

Lodge of Canada; but such an act, if attempted would be so in violation of the terms upon which the lodges were permitted to continue their work as to forfeit at once all privileges under the favor extended to them. There would be therefore no lodges entitled to act in the organization of a new Grand Lodge within the occupied masonic territory; surely lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada could not, without being guilty of an act of rebellion: and lodges working under English or Scotch warrants could not, as it would be in violation of the spirit of the agreement under which they were tolerated.

"It must, I think, therefore, be admitted that the Province of Quebec was not 'unoccupied masonic territory,' within the meaning of the authorities quoted, at the time of the attempted organization of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

"It is however asserted that there is another rule of American masonic jurisprudence, which does justify the organization of an independent Grand Lodge for Quebec, that may be thus stated: 'The Grand Lodge jurisdictions are co-terminous with political boundaries, and that when a new territory or state is created by legislative enactment out of what had theretofore existed as one government, it is open to the lodges working in the new territory to form an independent Grand Lodge.' Without occupying your attention by discussing whether this can be called a rule of general application justified by masonic law and usage, or entering upon the much debated question as to whether or not a recognized masonic jurisdiction can be affected by outside legislative enactment. I pass on to consider whether such rule, if admitted, would justify the action of our Quebec brethren in the formation of a Grand Lodge.

"As I understand such a rule, there must be a new territory formed by taking a part out of and from old limits, so that no doubt can arise as to which part is entitled to erect the new Grand Lodge. It has been so in all the cases in the history of American Grand Lodges wherein a new territory, a Grand Lodge has been erected. Surely no masonic jurist would contend that any outside legislative enactment could dissolve a masonic organization or effect a political change that would give to both parts of a divided territory the right to organize a new Grand Lodge, and so determine the existence of and sweep away a recognized independent organization.

"Let us then consider for a moment the history of the Provinces now called 'Quebec' and 'Ontario.' Prior to the year 1840, there were two distinct British Provinces called 'Upper Canada' and 'Lower Canada,' in each of which there existed lodges holding warrants from England, Ireland or Scotland, and governed by local Provincial Grand Lodges. By an act of the Imperial Parliament in 1840, a legislative Union was effected; but the distinction between the Provinces was preserved, the one being called 'Canada West,' the other 'Canada East,' and although there was but one Legislature for both divisions, yet laws were from time to time passed affecting each separate divisional district of Canada known as 'East' and 'West.' The lodges continued to work, as before, under the separate local masonic authorities from the time of the Legislative Union in 1840 up to the time when, in 1855, lodges from both Canada East and Canada West united in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. By an act of Imperial Parliament, which took effect on the first of July, 1867, the Dominion of Canada was formed which united Canada East, called 'Quebec,' Canada West called 'Ontario,' Nova