embracing all of Canada, the Woodmen Circle, ladies auxiliary of the sovereign jurisdiction; the Women of Woodcraft, auxiliary of the Canadian branch; the Women of Woodcraft, auxiliary of the Pacific jurisdiction; these other divisions having headquarters respectively at London, Ont., Omaha and Portland. Special mention should be made on this occasion of those who stand at the head of our co-ordinate divisions, of Boak, who so ably conducted the Pacific jurisdiction; of Mrs. Emma B. Manchester, a magnificent type of American womanhood, who guides so splendidly the destinies of the Woodmen Circle; and Mrs. Carrie C. Van Orsdahl, who directs with remarkable efficiency the Women of Woodcraft; of Harrison, who presides so successfully over the Canadian branch. Chief credit and affection akin to reverence, however, must be accorded the man who has occupied the highest position in the sovereign jurisdiction from its birth, who inaugurated the entire order and conceived the idea of woodcraft, that marvelous combination of heart and intellect, Joseph Cullen Root.

Some seven years prior to 1890, the year the Woodmen of the World began, he had organized another fraternal insurance order and he has lived to see these orders, children of his brain, become within a single generation, the two largest fraternal insurance societies in the United States. He has seen them reach a combined membership in all branches and divisions of 2,500,000 American citizens, whose homes they protect with over \$1,000,000,000 of insurance in force, having already distributed to the widows and orphans of their dead approximately \$100,000,000. The beneficent work of these orders cannot be measured in figures or in words. What other man in all history has done so much for the uplift of humanity? No king, no conqueror, no president, no statesman, no scientist, no philosopher can approach this record of blessings for mankind. It is a matter of intense regret that Sovereign Commander Root is prevented by the state of his health from being present on this occasion symbolizing as it does the fruition of his life's best efforts. From millions of American hearts and tongues speed across the sea today sincere wishes for his complete recovery and safe return from foreign lands, where he has been taking his first genuine vacation

SOVEREIGN COMMANDER OF THE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.



JOSEPH CULLEN ROOT.

In many years. His official associates, comprising the other elective officers of the sovereign jurisdiction, are here today to participate personally in the ceremonies of dedication. Frater, the greatest fraternal organizer of the time, states, a veritable genius for system and for detail; Jewell, the sleepless guardian of expenditures; Fitzgerald, the fearless supervisor of every financial transaction added materially by his fellow managers, Maxey, Lewis, Patterson, Campbell, Wells and Russ; the other sovereign officers, notably Simral and Bradshaw, both able and devoted; the sovereign physicians, Cloyd and Potter, both with flawless records of professional skill and personal integrity; gifted and effective general attorneys, H. Burnett.

The mission of the fraternal insurance order is to unite the people in a voluntary, self-governing organization with no idea of profit and thus to bring the benefits of insurance within the reach of the humblest freeman and the poorest home. Today, only fifty-three years after the organization of the first fraternal insurance order in the United States, the U. S. Grand lodge of the Order of Brith Abraham, founded in 1859, we have a few more than 80 such orders with a total membership of over 7,500,000 American citizens, more than a third of the total voting population of the United States. Taking those dependent on active members into account, we see that the system touches the lives and destinies of nearly 40,000,000 American people. Of these insurance orders only two have a membership in excess of 600,000, one of which is the Woodmen of the World. The combined assets of these orders amounted to \$10,000,000 at the opening of the present year, only one having assets of over \$2,000,000, that one being the Woodmen of the World. These orders have paid altogether to beneficiaries in the past year nearly \$1,000,000,000. When we consider how the fraternal insurance movement resulted from a common impulse of the masses to secure for their dependents the blessings of insurance, how this movement rose from the cradle of beginnings to a colossal system of financial distribution, we look in vain for a prototype or parallel in history. There have been popular movements in almost every century with some beneficent purpose in view, but they never reached the basis of permanent financial returns to participants or the families of participants. On the contrary they resulted often in enormous loss of life and treasure, as in the case of the crusades. The fraternal insurance movement is perhaps the first instance in history of organized, embracing millions of people and dedicated to the loftiest of sentiments evolving without the co-operation or the sympathy of the commercial world a plan for the financial protection of the families of their dead, a plan whose ultimate fruition will be growth of membership and increase of funds at such a rate that the preservation of every American home will be assured, the menace of poverty materially lessened.

