

the Bedford District. No one who like myself has attended the meetings of Grand Lodge since its formation, or of the Board of General Purposes, or the several Committees of Conference, can ever forget the unwearied interest, the straightforward line of conduct, and the ability manifested by this brother. His unremitting exertions to promote and extend the interest and welfare of the Grand Lodge of Quebec should receive our warmest acknowledgements of gratitude, and Grand Lodge cannot but offer to his young widow the assurance of its deep sympathy and condolence in the severe loss which she has sustained. The obituary of the year includes among other less prominent brethren, Vicomte de Ponte Ferreira, Past Grand Master of Hungary, a very faithful member of the Craft under trying circumstances.

In April last a letter was received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, informing us that at its Quarterly Communication of the 3rd March, on the recommendation of the M. W. Grand Master, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"The M. W. Grand Master has received official information from the Honorable Sir John Macdonald, K. C. B., the representative of this Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Canada, that the difficulties subsisting between the latter and the newly formed Lodge of Quebec, have been happily adjusted, and the Grand Lodge of Quebec recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada. The M. W. Grand Master, therefore, having in view the various applications from the Grand Lodge of Quebec for recognition and interchange of representatives, which could not be entertained until the above mentioned difficulties were settled, now recommends Grand Lodge to accede to the wishes of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, on the same conditions as were agreed to by the Grand Lodge of Canada, viz., that the Grand Lodge of England agrees not to grant any new warrants within the Province of Quebec, but that the three lodges still working under English warrants within that Province shall continue to do so as long as they desire to retain their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England.

"*Resolved*,—That the recommendation of the M. W. Grand Master be adopted and the Grand Lodge of Quebec acknowledged on the conditions referred to, and that the Grand Secretary be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Grand Lodge of Quebec."

I commend this communication and other correspondence on the subject to your careful consideration. I shall be sorry if any rigid or uncompromising ideas as to exclusive jurisdiction in this Province (as to which I am and always have been fully alive) delay the laying of the cap-stone of Masonic recognition. Twenty years ago, when the Grand Lodge of Canada was formally recognized by the Grand Lodge of England, similar terms were proposed and accepted, and have since been submitted to. I am in favor of leaving it to time, rather than to immediate coercion, to bring into our ranks the few lodges in this Province now working under other jurisdictions. Let the advantage of belonging to the Grand Lodge of the country of one's adoption or birth—duly recognized as such by all other Masonic bodies—be made apparent, and I have no doubt how properly constituted minds will choose.

The proceedings of the organization of Grand Lodges for Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, as Provinces of the Dominion, will be submitted to you, and, if found in accordance with the ancient usages and landmarks of the Order, these bodies are entitled to recognition as regularly constituted Grand Lodges.

The only dispensation which I have granted for opening a new lodge is that for St. John's Lodge, Montreal, the petition for which was strongly recommended. From the standing in the Craft of those engaged in its formation, I am sure the work has been carried on in such manner as will enable Grand Lodge to issue a warrant of confirmation.

The sub-division of Masonic districts is worthy your consideration. It seems to me that some districts, such as Montreal, which now includes lodges in Hull, Aylmer and Shawville, on the border of Ontario, and in Huntington and Ormstown near the frontier, might well be re-arranged so as to render it less difficult for the District Deputy Grand Master to visit the lodges in his district.

The desirability of an amalgamation of the duplicate lodges at present existing has often presented itself to my mind, and I hope all brethren interested will concur with me in regarding this as the shortest and most certain way of putting an end to conflicting claims for property, now being made or held in abeyance.

The attendance of the Grand Secretary and myself at the dedication ceremonies at New York, and the more recent dedication of the new temple at Albany, and the laying the foundation stone of a new Masonic Hall at Halifax, Nova Scotia, impress me with the conviction that the time has arrived when I should urge the erection of a Masonic Temple in Montreal. The necessity of a lasting home for the Grand Lodge is apparent, and I am confident it requires only to be brought prominently under your notice to secure the requisite funds to purchase the building lot (for which I am told that the times are favorable) and to start the project.