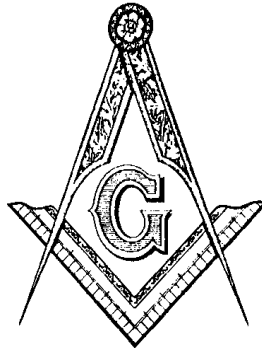


THE
NEWSLETTER
OF THE COMMITTEE
ON
MASONIC
EDUCATION



THE
GRAND LODGE OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Vol. 20 No. 0

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TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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FROM THE EDITOR

Brethren, we have been witness to three especial communications of our Grand Lodge this year to celebrate our sesquicentennial. First in Kingston, then Simcoe, and finally in Thunder Bay. While each was unique, all three were unqualified successes. Sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all the members of the 150th Anniversary Committee for such a magnificent contribution to the legacy of this Grand Lodge.

“The Newsletter” committee felt that it should make a contribution to the sesquicentennial year through the production of a ‘special’ issue. Our past editor W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns was approached and asked if he would consider preparing something special for our subscribers. Michael, of course, enthusiastically agreed and the result is what you find between the covers of this special Anniversary Issue.

We thank Michael for his contribution and we hope that you will derive several ‘daily advancements’ in Masonic education as you follow this ‘history lesson’ of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

On behalf of the Committee: Garry Dowling

EVOLUTION TO THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA

[by: W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns, PM, Acacia Lodge, No. 561 GRC, Ottawa and FCFM.]

I felt that a “sesquicentennial issue” of The Newsletter would be a useful vehicle to review with brethren, the evolution of Freemasonry in Upper Canada/Canada West/Ontario which led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in 1855 and the challenges of the first five years of its existence as it coped with the Ancient Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada which was created in 1857 and then their unification in 1858. It is also an opportunity to look back on the activities of a few Irish Lodges which were formed in the first half of the 1850's, experienced their own difficulties with Dublin, moved for an independent Grand Lodge and joined forces with English Lodges by 1854-55 and, in my opinion, provided an essential impetus resulting in the formation of our Grand Lodge.

BRITISH FREEMASONRY IN EARLY CANADA

Following the capture of Quebec in September 1759 and Montreal in August 1760, all of New France had become British territory. This area, along with the British colony of Nova Scotia, was different from the Thirteen Colonies and was administered separately. Nova Scotia Freemasons quickly had their own Provincial Grand Lodge, holding its authority under the Modern Grand Lodge from about 1750 and with Major Erasmus James Philips as Provincial Grand Master. This had become an Ancient Provincial Grand Lodge, under Patent No. 63 ER(A), issued to Philips and dated December 27, 1757, an organization which would grow and contract over the years and provide a base for the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Masons in the Regiments which had fought on the Plains of Abraham in September 1759 quickly met and formed a Grand Lodge to guide and direct their deliberations and elected the senior member of their number, Lieutenant John Price Guinnett (an officer in the 47th Foot and a member of Lodge No. 192 IC held in the Regiment) as Grand Master. They recorded their deliberations and gave

it to one of their brethren, Thomas Dunckerley¹, a gunner on one of HM ships employed in the blockade against Quebec. He returned to England and reported the transactions to Grand Lodge—the Moderns' Grand Lodge. The Grand Master, falling back on his authority as defined in the Constitution, refused to recognize the election of November 1759 and took no immediate action to recognize the newly formed (Provincial) Grand Lodge. For the balance of the existence of this Moderns Provincial Grand Lodge until its expiry sometime about 1792 and its replacement by an Ancients Provincial Grand Lodge, the problems of appointment of chief head of Freemasons in Quebec, the lack of response from London, failure to issue essential certificates in a timely manner, and London's demands for transfers of funds for Grand Lodge benevolence and the consequent need to raise more funds locally to meet local needs, would bedevil this Provincial Grand Lodge. Its successor organization, the Ancients Provincial Grand Lodge of Lower Canada, as well as a new Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, was established by the Ancient Grand Lodge in 1792. These two Masonic organizations paralleled the political division of the old Quebec Colony into two provinces under the terms of the Canada Act which had been passed by the British parliament on June 10, 1791 and which came into effect on December 31, 1791.

The Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, HRH the Duke of Kent², was appointed by the Ancient Grand Master, the Duke of Atholl, under authority of a Patent dated March 7, 1792 (the same date appearing on the Patent for William Jarvis as Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada). As a senior military officer, commander of the 7th (Royal Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot, it was only to be expected that he would be assigned elsewhere, and he was. In 1794 he left Quebec for Halifax and the Caribbean, never to return to Quebec. Day-to-day management of his Masonic responsibilities was vested in a series of eight Deputy Grand Masters. The end of this period (1822, or nine years after the unification of the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges) would see Quebec separated into two distinct

¹ Thomas Dunckerley, Esquire (1724-95), the natural son of King George II had been made a Mason in 1754 in the Three Tuns Lodge, No. 31, Portsmouth, England. He served in the Royal Navy as a gunnery officer on board HMS *Vanguard* from October 1, 1757 to March 26, 1761. As both a well versed Mason and also a "royal" personage, he carried much weight with the Grand Lodge of England. For a good presentation on his life and times see *Thomas Dunckerley: A Remarkable Freemason* by Ron Chudley, 1982, published by Lewis Masonic, Terminal House, Shepperton TW17 8AS, Middlesex, ISBN 0-85318-129-2.

