

WYOMING.

17th Communication, Rawlins, December 1st, 1891.

Emile A. Abry, G.M.

On the state of the Craft, he says :—

"It affords me much pleasure to be able to report to you that all our subordinate lodges are, generally speaking, in a prosperous condition, financially and otherwise, and much good work has been done, and, although our ranks have not, owing largely to the stringency of the times, been augmented to the extent we might have looked or hoped for, yet we have gained some strength (quite an increase as compared with last year), as regards numbers and the quality of the material. I might also be permitted to add that renewed interest and earnestness seems to be perceptible in our lodges."

The Grand Master decided that a lodge could not admit a person hailing from the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, as it would be in opposition to one of their standing regulations, forbidding intercourse with that body.

He authorized a new lodge at Newcastle.

Six delegates were appointed to represent the Grand Lodge of Wyoming at the Fraternal Congress, to be held at Chicago in 1893.

The following resolution was adopted :—

"Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master appoint a committee of five whose duty shall be to recommend to the next Grand Lodge Communication an 'Official Work' to be adopted as the 'Official Work' of this Grand Jurisdiction, and should any member, or members, of said committee on being notified of his or their appointment show good cause why he or they could not attend the meetings, the remaining member or members of said committee shall have power to fill the vacancy or vacancies caused by failure to attend said meetings, and it is hereby ordered that the Grand Treasurer pay the actual travelling expenses of said committee in one hundred dollars."

The Grand Secretary has a very fraternal review of our proceedings for 1891. His Report on Correspondence is fully up to his usual high standard. His concluding remarks are well worthy of preservation :—

"No member of the Guild is, or can be, firmer in his stand in favor of the recognized fundamental laws and essentials absolutely necessary for the future prosperity and, as we believe, the perpetuity of Masonry, than this writer. Uniformity already exists in regard to all such. We insist that a nearer approach to uniformity in laws and customs could be obtained were it not for absurd claims advanced in regard to landmarks which are stumbling blocks in the way of investigation. It is now generally admitted that the old landmarks are not landmarks, for the reason that they are not unalterable and draughtable. This being the case, it does seem if the same time that is expended here and there in defense of absurd claims under that name, was devoted to advocating and securing a change in laws and customs, such as would create uniformity in nearly everything, it would be better for our institution in every way. For instance, we will mention a few regulations that could, in our opinion, be adopted unanimously to the great advantage of every Jurisdiction: 1. Resignation of officers. 2. Allowing them to limit. 3. Allowing Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts to limit. 4. Allowing them to affiliate. 5. Grant of more power to Lodges, U.D. 6. Uniform legislation in regard to non-affiliation and non-affiliates. 7. That a Past Master may open and close a Lodge in the absence of the three principal officers—and others of the same character. We are aware that under our system of States rights it is hard work to accomplish anything, and expect to be met with the nonsensical cry of innovation and departure from the laws of the fathers, etc. The latter does not, and will not, deter this writer at least until an argument backed by common sense is advanced, showing that such laws would be of disadvantage to any Brother, Lodge, Grand Lodge, principles of Masonry and to the institution itself. Brethren, don't try to ring in landmarks on this, for they have nothing whatever to do with either, and you will get left in attempting to tamper with the citation of such."

We may remark, incidentally, that in our jurisdiction officers are allowed to resign and demit, and entered apprentices and fellow-crafts are allowed to affiliate.

Lodges, 13; members, 708; increase, 58.

Perry L. Smith (Rawlins), G.M.

William L. Kuykendall (Saratoga), G.S.