

Some have imagined that Masonry was merely operative till its revival in England in the begining of last century, and then became speculative, thus seeking to escape difficulties without acknowledging the antiquity of our present system of Freemasonry. It must be granted that there is a connection between operative and speculative masonry. It must also be granted that this connection was more intimate in former times than the present. But that Masonry until the time of Dr. Anderson and Dr. Desaguliers, was merely operative and then first became speculative, I emphatically deny. We have evidence of the connection with the Masonic body in England, in long past centuries of men of high rank sufficient proof that the fellowship of the Masonic brotherhood was not limited to mere operative Masons. And coming down to the 17th century, we have a notable instance of the initiation of one who was not an operative Mason in Roger Ashmole, already mentioned, whilst the names which the records of those present at his initiation affords proof that this was no singular and exceptional instance. And from what Plot says in his History of Staffordshire, we see clearly that it was common in England, in his day, for country gentlemen or others, who had nothing to do with operative Masonry, to seek and obtain admission into Masonic Lodges.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

AWAY in the distant Province of British Columbia Masonry appears to flourish and grow apace, and we are glad to hear cheering accounts of the progress of the Order there. The following are the officers of the Grana Lodge:

Lieut-Col. I. W. Powell, G. M.; J. F. McCreight, M. P. P., D. G. M.; William Dalby, G. S. W.; Eli Harrison, G. J. W.; M. W. Wait, G. T.; Rev. F. Gribbell, G. C.; H. F. Heisterman, G. S.

BENEVOLENT AND WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUNDS. ADOPTED IN SESSION OF GRAND LODGE, 6TH AND 8TH DECEMBER, 1873.

1. The lodges in this jurisdiction shall pay two dollars from each subscribing member on their roll, also for every candidate raised or affiliated hereafter from a lodge without the Province, the aforesaid sum of two dollars in order to start the said fund.

2. Each lodge in this jurisdiction shall pay seventy-five cents quarterly, in advance, for every member in good standing.

3. All moneys collected as aforesaid, shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary, who shall keep proper accounts of all moneys so received, and pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer in the following proportion, to wit:—

Three-fourths to the Fund of Benevolence.

One-fourth to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

4. The Master and Wardens of every lodge in the Province shall constitute the Board of Relief for each lodge, and shall have power to relieve any sick or distressed brother, being a member in good standing in the Province, to the extent of ten dollars per week, or temporary relief to the widows and orphans of any brother as aforesaid, not exceeding one hundred dollars, but that no relief be afforded to any brother whose illness was caused by his immoral conduct; and shall have power to draw on the Grand Treasurer whenever sums so paid shall amount to \$40; but at the end of every Masonic Year, in November, any amount disbursed by any lodge, if less than \$40, shall be drawn as aforesaid, so that a statement of all transactions had may be submitted to the Grand Lodge at the annual Communication; provided, not more than one-fourth of the amount in the Treasurer's hands at the end of any year shall be at the disposal of any lodge during the ensuing term, without the express permission of the Board of General Purposes.

5. The Master of each lodge shall have power, in case of the decease of any Master Mason as aforesaid, dying in needy circumstances, to draw upon the Grand Treasurer to the extent of seventy-five dollars, in order to bury him with all honors due a Mason.

6. All moneys belonging to the Benevolent Fund and Widows' and Orphans' Fund shall be lodged in a Joint Stock Bank, or Government Savings Bank, or invested in such manner as the Board of General Purposes shall direct.

7. The Board of General Purposes shall be the Trustees of the aforesaid funds.

8. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund shall be allowed to accumulate at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.

THE Grand Lodge of British Columbia requires every initiate to pay \$10 into its Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund—which now amounts to over \$1000. The Grand Lodge of New York requires its initiates to pay \$3 each for an analogous purpose.

THERE are now 7,787 non-affiliates in the State of Indiana.