

mind. The sand, however, was carefully scattered with kindly hands, who then subjected it to the caresses of a garden roller, which was propelled by several brethren. The propelling business produced blisters on the hands of the brethren, which in turn produced such burning and fiery eloquence that the sand reached the needed temperature. The brethren retired with parched throats, and as the next day was a holiday, the anniversary of the birth of our gracious Queen, they took a rest—between drinks.

Grand Master Walkem has gone on a flying visit to England, to attend the meeting of the Grand Lodge with a view of settling the difficulty between the Grand Lodges of England and Quebec. I am sure, I give expression to the general feeling of the craftsmen in Canada when I say that I hope his mission will be a successful one, and that harmony will soon be restored between the grand jurisdictions that are now at variance.

THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

No officer of the lodge, not even excepting the Worshipful Master, fills such an important position as the Secretary. He is responsible to a large extent for the success of his lodge financially, and to the lodge he bears the same relation that a boiler does to an engine. He has to see that the sinews of war are furnished so that the energy is forthcoming to carry on the work successfully. A poor secretary is of greater injury to a lodge than a poor master. He can let the dues fall behind and let his lodge drift into debt, as so many do. He can neglect promptly sending notices of meetings, and by failing to fill out the notice forms properly, he may work incalculable harm not only to his lodge but to the Craft. For this reason the very best man should be selected for

the office, and he should accept office through pure love of the Craft, and not through a desire for further advancement. There should be no promotions from the secretary's chair. This would keep many unworthy but ambitious men out of this very important office and keep it in proper hands.

We believe that as the office is of such responsibility, and as the secretary is required to do a great deal more clerical work imposing considerable upon his time, he should be paid a fair remuneration for his services. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," is a Masonic as well as a Scripture maxim. If he is paid he will at once recognize that he owes not only a moral but a legal obligation to his lodge. After everything is said and done, business is business, even in the lodge room, and there is no reason why a lodge should impose upon a brother, work that it otherwise would have to pay for. Because a brother happens to be a grocer the lodge does not expect or order him to bring a few gallons of oysters to the refreshment table on lodge nights without sending in his bill. Because a brother may be a bloated gas manufacturer he is not asked to furnish the lodge with gas for nothing. And why should a brother because he happens to be a good accountant, as every secretary should be, be asked to do work upon which the business world placed a monetary value just the same as it does on oysters, gas and beer. There is, therefore, every just reason why the lodge should pay a secretary, and if the secretaries were paid more than their demitted dues, better work could be demanded.

In many cities in the United States where there are a number of lodges Secretaries' Associations are being formed. The idea is that the secretaries shall meet and help each other. An association of this kind should be formed in this city, and perhaps at no very distant day these associations might devise some means for solving that grave problem—non-affiliation.