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Masonic Grand Lodge

Opening of the 37th Annual Communication This Afternoon.

Presentation of Addresses of Welcome by the Mayor and Corporation and by the London Brethren.

Interesting Address by Grand Master Robertson.

How the Craft Has Been Hindered and Helped.

Pertinent Suggestions for Its Future Government.

Another Magnificent Contribution to Charity by the Grand Master.

At two o'clock this afternoon the Grand Lodge of Canada, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, began its thirty-seventh annual communication in the Grand Opera House, this city, M. Wor. Bro. John Ross Robertson presiding. Between 600 and 700 brethren were present, this being the most numerously attended meeting of the supreme legislative body of the craft held in this jurisdiction since its inception. The stage of the Grand Opera House was tastefully decorated by the local reception committee, and was very pleasing to the eye. The Grand Lodge having been formed in the orthodox manner, Mayor Spencer and a delegation of the Board of Aldermen appeared and presented an address of welcome to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge, and D. D. G. M. Robson headed the Wor. Masters of the eight city lodges, who presented a similar address. The addresses are found below:

The Civic Address.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR.—On behalf of the corporation and citizens of the city of London, I have great pleasure as mayor in extending to you a more sincere and hearty welcome on the occasion of this Grand Lodge meeting. I can assure you, sir, that the people of this city in common with their fellow-citizens throughout the province, whether members or not of your ancient and honorable fraternity, have noted with just appreciation your generosity and philanthropy, and that we deem it all the greater honor to extend our welcome to the members of this Grand Lodge, because the presiding officer is the princely provider for the tenderest and most helpless of God's creatures — sick children. During the ten years which have elapsed since this Grand Lodge last met here we venture to think our Forest City has made commendable progress, and that today we can welcome all the members of this assembly not only to one of the finest Masonic edifices but to the most beautiful of Canadian cities.

We are aware, sir, of the benevolent and great work you are doing, and your present session may greatly promote the interests you have at heart. It somewhat permits me to wish you a most agreeable and profitable time while in our midst, and at the same time express the hope that London will soon again be honored with your presence. On behalf of the municipal council,

W. M. SPENCER, Mayor.
C. A. KINGSTON, Clerk.

The grand master replied in appropriate terms. He cheerfully indorsed all that the mayor had said regarding the history and progress of this fine city. He was about to say that it was the most beautiful place of abode on the continent, when he recollected that he had to return to Toronto, the place of his birth and his home. He was confident that he and his thoroughly appreciated the freedom of the city, so generously extended to them. The visit of the Grand Lodge to London was always a pleasant one, and the present would be no exception to the rule.

Address From the London Brethren.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR.—On behalf of the 37th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the Masons of London bid you a hearty and loyal welcome. As grand master you have presided with signal ability and acceptance to the craft, and we esteem it a privilege to welcome a distinguished a Mason, and to preside in our city, after an absence of years, the supreme body of the fraternity. And while we deeply regret the absence of many craftsmen who have been in the Grand Lodge above, it is to us a source of great pleasure, as we know it is to you, that the order continues to increase in numbers and influence.

In greeting you, at the commencement of your second year as chief head and ruler of the craft, we find it impossible to express in fitting terms of your wonderful and zealous labors on behalf of the ancient masonry. Your zeal, your unflagging journeyings, your lavish expenditure of time and money, your practical exemplification of charity and the profound results of your wisdom and research have all combined to gild your fame with undying lustre and to enshrine forever in the hearts of the craftsmen the name of John Ross Robertson, grand master of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Cheering as has been the record of Masonry in the past, bright as it is at the present, we venture to express the hope that the future has for us and our successors a sphere of usefulness and duty. And it is our earnest prayer that the Great Architect of the Universe will so direct our deliberations that Masonry may grow and expand, and further amplify to the world the principles which it teaches.

Through you, M. W., we wish to express to the brethren of the Grand Lodge our pleasure in welcoming not a distinguished body of representative men to the Forest City. We extend to every brother the sincere greeting of the craft in London, and we trust that while in session the wisdom of the United Grand Lodge, assisted throughout with delightful enjoyment may be felt throughout the entire jurisdiction.

