

No. 161.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Philadelphia Union Beneficial Society.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the persons constituting the Philadelphia Union Beneficial Society shall be a body politic and corporate in law, with the usual corporate rights and powers, and the following rules, restrictions, limitations and provisions, shall form the fundamental articles of the corporation, to wit:

Society incorporated under certain articles.

Style.

Article I. This society shall be denominated the "Philadelphia Union Beneficial Society."

Officers.

Article II. The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasury messenger, three stewards, and a committee of investigation.

Duties of the treasurer.

Article III. The treasurer shall receive and have charge of all the monies of this society, until such times as the society shall direct where the same shall be deposited or how disposed of; and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall give such security as the society may deem satisfactory.

Of the stewards rel. to sick members.

Article IV. The stewards shall examine into the various cases of diseased members, and in the event of any case appearing doubtful, they shall call a physician of respectability, and if in his judgment the applicant be deserving of benefit, and one of the stewards agree with him in opinion, the stewards shall then pay his weekly allowance, and at the next stated meeting they shall report to the society when the case shall be decided; and if he be considered worthy of benefit, the stewards shall continue the same until full restoration to health, or until death, as the event may occur, if either takes place within twelve months; but should any member remain sick after the expiration of the above time, they shall receive a weekly allowance of two dollars and fifty cents until full restoration to health, or until death.

Monthly meeting and contribution.

Article V. This society shall meet on the third Friday evening of each month, when each member shall pay such proportionable sum as the demand of the funds may require: *Provided.* The same shall not exceed seventy-five cents per month, when no less than the whole sum due may be received.

Article VI. The stewards shall make the monthly assessments, and inform the secretary of the amount to be placed

pon the notices, at least six days previous to the time of meeting; but should the assessment be less than fifty cents, then all members under one year's standing shall pay that amount for the first twelve months.

Article VII. This society shall not hold at any time a fund exceeding one thousand dollars, raised by contributions from its members, unless two thirds of the members shall think the same insufficient, when they shall have power to gradually increase the same to any amount: *Provided*, The clear yearly income thereof shall not exceed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, but they shall be allowed to receive any sum or sums of money, or any property that may be lawfully given or bequeathed by any person or persons capable of so doing.

Article VIII. Candidates for membership must be citizens of Pennsylvania, of good moral character, capable of pursuing their occupations, of the age of twenty-one and not exceeding forty years, and to be proposed in writing at a stated meeting previous to their election, when their age, occupation and place of residence must be set forth.

Article IX. The election of a member shall require the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

Article X. Any member after one year's standing in this society, who has complied with this constitution and by-laws, shall, upon application in writing to the stewards, receive a weekly allowance of four dollars, when incapable of following his usual business: *Provided*, his inability does not arise from vicious, improper, or immoral conduct.

Article XI. At the death of a member who is entitled to the benefits of this society, there shall be allowed forty dollars to defray his funeral expenses, and at the death of a member's wife twenty dollars: *Provided*, he be entitled to the benefits of this society at the time of her death.

Article XII. Should any member feign himself sick or otherwise indisposed, for the purpose of deriving benefit from this society, or should he be found at his usual business except in giving directions to those employed by him, such member shall be expelled from this society, and forfeit all he has paid into the treasury.

Article XIII. Should any member be convicted of any felonious or other criminal act, such members shall be forthwith expelled from this society; or should any member become an habitual drunkard, or be guilty of any practice whereby his family or civil society may be injured, such member shall be served with a written notice, stating the charge, and requesting his attendance at the next stated meeting to answer thereto, at which time all witnesses shall be freely heard, after which a decision shall be had by ballot, and should it appear that two thirds consider him guilty, he shall forthwith be expelled, or should he refuse or neglect to

Of the assess-
ment notices.

Of the fund
and income.

Candidates for
membership.

Election of
members.

Weekly al-
lowance to
members
when sick.

Funeral ex-
penses of de-
ceased mem-
bers, &c.

Expulsion,
&c. in case of
feigned ill-
ness.

Offences re-
quiring ex-
pulsion.

attend, he shall be expelled without further notice; any member actually upon the receipt of benefit from this society, that makes a practice of frequenting taverns or tipping houses, or gaming, upon proof to the satisfaction of the society, shall be expelled.

Of relief to members at a distance.

Article XIV. Members of this society at a distance from the city, when in such circumstances as would entitle them, if present, to receive the benefits of this society, shall, upon sending forward a certificate confirming the truth of their situation, signed by a physician and an acting magistrate, be entitled to the same benefit as if within two miles of the court house.

No tests.

Article XV. There shall be no religious or political tests required of any candidate for membership in this society.

Penalty for reproaching members.

Article XVI. Any member who shall abuse or reproach any other for receiving the weekly dues, or any other just right from this society, shall for the first offence, pay a fine of five dollars, for the use of this society, and for a second like offence, he shall be expelled.

Dissolution of society.

Article XVII. This society shall not be dissolved, nor its funds divided, whilst there are seven members willing to continue it.

Of alterations to the constitution, &c.

Article XVIII. Neither this constitution nor the by-laws shall be altered, unless proposed at a stated meeting, and receive the approbation of two thirds of the members present.

By-laws.

Article XIX. By-laws not repugnant to this constitution, or the constitution of this commonwealth or of the United States, may be passed at a stated meeting, by a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

This act to continue 10 years.
Right to repeal, &c.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That this act shall continue in force ten years from the passing thereof, and no longer, for the purposes aforesaid, and the legislature reserves the right to alter, amend or annul this charter at any time hereafter.

JOHN LAPORTE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. G. HAWKINS,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The third day of May, Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and thirty-two.

GEO. WOLF.