

me that this Grand Lodge should hesitate in future to grant aid to lodges which have suffered a loss that might have been so covered.

R. W. Brother McMinn having resigned the office of D. D. G. M. of the Montreal District, I had much pleasure in appointing R. W. Bro. Frank Edgar, the senior P. D. D. G. M. in the District, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year.

My experience of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge leads me to say that I think it could be, with very much profit, carefully revised. I think that more definite provisions should be made for the trial and punishment of masonic offences; that the authority of District Deputy Grand Masters should be more carefully set forth; that provision should be made as to the procedure to be followed by Lodges desiring to amalgamate; that the Board of General Purposes should be reduced in number, and the meetings held annually instead of semi-annually. I make this last suggestion because I am convinced, from experience I have had in connection with the Board, that the work done is altogether disproportionate to the expense incurred, and that the questions which usually come up at the semi-annual meetings could quite as well be decided by a small Committee, without any expense being incurred.

The Grand Lodges of Cuba, Colon, New South Wales and Indian Territory have applied for recognition. I cannot recommend that any action be taken at the present time as regards the two first named. About twenty Grand Lodges have recognized Cuba, about seven have refused recognition, and about twenty-three have postponed action. The question involved in the contest between these two bodies have been a fruitful source of controversy between leading Masonic Jurists. I advise that the matter be referred to our Committee on Jurisprudence for careful examination and report. I make the same suggestion as regards New South Wales, but I see no reason why the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory should not be recognized.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the difficulties which existed between our brethren both in the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba have been adjusted; would that I could report a similar result as regard our own difficulties, but unhappily I cannot do so. In accordance with the resolution passed by this Grand Lodge at its last communication, requesting and authorizing me, either by personal interview, or by the appointment of a delegate to the Grand Lodge of England, to endeavor to secure a speedy and amicable solution of all pending difficulties between us, I appointed as such delegate M. W. Bro. J. H. Graham, P. G. M., of this Grand Lodge, whose perfect familiarity with our history and with the jurisprudence of masonry on the subject pointed him out as the fittest person I could appoint, and I am sure you will agree with me that no more able representative could have been chosen. M. W. Bro. Graham kindly accepted the position, and requested that if possible R. W. Brother Isaacson should be associated with him, intimating that they would be willing between them to save any extra expense which might be incurred by having two delegates sent instead of one. I consulted the Board at its semi-annual meeting and with their approval I nominated both Brothers Graham and Isaacson as our delegation under that resolution, and the Board were kind enough to vote a sum of money towards the expenses of the delegates should they proceed to carry out the object of their appointment, but circumstances have occurred which have made it impossible for the brethren named to proceed together to England, and consequently nothing has as yet been done.

The invasion of our territory by the Grand Lodge of Scotland has been condemned by almost every Grand Lodge on this Continent which has considered our question, and some have gone so far as to cut off all communication with her, but as yet she has made no sign of abandoning her position.

Only two courses seem open to us: one is to wait another year to see if she