A. W. PORTE, P. G. S. W., chairman.
JOHN SMITH, V. M., St. John's, No. 20.
F. H. LUSCOMBE, W. M., St. George's, No. 32.
A. A. CAMPBELL, W. M., Kilwinning, No. 64.
A. G. MCWHINNEY, W. M., Tuscan, No. 95.
J. H. STEIN, W. M., Corinthian, No. 330.
JAS. LORD, W. M., King Solomon's, No. 378.
W. G. MCMILLEN, W. M., Union, No. 380.

The grand master who was most enthusiastically greeted by his brethren, shortly but pertinently replied—first on behalf of Grand Lodge, and afterwards on behalf of himself. He warmly commended the truly Masonic spirit that he had always found prevaded the London district, and spoke highly of the work of the London brethren.

The Grand Master's Address.

The grand master was warmly received on rising to deliver his second annual address. He expressed his gratification that during the two years he had held office he had had the gratification of meeting and consulting with at least two-thirds of the members of the craft within the jurisdiction. He had met with difficulties, but his regrets had been softened by the fact that the flood of welcome and appreciation which had greeted him indicates that there is a warm corner for a presiding officer whose aim is unselfishly to do his duty.

VISITS TO THE CRAFT LODGES.

The grand master on this subject says: While words uttered from this grand east may find their way to the membership, either in the printed records of the Grand Lodge or through the medium of the press, there can be but one opinion, that to keep in touch with the heart of the craft, to strengthen the mystic tie of sympathy, personal contact, the commune of voice with voice, the interchange of thought with thought, visits to the brethren in their own homes—in their lodge rooms—are essential. With this object in view, I have during the past two years visited every lodge once and many twice of the 348 on the register of this grand jurisdiction, making 131 visits in 1890-91, and 202 in 1891-92, in all 263 visits, covering about 23,000 miles of travel and ten months of actual time occupied in the work. At these meetings I gave general addresses on craft work, lectures embracing all periods of craft history from the earliest date, at the same time affording the brethren an opportunity of inquiry on matters of which they desired information in connection with either our esoteric or exoteric work. The attendance was large and representative and might be fairly taken as including two thirds of the entire membership. The thousand memories of the pleasant talks at these reunions with my fellow-craftsmen have added leaves to the book of my life, to which I shall surely, in the aftertime when age has a greater claim upon me, turn with pleasure, to refresh my mind, to recall old names and faces, encouraged by the thought that many of those who then greeted me are yet active in the work, and are still with me, marching along in the twilight of life, with the unchanging desire we all have who recognize Masonry as the idealistic reality of fraternity.

The grand master refers in appropriate terms to the fraternal visit which he paid this spring to the brethren in Winnipeg and Brandon, where he had the most cordial welcome.

STATE OF THE LODGES.

Considering all the work, the grand master says, has improved during the year. The revision of this year has given unqualified satisfaction. As to attendance, the average, if ascertained, would be little more than 20 per cent. of the enrolled membership. It must be remembered, however, that 20 per cent. reside outside of the jurisdiction, or in parts distant from the place of meeting. Other organizations seem to have about the same experience. The grand master cautions the brethren to be careful as to admission of new members. While more prudence is exercised in the admission of members than formerly, it is still a fact that some lodges are too anxious to make gains in membership. The roll of those who have, by suspension, lost their privileges shows that it is better for the craft to "conserve and interest those we have and keep them true to the principles of the institution than receive those whose ideas of Masonry are defined by the buying power of the dollar, and who judge their love for a brother by his pecuniary ability." Men who became Masons for revenue purposes only, and have left the craft, should not be mourned over. The grand master contends that the jurisdiction suffers from a plethora of lodges, which gives rise to questionable competition. The surrender of the warrants in the case of Springfield, No. 259, in the third district, Craig Lodge, No. 214, in the fourth district, and Quinte Lodge, No. 241, Shannonville, in the thirteenth district, and the amalgamation of Nos. 82 and 366, Strathroy, in the second district, and Nos. 241 and 245, of Gananoque and Pittsburg, in the fourteenth district, are given as cases in point where the removal or union of weak lodges has been accomplished with positive benefit to the craft, while affording a lesson that the brethren generally can appreciate. There are hopeful signs of progress in the fact that the quality of the work and carefulness in selecting membership in three-fourths of the lodges has improved, as well as in the improvement of meeting places of the craft, as at Barrie, Collingwood, Napanee and Oshawa, where handsome temples have recently been erected.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