² HRH Albert Edward Duke of Kent (1767-1820), was the father of Queen Victoria. He was the fourth of seven sons of King George III. Two of George III's sons became kings of England — the eldest, George, became King George IV on the death of his father and the second son, William, became King William IV on the death of George IV. The five other sons died before being eligible to assume the throne. None of them had male heirs and with the death of William IV, Victoria was next in line to the throne. For more details refer to *The Ancients Provincial Grand Lodge of Lower Canada (1792-1813) and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lower Canada (1813-1822)*, by Michael Jenkyns, manuscript copies only available from the author.

Masonic divisions—the District of Quebec and Three Rivers which was virtually an isolated enclave and the District of Montreal and William Henry (spanning both sides of the St. Lawrence River) which had a very close affinity with Upper Canada as the relationship built on the commercial and cultural links between the two areas.

AND WHAT OF FREEMASONRY IN UPPER CANADA?

The period from 1792 to the death of William Jarvis on August 13, 1817, would see difficulties in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada. Jarvis's appointment was, by the terms of his Patent from Grand Lodge, of very limited authority. These were totally different to the virtual "powers extraordinary and plenipotentiary" granted to HRH the Duke of Kent. Like the Duke, who was shortly called away from Quebec, Jarvis removed from the first provincial capital and seat of the Provincial Grand Lodge at Newark, to York, in 1795—a political and military decision which sought to move the seat of government from what was considered one of the most likely routes for American forces attacking the British province. His move resulted in a split in the Lodges forming the Provincial Grand Lodge and the creation of a parallel schismatic Grand Lodge of Niagara by nine Lodges. A further buffeting occurred with the War of 1812 which saw devastation against the civilian population and the closure of many Lodges. In spite of his limited authority Jarvis reported little to London, issued dispensations and Warrants for new Lodges, as did the schismatic Grand Lodge (which had 22 Lodges by 1817). Both appear to have been recognized by the Ancient Grand Lodge in London. But this did not mean they were recognized in a sense of Masonic legitimacy as the failure to register new Lodges and their members, to pay fees and dues to Grand Lodge, and to obtain Master Mason certificates, worked against the Upper Canadian brethren. The result of ineffective direction and leadership by both groups resulted in a number of Lodges meeting in the form of a Grand Masonic Convention at Kingston on August 27, 1817 at which they "recreated themselves" and elected a Provincial Grand Master—Elliot Rodwell (or Roderick) MacKay. Letters to London advising of these steps in the Province were not actioned as the Grand Lodge did not recognize the legitimacy of the Lodges carrying "Jarvis Warrants" which had not been registered with London, nor would the Grand Master consider any Mason to have legitimacy unless a Grand Lodge certificate had been requested by a legitimate authority in Upper Canada and the appropriate certificate issued in his name.

The new United Grand Lodge of England, however, knowing that there was

Masonic life in Upper Canada, appointed a new Provincial Grand Master in May 1822 in the form of Simon McGillivray, by authority of a Patent—it is to be regretted that a copy of this Patent has not been located. At this time Simon McGillivray was on business in Montreal. It is unclear as to the nature of any discussions he might have had with the Grand Secretary or the Grand Master, but his older brother, William McGillivray, was appointed as the Provincial Grand Master of the City of Montreal and Borough of William Henry under a Patent dated April 23, 1823. The two brothers reinforced the nascent closeness between Upper Canadian Freemasons and those of the western portion of Lower Canada and which would eventually manifest itself when a number of these western Quebec Lodges joined in the formation of a new Grand Lodge of Canada in 1855. In both Provinces, Lodges were called on to Petition each Provincial Grand Master for new Warrants, attaching a list of their members, so that these could be communicated to London and “proper” (i.e. Grand Lodge) Warrants issued. Regrettably the work of Simon McGillivray by his presence in the Province of Upper Canada was quickly curtailed as he returned to England in about 1825 to manage the family business from there and local management was left to members of his Provincial Grand Lodge. Over time the management by this group gradually diminished and the status quo of the Jarvis years returned.

The period between 1822 and 1850 (although one could posit that it started as early as 1792) would see significant ups and downs in the nature of the Craft in Upper Canada/Canada West. These periods were too frequently affected, and even influenced, by factors outside the geographic area. Bro. William Morgan’s disappearance and the anti-Masonic craze which swept the north-eastern area of North America saw an almost disastrous decline in membership. While the War of 1812 had done little to support growth of the Craft, the rebellions in Lower and Upper Canada in the 1830’s did not encourage membership.

By 1850, then, the major factors lending their support to a growing awareness of a need for a separate and distinct Grand Lodge, could be seen and even measured. They included:

- overall lack of direction and governance for almost 60 years. The inactivity of R. W. Bro. William Jarvis from 1792 until his death in 1817 and beyond, contributed to the fracturing of the first Provincial Grand Lodge with the formation of the schismatic Grand Lodge at Niagara. The lack of elections and any effective functioning of the Provincial Grand Lodge after 1804 also

took its toll. The appointment of R. W. Bro. Simon McGillivray in 1822 as a new Provincial Grand Master could, perhaps, have had better results, but his early return to England to run his family business removed, again, any effective head of Freemasonry in the Province.

