

"Rather than have any of our benevolent instincts dwarfed or remain inactive; rather than have any of our kind-hearted and zealous brethren suffer for want of opportunity to contribute to the relief of poor distressed Masons, their widows and orphans, I would favor the present project of Building a Masonic Home at any cost, or any kind of charitable or benevolent institution.

"Those feelings of friendship and brotherly love that should have lodgment in every Masonic heart should have room to grow and expand.

"Our hearts should not be allowed to grow cold or to become crusted and calcified over with a consuming selfishness for want of an opportunity to do good to our fellow men.

"While I have the highest respect for the feeling that prompted the writing and presentation of these resolutions, yet I doubt very much the necessity and question the expediency of building public homes for aged, infirm or friendless Masons.

"Our brethren in this state have no great need for poor houses and, I conjecture, no great fancy for living in them. The career of those who have a sad and humiliating termination when it must end in public home or asylum for the destitute and friendless.

"Those of our brethren the most deserving of such a home would be the last to seek its shelter and its comfort. It would be filled undoubtedly, but by those who are the least entitled to our charity and the good-will of our Order.

"There may be now and then a destitute and friendless Mason in such a physical condition that such an institution would be a very acceptable place in which to care for him, but in my judgment he might be provided for quite as much to his comfort and satisfaction in some private charitable asylum or retreat to be found in almost every city of the state, and at much less cost to the Craft.

"In fact, for these extreme cases of which there can only be a very few at the most in our jurisdiction, we might engage rooms in some one of the local institutions where every care and attention would be given that would be provided in a strictly Masonic Home. But I trust that our charity is such that there never may be any necessity for one of our number to take refuge in his old age for shelter and bread in a home supported at public expense or by the contributions of our Masonic Fraternity.

"Our charity should be exercised in private. If it should go in the direction proposed by these resolutions it would be robbed of its distinguishing charm—secrecy. If we build a Masonic Home, our charity would be advertised and very soon it would become our pride and boast, and the tendency would be to lessen that more practical charity which is now practiced in the lodge and by individual members of the Order."

Bro. M. L. Youngs, Grand Lecturer, held twenty-three lodges of instruction, and nearly 100 lodges availed themselves of these privileges, and they were most successful.

On the "Eastern Star," the following report was adopted:

"Your Committee recommend that in all cases where the Grand Master shall deem it expedient to grant dispensations to enable the Order of the Eastern Star to hold its Chapters in Masonic lodge room, that such dispensations be granted without charge."

A motion to prohibit the re-election of the Grand Master or Grand Wardens for a second term was lost.

The Grand Lodge fully approved of the sentiments of the Grand Master on the question of Masonic homes, and the following report of the Committee on Charity was adopted:

"Your Committee on Charity to whom was referred the resolutions presented at the last Communication of this Grand Lodge respecting the establishment of a Masonic Home, and so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates thereto, and to the establishment of a permanent Charity Fund, would report that they have had the same under consideration and would recommend that the resolutions aforesaid be indefinitely postponed, for the reasons set forth in the Grand Master's Address.

"Your Committee would recommend that this Grand Lodge provide for the creation and maintenance of a permanent Charity Fund as recommended by the Grand Master in his Address, and that the Grand Lodge Trustees consider and formulate and present to the Grand Lodge, at its next Annual Communication, suitable and necessary resolutions to carry into effect this recommendation respecting the establishment of a permanent Charity Fund.

"Your Committee would further report and recommend that in view of the fact that Grand Lodge expenses are in excess of its revenue, and that such expenses are naturally increasing year by year, that an additional five cents per capita be added to our present annual dues, in order to provide for such Charity Fund, if not needed for current expenses of Grand Lodge."

Bro. Duncan McGregor speaks of the address of Grand Master Walkem, in 1889, as a model in language, matter, and sentiment. He doubts if the suggestion that the Secretary collect dues on commission