The grand master reported that he had granted a dispensation to a lodge in Port Elgin, a village in which the lodge charter was surrendered a few years ago. A dispensation for a new lodge in Port Perry to replace the lodge which surrendered its charter as last Grand Lodge meeting has also been granted, and a warrant for a new lodge in East Toronto has also been issued. The grand master reported that he had refused to grant dispensations for lodges at Gore Bay, Dundalk and to Ridout Lodge at Orangeville because it would not be in the interests of the craft to accede to the requests.

WEARING OF MASONIC CLOTHING.

The grand master points out that clothing worn by the craft is symbolical of the highest type of manhood, and strongly protests against the cheapening of the craft's reputation through linking enterprises which savor of masquerade. As was done at a gathering in the eastern part of the Province recently. On this point the grand master says: "It is my deliberate opinion—this, too, indorsed by the voice of the thinking men in the craft—that the use of Masonic clothing at other than authorized ceremonials, such as services over the dead, the laying of corner stones or ceremonies directly under the supervision of Grand Lodge, is detrimental to the morale of the order and repellant to all who regard the craft as a glorious companionship that shall encircle the entire of humanity." While the grand master strongly indorses social reunions, to which "those who make our homes a little heaven" may be invited, "yet there is no more reason why at a ball or concert, at a picnic or a steamboat excursion, the craft clothing should be worn than that a man should carry a thermometer around his neck to grade his earnestness in our work or as evidence of the number of degrees he has, through merit and ability, received during his Masonic career."

WHO SHOULD HAVE CRAFT BURIAL.

The grand master cautions the brethren only to grant Masonic burial to members of the craft who have lived exemplary lives. By no action of theirs should the craft sanction vice or attempt "to use the broad mantle of a Mason's charity, with its ample selvage, as a cover for the sins of a life that can best be crowned with forgetfulness."

CHEAPENING OF CEREMONIES.

An evident impression prevails with many that the laying of corner-stones is an art which the grand master should exercise at call; but Grand Master Robertson ably points out the fallacy of this belief, and protests against the Grand Lodge being summoned to act as an annex to church or other bodies, and in some cases being muleted for a portion of the expense. Such a purpose, appropriate, "when taken part in by the craft, cheapens an impressive ceremony, lowers the dignity of the craft, and drags it in as the side-show to capture the little spare cash the spectators have left, before they have even time to recuperate from the exhausting results of their regular contribution."

THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE CRAFT.

"One hundred years ago," continued the grand master, "the first Craft Provincial Grand Lodge met at Niagara. It was known as the provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, and was warranted by the Ancient or Athol Grand Lodge of England on the 7th March, 1792, with R. W. Bro. Wm. Jarvis as Provincial grand master. Acting on the recommendation of Grand Lodge at its last annual communication, I have appointed a committee to arrange the details of the celebration, so that the occasion may be appropriately observed. This committee will report to Grand Lodge at this communication."