- anti-Masonic attitudes of the population at large after the disappearance of Bro. William Morgan had a disastrous effect already noted. Masonic growth of any kind was stifled.
- a growing desire for self-governance both at the political level as well as within Freemasonry. But this was certainly not the same vision held by their republican relatives in the United States and Canadians had a preference for a skilful blending of loyalty to the Monarch and particular British institutions with local control through legitimate elections.
- irresponsibility by the Grand Secretary and his staff in London which resulted in lack of replies to correspondence, untimely issue of Dispensations and Warrants for Lodges, lateness of issue of Masonic Certificates and increasing demands for transfers of funds in sterling (not local) currency which impacted the Upper Canadians very harshly as global economic conditions affected the value of the pound.

Into this arena Irish Lodges expanded their number from a toehold of one Lodge at Kingston in 1819, to a force for change, initially against similar problems encountered with Dublin, but also in a strong desire for independence from any external Grand Lodge.

IRISH LODGES IN “THE CANADAS”

John Ross Robertson makes the case (History, Vol. II p. 706) that the first Irish Lodge in Ontario was likely the original Lodge No. 2 at Newark which may have held its first Warrant from either the Grand Lodge of Ireland or the Provincial Grand Lodge of New York. This possibility is also continued in A Lodge of Friendship: Niagara Lodge No. 2 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C. 200 Years of History 1792-1992 (see p 16 et seq). Although the definitive proof is lacking, a summary history of this Lodge shows that it is possible that its origin was Irish. A second possible Irish Lodge referred to by Robertson—Fort Erie, No. 4 or 5 PRUC(A) in Bertie Township—is not now considered to have an Irish origin and all indications are that it was established and derived its authority from William Jarvis, Provincial

Grand Master.

The earliest civilian (provable) Irish Lodge in Ontario dates from 1819 at Kingston. There was no subsequent growth in Irish Lodges in Ontario until the large-scale Irish migrations of the late 1840's into the Province. The first Masonic Lodge in the town of London, Upper Canada, was Lodge No. 83 IC in the 83rd Regiment of Foot. The Regiment (and its Lodge) were assigned to the London garrison in 1837 as a direct consequence of the Rebellion by William Lyon Mackenzie and his "Reformist" followers. By mid-century Upper Canada/Canada West held more people of Irish origin than it did of any other ethnic group. There was little antagonism, if any, between Irish and English Lodges in Ontario although indications are that it was easier to obtain a warrant from Ireland than from England. Early records indicate that English and Irish Lodges provided mutual support to each other, especially when petitioning England or Ireland for a warrant.

CIVILIAN IRISH LODGES IN THE PROVINCE OF CANADA

Robertson (History, Vol. II p 707 and List on p 716) notes that by 1853 there were 17 Irish Lodges in Canada East (2) and Canada West (15). The total number is 19 if we include Niagara (now No. 2) at Newark, and Lodge No. 435/83 IC held in the 83rd Regiment of Foot in London and Toronto and which was instrumental in the formation of St. John's Lodge, No. 209 IC, London.

Thirteen of these Lodges were formed between 1847 and 1854 (eight alone in the 1852-55 period) and added an impetus to the independence movement. Geographically, twelve were located from Toronto to London and southwards to the north shore of Lake Erie. Although travel and communication were still somewhat difficult it should not be surprising to find that their natural affinity strengthened their resolve to move forwards on the issue of Masonic independence.

There were also six Irish Lodges working in New Brunswick³, three of which

³ New Brunswick's Irish Lodges/Chapters included: (1) Lodge No. 997 IC, Portland (1820-21); (2) Hibernian No. 318 IC, St. Andrew's (1830-63) which also worked Hibernian Chapter No. 318 IC (1834-62) and Hibernian Encampment KT No. 318 IC (1840-60); (3) Hibernia No. 301 IC, St. John (1837-68) now No. 3 GRNB which also worked Hibernia Chapter No. 301 IC (1958-58) whose name was changed to New Brunswick Chapter No. 10 GRC (1867-87), now No. 13 GRNB; (4) Portland Union No. 324 IC, Portland (1842-46), No. 780 ER (1846-68) and Union Lodge of Portland No. 10 GRNB since 1868; (5) Sussex No. 327 IC, St. Stephen (1846-67) now No. 7 GRNB since 1868

had Chapters attached to them, and one had a Knights Templar Encampment attached. There were two Irish Lodges in Nova Scotia⁴, neither of which possessed Chapters or Encampments. None of these participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The following list shows the various Irish Lodges in Ontario and Quebec to avoid any misunderstandings as to which Irish Lodges were in the Province of Canada and when:

