

THE ORDER MOVES WESTWARD

Rumblings of fateful events to come began to vibrate just before the beginning of the 20th century. The growth of socialism in Germany, the demands for autonomy in the Austrian provinces, the Russian Revolution of 1905, all acted as pre-cursors to coming events.

Men of vision, Knights of Malta and their descendants from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and other countries began to realize that only in the republic of the west, the United States of America, was there a safe place of refuge for the non-political ideals of the Maltese Knights-the refuge needed against the growing unrest and political upheavals of Europe.

With this thought in mind, and in a fraternal spirit that overcame all differences in nationality and divergences within the Christian faith, these noble stewards of the knightly Order quietly planned. They finally decided to organize and continue in the United States a sovereign Order based on the well defined aims and purposes of this most illustrious Order of antiquity, as defined in the statutes of the Order prior to 1802.

Using this knightly purpose as their guide, these modern crusaders with pious enthusiasm, assisted by interested and devoted members of the diplomatic corps of many nations, met frequently in Europe and America. They conducted many meetings without publicity in order to circumvent any possible political interference or other intrigue.