GENERAL MASONIC RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

The grand master warmly commends the work of this organization, formed seven years ago, and operating throughout the United States and Canada. The association has been instrumental in saving hundreds of thousands of dollars to the craft that in former years were paid out to tramps or impostors. It was found on investigation that at least $100,000 a year was so expended by the Masons of this continent. Every lodge and board of relief was requested to report cases of imposture after investigation and undoubted proof. Month after month the list lengthened. The hundreds crept into thousands, and still trampdom kept up its march, and to-day 1,200 tramps have been scheduled in the warning circulars of the association. Reports show marvelous effects and that wherever the local lodges affiliate, imposition disappears. A score of cases could be recalled—one as an example, where the tramp started in at Montreal, with a stolen certificate, was followed by the system of the association through eastern cities. Then [illegible] or near to Port Hope he found that he was being tracked. Fearful of detection in Toronto he made for Hamilton. He was identified by a railway official, a brother, who in an eastern lodge had heard of the case. Word was sent to Toronto, and lodges west on the southern division of the Grand Trunk railway were warned, and the fellow was caught and the stolen certificate taken from him at London. This tramp admitted having taken in over $60 in six weeks besides his board and railway transportation. He was not a Mason and had stolen the certificate from a fellow-boarder in Montreal. The Grand Lodge of Canada has cheerfully supported this association. A few weeks ago the Grand Lodge of New York, with its 800 lodges and 80,000 members, affiliated, and this year other leading jurisdictions are expected to join the ranks. The success so far has stimulated the association to greater efforts, and in order that the greatest good may be done to the greatest number, it has reduced the per capita tax one-half, from 1 cent to ½ cent, circulars being sent to each subordinate lodge as before. The results obtained by the work of this association are wonderful.

ARREARS AND PROXIES.

Subordinate lodges are requested to liquidate their indebtedness to Grand Lodge promptly and in a business way. The grand master considers that the system of granting proxies has been abused, and he argues that proxies should only be granted by lodges to a P. M. of their own lodge, and not to P. M.s of other lodges, who may or may not have solicited them.

SUSPENDED LODGES.

In the case of suspended lodges, the grand master suggests that the Grand Lodge should provide for a reasonable remission of dues on the part of members affiliating with other lodges. In many cases it is indifferent officers and not individual members who are responsible for arrears and other irregularities.

A FRATERNAL CONGRESS.

The grand master announces that a fraternal congress, at which delegates from all the lodges of the continent may be present, which he suggested should be convened, will be held in Chicago next year. The appointment of a delegate will be an honorary one, and as many of the brethren of this Grand Lodge will be in Chicago in 1893, the Grand Lodge can, without expense, send a number of delegates.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

The grand master warmly approves of holding lodges of instruction within the jurisdiction, being highly beneficial to officers and brethren. He suggests that three lodges of instruction be held in each district during the coming year. "Along this line the thought is suggested that, if, under careful supervision, permanent lodges of instruction were held, at stated periods, once a month from October to May, in each of, say, five centers, in London, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa, the best results would follow."

REPRESENTATIVES.

The relations of the Grand Lodge with foreign jurisdictions are reported to be highly satisfactory, and during the year various positions of the representatives have been filled (as reported in these columns).

CLANDESTINE MASONS.

My attention was called some months ago, says the grand master, to the fact that a person who had been made a Mason in a clandestine organization in this province was not only visiting but had affiliated and had been elected as an officer of a lodge in the sister garnd jurisdiction of New York. I directed the grand secretary to report the matter to the Grand Lodge of New York, and was gratified to learn within a week that the name of the person complained of had been stricken from the roll of the subordinate lodge in New York. The grand master of New York refers to the matter in his annual address. His prompt and emphatic action will add another link to the chain of friendship which binds together two great jurisdictions.

CONSTITUTIONS AND LAWS.

The grand master makes strong representations against the propriety of the committee on constitution and laws practically disposing, in advance, of proposed amendments to the constitution placed on agenda paper by brethren of the Grand Lodge. The grand master argues that the form of report adopted by the committee should not be continued, as it virtually assails freedom of speech.

IS GRAND LODGE A REPRESENTATIVE BODY.