- Niagara Lodge, pre 1780, by Ireland or New York (Antients)
- Erin's True Blues aka Duke of Leinster, No. 283 IC, Kingston
- St. John's Lodge, No. 209 IC; London; now No. 20 GRC and No. 209A GRC following a split in the original Lodge
- St. John's Lodge, No. 159 IC; Hawkesbury; now No. 21A, Vankleek Hill
- King Solomon's Lodge, No. 222 IC; Toronto; now No. 22 GRC, Toronto
- Lodge of Military and Social Virtues 227 IC; now Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1 GRQ, Montreal
- St. John's Lodge, No. 286 IC; Cayuga; now No. 35 GRC
- King Hiram Lodge, No. 22 SGLN then No. 226 IC; Ingersoll; now No. 37 GRC
- Middlesex Lodge, No. 211 IC; Port Stanley; now No. 94, Port Stanley
- St. John's Lodge, No. 231 IC; Hamilton; now No. 40 GRC
- St. Thomas Lodge, No. 232 IC; St. Thomas; now No. 44 GRC
- Brant Lodge, No. 323 IC; Brantford; now No. 45 GRC

which also worked Sussex Chapter No. 327 IC (1851-64), later No. 125 SC (1868-87) and now No. 7 GRNB; and (6) Leinster No. 347 IC, Carleton (1859-69) then No. 19 GRNB (1868-81), Warrant surrendered 1881.

⁴ Nova Scotia's Irish Lodges included: (1) McGowan No. 330 IC, Amherst (1845-65) now Acacia No. 14 GRNS (1867 onwards) and (2) Shamrock No. 331 IC, Halifax (1853-60) removed to HMS *Indus* 1858, Warrant returned to Grand Lodge in 1860.

- Vaughan Lodge, No. 236 IC; Nobleville; now No. 54 GRC, Maple
- Wellington Lodge, No. 238 IC; Dunnville; then No. 52 GRC; closed 1859
- Independent Lodge, No. 237 IC; Quebec; amalgamated into Albion No. 2 GRQ, Quebec
- Harmony Lodge, No. 358 IC; Binbrook; now No. 57 GRC, Binbrook
- Wellington Lodge, No. 359 IC; Stratford; then No. 28 GRC; closed 1858
- Minden No. 63 IC, in XXth Regt. (1737-1869); at Kingston, UC 1847-53
- Lodge No. 435/83 IC, in the 83rd Regiment of Foot; temporarily located in London and Toronto

IRISH WORKING

The ritual followed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and its constituent Lodges consists of three degrees—Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. Unlike the “Ontario working” or “Ontario Ritual” which opens in the first degree and performs all business in that degree, Irish (and Antients) Lodges opened in the third degree and did the business of the Lodge in that degree. First and second degrees were only opened when there were candidates for the degree. This system is still followed in Irish Lodges and in some English, and most American, systems.

Early Irish Lodges were not confined to working only the so-called “three Craft degrees” and surviving Lodge minute books are replete with a wide range of degrees worked under authority of an Irish Warrant or Charter—Entered Apprentice; Fellowcraft; Master Mason; Royal Arch; Knight Templar; Mark Master; Excellent Master; Most Excellent Master; Super-Excellent Master; and so on. There was no limit to what could be undertaken in a Lodge from the time of the issue of the first Irish Warrants until about the late 1820s, provided that the Lodge requested and obtained the requisite authority from Grand Lodge. This situation is well illustrated in the Grand Secretary’s note on a letter to the Grand Lodge of Ireland from Duke of Leinster Lodge, dated January 5, 1824. The Lodge had requested a Warrant to hold a Royal Arch Chapter and the Grand Secretary’s note reads in part that “I mentioned in a former letter that the G. L. of I. do not

issue Wt. for any degree higher than M.M. Therefore all L's holding on this establisht. confer R.A. & such other degrees as may be requisite under the sanction of their G. L. Wt. which has always held sufft. authority." On occasion, though, friction was created between the Symbolic and Capitular bodies, as when St. John's Lodge No. 209 IC in London , permitted members of the Royal Arch Chapter with the Virtual Past Master's degree to remain for the Installation of the WM of the Lodge. For a time a rift appears to have existed due to the differences in work and secrets between the two degrees but it died away.

As the Irish Grand Chapter and Great Priory were established in the nineteenth century it became necessary for Lodges to cease working the multitude of degrees and for Chapters to be created, attached to the Lodge and usually having a Warrant usually bearing the same number as the Lodge Warrant. There were few enough Encampments of Knights Templars (which became renamed as Preceptories in the 1870's when they were part of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada) that separate Warrants with separate numbers were issued.

As a condition of their becoming members of the Grand Lodge of Canada the two Irish Lodges in London were permitted to retain their Irish working and this is the only exception in Ontario permitted under the Constitution. But it is not easy to define and explain the ritual as practiced by the two St. John's Lodges in London. The original members who formed the original St. John's No. 209 IC received their degrees in Lodge No. 435/83 IC in the 83rd Foot—and there was no written Irish Ritual until the 1980's. Thus the Irish ritual, evolving by word-of-mouth, would have incurred "adjustments" over time (a similar experience occurred with Scottish and English ritual). In *An Emerald Light* it is noted that Lodge No. 83 IC appears to have practiced a variation of what is known as "the American Rite" and that it is not at all like the current published Irish Ritual: in fact "American Masons would be more at home in St. John's No. 20 GRC and St. John's No. 209a GRC, than in the other Lodges in what is now Ontario!"

