

THE ELEVENTH MASONIC DISTRICT

Report of the D.D.G.M. for 1886-87.

To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master,
Officers and Members of the Grand
Lodge of Canada:

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN,—
I have the honour to submit my annual report as to the condition of the Craft in the Eleventh District. My first official acts were the appointment of W. Bro. F. F. Manley, P. M. of Ionic Lodge, No. 25, as District Secretary, and the issue of a circular letter which called special attention to the clause in the Constitution providing that it was necessary that the ancient charges, the regulations of Grand Lodge for Private Lodges, and the by-laws of every Lodge be read in open Lodge once in each year, and particularly to the qualifications required by those elected to the office of Master, prior to installation. The letter read as follows:

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA, A. F. & A. M.
THE ELEVENTH MASONIC DISTRICT.

Office of the District Deputy Grand Master.

Toronto, 21st July, 1886.

DEAR SIR AND WORSHIPFUL BROTHER.—In assuming the duties of District Deputy Grand Master of the Eleventh District, I have appointed W. Bro. F. F. Manley District Secretary, and communications for me addressed to his care will secure prompt attention.

I beg to call your attention to clause 107, page 44, of the constitution which reads:

"The Master of every Lodge is to cause the regulations of Grand Lodge relating to Private Lodges, and the by-laws of his Lodge, to be read in open Lodge once every year."

Kindly see that the requirements of the Constitution are carried out.

The ancient charges may be read at one meeting, the regulations at another, and the by-laws at a third. The time occupied will thus be divided, and brethren not wearied.

I also beg to call special attention to the fact that it is requisite that all those elected to the office of Master must be expert Craftsmen, well skilled in the work, and presented to a Board of Installed Masters for examination prior to installation. The next elections for the office of Master will be held in November and December, and in the interests of fraternity it is necessary that the regulations laid down in the Installation Ceremony should be carried out. All those elected to the office of Master will have to undergo examination so that I may know that they possess the necessary qualifications. I shall, therefore, if requested, either attend personally or send an Examining Master to every Lodge in this District, to examine him whom the brethren may select to rule over them. All newly elected officers must be able to open and close and exemplify the work in the three degrees. The office of Master is one of great honour, and there should be no royal road to it. It is unfair to earnest, attentive Craftsmen who study so as to become skilled in the work, that others, who are utterly incompetent,

should be vested with the rank and honour. Grand Lodge has declared that the Past Master who presents for installation, as well as a candidate who is not, commits a grave Masonic offence; and as some doubt has been expressed in the past concerning the efficiency of Boards of Installed Masters, in order that in the future no discredit may be brought on the Craft, those elected must prove their knowledge before installation.

Enclosed you will find a condensed report of the business transacted at the last annual communication of Grand Lodge at Windsor. If read in Lodge it will give your members a fair knowledge of the proceedings.

You will notice in the proceedings that on motion of M. W. Bro. Spry, clause 109 of the Constitution has been amended, by inserting after the word "days" in the first line, the words "and hours." The clause now reads: "The regular days and hours of meeting of the Lodge shall be specified in the by-laws." Please have your by-laws so amended.

My time is at the disposal of lodges, and I shall be happy to co-operate with the brethren in any work that will tend to the advancement of Craft work.

Yours Fraternally,

J. ROSS ROBERTSON, D.D.G.M.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

I have officially visited each of the thirty-five lodges in this District twice. Five of these lodges I have visited three times, and one four times, making a total of seventy-eight visits, as will be observed by the tabulated statement, giving the list of lodges, the distance in miles from Toronto, showing the miles travelled in making these visitations to be 2,160.

In making these visitations no notification was given on the occasion of the first visit, so that I might see the ordinary work of the lodge, without the advantage of preparation. Of my second and subsequent visits all lodges were duly notified, in the form given in this circular.

TORONTO, April 15th, 1887.

SECOND SERIES OF OFFICIAL VISITS.

DEAR SIR AND W. BROTHER.—I am directed by R. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, D.D.G.M., to inform you that he will pay official visits to the Lodges of this District on the dates indicated at foot of this circular. Where the visits are not set down for Regular Meetings the D.D.G.M. would feel obliged if you will call an urgent Meeting, so that he may be able to visit all the lodges in the district by the end of the second week in June. It is particularly requested that the W. M. and all the officers be present at these visitations, prepared to exemplify the work of opening and closing in the three degrees, and working as they may be able the Third, Second or First degree. The enclosed form please instruct your Secretary to fill up, and have ready for the D. D. G. M. on the occasion of his visit. These meetings have been arranged so that they should be as convenient as possible to lodges. You will readily understand that to visit all on the regular nights would occupy about four months, so that without emergencies it would be impossible to make this second series of visits.

If an emergency is required, please notify me that you have called it as requested.

Yours Fraternally,

F. F. MANLEY,

District Secretary.