The grand master makes an important argument in this connection. He gives statistics of the attendance at Grand Lodge since 1887 to last year, showing the number of masters, wardens and P. M.s present, together with the proxies. From this statement the grand master orders that Grand Lodge cannot be called a representative body, that the system has grown unwieldy and cumbersome, and that some day a change will have to be made. The system is shown in a worse light when it is pointed out that though the craft makes in every year an average of 230 masters, and these become P. M.s in the same ratio, and in large numbers attend Grand Lodge, the subordinate lodge registers show that comparatively few P. M.s attend their meetings. The grand master suggests, as a question worthy of consideration, whether the business of Grand Lodge might not be conducted with greater efficiency, if the lodges were represented by the masters and wardens, or by a P. M., being a member of the lodge concerned, as proxy in their absence. In American jurisdictions, 12 only out of 55 that I have personal knowledge of extend as we do the privileges of membership in the Grand Lodge to affiliated past masters. In the majority of cases those to whom the privilege is accorded are the grand officers for the time being, the past grand masters and W. M.s and wardens of subordinate lodges, or the lodge proxy—the latter, of course, a P. M. of the lodge. In a couple of instances, Kentucky and Virginia, the P. M.s collectively are given one vote, and in one case, West Virginia, past grand masters have to combine on a single vote. The grand master says that of course his proposal would not be made to affect the seats of those now entitled to seats in the Grand Lodge.

BENEVOLENCE.

The grand master pays a warm tribute to the worth of the late M. Wor. Bro. Otto Klotz, chairman of the board of benevolence, and passes on to [illegible] relief in advance [illegible] investigated by subordinate lodges. The Grand Lodge, he estimates, has paid from $12,000 to $15,000 a year in benevolence that would never have been expended if such a course had been adopted. There is, the grand master argues, many good reasons why members of the craft whose mothers are widows should sustain them without aid from the craft. As charity begins at home, too, so the rule that private lodges shall first show that they have aided a brother in distress before they apply to Grand Lodge should be rigidly adhered to. All legitimate claimants to charity should be considered, but indiscriminate liberality—prodigality, in fact—must be strongly condemned.

THE GRAND TREASURER.

A most worthy meed of praise is extended to the late R. Wor. Bro. Mitchell, grand treasurer, and the announcement is made that M. Wor. Bro. Hugh Murray had been appointed to the office till the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

LODGES REGULATED AND DEDICATED.

The lodge rooms at Sault Ste. Marie, Port Lambton, Amherstburg, Centerville, and Mattawa have been dedicated with craft ceremonial. Having to officiate on one of these occasions I realized, as one of my predecessors has remarked, the utter inadaptability of our ritual for the ceremony of dedicating a hall, and for the instituting and consecration of lodges. Our burial service is in some respects not in harmony with the principles taught in Masonic work, and should be revised. I would, therefore, suggest that as the committee on the work rendered such signal service last year the revisions suggested be considered at the earliest opportunity.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The financial statements show our receipts as being $20,359 77, our expenditure as $14,345 73. The decrease in expenditure last year is accounted for by the reduced number of beneficiaries. It is recommended by the grand treasurer that a further sum of $5,000 be invested in securities, and the grand master indorses this view.

THE D. D. G. M.'S REPORTS.

In reviewing the work of the D. D. G. M.s, the grand master more than hints that they would be able to do better work if they were elected from the grand east instead of by the lodges they are expected to criticise. In 20 out of 30 of the American jurisdictions where D. D. G. M.s are included in the list of officers, they are in every case, with one exception—that of Vermont—appointed by the grand master.

A WORK THAT APPEALS TO ALL.

The grand master, before closing his address, highly praises the charitable work done by the Hospital for Sick Children, of Toronto, a Provincial charity. He adds: "Ten years ago, the Lakeside Home for Little Children, a convalescent branch of the Hospital for Sick Children, was founded, the presentation being made to those in charge, on condition that the sick child of any member in any lodge on the roll of this jurisdiction should be forever free to this charity. The work began and prospered, and many of the lodges have shown their practical sympathy by contributing towards its support. My wish is to further indentify the craft rather than myself with the work, and if no objections be made I desire that the amount of $500 to the credit of the grand master for 1891, be handed to the trustees of the hospital as the first fruits of a fund I purpose increasing this year with the amount to the credit of the grand master for expenses, and a further sum of $4,000, for the maintenance of a ward, which may enlist the sympathy of some of the craftsmen who desired to assist in this charity. A natural diffidence inspires me when I refer to a line of work which is almost the day dream of my life—a fear that possibly some critic, if there be one in human kind—might attribute motives other than those which truly prompt me to this act. Impelled, however, by the thought that the 20,000 craftsmen of this jurisdiction, two-thirds of whom I have shaken by the hand, are prompted by that feeling which in days of sickness and sorrow makes all flesh kin, and with a desire to exemplify in my life, with its many failings, one of the great principles upon which the order is founded, conscious of my own sincerity, I ask that what I have uttered may be taken in the spirit in which it is offered."