In the case of Lodges in Canada West and Canada East, the new Grand Lodge of Canada had, at the time of its formation, advised all other Grand Lodges of the event and sought recognition. Recognition by outside bodies brought with it legitimacy and was, in the normal course of events, very important. The Grand Lodge of Ireland responded that it was prepared to recognize the new Grand Lodge but that Lodges holding Irish Warrants and which wished to continue to do so, must be protected and permitted to carry on under their Irish authority which predated the formation of the new Grand Lodge. In addition, those Irish Lodges which chose to join the new Grand Lodge would have to surrender their Irish

Warrants. The new Grand Lodge of Canada agreed and recognition was quickly given by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. With one exception—St. John’s No. 209 IC, London—the Irish Warrants of the Lodges joining the new Grand Lodge were surrendered. In keeping with recognition, the Grand Lodge of Ireland submitted the name of V. W. Bro. Kivas Tully to be their representative near to the Grand Lodge of Canada. It is important to note that four Irish Lodges did not immediately join the new Grand Lodge—Middlesex No. 211 IC, Port Stanley⁵ did not affiliate until 1858; King Hiram No. 226 IC, Ingersoll⁶ and Independent No. 237 IC, Quebec City⁷ in 1859, and St. John’s No. 159 IC (now No. 21A), Vankleek Hill did not affiliate until 1888.

Irish Lodges joining the new Grand Lodge, regardless of when, either returned their Warrants directly to Dublin or did so through the new Grand Secretary’s office—and in many cases these Warrants were returned to the Lodges as mementoes of their Irish authority bearing a carefully inserted cancellation stamp. The one exception to this, St. John’s No. 209 is covered in *An Emerald Light* as follows: “In the history of the Grand Lodge of Ireland (Vol. 2 p. 1189) it is recorded that on October 1, 1857, a letter from Lodge No. 209, C.W., was read . . . stating that they have taken out Warrant No. 14, from the Grand Lodge of Canada, but praying that they might be permitted to retain their Irish ‘Warrant’ as ‘it will tend from time to time to remind them of the many trying difficulties the noble Masonic pioneers of Canada West encountered’. On that occasion, the G.L.I. directed that the memorialists should be informed, ‘that the G.L.I. recognized the G.L. of Canada on the terms that the Warrants of those Lodges which holding under the Irish Constitution preferred to submit themselves to the Grand Lodge of Canada, should be sent back to the G.L.I., but should any three or more members of a Lodge wish to retain their present connection with the G.L.I., that the Grand Lodge of Ireland demands for them free exercise of their Masonic rights’. In other words, the Grand Lodge of Ireland left the ‘Lodge within a Lodge’ in the oldest Irish Lodge in Canada West as an actual and symbolic demonstration of its traditional attachment to the principle of concurrent jurisdiction, in opposition to the principle of exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Since Lodge No. 14 G.R.C., had also received the only concession to continue the Irish ritual,

⁵ Now St. Mark’s No. 94 GRC, Port Stanley.

⁶ Now King Hiram No. 37 GRC, Ingersoll.

⁷ Later became Harington No. 49 GRC until 1869 when it joined the Grand Lodge of Quebec and was numbered as No. 9. In a renumbering in 1871 it became No. 8, in 1876 it became No. 17 and in 1880 it amalgamated with Albion No. 2 GRQ.

any such revival or re-emergence of the ‘Lodge within a Lodge’ would be readily accomplished, if that ritual was ever threatened.” This situation would lead to the split in St. John’s No. 209 IC/14 GRC/20 GRC and the formation of the parallel St. John’s 209 IC revived and its eventual transformation as No. 209A GRC.

The premier Grand Lodge of England pioneered in arms-length Masonic management through a system of Provincial Grand Masters beginning in the 1730’s. During the schism of 1753-1813, the Antients and Moderns Grand Lodges continued this practice and it was generally adopted by Scotland. From 1750 onwards the Grand Master of Ireland appointed Provincial Grand Masters in Ulster, Connaught and Munster only. Of the three, Munster appears to have been the most active, although its activities were often found unacceptable to the Grand Lodge. One of these unacceptable actions was the habit of Munster to collect surrendered Warrants from defunct Lodges and then reissue them, the fees collected being held by Munster and not passed on to the Grand Lodge. Coupled with this was a lack of information from Munster in advising the Grand Lodge of what numbers had been reissued are there are known cases of identically numbered Warrants in use at the same time and both purporting to be legitimate Irish Warrants issued by the Grand Lodge. With the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada and the early recognition by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the latter recommended R. W. Bro. Kivas Tully as their Grand Representative near to the Grand Lodge of Canada. The office would come under stress in 1871 over the removal of St. John’s No. 159 IC from Vankleek Hill to L’Orignal, where it believed it would attract a greater number of candidates into its ranks, and a challenge from local “Canadian” Lodges that this was both irregular and also an infringement of jurisdiction. The matter would result in St. John’s No. 159 IC being shunned for a period of time until it, in 1887, requested affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Canada and became No. 21A in 1888.

