

planted a single Lodge in West Virginia after it was made a State by the vote of Congress—and why? Simply because they knew it belonged to the sovereign and supreme authority of the Grand Lodge of Virginia! There the whole argument is answered in a nut shell. Every Grand Lodge in America knew that the territory of West Virginia belonged alone to its original Masonic jurisdiction; it was not, masonically speaking, “unoccupied territory,” therefore no other Grand Lodge could plant Lodges in it. Some of the brethren in the new State believed (undoubtedly honestly) that they had a right to form a Grand Lodge, and did form one, and in doing so they recognized the heresy, that the civil government controls and defines the boundaries of Grand Lodges independent of the Grand Lodges themselves. We say it is a heresy because it has none of the elements of sense or justice in it, and is in violation of Masonic courtesy, Grand Lodge integrity, and international Masonic comity; it is, if persisted in, a heresy that will undermine the entire structure of Masonic Government and obedience.

We are now asked to recognize this heresy. Can we do it? As your Committee, we cannot recommend it; however, we entertain no enmity to the brethren of the province of Quebec, and assign them no other motives for their action, but those of sincerity and honesty, and regret much that they have been misled into this unfortunate predicament by those who should have known better.

Recognition of new Grand Lodges in this country is extended frequently without any investigation or reference to the principles involved, and for one, we hope that this reckless career may be checked, and that in future, Grand Lodges may be more circumspect. It is a proud monument to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, that, for fifty years of her existence she has never extended her recognition of a new body until first recognized by the mother power having original control. We say it is a pride, because it shows a conservative adherence to the golden rule: “Do ye unto others as ye would they should do unto you.”

In conclusion I submit herewith the following resolutions for your consideration:

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Missouri has for many years recognized the supreme control of the territory heretofore known as Canada, and is at present in fraternal correspondence with said Grand Lodge, and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Missouri does not recognize the right of any power, civil, religious or masonic, to divide its legitimate and original jurisdiction, except by its own act in Grand Lodge assembled, and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Missouri cannot encourage the spirit of rebellion or revolution against a regularly constituted Masonic authority, and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Canada has, by a large majority, refused to divide its original jurisdiction with certain Lodges in the province of Quebec, and has placed those Lodges in suspension for disobedience of its lawful commands. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Missouri cannot extend to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, any Masonic recognition, until it shall first have received the approved recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, it being the original and supreme Masonic authority in the province of Quebec, and be it