THE POSITION OF GRAND MASTER.

In conclusion the grand master said: "My brethren, no man who ever occupied this position appreciates the honor more than I do. Circumstances and opportunity seem to have so combined that I have had a welcome—a most generous one—in every craft home in this jurisdiction. For two years I have had your confidence, and if, perchance, in the management of the work, I have not had all my ideals realized, my endeavor has been to guide my brethren to the spirit that should actuate all whom you honour with the highest gift in your power to confer. The position of the grand master of the craft of Masons in any jurisdiction is one regarded as most honorable. While in his ordinary course of business and political life he ambitions of our worldly peers can be readily satisfied, it is given to but few to rule in the grand east, and there is no position which commands a greater respect from the world at large than that of grand master of the great Masonic fraternity. The custom of a two years' term has prevailed for many years in this jurisdiction. The principle is one which commends itself to me.

"The truth is, my brethren, that the powers of a grand master are so circumscribed, that I do not see how I could add one ounce to the weight of service which I have tried to render you. The tireless energy that sees and tries to correct abuses may be good to the craft at large, but it is not a quality which smooths the journey of a grand master. Written on my heart is the memory of the enthusiastic welcome, the earnest appreciation and the sincere attention, which have greeted me every where I have met with the rank and file of the craft face to face. My best purposes have been strengthened by these tokens of care for the truest interests of Masonry. I am satisfied that the voice of the craft will never withold the word of earnest praise from the man of action who works in the grand east. His ideas of duty may collide with their views of privilege or right, but finally they will accord him a place which could be won by no gilded idler. As I stand here my head and heart glow with the remembrance of the many acts of kindness that have crowned me, two years. The little annoyances, the worrying criticism, fade in the distance, and I recall only the generous appreciation which has been the rule—not the exception—in my career. It is in this spirit that I definitely and decidedly take leave of you as your grand master."

GRAND LODGE GOSSIP.

Very Wor. Parker Thomas, of Bowmanville, is ill and will not be able to attend. If no one takes up his many motions the business will be very much curtailed.

The Grand Chapter meets on Friday at 10 a.m.

Not for years has there been so much excitement over the election of officers of Grand Lodge.

There are now three aspirants for the office of D. D. G. M. of the London district.

The mayor and a delegation of aldermen will present an address of welcome to the grand master and Grand Lodge, and the brethren of the city lodges will follow suit on behalf of the craft. Both of the addresses have been handsomely engrossed.

The city brethren have decorated the platform of the Grand Opera House with evergreen plants. Through the kindness Right Wor. Bro. W. J. Reid a number of handsome pieces of statuary add to the artistic appearance of the surroundings.

Wor. Bro. S. H. Kent, of Acacia Lodge, No. 41, brings his good wife with him. He is the assistant city clerk of Hamilton, and will pay his respects to the department here before he departs.

At least one bride has come from the East with a Grand Lodge representative. She is pretty, and has quarters at the Tecumseh.

The city reception committee held its final meeting last night. The various committees reported everything in good shape.

Representatives who register early will save themselves a deal of trouble. They cannot get into the Grand Lodge until they register.

The Queen Leaves Windsor.

LONDON, July 19.—Amid a pouring rain the Queen left Windsor Castle for Osborne House, Isle of Wight, to-day. She was met at Gosport by her grandson, the Duke of York, and by Admiral Earl Clanwilliam. While crossing the Solent the cruiser Melampus, which is under the command of the Duke of York, was specially pointed out to her Majesty. The Melampus was dressed rainbow fashion in honor of the Queen.

Terrific Cyclone in Italy.

ROME, July 19.—The Province of Ravigno, in the northern part of Italy, was swept by a terrific cyclone to-day. An enormous amount of property was destroyed by the storm, and it is believed many lives were lost. The village of Paiesella, situated on the left bank of the River Po, seven miles south of the town of Ravigno, and containing nearly 4,000 inhabitants, was almost completely wiped out of existence. Many of the villagers were buried in the ruins of their homes.