IRISH MASONIC RELATIONS WITH SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND

There is a school of thought that the Antients were very much influenced by the Irish through the persona of Laurence Dermott⁸. He was an Irish Mason who took up employment in London and became the Grand Secretary of the Antients Grand Lodge. He had received virtually all the degrees worked by the Irish in his day and encouraged their adoption by Antients Lodges. His skill in rooting these within the fabric of Freemasonry is reflected in the articles of Union between the Moderns and Antients in 1813 which states that Freemasonry consists of three degrees only: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason “including the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem.”

The concept of “exclusive (Masonic) jurisdiction” was created by the Patriots following the conclusion of the American War of Independence as a means to exclude non-American Grand Lodge influences. It was evident that they were still sensitive to the reality that half of the Provincial Grand Masters in the Thirteen Colonies at the beginning of the revolution were outright Loyalists. Exclusivity of jurisdiction does not appear to have been a major factor in Upper Canada/Canada West in its early days. True, there is the situation of Duke of Leinster’s Lodge in Kingston which was “forced” to surrender its Irish Warrant and take an English one which was then surrendered and replaced with a Duplicate of its original Irish Warrant. But there were not many Irish Lodges until the early 1850's when they sprang up quickly. In 1854 the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West (Macnab) asked United Grand Lodge to try to persuade the Grand Lodge of Ireland not to issue Warrants too readily and then passed a resolution “that this Provincial Grand Lodge do not interfere with the action of the lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland at this session” (An Emerald Light, p. 27).

⁸ Henry Sadler, in his *Masonic Facts and Fictions* of 1887, made an extensive review and research of the early documents regarding the formation of the Ancient Grand Lodge and in spite of the lack of early Irish records was able to demonstrate quite conclusively that many of the Lodges holding authority under the Ancients were comprised, in the main, by Irish Masons whose names appeared on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

MOVEMENT OF THE IRISH LODGES TOWARDS MASONIC INDEPENDENCE IN ONTARIO - 1853 TO 1855

The question of Freemasonic independence for the Province of Canada (present-day Ontario and Quebec) was raised in 1852/53 by the individual Irish Lodges which reported directly to Ireland and did not have any working intermediate provincial organization like English Lodges⁹. But the Irish were not alone in a desire for better management of Freemasonry in Canada West—such a desire had been festering with the English Lodges, too, and following some preliminary discussion during the summer of 1852, had resolved on a course of action. At the October 1852 meeting of the (English) Provincial Grand Lodge a resolution was unanimously passed that “the welfare of Masonry in the province demanded, as an absolute necessity, the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge with exclusive control of the Craft in Upper Canada and that the funds contributed to its support be retained by the proposed body to meet the requirements of Masonry in the province¹⁰” (Robertson, History, p. 717). This resolution was forwarded to London and evoked no response. A second proposal was sent off, requesting that fees and dues collected from members Lodges be retained in Canada West for the needs of members, that a locally elected member be accepted as Provincial Grand Master and proposing that the influence of Grand Lodge be exerted on the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland in order to limit the number of Irish and Scottish Warrants being issued for new Lodges in the province. This second proposal was also unsuccessful and laid the basis for a more collective approach with Irish Lodges.

For the Irish, the issue of the payment of fees and dues to Grand Lodge by King Solomons Lodge, No. 222 IC, Toronto started a train of events roughly paralleling the actions of the (English) Provincial Grand Lodge and which would culminate in

⁹ From the formation of the first Provincial Grand Lodge in Upper Canada in 1792, there had been problems with “management” of the jurisdiction. This led in 1802 to the formation of a schismatic Grand Lodge in the south-western part of the Province. Efforts undertaken on an off-and-on basis over the decades had not been pressed vigorously by English Lodges and had never received any strong support at Grand Lodge in London.

¹⁰ Six reasons underscored the desire for independence (1) lack of satisfactory communication with England; (2) Lodges were already contributing to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund and very little (if any) was coming back to the Province necessitating additional levies for local benevolence efforts; (3) Grand Lodge had, at times, withheld its approval of the formation of new Lodges when population and economic growth justified more Lodges; (4) all Provincial Grand Lodges in the Thirteen Colonies were now independent Grand Lodges in each State and local (Canadian) Lodges were not considered to be on an equal footing as they reported to a Provincial authority which in turn reported to London; (5) the need for regulations to be based on local conditions rather than making local Lodges conform to British “standards”; and (6) an innate desire to be masters of their own destiny. There were lengthy delays in communication across the Province, time passed and nothing was accomplished.

the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. At its regular meeting on February 26, 1853, the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. George L. Allen complained that while dues of members were collected in Canadian currency, they had to be remitted in Sterling, which disadvantaged the Lodge. These sentiments, along with expressions of support to Grand Lodge, and accompanied by the necessary fees and dues, were submitted to the Grand Secretary. No reply from Dublin was forthcoming and the matter appears to have festered somewhat.

