

Duties so important as these should only be committed to the most experienced and most intelligent members of the Grand Lodge, and they constitute a severe tax upon the time and patience of those who undertake such honourable responsibilities, calling for the constant sacrifice of their own private interests and comfort. It is only by attendance at the Board meetings that any adequate idea can be gained of the care exercised by that body in the most minute details, as well as the anxious and thoughtful consideration bestowed upon the matters submitted for their decision. The best testimony that can be afforded to the faithful and satisfactory manner in which these duties have been discharged in the past is to be found in the general acceptance with which their recommendations have been met in Grand Lodge, the well nigh invariable adoption and approval of the business transacted by them, and the regular endorsement given by Grand Lodge to their decisions. When these matters are all weighed and considered by thoughtful men, I venture to say that the most grateful and hearty acknowledgments of the Grand Lodge will be accorded to the members of the Board, and that the sums which the Grand Lodge, without any solicitation from the Board, voted to cover the bare travelling expenses of the members of such Board, will not be grudgingly given.

But if there is any difference of opinion on any of these questions, (1), as to the name of the Grand Lodge; (2) as to the manner in which our Benevolence funds are dispensed; (3), or the extent to which our funds should be applied to such purposes; (4) or the uses made of our general funds; (5) or the manner of electing our Board of General Purposes; (6) or the extent to which that Board should be entrusted with the matters now in their charge; assuredly the Grand Lodge is ready to hear the same discussed, and to deal with the matter fairly, and none of these matters form any provocation or justification for the establishment of a new organization. Nor would any such provocation render the formation of such a new organization constitutional, so long as this legally established and recognized body continue to have cognizance of Masonic matters, and to exercise jurisdiction over this Province.

It becomes our duty then, my brethren, to consider what course we are to adopt towards those who have acted such an unmasonic part and have striven to subvert the authority of this Grand Lodge, and although the punishment is a severe one, I am impelled to the conclusion that our duty to the craft at large, to this Grand Lodge to the Lodges whose rights and privileges have been invaded, to the members of the Order who are exposed to masonic intercourse with those who have acted in such an unworthy manner, demands the expulsion from our Order and from all the rights, benefits and privileges of Freemasonry, of the brethren above named now under suspension.

My brethren, I have now submitted for your consideration the report of my official acts during the past year. My duties are almost ended; yours are about to begin. You are to pass judgment upon my actions. Let me ask you to correct whatever you may find has not been rightly done. I have sought to govern with kindness and persuasion, but I have not hesitated to exercise the powers attached to the high office in which you placed me when the necessity for imperative measures arose. I regret the unhappy circumstances that called for the extreme course which I felt constrained to adopt during my term of office, but in adopting that course I so acted with the conviction that I was thus alone discharging my duties towards you, and the interests which we in common have so deeply at heart. If I have erred, the error has been committed in the honest effort to serve you, and to promote the welfare of the craft, regardless of consequences to myself.

In committing this review to your care let me urge you to consider it in a Masonic spirit—liberally and fairly—and may we so conduct our deliberations as to be an example for those whom we represent and govern, and in such a manner as to win the approval of Him who rules everywhere.

J. K. KERR,
Grand Master

[APPENDIX A]

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

WHEREAS, we the undersigned, are members of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons;

And whereas, there exists no regularly constituted Grand Lodge of our said Ancient Order for the Province of Ontario, and we are desirous of organizing and constituting such a Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Ontario;

And we hereby declare and express our desire to become incorporated under the