

them, a committee was appointed to act in conjunction with a similar committee from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to consider and report upon the matter; years might elapse before anything tangible could be done, but on a small scale, to use the language of G.M. Dr. Walker, a Masonic Ward might be arraigned for, in some public institution, at a small cost, where relief and the comforts of a home could be furnished to aged and infirm Masons. I would recommend that this Grand Lodge would appoint a committee to act in conjunction with similar ones from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

My attention was directed to our own condition as a Grand Lodge, having no benevolent or charity fund, wherewith relief could be afforded to distressed brethren, their widows and orphans as supplementary to individual relief, and the relief of individual lodges. I therefore addressed a circular to each of the Lodges, as follows:—

"BRETHREN:—The question of Masonic charity and relief for aged and infirm Masons, their widows and orphans, is forcing itself upon the attention and consideration of Masonic jurisdictions the world over. As a Grand Lodge we have never done anything, and in view of the necessity which exists for a commencement I have thought it advisable to make an appeal to the Lodges in this jurisdiction to provide nucleus for such Relief Fund by vote or subscription equivalent, at least, to one dollar per member. This would give us a fund at least of five hundred dollars to meet the Grand Lodge with. The fund would have to be nursed until it attained such maximum as the brethren would deem reasonable. For instance: in view of what other organizations contribute for relief and benefits, it would not be unreasonable for the brethren of this Jurisdiction to aspire to raising it equivalent to an average of twenty dollars per member—not by individual assessment, but by entertain-

ments, subscriptions and donations, without material injury to the weakest brother in the Craft. At my official visitation to each Lodge I expect to bring this question before you, and will require definite and decided action in order to make a report of the same to the Grand Lodge. In this age concentrated effort is desirable, and unless we make a commencement we will never be able to reach the desired goal. I hope your Masonic principles will give hearty and unanimous support to this measure."

A form of bequest might also be printed in our proceedings, so that an opportunity would be afforded to Masons who are able, to remember poor distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans, when disposing of their properties.

I found that this Grand Lodge on August 12th, 1875, approved of a Constitution, and in that constitution there was provision made for a fund known as "The Fund of Benevolence" of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island.

The committee who submitted that constitution were M.W.P.G.M. Bros. John W. Morrison and Thos. A. McLean, R.W. Bro. George A. Aitken, and W. Bro. John Muirhead.

The names of that Committee should be handed down to posterity as Masons, who desired to build and maintain a good corner stone for the institution.

The Grand Master visited the different Lodges, and placed the scheme before them with the following result:

True Brother's Lodge, \$28; Mt. Lebanon Lodge, \$25; Alexandra Lodge, \$30; Prince Edward Lodge, \$33; St. George's Lodge, \$25; St. Andrew's Lodge, \$37; Victoria Lodge, \$12; Mt. Zion, \$34; St. John's Lodge No. 1, —; Orient Lodge, \$14; King Hiram Lodge, \$10; Zetland Lodge, \$20. Total, \$268.

As many of the brethren seem to confound charity with insurance and sick benefit societies, I deem it necessary to add that charity is not insurance; neither can we engraft pension-