

5. "That at the meeting of the Grand Lodge, at which the union is consummated, the first business shall be the election of Grand Officers, in which the representatives of all the Lodges shall take part."

After some desultory conversation on these resolutions, R. W. Bro. Reid suggested that the Committee from the Grand Lodge of Quebec should consider the resolutions alone. This was at once acceded to, and the Committee from the Grand Lodge of Canada retired. After a short time they were invited to return, when R. W. Bro. Isaacson submitted the following:

"*First.* That the first resolution submitted should be expunged, and the following substituted, viz.:

"That all acts done by the Grand Lodge of Canada within the Province of Quebec, and all acts done by the several lodges hailing from the Grand Lodge, so far as they do not conflict with the acts of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and are not antagonistic to the rights of Lodges and individual masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, shall be declared legal and binding Masonic acts.

"That all acts of the Grand Lodge of Quebec within this Province, and all acts done by her several Lodges, shall be declared legal and binding."

"*Second.* That all the words in the second resolution submitted after the words, 'according to seniority,' shall be struck out and the following inserted in their place: 'Such seniority to be determined by the Grand Lodge of Quebec.'

"*Third.* That the whole of this resolution, as it stands, being agreed to shall remain.

"*Fourth.* That the fourth and fifth propositions being objected to in toto, shall be struck out."

R. W. Bro. White enquired what acts would be considered as antagonistic by the terms of the first resolution? It was replied that acts of suspension would be, and the issuing of duplicate warrants would also come under this head.

R. W. Bro. White said that so far as suspensions were concerned there were to be removed in the event of agreement; but as to duplicate lodges, it might facilitate matters to state at the outset that as representing the Grand Lodge of Canada, they could consent to nothing which would imperil the existence of any lodge now working under that Grand Lodge.

A long conversation ensued, embracing all matters in dispute between the parties but with no apparent prospect of any satisfactory settlement; and the Committees again separated with the object of devising some plan which would meet the mutual objections. On reassembling, R. W. Bro. White said that the difficulty about suspension could be met by excepting them in terms in the first resolution; and that as the status of duplicate lodges, in the matter of re-numbering, seemed to be the chief difficulty, he thought it could be met by striking out the words after "warrant," near the end of the 2nd resolution originally submitted, and substituting the following:

"But in case of duplicate lodges the question of priority be submitted to a Committee of six brethren, to be composed equally of brethren representing the Grand Lodge of Canada and the Grand Lodge of Quebec."

And as to the last two resolutions, while they thought they ought to be conceded in the interests of perfect harmony and peace, they would not be pressed.

R. W. Bro. Edgar submitted the following as having been agreed to by the Committee from the Grand Lodge of Quebec:

"1st. That the Committee representing the Lodges in this Province holding warrants and working under and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of Canada, express their willingness to join the Grand Lodge of Quebec as it at present exists, upon the following terms and conditions:

"That the Committee representing the Grand Lodge of Quebec agree to recommend to their Grand Lodge that their Lodges be accepted as they stand at present, all question as to the name of Lodge, priority of number, holding the Warrant of such Lodges as have duplicate warrants by both Grand Lodges, be left entirely to a Committee to be named two, by ———, and two by ———; this Committee to choose an arbitrator, and their decision on all questions to be final.

"All questions of priority of the other Lodges to be settled by the same Committee."

The wording of this resolution was strongly objected to. But as the two resolutions approached each other pretty nearly, it was, after some debate, agreed to appoint a sub-committee to draft resolutions which might meet the views of both parties as expressed during the conference, and adjourn until the following morning.

The following Committee was chosen for this purpose: M. W. Bro. Stevenson, R. W. Bros. Isaacson, Edgar, White, Gutman, and V. W. Bro. Tait.

And the Conference adjourned at half-past one o'clock, a. m.