

THE NOVA SCOTIA DIFFICULTY.

WE feel sure that masons everywhere will rejoice with us that the troubles which have for so long a time distracted our brethren of Nova Scotia, are in a fair way of settlement. A little concession on both sides, a little exhibition of a true masonic spirit, combined with the well-known masonic zeal and interest which animates our brethren of every part of the Dominion,—and the thing is as good as done.

Through the Courtesy of W. Bro. Jas. K. Munnis, Master of Keith Lodge, Halifax, we are enabled thus early to lay before our readers the following preliminary measures which doubtless pave the way for a speedy adjustment of their troubles.

In a private letter Bro. Munnis assures us that there is no doubt but that the measures will be perfected in June next. We wish them God speed in their laudable undertaking.

The following circular was sent to all Masters of Lodges within the Province, and fully explains itself:—

HALIFAX, N. S., 23th Jan., A. L. 5869.

Worshipful Sir and Brother,—

At a meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, held at Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 18th instant, the following resolution, moved by Bro. P. M., Robt. D. Clark, was passed:—

Whereas, since the passage of the resolution of the 4th September, under which this District Grand Lodge has been convened, several propositions have been submitted to the R. W. the District Grand Master, by the body styling themselves the "Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia," having for their object the amicable adjustment of the differences which have heretofore existed between that body and this District Grand Lodge.

And Whereas, in the opinion of this District Grand Lodge, the settlement of the subsisting differences and misunderstanding between the several Masonic bodies in the province, and the union of the whole in one Grand Lodge, would greatly promote the best interests of the craft, and would tend to strengthen those fraternal ties so essential to the prosperity of the order.

And Whereas, the propositions so submitted appear to be conceived in a spirit of brotherly regard, and with a sincere desire for the success of the proposed union of the Masons in Nova Scotia under one supreme jurisdiction.

Therefore, Resolved, that this District Grand Lodge cordially reciprocate the anxious desire expressed in the said propositions for a sincere and fraternal union of all worthy Masonic brethren in the province into one body, governed by one supreme jurisdiction; and they desire to promote such union in every way consistent with the honor and interests of this Grand Lodge, and of the several subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction.

And Whereas, this meeting was called for the sole purpose of considering the propriety of forming an independent Grand Lodge; and no opportunity has been afforded to the Lodges of passing upon the propositions hereinbefore referred to, and it would be inexpedient to enter into negotiations on the subject until such opportunity has been afforded.

Therefore, Resolved, that a committee be now appointed to meet a committee from the said Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, for the purpose of settling and agreeing, if possible, on articles of union consistent with the rights, interests, and honor of both bodies; and that such articles, when agreed upon, shall be submitted to the subordinate Lodges, who are requested to report their views thereon to this District Grand Lodge, and that this District Grand Lodge do now adjourn until the first Friday in March next, then to meet to consider and pass upon the articles of union as submitted by the said committee.

Whereupon the following brethren were appointed for the purpose of carrying into effect the terms of the above resolution:—

A. H. CROWE, P. M., St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 118.
R. D. CLARK, P. M., St. John's Lodge, No. 161.
BENJ. CURREN, D. C. L., P. M., Virgin Lodge, No. 396.
DAVID D. TAPPER, W. M., Scotia Lodge, No. 961.
JAMES HUDSON, P. M., Keith Lodge, No. 870.
DAVID H. CLARKE, W. M., Welsford Lodge, No. 924.
ALEX. MCKAY, P. M., Cobequid Lodge, No. 1190.

Agreeably to appointment, the above committee met at Masonic Hall on Thursday evening, the 21st instant. Present: P. M., Robt. D. Clark; P. M. Benj. Curren, D. C. L.; P. M., James Hudson; W. M., D. H. Clarke; P. M., A. H. Crowe; P. M., P. S. Archibald (who was appointed by Cobequid Lodge in place of Bro McKay, prevented from attending through illness).

Bro. P. M., Robt. D. Clarke was appointed Chairman, and Bro. P. M., A. H. Crowe, Secretary.

The Secretary read the propositions hereinbefore referred to, comprising in all ten clauses, of which the following is a copy:—

ARTICLE 1.—That on the 24th day of June, 1869, the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, meet at such place as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties, under their respective Grand Lodge Banners.

ARTICLE 2.—In order to equalize the votes polled at such meeting by the respective bodies, the voting shall be as follows, viz.: The Grand Lodge officers of both bodies; the Master and Wardens of all subordinate lodges, duly installed, and in their absence, duly certified proxies; three immediate proxies; three Immediate Past Masters, being subscribing members of the lodge for which they are returned; and five Principal Past Officers of the Grand Lodge, and the four Principal Past Officers of the Provincial and District Grand Lodge of England for three years last past, and representatives of Foreign Grand Lodge, shall each and all have a vote as such; but no member of either body shall exercise more than three votes.

ARTICLE 3.—That the first business to be taken up after the officers and members of both bodies have taken their seats, shall be the election of Grand Lodge officers.

ARTICLE 4.—The Grand Master shall be elected by open vote, as evidence on the part of the contracting parties of their desire to see the R. W. Bro. the Hon. Alex. Keith elected. The four other principal officers, viz: The Deputy Grand Master, the Substitute Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, by written ballot. The remainder, viz., Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Clerk, Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Architect, Grand Jeweller, Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Director of Music, Grand Marshals, Grand Tyler, and Grand Stewards, by nomination and open vote.

ARTICLE 5.—The Grand Master elect will then be installed, after which he (the Grand Master) will install the remainder of the officers.

ARTICLE 6.—The warrants of many of the subordinate lodges of the District Grand Lodge, being of great antiquity, and therefore highly valued, that such lodges which are represented at the aforesaid Communication, and desire to retain their warrants, shall produce them to the Grand Lodge, and the new Grand Master shall indorse them, as evidence of their having been reissued by the Grand Lodge; and further, they shall be signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Lodge. Such Charters shall at once be registered in the books of the Grand Lodge, and shall have the same legality as those previously issued. Those Lodges desiring to have warrants, of the Grand Lodge, shall apply for the same, when such shall at once be granted.

ARTICLE 7.—That the roll of the Grand Lodge shall be revised, and the numbers of the lodges shall be placed thereon according to the seniority of such lodges, by satisfactory proof of the date of the original formation of the several lodges, which shall consent to this movement, or be present at the aforesaid Communication of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE 8.—That a Committee shall be appointed to revise the Constitution.

ARTICLE 9.—The principal Past and Present Officers of the Grand Lodge, and of the Provincial and District Grand Lodge of England, viz., Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Substitute Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden, shall be permanent members of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE 10.—That a new Grand Lodge Seal be adopted. The words: "The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free, and Accepted Masons of Nova Scotia," encircled.

After a careful consideration they were (with the exception of that portion of clause 2d referring to the voting of Foreign Grand Lodge representatives) unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman and Secretary were then appointed a sub-committee to meet and confer with the