

as yet been realized. They would therefore suggest that a period of three or six months be fixed by the M. E. G. Z., within which active work shall be resumed; and, in the event of failure, that the warrant of said Chapter be then revoked.

Your Committee heartily join in the M. E. G. Z.'s congratulations on the steady increase of subordinate Chapters hailing under this jurisdiction; and they glean with pleasure, from the several district reports, that in nearly every instance a living, active zeal marks their onward progress.

Your Committee are glad to learn that the careful revision of Chapter by-laws has engaged so much attention from the M. E. G. Z., and they rely with confidence on the beneficial results that will flow from his judicious action in this important department of his labors.

Regarding the suggested reduction of the exaltation fee required by constitution, to meet the peculiar circumstances of military and naval brethren, your Committee are of opinion that each subordinate Chapter can deal with all such applicants in a satisfactory manner without resorting to any change in the present Constitution, which might lead to pernicious irregularities that all would deplore.

Your Committee cannot too cordially endorse the M. E. G. Z.'s views upon *work*; the correct exemplification of which is a matter of deep moment to all our subordinates. They also commend to the serious attention of Grand Chapter the imperative necessity of securing uniform ceremonies upon constituting and consecrating new Chapters, as well as for installing officers after each annual election; and they strongly urge the appointment of a special committee by the M. E. G. Z. at the present convocation, whose duty it shall be to report thereon and exemplify the same at the next annual meeting.

Your Committee sincerely rejoice that the relations of this Grand Chapter with all sister Grand Bodies are of the kindest and most fraternal character, which, they fondly trust, will ever continue.

The report on foreign correspondence is, as usual, replete with useful and interesting information, forming a valuable addition to our Masonic literature; and too hearty thanks cannot be accorded to the Committee, and especially to R. E. Comp. Seymour, for the great care exercised, time expended, and trouble incurred in its preparation.

Your Committee are of opinion that the M. E. G. Z. has pursued a prudent and truly Masonic course in not hastily recognizing the so-called Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia, while its right to existence continues a subject of dispute with the general Grand Chapter of the United States, which claims to exercise supreme control over all capitular bodies in that country. They further believe that future action on this delicate question may be safely left in his hands.

Your Committee are pained to hear of the continued distress prevailing in the Southern States of the adjoining Republic; and, whilst regretting the inability of this Grand Chapter to contribute any amount towards their relief, they earnestly remit the M. E. G. Z.'s feeling suggestions to the benevolent consideration of all our subordinate Chapters and companion members.

Your committee hail with unfeigned pleasure the gratifying fact, so patriotically alluded to by the M.

E. G. Z., of the several Provinces of British America being united in one confederation, under the benign sway of our beloved Sovereign. They have the fullest confidence that the change will greatly tend to advance the material progress and promote the future happiness of the people of this important portion of the British Empire, and at the same time cement more strongly, if possible, the ties of kindred loyalty and interest which have bound them in bonds of filial attachment to the parent land.

Your committee concur in opinion with the M. E. G. Z. as to the altered territorial relations which confederation forces upon this Grand Chapter; and, in so doing, they endorse his views upon our right to exercise supreme jurisdiction over the several Provinces now united together. They therefore urge that the formal notice recommended by him be sent to the Parent Bodies; that the several chapters working under them be fraternally invited to accept Warrants from this Grand Chapter, and meet with us at our next Annual Convocation; and furthermore, that a special committee be appointed by the M. E. G. Z. to carry out the suggested preliminaries and report thereon at the first ensuing convocation.

Your committee are of opinion that the interests of this Grand Chapter will not be subserved by fixing upon a permanent place of meeting; for some time to come, if at all; and more particularly whilst the Grand Lodge of Canada holds to the belief that the general welfare of the craft is best promoted by the itinerary system now pursued, which applies with equal or greater force to the Annual Convocations of this Grand Chapter.

Your committee would cheerfully approve of any practical scheme emanating from the M. E. G. Z., whereby unaffiliated companions could be compelled to contribute towards our charities. They nevertheless fail to discover any effectual solution of the difficulty; for, while holding that non-affiliation deprives companions of all right to masonic relief, the justice of exacting contributions from such persons, to say nothing of the seeming impossibility of enforcing payment, is open to very grave doubts.

Your committee heartily echo the desire of the M. E. G. Z. in relation to old Masonic documents, and would urge upon all companions who possess any papers of historic worth the duty of lending them to R. E. Comp. Fowler, and co-operating with him in the interesting and really valuable compilation he is now publishing in *THE CRAFTSMAN*, which deserves generous encouragement.

In conclusion, your committee beg to tender the grateful thanks of this Grand Chapter to our M. E. G. Z., for his devoted attention to the interests of Capitular Masonry in Canada, the prosperity of which is largely attributable to his unwearied exertions in its behalf, and they would fervently unite with him in exhorting the companions to live up to those holy teachings inculcated at our altars, which he so impressively enjoins. By so doing we cannot fail to secure the continued blessings of the Most High, who will also support our order with every moral and social virtue.

All which is respectfully submitted,

H. A. SIMS,

Chairman, *pro tem.*