

"The R. W. Brother Robert Macoy, in his valuable work lately issued. 'The General History, Cyclopaedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry,' at page 160, under the title 'Organization of Grand Lodges,' says, 'In a country or State where there is no Grand Lodge, three or more legal lodges may meet in conventio[n] and organize a Grand Lodge.'

"W. Brother Luke A. Lockwood, in his 'Masonic Law and Practice,' chapter 2, under the heading of 'The Grand Lodge,' at section 4, asserts; 'A Grand Lodge may be established in any unoccupied territory by the representatives of not less than three regular lodges located therein, upon due notice of the assembly for that purpose being given to all regular lodges situated therein, and all being permitted to be represented in such assembly.' And in a note to that section the W. Brother says: 'By unoccupied territory is meant territory in which no Grand Lodge is located, and which is, therefore, common ground for all Grand Lodges.'

"Grand Lodges in the United States and in American territories—the Grand Lodge of Canada, the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and our own Grand Lodge—were erected on this masonic law and usage so recognized and established.

"It cannot be successfully contended that the organization of a Grand Lodge for Quebec is justified by the rules above referred to, for the plain reason that there was an existing independent Grand Lodge, and that for the Province of Quebec was and is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

"The Grand Lodge of Canada was organized in 1855 at a convention of lodges from both of the old Provinces of 'Upper Canada' and 'Lower Canada,' then existing with defined and distinct territorial boundaries as 'Canada East,' and Canada West,' though united under one Legislature. The representatives from lodges that existed in 'Canada East' and in Canada West,' holding warrants from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, met at the city of Hamilton and united in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and established one masonic government, which included Canada East (now Quebec) and Canada West (now Ontario.) The Grand Lodge of Canada, so duly organized, was recognized by Grand Lodges in the United States, and after much correspondence by the Grand Lodges in Great Britain, and is now in fraternal communication with all existing Grand Lodges. The territory so comprising Canada East and Canada West, now Quebec and Ontario, was a masonic jurisdiction into which no Grand Lodge in the World could send a warrant for the establishment of a new lodge. It matters not that by an arrangement between the Grand Lodges in Great Britain and the Grand Lodge of Canada, lodges already working, and that did not join in erecting the new Grand Lodge, were permitted by the Grand Lodge of Canada to continue their work in her territory. However injudicious such permission might be, it could not alter the status of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the very fact that the Grand Lodges in the Mother Country recognized the independent Grand Lodge of Canada and exchanged representatives with it, clearly admitted the right of the Grand Lodge of Canada to the exclusive government of the jurisdiction and yielded all right to erect new lodges. The position of the lodges working by sufferance of the Grand Lodge of Canada within the new jurisdiction was changed, and no power would remain with any such lodge to unite with other lodges in the attempt to erect a new Grand Lodge within the territory of the Grand