

Grand Lodge and its Work.

The whirligig of time has once more brought us within measurable distance of the meeting of Grand Lodge. In February, as most of our readers are aware, the supreme governing body of our Order will hold its fourteenth annual meeting at the Capital of the Dominion, and from what we know of the Ottawa brethren, we feel satisfied the Grand Lodge delegates will not regret the choice of meeting place. This will be the first occasion that Grand Lodge has assembled in Eastern Ontario, and there can be no doubt that as a result of the gathering in Ottawa a big boom will be given to the Order in this section of country. The Capital has many attractions for the visitor, and as Parliament will be sitting at the time, those of the Grand Lodge Delegates, who have never seen the Federal Legislature in session, will be afforded an opportunity of doing so. The Ottawa brethren are making extensive preparations to give Grand Lodge a fitting welcome, and we have every reason to believe that the fourteenth annual gathering of the chief governing body of the Order will be an occasion, long to be remembered by those who may fortunately be delegated to be present.

There are some important questions to be considered at the coming Grand Lodge meeting, and we feel satisfied that, when the assembled wisdom of our grand organization gets together, the legislation forthcoming will be such as to redound to the credit of the legislators, and to the best interests of the brotherhood. Of course, there will be the usual tinkering at the Constitution, and this may be anticipated to go on for some time until we get a code of laws, devoid as far as possible of crudities, clear and explicit in their principles, and uncontradictory in their terms. Bowood Lodge, No. 44, has sent up an important resolution which is deserving of the most careful consideration by Grand Lodge. There is no doubt that frequent changes in the Constitution do more harm than good, and if we could have one effective revision and then call a halt for three, four, or five years, the Order would be benefitted. Bowood's proposition, which will be found in our lodge reports, is in substance that a committee be appointed at next Grand Lodge meeting to thoroughly revise and amend the constitution, and report the same to the Grand Lodge of 1890, and that such amended constitution be not interfered with for five years at least. From the wording of the resolution it would appear that the desire of Bowood lodge, more particularly, is to get a constitution governing the White Rose degree, but we have the best reason for believing that this enterprising lodge requires also a thorough and complete revision of all the laws governing the Order. The ANGLO-SAXON thoroughly approves of the idea. If a small but representative committee were appointed and invitations sent to every lodge to devote one or more nights to the discussion of the Constitution, then after a given time, say August first, up to which period suggestions from the lodges would be received, the committee would go to work, with the concentrated wisdom of the lodges before their eyes, and draft a Constitution which would be a credit to the Sons of England.

Doubtless the question which is being discussed with such ability in our columns relative to the limits to which the operations of the Sons of England shall extend will come up. Last session Bro. Dr. Girdwood, of Montreal, was delegated to open Lodges in Great Britain if he saw an opportunity for doing so. We have not heard of his being successful and his views on the subject will be looked forward to with great interest at the coming gathering. Meantime, in order the better to enable our friends to make up their minds on the question we would again renew our offer to the brethren to join in the Symposium, only asking them to

keep to the one subject and not incorporate extraneous matters in their contributions.

Why should Grand Lodge meet in February every year, probably the most unsuitable time of the year for a peregrinating institution like the governing body of the S.O.E.B.S. to assemble? We know of no other fraternal organization in Canada whose Grand Lodge meets in midwinter and, so far as the Sons of England Order is concerned, we think a change in the time of meeting of Grand Lodge to a period of the year when travelling is more congenial and attended with less risks, could be made with greater advantage. Last year, Chester Lodge of St. Thomas tried to get September substituted for February—an excellent proposition—but the Committee on Constitution and Laws in their superior wisdom effectually sat upon the suggestion. There are several reasons why Grand Lodge might advantageously change its time of meeting from the second Tuesday in February to the second Tuesday of July, August or September. Most men like to take a little relaxation during the summer, the facilities for travel are greater and cheaper at that time than at any other period, and it would seem as if most men find it more convenient to get away from business for a few days during the summer months than in the depth of winter. In the event of a proposition being made to change the time of meeting we bespeak for it earnest consideration on the part of Grand Lodge.

We regret that pressure on our space will not permit republication in the columns of the ANGLO-SAXON of the eloquent and patriotic speech of Dr. Beers, of Montreal, delivered at Syracuse, N. Y., the last week in October. To the Toronto *Empire* Canadians are indebted for the report of a speech which has attracted more attention throughout the Dominion than any other speech of a non-political character delivered of late years. It has been republished in all parts of Canada and is worthy of the most careful perusal by every Britisher in the Dominion. The peroration gives one an idea of its general tenor. "Politically, I realize I am a foreigner here the moment I cross the line. I am at home when I land at Liverpool, at Glasgow, at Dublin, at Bermuda, at Capetown, at New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, New Guinea, Jamaica, Barbadoes or Trinidad. Politically I have a share in, and am proud of the glorious old flag which waves over New Zealand, Australia, Gibraltar, Malta, Hong Kong, West Africa, Ceylon, St. Helena, Cape Colony, Natal, British Honduras, Dominica, the Bahamas, Grenada, Barbadoes or India. England is an old and apt master in annexation. Since she lost the thirteen colonies here, she has annexed colonies far greater in area and population, or far more value to her than if they were joined to her three kingdoms, while Spain, Portugal, Holland and France have lost theirs and there is little or nothing left for any nation to annex. I need no other political passport to the rights of a British subject, and the citizen of a great realm, comprising 65 territories and islands, than my Canadian birthright. I do not measure my national boundary from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but from the Pacific to the Caribbean Sea. Under the reign of Victoria no Canadian need be ashamed to belong to an Empire which embraces a fifth of the habitable globe, and to know that his own Dominion forms nearly a half of the whole; an Empire sixteen times greater than France, 40 times greater than United Germany; three times larger than the United States, Australia alone nearly as big as the States; India nearly a million and a quarter of square miles; Canada, 600,000 square miles larger than the States without Alaska; and 18,000 square miles larger with it! An Empire nearly 9,000,000 of square miles, with a population of 310,000,000. Sharers in such a realm; heirs to such vast and varied privileges, Canadians are not for sale."

And the ANGLO-SAXON repeats, "Canadians are not for sale."