

GRAND LODGE A. F. & A. M. OF NOVA SCOTIA.

CONDENSED REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA, COMMENCING ON FRIDAY, 24TH DAY OF JUNE, AND CONTINUED ON THE 25TH, 28TH AND 30TH, A.D. 1870, A.L. 5870.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form. The Grand Master, the Hon. Alexander Keith, M. L. C., presiding.

The usual reading of minutes and other forms were completed with, and the M. W. Grand Master delivered the following interesting address :

BRETHREN—It affords me sincere pleasure to meet you on the recurrence of this time-honoured festival of our order, fixed by the Constitution for our Annual Grand Communication, and I beg to congratulate you on the harmony which has prevailed among the Craft in Nova Scotia since the union was so happily consummated a year ago. The events of the past Masonic year have tended to strengthen and consolidate our Grand Lodge, and to place it, financially and otherwise, upon a firm basis. Not the least of these was the cordial, prompt and fraternal recognition of our united Grand Body by the Grand Lodge of England, who, by an unanimous vote at their first communication in September, extended to us an expression of their fraternal sympathy and regard. We have also been recognized by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It now becomes my duty to lay before you my official acts for the past year, and in doing so I shall be as brief as possible, knowing that a large amount of important business must be transacted before this communication can be brought to a close.

The Grand Lodge has granted charters to the following Lodges, viz.: Hiram Lodge, Goldenville, as No. 53; King Solomon's Lodge, Digby, as No. 54; Morier Lodge, Cow Bay, C. B., as No. 55. I caused the same to be issued, and such Lodges to be constituted in due and ancient form, by brethren to whom my proxies were given for that purpose. I also, with the sanction of the Grand Lodge, issued a dispensation for the establishment of a new lodge at Port Mulgrome, to be called Temple Lodge. The brethren have since made application for a charter, and the same has been placed in the hands of the proper committee :

I regret very much that I have been unable, personally, to visit the subordinate lodges since the revised constitution came into operation, which requires their visitation at least once every year. It is my intention, however, if permitted by the Supreme Grand Master, to comply with that section of the constitution before the first day of December next, in order that each lodge may be subjected to the supervision and inspection thereby contemplated, and which cannot fail to prove beneficial to the lodges visited. Some difficulty having arisen touching the election of the Master of Welsford lodge No. 26, I specially appointed M. W. Stephen R. Sircom, Past Grand Master, to proceed to Windsor for the purpose of having the same obviated, which he did; and everything was satisfactorily arranged, as will be seen from his report of the proceedings, which will be laid before you; and I hereby tender him my thanks for the prompt manner in which he met my wishes on the occasion in question. In consequence of some of the masters-elect not being qualified to be installed under section 6, chapter 14, of the revised constitution, I deemed it necessary in some instances to depute Past Masters to proceed to the country for the purpose of having that section duly carried out. I accordingly duly commissioned Past Masters William Taylor and David Pottenger, of Burns' Lodge No. 10, to install the Master-elect of Truro Lodge No. 43; and P. M. Allen H. Crome, of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1, to install the Master-elect of Cobequid Lodge No. 37, which duties they respectively performed in a very satisfactory manner, and reported their proceedings to me. The committee on finance and audit having been added to, by request of Grand Lodge, have been engaged for the last four or five months in investigating the state of the Grand Lodge funds, and the source from whence derived, with a view to bringing financial matters to a satisfactory and equitable adjustment, the result of their labors will be laid before you, and I have no doubt that in this very important and vital particular they will be found to have given every attention to the subject entrusted to them. There are several other committees who have been charged with matters of the utmost moment and importance, whose reports you are doubtless anxious to hear. I therefore bring this brief address to a close, in order that the necessary business of the Grand Lodge may at once be proceeded with; and I sincerely