

pointed to consider rules and regulations for the government of the Convention, the rules and regulations for conducting public business contained in the Book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, were *mutatis mutandis* unanimously adopted.

"It was unanimously agreed that each Lodge represented at the Convention should be entitled to three votes.

"The following Preamble and Resolution, prepared by a Committee appointed for the purpose, were submitted to the Meeting:

"Whereas, the existence of Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons in this Province, hailing from three several Grand Lodges, is a system productive of much evil to the Craft, creating a diversity of interests and allegiance—an absence of harmony in action and working, perpetuating local and national feelings, and thus estranging the affections of Brethren whose order knows no country and is confined to no race; and whereas the Benevolent Funds of Canadian Free Masons, small as they are, are constantly taxed to relieve needy Brethren from Europe, while our resources are doubly drawn upon by contributions to the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, and to the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada, thus creating a constant drain upon those funds from which but little return can be ever expected; and whereas the distance between Canada and the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, presents a very serious difficulty in regard to the necessary correspondence, as well as the prompt receipt of Warrants and Certificates, which have been delayed for months, and in some cases for years, greatly to the inconvenience of the Fraternity in Canada; and,

"Whereas, important communications, and even remittances of money, have been suffered to lie for years in the Grand Secretary's Office of England, without the least acknowledgment of their having been received in due course, brethren being compelled to leave the Province before they could receive from England the Certificates for which they had long previously paid; and

"Whereas, the Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada to the Grand Lodge of England—though respectfully and Masonically expressed, especially when in the form of petitions or remonstrances—have been treated with silent contempt, their very receipt remaining unacknowledged; and,

"Whereas, the Provincial Masters of Canada and their Deputies are not appointed by, and are entirely irresponsible to, the Free Masons of Canada, being the mere nominees of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain—the members of which can know but little of the state of the Craft, or the Masonic position of individuals in this Province; and,

"Whereas, the Provincial Grand Lodges are thus rendered irresponsible to, and independent of, the Craft in Canada, experience has shown that they are unable to secure from the Parent Grand Lodges, that attention and respect which are due to their position."

"Therefore be it Resolved,

"That in order to apply a remedy to these evils—to form perfect fraternal union and harmony, establish order, ensure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity of Canada all the blessings of Masonic privileges; it is expedient, right, and our bounden duty to form a Grand Lodge of Canada."

"It was moved in amendment, that the following words be added to the Resolution:

"And that the same be now organized, but the Working thereof be held in abeyance until the action of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, be made known on the Subject."

"On a division the amendment was negatived by thirty-eight Lodges to three. The original motion was then, after due consideration, carried with one dissentient.

"The dissenting brother desired it to be understood that his dissent was caused from the absence of full instructions from his Lodge, he individually

expressed his hearty concurrence in the original resolution.

"It was then, on motion, unanimously Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, be and is hereby formed upon the Ancient Charges and Constitution of Masonry.

"A Committee was appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the Government of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

"The Grand Lodge then proceeded on motion to the election of Grand Master and Elective Grand Officers, and the following brethren were duly elected and appointed:

" M. W. Br. Wm. Mercer Wilson, G. M.	" R. W. " A. Bernard, D. G. M.
" " " W. B. Simpson, D. D. G. M., M. D.	" " " W. Eaden, D. D. C. W. E. D.
" " " Richard Bull, Sen. G. M.	" " " James Daniel, Jun. G. W.
" " " Rev. Dr. Lundy, G. Chaplain.	" " " Wm. Bellhouse, G. Treasurer.
" " " T. B. Harris, G. Secretary.	" V. W. " Rev. G. Scott, Ass. G. Chaplain.
" " " Geo. L. Allan, Sen. G. D.	" V. W. " Thos. Perkins, Jun. G. D.
" " " J. H. Isaacson, A. G. Secretary.	" " " Thos. Duggan, G. S. of Works.
" " " J. Osborne, G. D. of Ceremonies.	" V. W. " G. E. Fenwick, A. G. D. of C.
" " " J. W. Haldiman, G. S. B.	" " " Wm. Thomas, G. Organist.
" " " Geo. W. Powell, G. Pursuivant.	" " " J. Morrison, G. Tyler.
" V. W. " J. R. Holden, } G. Stewards.	" " " J. C. Butler, }

"The M. W. G. M. elect appointed the necessary Committees for the conducting of general business, the Convention was then adjourned with solemn Prayer.

