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FOR THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.]

Working Lodges in the Third Degree.

BY R. W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

The system practiced by our American brethren of transacting all routine business of the lodge, while it is open, in the third degree, has been brought up in Grand Lodge on former occasions for adoption in the Lodges working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, but upon a vote being taken, it has been rejected; at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, it was brought up again but shared the same fate; Grand Lodge did not appear in favor of the proposed change, though a strong effort was made to effect it.

It may be on the outset observed that the expression "working Lodges in the third degree" is incorrect for the purpose in question, for Masonically speaking, "work" means the conferring of degrees; all Lodges "work" in the third degree now, if they have any candidate to raise.

The brethren who so strongly advocated the change in question advance the following arguments in favor thereof:—

1. That it would be of great advantage to the Craft were the routine

business of the Lodge performed while the Lodge is open in the third degree, especially balloting for candidates and for members.

2. That apprentice members cannot yet give an intelligent vote; that they require more experience of Lodge matters before they should be entrusted with balloting, and with voting in general.

3. That it appears absurd to allow an Entered Apprentice to vote upon an application of a Master Mason for affiliation, because the E. A. knows nothing about the M. M.'s degree.

4. That by excluding E. A. and F. C. members from the full privilege of membership, would induce them to become more anxious to seek for advancement in the degrees.

5. That it is not right to let an E. A. member be present to witness the routine business of the Lodge, because he might hear many unpleasant discussions. And

6. That the change which is advocated is the system now practiced by