Among the insurance societies of the world, it is perhaps the most advanced in fraternal and financial features. Its conservative rate system, its attractive ritual, its burial and unveiling ceremonies place it in the foremost rank of the fraternal insurance movement. Its funeral rites are as eloquent as they are significant. From the beginning of the race the graves have wielded an intense and somber fascination. The burial of each pale and pulchre body, though typifying the universal fate of man, throws wide the gates of grief, arouses new and more profound reflection. The Woodmen burial rites are the purest philosophy, the sweetest hope of all the centuries. The monument erected by the Woodmen of the World at the graves of all its dead is perhaps the most original and distinctive feature of this great fraternity. It is one of the most appropriate symbols of the doctrine of brotherhood has ever known. It is perhaps the most significant contribution of Joseph Cullen Root to the

symbolism and the progress of fraternity. Another prominent feature of the Woodmen of the World is its devotion to the American flag. In all the meetings of its various camps the American flag is constantly displayed above the station of the presiding officer. Thus the Woodmen of the World pays constant tribute to the country of its nativity. Thus fraternity follows the flag and thus the flag becomes itself a token of fraternity. One of the essential teachings of Woodcraft is reverence for the flag. Such are the facts and the reflections impressed upon us by the dedication of this notable building. But massive as it appears to mortal eyes, imposing as its physical proportions seem to be, let us not forget that it is only a humble symbol of another and infinitely greater structure, the invisible temple of human brotherhood reaching from the earth unto the very towers of the New Jerusalem, whose foundations are anchored in the hearts of men and women in every quarter of the globe, whose pillars are the songs that rise from millions of protected homes, whose altars are the prayers that tremble on the lips of universal love.

Keys Are Turned Over. At the close of the oration the keys to the building were handed over to the sovereign commander. Then came the presentation of the box for the cornerstones. This contained, among other things, the history of the Woodmen of the World, the list of the first sovereign officers, and a list of those now in charge, facts concerning the new building, a copy of the original charter of the Woodmen of the World, copies of the current editions of the local papers, and the constitution and bylaws of the order. The box, a copper receptacle, was taken by the acting sovereign commander, and then, following the march to the cornerstone in the Farnam street front of the building, deposited and cemented in a niche that had been left for its reception. Upon the close of the dedicatory ceremonies, the Woodmen of the World building was thrown open to the public, and during the remaining hours of the day it was inspected by thousands, most of them riding to the top floor, the eighteenth story, and then leisurely walking down.

PARADE DRAWS MULTITUDE

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procession, while their bands were applauded strenuously all along the line of march. The participants fell into the order at Sixteenth and Cuming streets and the movement of the parade began at 1:30 o'clock. The long procession was headed by Chief of Police Henry W. Dunn and a cavalcade of police which stood the crowds back and made room for the fast march of the line behind. A band marched directly in front of the Ak-Sar-Ben board of governors whose costumes carried out the idea of a military pageant. They were dressed in the white uniforms trimmed in Ak-Sar-Ben colors. General Smith at the Head. Brigadier General Frederick A. Smith and his staff headed a magnificent exhibition of several branches of the United States army infantry, field corps, ambulance corps and signal corps, and there was a striking showing of uniformed men in the national guardsmen, high school and state university cadets and drill teams of the Woodmen of the World. Members of the Woodmen circle, dressed in light clothes and riding in flowered conveyances, made a splendid rear guard in the order of march.

One of the most attractive vehicles in the entire parade was a decorated automobile truck in which rode members of the Manchester lodge of the Woodmen circle. Young women in this float, as in some of the carriages which followed, gave their "yells" along the line of march and received much applause. The carriages in the parade also received an ovation along the route and the occupants were kept in motion tipping hats and bowing. In the first carriage were Acting Sovereign Commander W. A. Fraser, Sovereign Clerk John T. Tate and Sovereign Banker Morris Sheppard. Governor Aldrich did not arrive in the city for the parade. Mayor Dahlman rode in the second carriage with Sentry D. E. Bradshaw, Escort H. F. Simral and Acting Adviser E. W. Jewell, while the other carriages which occupied positions in the front line of parade were: Third carriage: Chairman Sovereign Managers J. E. Fitzgerald, Past Commander N. B. Maxey, Manager E. D. Casper, Manager T. E. Patterson. Fourth Carriage: Managers E. B. Lewis,

Railroads Handle Immense Crowds

For two hours following the electric parade Wednesday night the Omaha roads handled out of the city the heaviest business in their history, moving during that time, it is estimated, not less than 30,000 people.

Railroad men at this time have no way of figuring just how many people were handled by the regular equipment, as thousands of the visitors came and went home on round trip tickets. On the extra equipment there is a sort of record, as the returning passenger coaches were all crowded and it is figured there were eighty persons to the car. Between 10 o'clock and midnight 216 coaches were handled out of the Union and Burlington stations. Figuring that there were eighty persons to the car, there were 17,280 persons departed from Omaha during the two hours.

COMMISSIONERS DENOUNCE CONTRACTORS WHO ASSIGN

At a meeting of the city council yesterday a resolution was passed denouncing the action of contractors who secure city jobs by virtue of being low bidders and then assign the contracts to banks in order to raise money to do the work.

Commissioner McGovern of the department of public improvements favored the resolution and declared the practice had become so prevalent that it seriously interfered with the completion of work let to certain contractors.

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