

they joined in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they could not now legally set up an independent Grand Lodge—and such a body, established in antagonism to, and in defiance of, the Grand Lodge of Canada, could not be recognized by any Grand Lodge in the world. (Hear, Hear.) He had come down with another notion, viz: that if the brethren of Quebec, with tolerable unanimity, desired to go, he would let them. He did not quite concur with some of his brethren, in whose opinions he generally had the greatest confidence, that this could not be done. Should the feeling for separation become unanimous, he could not but think that some way would be discovered by which, constitutionally, this might be done. But what did they find? No unanimity on the question. Even Lodges, which were asserted to be in accord with the new organization, had not been regularly summoned to consider the question; and the proceedings, apart from the larger question of the right to form a Grand Lodge, had been, in relation to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, very irregular and unconstitutional. He had this morning met some of the seceding brethren, and had advised them to give up their present movement, come back to Grand Lodge, and if there were any grievances of which they had to complain, he had ventured to assure them that they would receive a respectful hearing, and the most generous consideration. (Hear, Hear.) He despaired of their adopting this course now, though he hoped they might be induced to do so before long. In the meantime, the committee had come to the only conclusion possible under the circumstances, and he had therefore great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report. (Applause.)

M. W. BRO. HARRINGTON seconded the motion. He agreed with all that his M. W. Brother Wilson had said, and he felt that the Committee had adopted the only course open to them. He had told R. W. Bro. Graham so; and he had thus far failed to hear any good argument for the attempt which had been made to set up a separate Grand Lodge. To recognize the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, would be to declare that the Grand Lodge of Canada had been an illegal organization since July, 1867. (Hear, hear.)

After some conversation it was resolved on motion of W. Bro. Jackson, seconded by W. Bro. Rev. W. C. Clarke, to consider the report, clause by clause.

The first three resolutions recommended, were then proposed separately, and were unanimously adopted.

On the fourth resolution being put,

It was moved by V. W. Bro. J. Billington, seconded by V. W. Bro. A. Diamond,

That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient, in order to promote the best interests of Freemasonry in Canada, that the Brethren now under suspension for forming or attempting to form a Grand Lodge of Masons for the Province of Quebec, and thereby injuriously, to a serious extent, impairing the usefulness of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in whose jurisdiction the Province of Quebec now is, be summoned to appear before this Grand Lodge, and show cause why this Grand Lodge should not place them upon their trial for violation of their obligations.

A lengthy discussion occurred on this amendment, V. W. Brothers Billington, Harding, Diamond and others, urging its adoption upon