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xxv

Talmage in Russia.

Special Honors Showered on the Noted Preacher.

Fifteen Mexican Prisoners Killed by Lightning.

Twelve Men and Women Shot Dead by Austrian Police.

The Ameer of Afghanistan Tells Lansdowne to Mind His Own Business.

Disastrous Results of a Cyclone in Italy—A Village Wiped Out—Yellow Fever in Vera Cruz—Continued Spread of the Cholera Plague.

The Norwegian Cabinet Crisis.

CHRISTIANIA, July 19.—King Oscar has summoned Mr. Stang, the leader of the Unionist Right, to form a Cabinet in Norway in place of the one which resigned on June 29 last.

Barbaric Outrages in Africa.

LONDON, July 19.—A special from Tangier says refugees who have arrived there report that the troops have looted houses in the villages and outraged women. In many cases they chopped off women's hands to obtain the ring and bracelets they wore.

Men and Women Shot Like Dogs.

PESTH, July 19.—A band of 150 reapers, men and women employed at Debar, Hungary, struck to-day for an increase in their wages. In a riot, which ensued, the gendarmes fired on the mob. Twelve men and women were killed and many were wounded before the mob was driven from the place.

Fifteen Prisoners Killed by Lightning.

CITY OF MEXICO, July 19.—The warden of the State prison at Beaucteous reports that seven of the prisoners who were serving life sentences for robbery were instantly killed by an electric discharge during a thunder storm, and ten more were made insensible, five of that number having since died from their injuries.

Yellow Fever in Vera Cruz.

CITY OF MEXICO, July 19.—The yellow fever scourge continues unabated at Vera Cruz and the rate of mortality is alarmingly large. Hundreds of people are leaving the city. In the foreign colony there have been many deaths. Every precaution is being used to prevent the fever from spreading.

Ætna's Agitation.

CATANIA, July 19.—The terror of the people living in the vicinity of Monas Ætna is increasing in consequence of the renewed violence of the eruptions from the different craters of the volcano and the prolonged subterranean rumblings, which are becoming more and more frequent.

The houses of Nicolosi were shaken to-night, many windows being shattered.

The Ameer on His "Dig."

LONDON, July 19.—The Chronicle's Calcutta correspondent says: It is reported many Afghan tribes refuse to support the Ameer, owing to his exactions and supposed intrigues with Russia. It is stated that if the Ameer's troops are defeated another revolt is certain. The Ameer in reply to a letter from Lord Lansdowne, with reference to the suppression of the rebellion, says: "I refuse to accept the dictation of the Governments of India as I am engaged in quelling a rebellion in my own country. I am an independent prince and use such means as I please, and will brook no interference."

The Plague-Stricken East.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 19.—It is semi-officially stated that the plague has broken out in the Province of Koharassan, Persia. The Novosti argues the necessity for an international agreement to stamp out the disease and to save Europe from contagion.

Riots have occurred in the village of Pokrovskaia, near Saratoff, Russia, a hospital being destroyed and a surgeon killed. A hospital at Kasaplinsk was also destroyed and another doctor killed.

Cholera has appeared on the Polish districts on the Austrian frontier, and several deaths from the disease have occurred among the Russian troops stationed there.

Talmage in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 19.—Dr. Talmage and party were tendered an official reception at the City Hall to-day. The mayor presided and made an address of welcome, after which he presented them with an address beautifully bound in solid silver, illuminated and bearing a vignette by the celebrated Russian aquarelle artist, Lydkin, representing a view at the Winter Palace and the Neva quay. On the volume was the inscription: "To the Christian Herald, represented by Dr. Talmage, its editor, and Dr. Klopsch, its proprietor, by the city of St. Petersburg, 1892." The mayor, the American visitors, Count Bobrinski and others made speeches in turn, and these were followed by an elaborate lunch. The party left for this evening.

Mr. J. W. H. Wilson, grand master of the Manitoba Masonic Grand Lodge, died at Winnipeg Tuesday.