

we concluded to act on the information we had received, and the installation took place, Past Master William Taylor of Burns Lodge and Past Deputy Grand Master presiding. The meeting was a large, respectable and influential one, and the ceremony was performed in a most satisfactory manner. Petitions having been read from ten Lodges, asking for authority to work under the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and the petitions being in due form, it was agreed to grant Dispensations to them all, until such time as Charters could be obtained. A Committee was also appointed to address all sister Grand Lodges, informing them of the formation of a Grand Lodge in Nova Scotia, extending the right hand of fellowship and asking for recognition. By report of our Grand Secretary, which has been read to-day, will be seen the number of replies already received. This then, brethren, is the history of the rise of this Grand Lodge, and before proceeding to speak of its progress, I shall very briefly mention the causes that necessitated the formation of a Grand Lodge; as many into whose hands this report may fall will naturally ask the question. The prominent cause then was the inattention of officials of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the wants of the craft in this Province, and the utter impossibility of obtaining replies to any letters forwarded to Scotland. When I mention the fact that although a new Grand Master was duly installed at Edinburgh, on 30th November, 1864, no intimation of the same has yet reached us; that warrants ordered from the Grand Lodge some years ago have never yet reached us, although paid for, that fees and dues remitted have not been acknowledged for more than twelve months; that no Diplomas have been received for brethren raised within twelve months,—I think any one will agree with me in saying, that the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia was not formed one day too soon.

And here permit me to quote a passage or two from a report of the Grand Committee of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. They state, "it is notorious that charges of a similar nature have been made from many quarters, and to such an extent that a Committee has recently been appointed to enquire into them, and that however the report of that Committee may be dealt with by the Grand Lodge, it is evident that it does not tend to exonerate the officials of the Grand Lodge from a charge of carelessness and inattention to the requirements of Daughter Lodges;" and again, "Your Committee have examined the letter-book of the Grand Lodge, and they find a letter was sent to Nova Scotia on 3rd April, 1864, the next letter on 16th February, 1866." And further, "It appears that certain Returns with a remittance for Fees were transmitted to Grand Lodge in January, 1866, but of which no acknowledgement seems to have been sent. No sum is credited in the cash books as