At the regular meeting of King Solomons Lodge on November 10, 1853, V. W. Bro. Kivas Tully¹¹, a Past Master of the Lodge (1850-51) resolved in view of the (then) existence of ten Irish Lodges in Canada West and the need for “having a ruling power”, that a convention of the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens should be called to consult on the best means to achieve the objective. Strong support for W. Bro. Tully was provided by V. W. Bro. Thomas Bird Harris and W. Bros. Charles Fitzgibbon, R. C. McMullen and James E. Smith. No sooner had the motion been put to the vote and accepted, than it was followed by two more resolutions: the first that the convention be called for Thursday, November 24, 1853, at noon, to be held in the Lodge room of St. John’s No. 231 IC, Hamilton, and under its authority as an Emergency Meeting; and the second that the foregoing resolutions be provided to all Lodges working under Irish jurisdiction. The location was chosen in view of the difficulties of winter travel and thus for the convenience of the majority of attendees expected. Hamilton also reinforced the knowledge that the majority of Irish Lodges were located between Toronto in the east and St. Thomas in the west, and between the north shore of Lake Erie in the south and London in the north. St. John’s at Hawkesbury and the two Irish Lodges in Canada East fell outside this south-western Ontario area and none sent representatives to the meetings.

¹¹ Kivas Tully, son of Captain John B. Tully, RN (stationed for some years at Cork, Co. Cork, Ireland) was born in Queen’s County, Ireland, in 1820. It is not known where he received his schooling or his training as a civil engineer and architect. In 1843 he was initiated into Ancient Union Lodge, No. 13 IC, Limerick, Co. Limerick, Ireland (Warrant issued November 22, 1732 and the Lodge was still current in 2002). He came to Toronto, Canada West, in 1844 at the age of 24 years, and worked in his chosen field. He was quite successful and became a Councillor and Alderman. He affiliated with St. Andrew’s No. 16 PRCW (now No. 16 GRC) on December 10, 1844, and Ionic Lodge, No. 798 ER (now No. 25 GRC), both in Toronto, but later withdrew in order to affiliate with King Solomon’s Lodge (No. 222 IC, now No. 22 GRC) on May 29, 1850 and was elected W.M. on June 13, 1850. His transfer to King Solomon’s was made because of his strong feelings of the need for an independent Grand Lodge for Canada West and the strong feelings of loyalty to England held by both St. Andrew’s and Ionic (and the rules of the day prevented membership in more than one Lodge at a time).

RESOLUTIONS OF KING SOLOMONS LODGE, NO. 222 IC, TORONTO

Resolutions passed in King Solomons Lodge, 222,
Toronto, 10th Nov., 5853

1st Resolution.

Considering the rapid increase of Lodges working under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland,—being now Ten in number—and the necessity their (*sic*) exists for having a Ruling Power in Canada West, it is desirable that a Convention, to be composed of the W. masters, Past masters, Senior and Junior Wardens of said Lodges, be held forthwith to consult on the best means to be adopted for attaining the object, and for the benefit of the craft generally in Canada West.

Carried unanimously.

2nd Resolution.

That owing to the lateness of the season, and for the greater convenience of the Delegates from the several Lodges, it is advisable that the said Masonic Convention be held in Hamilton, on the 24th instant, at noon, and that a communication be forwarded to Saint John's Lodge, No. 231, Hamilton, requesting the use of their Lodge Room for the purpose, and in order to give Masonic sanction to the said Convention.—The W.M. of Saint John's Lodge, No. 231, be, and is hereby requested to call an emergency of the Lodge on that day, their being nothing in the constitution contrary to such a proceeding.

Carried unanimously.

3rd Resolution.

That copies of the above Resolutions be forwarded to the several Lodges working under the Irish jurisdiction in Canada West, requesting that the duly qualified Delegates, as above stated, attend the Masonic Convention, as matters of the utmost importance to the progress of Masonry in Canada will be discussed.

Carried unanimously.

WM. CLARKE, Secretary

[Source: Photocopy of original in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

On November 24, 1853, ten representatives of five Irish Lodges—St. John’s No. 209 IC (now No. 3 GRC) London; King Solomons No. 222 IC (now No. 22 GRC) Toronto; St. John’s No. 231 IC (now No. 40 GRC) Hamilton; St. John’s No. 286 IC (now No. 35 GRC) Cayuga; and Brant No. 323 IC (now No. 45 GRC) Brantford)—gathered in Hamilton to discuss the issue. Their first effort was to request recognition as a Grand Lodge of Canada West. The Grand Lodge of Ireland offered them Provincial Grand Lodge status. The minutes of this meeting are quoted in Robertson (History, p. 708-709) and are transcribed hereunder:

Minutes of a Meeting of Delegates:

From the several lodges of Freemasons in Canada West, under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, assembled under Resolution passed in King Solomon’s Lodge, No. 222, G.R.I., on Thursday evening, the 10th day of November, 5853, and circulated through the several Lodges, held in Saint John’s Lodge Room, in Hamilton on Thursday, the 24th November, A.L. 5853.

