

respectively, were re-elected unanimously, fitting compliments to two worthy officers.

We congratulate M. W. Bro. H. Robertson on his address. It gave every evidence of having been prepared with care, and was a fitting finale of a successful reign. As a presiding officer Past Grand Master Robertson displayed considerable tact in guiding discussion and keeping it within proper bounds. He was always courteous, at times forbearing, but when occasion demanded it he was firm.

We congratulate M. W. Bro. R. T. Walkem on his election, and we also congratulate the Craft upon having such an able brother as its ruler. M. W. Bro. Walkem's breadth of mind, liberality of thought, and conservative ideas of Freemasonry, its traditions and teachings, prompt us to predict for our Institution a brighter and grander position than even that which it now enjoys. R. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson's intense zeal for Freemasonry, combined with his energy and activity, will render him an able assistant to the Grand Master. The meeting of Grand Lodge closed on Thursday afternoon.

On Wednesday evening the officers were invited to a moonlight excursion on the lake, under the auspices of Stevenson lodge, which was a very enjoyable affair.

On Friday Grand Chapter met, under the guidance of M. Ex. Comp. Sargent. Next in importance and in attendance to Grand Lodge comes this body, and consequently much interest was manifested in its proceedings. Grand Chapter is to be congratulated on having such an expert and energetic Mason at its head as Comp. Hungerford is generally admitted to be, and we therefore extend our felicitations to that body and its ruler on his advancement.

Masonic week was a pleasant and profitable one. Many old friends met after a year's absence, and in relating past experiences and anticipating the future, brotherly ties were strengthened and old friendships more firmly cement-

ed. This alone demonstrates that Freemasonry is not a pastime or a hollow organization, replete with senseless titles, but that it is a noble institution, appealing to the intelligence of men of all classes and creeds, and that its principles will recommend it as long as time wings its ceaseless flight.

Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.

THE THIRD DEGREE.

The motion introduced in Grand Lodge to transfer the transaction of certain business from the first to the third degree was voted down by a most emphatic majority. For a time it seemed as if the debate was a contest between the members on the platform and those on the floor, in the early stage those on the floor favoring the motion. Later on, however, even the floor went against the motion, and when Grand Master Walkem expressed his views tersely, and pointed out how other parts of the Constitution would have to be amended, the fate of the importation, as some called it, was sealed.

For several years past this subject has been forced on the attention of the brethren, and its acceptance recommended on a variety of pleas, none of which, however, were logical or convincing, the most of them being imaginary. The brother who introduced the motion in Grand Lodge made as good a speech as was possible under the circumstances. He had a bad case, and nothing was advanced that would justify the radical change demanded. From the prominence given the subject we certainly expected to hear incontrovertible arguments in its favor, but were disappointed, and the majority against the change was a most emphatic protest against unnecessary alterations in our mode of conducting business.

W. Bro. Robinson has given notice that he will again introduce the motion next year. We admire persistency, but when it is carried to an extreme it