

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, June 15th, 1880.

Grand Lodge of Canada.

Lodges and their representatives should not forget that the next annual communication (the twenty-fifth) of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will be held at the city of Guelph, on the fourteenth day of July next, the constitution fixing the time of meeting for the second Wednesday in September, having been again changed. And as the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada will also be held in Guelph during the same week, no doubt, there will be a large gathering of the fraternity.

The business to be brought before Grand Lodge, as foreshadowed by the notices of motion given at the last Annual Communication, will not likely occupy much time, although in two or three of the notices important principles are involved. To one of these notices, that of R. W. Bro. Rev. C. W. Paterson, providing for the attendance of Grand Lodge at Divine Service, as part of the proceedings at the Annual Communication, we referred in the May No. of the CRAFTSMAN. A very important principle is involved in this motion, and it should be well and thoughtfully discussed before a vote is taken.

W. Bro. A. L. Riddell will move, "That clause 8 of the Grand Lodge in the Book of Constitution, be expunged;" or, in other words, to abolish the proxy system. Bro. Riddell will no doubt be prepared to show the evils of that system; and manifestly it is, to a certain extent, abused.

But on the other hand, we think that it would be a gross injustice to disqualify Lodges from being represented unless by their own officers. In a country such as this, where distances are so great, and where there are so few men of leisure, it will sometimes happen that neither the Master nor the Warden, nor even a Past Master of the Lodge can conveniently leave home for the purpose of attending Grand Lodge. In such a case, it would be unjust to deprive the Lodge so circumstanced of the privilege of instructing a brother to represent them in the Grand Body. We think that every Lodge which pays its Grand Lodge dues should have the right to be represented; and if it is more convenient to instruct some member of Grand Lodge to attend to their interests than to send one of their number, no reasonable objection can be offered. However, we endorse the report of the Committee on Credentials and Representatives presented at the Annual Communication of 1878, and express the hope that the number of proxies will diminish. At the last Annual Communication there were 221 Lodges represented; 116 by the duly qualified officers; 105 by Proxy, while 105 Lodges were unrepresented; so that nearly one half of the Lodges represented at that Communication were by Proxy; and nearly one-third of all the Lodges on the roll were not represented at all. These numbers are altogether too large, and it is matter of regret to find that only one-third of the Registered Lodges were represented by their duly qualified officers.

The resolution of W. Bro. David Glass, to change the name of the