

OTTAWA NOTES.

The Ottawa district recognized the services of R. W. Bro. Taylor, as D. D. G. M., by re-electing him. His opponent was W. Bro. Baird, of Renfrew. It will be the turn of an outsider next year, the usual custom being two years for the city and one for the country.

Ottawa lost two faithful Craftsmen last month in Bro. Peter Christie, up to the time of his death the only surviving charter member of Dalhousie Lodge, No. 52, and W. Bro. E. P. Remon, Past Master of Civil Service Lodge, No. 148.

Builders' Lodge, No. 177, made nearly \$150 by their excursion to Toronto and Niagara Falls on the occasion of the meeting of Grand Lodge.

The capital did not secure much in the way of Grand Lodge honors at the recent meeting in Toronto. However, it is some satisfaction to the local brethren to find an old Ottawa boy, R. W. Bro. J. A. Wills, securing the position of G. S. W.

Eastern Ontario will never secure the election of a member on the Board of General Purposes with more than one candidate in the field. The mistake was again made this year of running two candidates, with the result that both got left. However, R. W. Bro. Jno. Walsh was "righted" by his subsequent appointment to the Board by G. M. Walkem. It was a source of regret to many that R. W. Bro. Rea did not allow his name to remain on the ballot paper. Being an old Toronto boy, and a diligent attendant at Grand Lodge for many years, it was thought his chances of election would have been very good.

PROCEEDINGS WANTED.

W. Bro. David R. McCord, 162 St. James Street, Montreal, wants the following proceedings to complete his sets:—

Priority.—Previous to 1872.

Grand Chapter, Canada.—Any preliminary proceedings, and 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, being, I think, 1858, '59, '61, '62; and 1865, '70, '77, '82.

Grand Lodge, Canada.—Any preliminary proceedings; those previous to 1860 (5th Communication); those of 1865; and any appendices other than those of 1876, '77, '78.

A. A. R.—Any preliminary proceedings; those up to 1874, and for 1885.

DIDN'T KNOW HIRAM.

A doctor who moved from Canada to a town in Michigan where Masonry was very popular said to some of the members that he was a Mason, but never visited the Lodges. They expressed doubts as to his being a Mason.

One day an Irishman who was not a member of the Prohibition party met this doctor in a hotel where they were taking a social drink. Says he, "Doctor, they tell me you came from the same town I did in Canada; how long did you live there?"

"All my life."

"Was well acquainted, I suppose?"

"Yes; knew everybody."

"Did you know one Hiram Abiff?"

"Hiram Abiff! Hiram Abiff. I knew lots of Abiffs, but I have no recollection of ever meeting Hiram."

The ceremonies in the symbolic degrees are always witnessed with interest if they are conducted with the ability and decorum which is in harmony with the dignity of our ancient and honorable fraternity. Nothing so mars our ceremonial as buffoonery and illiteracy, they are born of ignorance and are inseparable in their inspiration. The best officers we have seen are those who are intelligent and act themselves, and never try to ape another. Nothing so distresses a sensitive member who knows what "good work" is, as to hear an officer roar and rant, and display his illiteracy, a thing that should never occur in a Masonic body. A pompous, ignorant man is a very poor piece of material out of which to make an officer. Our brethren should respect intelligent novitiates, if they fail to do so to well-read members.—*Masonic Journal.*

The altar is an indispensable portion of the furniture of a Masonic Lodge. On it lies, ever open in the Lodge, the volume of the Sacred Law, and the square and compasses. As a general rule it should be about three feet high and of similar proportions as to length and breadth. But the situation varies a little in the different rites. But usually it is in the East, in front of the Master's chair. It is a mistake to call the altar the pedestal, which is purely the Master's desk, and such a confounding of two distinct things is a remnant of the slovenly working of the early part of this century.—*Kenning.*