

dues in arrears. They have taken a novel and certainly ingenious method of dealing with brethren who persistently refuse to pay. They have added to the book of their constitution a clause to the effect that should a member be three years in arrears he shall thereupon cease to be a member of the lodge, and can only become a member again on regular proposition and ballot of lodge, which may even then require a payment of arrears as a condition precedent to election.

Bro. John Strachan, Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge of England in bringing the motion before the Grand Lodge, said that every W.M. and officer of lodges must have felt that something of the kind suggested was required.

It will be observed that the clause is automatic. Instead of the officer being put to the trouble and annoyance of having to give notice year after year as is the usual form, the brother, by virtue of his being three years in arrears, thereupon ceases to be a member of the lodge.

The matter was discussed in Grand Lodge, and after discussion it was decided to make it three years instead of four, as in the original amendment. So the matter stands. It was passed awaiting its confirmation at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge in June.

There seems to be no doubt that the move is one in the right direction, and if something similar were enacted in Canada, it would lead to a visible reduction in the amounts charged up annually as arrears of dues. It would be an interesting investigation if one could ascertain the number of members who have been suspended

during the past forty years and who have paid their dues and have been reinstated. The approximate calculation is that the number would not reach thirty per cent. One or two secretaries who have been interviewed state that while the number of those who are in arrears of dues at the end of the year, and who pay up within the three or four months following the end of the year would amount to thirty per cent, those actually suspended for non payment of dues and reported to Grand Lodge and who would remove their arrears by paying up, would not exceed fifteen, perhaps twenty per cent.

The Grand Registrar of England, Bro. Strachan, is a brother who takes a great deal of interest in the procedure of Grand Lodge, and is very conservative in his views. His move in the direction of dealing with those in arrears is not only a radical move, but so good a move that it would be well worthy of imitation by Grand Lodges on this side of the Atlantic.

SALISBURY, N.B.

M. W. Gr. Master Arthur T. Trueman of St. John, accompanied by Grand Wardens J. W. Carter and Geo. Coggin, Grand Chaplain V. W. Rev. Scovil Neales, V. W. Grand Secretary J. Twining Hartt, W. Org. P. King, M.P.P., Grand D. of Ceremonies W. Bros. Edwards, Hartt, Kirk and Dr. Preston, visited Petitcodiac on Tuesday, May 13th, and consecrated Steven Lodge, No. 37. After the consecration the following officers were invested and installed :

F. Percy Webster, W.M. ; W. S. King, S.W. ; S. C. Alward, J.W. ; Rev. Jas. Pascoe, Chaplain ; E. P. Eastman,