

cay. Differing as nations do, as well in their policy as their institutions, it might be that a distrustfulness of an association like ours would be enkindled within some of them, unless, to each, there were confided an independent controlling power within its limits—and although the blessings of our Order are even now to a considerable extent felt beyond the borders of the United States, and upon foreign soil, there are already erected many beautiful temples dedicated to the principles of our brotherhood. Yet this success was not easily acquired, and may be ascribed to the indomitable spirit, the unbending determination and unflinching industry of the meritorious brethren who were charged with the pleasing duty of extending our principles, and who toiled on to the bright—the cheering hope—the earnest expectation that the Grand Lodge of the United States, whose object is the wide and effective diffusion of the blessings of our Order, would not forget that object in the contemplation of her present strength and authority; therefore

Resolved.—That the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of Canada are hereby united and erected into a distinct sovereignty, by the name and title of "The Grand Lodge of British North America," and with power, in all matters relating to Odd Fellowship within British North America, independent of this Grand Lodge, except in the following respects:—

1. That the said "The Grand Lodge of British North America," shall not at any time hereafter in anywise, alter or repudiate any of the signs, tokens, passwords, lectures or charges, or any other part or portion of either the written or unwritten work of the Order, as known and practised within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

2. That this Grand Lodge reserves to itself the right to give to the said "The Grand Lodge of British North America," the annual travelling password, to be used within the jurisdiction of the said "The Grand Lodge of British North America," and both jurisdictions shall use the same travelling password.

3. The qualifications for membership in the Subordinate Lodges within the jurisdiction of the said "The Grand Lodge of British North America," shall be identical with those established for membership in Subordinate Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

Resolved.—That a Charter in conformity herewith, be prepared and duly authenticated, and its delivery confided to the M. W. G. S. and G. C. Secretary.

H. R. KNEASS,
E. C. ROBINSON,
ROBERT H. GRIFFIN,
CHARLES THOMAS,
N. A. THOMPSON.

On the question being put from the Chair, of the adoption of the above Report and Resolutions, Representative Kneass explained that he had signed the Report, and concurred in all that it set forth; but that he entertained strong doubts as to the constitutionality of the proposed Resolutions, as it appeared to him that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the United States required amendment in order to admit of their passing. After some remarks by Representative Dunkin, this objection was most ably replied to by Representative Griffin; and the previous question was then moved by Representative Robinson, duly seconded by the Grand Lodge, and carried. The question "Will the Grand Lodge adopt the Report and Resolutions of the Committee?" was then put, and carried in the affirmative by the following vote:—

AYES.—Reps. Baldwin, Bayley, Beardsley, Desanssure, Drew, Dunkin, Egan, Ellison, Fosdick, Garvin, Greenwood, Griffin, Hoyt, Judson, Kellogg, McIntyre, McNairey, McKee, Marley, Marshall, Miller, Neally, (2 votes) Page, Parker, Parmenter, Reid, Robinson, Ropes, Salomon, Searfoss, Seymour, Smith, Stewart, (2 votes) Thompson, Veitch, Watson, (2 votes) Weld, Wells, White, Whitney, Wood, P. G. S.'s Wildev, Kennedy—47.

NAYS.—Reps. Alsop, Day, Glenn, Kneass, Patterson, (2 votes) Stokes, Thomas, P. G. S. Hopkins—9.

In justice to the minority, it is only fair to state, that their vote was distinctly understood to proceed from no objection to the policy of the measure, but solely from a doubt as to the constitutionality of the means proposed to give effect to it. At the opening of the Session a large majority of the Grand Lodge were doubtful of, if not more or less opposed to, the whole policy of the recognition of Foreign Sovereignities in the Order; but before the time when the Committee reported, this opposition had entirely given way to the considerations urged in favor of the measure by its friends.

At a later period of the Session, some interesting proceedings took place, of which we will give a fuller account in our next number, in regard to the relations of the Grand Lodge of the United States with other Independent Foreign Bodies of the Order; the Grand Lodge of Australia, in particular, being recognised as one of such Bodies.

Another measure of great importance to the Order, is that by which the term of official service in Subordinate Lodges is changed, from and after the first of January next, from Three to Six Months. On this point there was much discussion; and no doubt there will be diversity of opinion in this Jurisdiction in regard to it. We give below the Report of the Committee on the State of the Order, upon the subject, together with the division upon the question of the adoption by the Grand Lodge of the first of the Resolutions proposed by the Committee. It will be observed that the Representatives of our Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment voted, the former against, and the latter for, the proposed change.

To the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States:

The Committee on the State of the Order, to whom was referred certain Resolutions relating to the extension of terms of official service, report:—

That in regard to the subject-matter of the Resolutions proposing to extend the terms of official service in Subordinate Lodges, your committee are of opinion that the Order generally has manifested discontent with the present limited terms. The attention of the Grand Lodge has heretofore been called to this subject, and there is now upon the table a Resolution offered in obedience to instructions from a State Grand Lodge, which, if adopted, would establish six months as the duration of official terms of Subordinates. Your committee believe that a longer term of office than at present is allowed, will secure to the Order the benefit of riper experience—more extensive knowledge of the affairs of the Order—and better judgment in their administration, on the part of incumbents of office. It is also deemed important, that the commencement and termination of official terms, should be uniform throughout the jurisdiction of this R. W. Grand Body. Your Committee, therefore, trusting to the impression that the members of the Grand Lodge have satisfied themselves as to the expediency of the changes proposed, submit Resolutions to meet these, without offering further argument.

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Respectfully submitted,

WM. E. PARMENTER,
J. W. STOKES,
WM. R. SMITH.

Resolved.—That from and after the first day of December, 1846, the terms of Subordinate Lodges shall be for the period of six months.

Resolved.—That the said terms shall commence on the first Monday of June and first Monday of December of each year.

Which was adopted; the yeas and nays being required appeared as follows:—