"The large number of Lodges, forty-one, represented at this Convention, exceeding by twenty-four the greatest number ever present at the formation of any new Grand Lodge, and the unanimity which pervaded the meeting throughout, bore unmistakable evidence that the proper time had arrived for the immediate establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, and which, as we had anticipated, was unanimously agreed upon, and we heartily congratulate our brethren on the accomplishment of the long and earnestly desired object.

"The requisite arrangements for the installation of the Grand Master and Officers elect have necessarily occupied the time which has since elapsed, and the 2d inst., was the earliest day that could be fixed upon for that ceremony, which was most impressively performed by the Honorable H. T. Backus, Past Grand Master of the State of Michigan, assisted by other Brethren of distinction.

"After the Installation, M. W. Bro. Backus delivered to the assembled Craft, and their friends, an eloquent address on the history and principles of the order."

E—Report prepared and issued from the Prov. Grand Secretary's Office, May 8, 1856.

"It having been brought under the notice of this Pr. G. Lodge that for several months past various Grand Lodges in the United States and elsewhere, had been applied to for recognition by a new Masonic body, styling itself the Grand Lodge of Canada, and this Provincial Grand Lodge being induced to believe from the sentiments expressed in relation to this schismatic movement, by our American Brethren, in their numerous Masonic publications, that they could not be in possession of the true facts of the case:

"Therefore, it was unanimously resolved at a half-yearly meeting held at Toronto on Wednesday the 21st instant, 'That the Grand Secretary be directed, under the supervision of the Board of General Purposes, to publish, for the information of the Masonic Fraternity at large, a statement of the facts connected with the recent movement of insubordination on the part of certain Lodges in

this Province, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, the said Lodges, or certain members thereof, having in order to gain recognition from the various Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge has long been in friendly communication, made use of statements which are not borne out by facts—these being to the prejudice of a very large portion of the fraternity who have, and who do still remain true to their Mother Grand Lodge."

"In furtherance of this object, they (the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada) state that at the Convention held at Hamilton on the 10th of October last, there were 41 Lodges represented, and that the action taken at that meeting was unanimous, with one exception, whereas, of the 41 Lodges there represented 15 were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, 10 from Canada East, acting under Warrants from England, 1 from Quebec, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and 15 under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The number of Lodges belonging to this Provincial Grand Lodge at the time the Convention met was 50, since which time only 7 have given official information of their affiliation with the new body; so that at the present time there are 49 of the original number still true to their allegiance, to which may be added 3 new Lodges under dispensation, making the present number 46. Of the 40 Lodges who, as stated in their published report, voted with the body, there were delegates from two belonging to this Grand Lodge—the mover and seconder of an amendment to the original motion respecting the formation of an independent Grand Lodge made at the said Convention—who did not vote in its favor; and this Grand Lodge has since ascertained that in a great many instances, the delegates, who voted in favor of the movement, (and by one a direct fraud was practiced) on returning to their Lodges were not sustained in the action they had taken; so that it may (leaving the Irish lodges out of the question) be fairly assumed that not more than one half of those Lodges, hailing from the Grand Lodge of England and represented at the Convention, do in reality belong to the new body. By this statement it will be at once seen that a very great majority of the Canadian Masons remain true to their allegiance. The alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body, was the refusal of the R. W. D. Grand Master, at a special Meeting of this P. Grand Lodge, held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th of July last, to submit a motion from the chair, which, if carried, would have led to immediate and open rebellion on the part of the Canadian Craft to their Mother Grand Lodges. He, in common with nearly the whole of the Lodges under his control, determined to remain true to their allegiance, but at the same time to employ every legitimate means for obtaining from the Mother Grand Lodge, those further privileges and immunities which this Grand Lodge has some two years previously asked for. This was the unanimous feeling of the P. Grand Lodge at an adjourned meeting on the following morning, when the disaffected brethren were not present; and in furtherance of this object, it was moved by Br. W. M. Wilson (the Master of the new Grand Lodge) "That Bro. R. H. Townend" be appointed the Special Agent of this Grand Lodge, and requested to use his best endeavors to obtain an answer to the Petition of this Grand Lodge, and that he be invested with full power to act in the matter."

About a month prior to the half-yearly communication of the Grand Lodge held in Toronto, on the 23rd of October following, a summons for said meeting was issued, which informed the Craft that Br. Townend, our Special Agent, had brought the subject matter of our grievances before the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, and that matters were in a fair way towards a satisfactory result, begging us to wait patiently a short time longer, and assuring us that we should have all our requirements granted to us. This summons was sent to all the Lodges under this jurisdiction; but the recalcitrant Lodges being unwilling to wait longer, at the Convention at Hamilton on the 10th of October, assisted in the formation of the new body, which at the meeting of this