At the adjourned meeting (in the Third Degree) of the Saint John’s Lodge, No. 231, Grand Registry of Ireland, following Delegates were present:

W. Bro. T. B. Harris, W.M., Saint John’s Lodge, 231.
V.W. Bro. Kivas Tully, P.M., King Solomon’s, 222.
W. Bro. W. Myles, P.M., Saint John’s Lodge, 231.
Bro. Chas. R. Wilkes, J.W., Brant, 323.
Bro. R. C. McMullen, J.W., King Solomon’s, 222.
W. Bro. J. W. Kerr, P.M., Saint John’s, 231.
W. Bro. James Daniels, W.M., Saint John’s, 209.
W. Bro. Dr. McPherson, P.M., York, Grand River, 286.
Bro. Jer. Taylor (Proxy,) York, Grand River, 286.
W. Bro. T. Moore, P.M., Saint John’s Lodge, 231.

The W. Master read Communications from Saint John’s, 286, Cayuga, Grand River, dated 19th. Novr., 53. From King Hiram’s, 226, Ingersoll, C.W., dated 21st Nov., 53. Both letters relative to the Convention. The latter contained resolutions of King Hiram’s Lodge, as follows:

“Ingersoll, 15th Nov., 5853.

“King Hiram’s Lodge, 226.

“Moved and carried unanimously, that this Lodge approving of the Resolutions passed at King Solomon’s, No. 222, on the subject of having a Provincial Grand Lodge in Canada West, and further, that the Secretary be ordered to communicate the same for the information of the Convention, which is to meet on the 24th instant, at Hamilton.

Proposed by V. W. Bro. K. Tully, P.M., 222, seconded by W. Bro. J. Daniels, W.M., 209.

Resolved — That the rapid increase of Lodges working under Warrants granted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, requires a Provincial Governing Authority, to be composed of Representatives from the several Private Lodges in Canada.

Carried Unanimously.

Proposed by W. Bro. Daniels, W.M., seconded by Bro. Kerr, P.M.,

Resolved — That Brothers Tully, Kerr, McPherson and Wilkes be a committee to frame Resolutions to be submitted to the Lodges on the subject of establishing a Governing Authority in Canada West, and that said Committee report on the subject this evening.

Carried unanimously.

The Committee on Resolutions having reported, their report was received and adopted unanimously, when it was

Proposed by W. Bro. Kerr, P.M., seconded by W. Bro. Myles, P.M.,

Resolved — That for the better management of the Business connected with the Masonic Institution in Canada West— an Independent Grand Lodge be established therein, and a communication be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that it is the intention of the Brethren working under their jurisdiction in Canada West to form themselves into an Independent Grand Lodge, and respectfully requesting them to recognize the said Lodge as the Grand Lodge of Canada West.

Carried unanimously.

MEM. - That the Secretary of the Convention be instructed to report to the Grand Lodge of Ireland immediately.

Moved by W. Bro. Daniels, W.M., seconded by V. W. Bro. K. Tully, P.M., and

Resolved — That copies of the proceedings of this Convention be forwarded to the several Irish Lodges in Canada West, and that an adjourned Convention of the said Lodges, be held in the Lodge Room of Saint John’s Lodge, 209, London, C.W., on the first Thursday in May, for the purpose of forming an Independent

Grand Lodge of Canada West.

Carried unanimously.

Bro. Robert C. McMullen, J.W. of King Solomon's Lodge, 222, Toronto, was requested to act as Secretary to the Convention.

R. C. McMULLEN, Secretary

[Source: Photocopy of original in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

Following adjournment of the meeting Brother McMullen wrote to the Grand Secretary to keep Ireland advised of the events unfolding in the western part of Canada West.

Toronto,

Novr. 30th 5853

R. W. Sir & Brother

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the proceedings of a Convention of the Representatives of Lodges held in Hamilton on the 24th instant and was directed by the Presiding Officer of the Convention respectfully to urge the compliance of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland with our request.

This course has not been recommended from any want of masonic regard for the M. W. the G. Lodge of Ireland — but being in conjunction with a similar movement on the part of the English Lodges, it is considered it will tend to unanimity amongst the Brethren generally, and the benefit of the Order in Canada West.

I have the honor to be
R. W. Sir and brother
Respectfully & fraternally yours
R. C. McMullen
Secy.

To

The Right Worshipful
Bro. J. Fowler
Dep. Grand Sec.
Freemasons Hall
Dublin

[Source: Photocopy of original letter in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

The Minutes were copied to all Irish Lodges which, according to Robertson, endorsed the resolution and the action of the delegates at Hamilton. At an emergent meeting of King Solomons Lodge, held on December 6, 1853, it was resolved that: “. . . the members in open lodge assembled are of the opinion that with all due reverence for the most worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and for the benefit of the order generally throughout the province, the recommendation of the convention for the establishment of an Independent Grand Lodge for Canada West is the most advisable course that could be adopted, and that the duly qualified delegates be requested to attend the adjourned convention to be held in London on Thursday, the 4th May, 1854, for the purpose of establishing the said Independent Grand Lodge.” The Lodge ordered 100 copies of the resolution to be printed “for circulation”.

On April 15, 1854, the Master of King Solomons Lodge received a communication from the Grand Secretary in Dublin which was forwarded to the secretary of the Convention. The letter is not transcribed in King Solomons Minutes but it would appear that it was this letter which proffered Provincial Grand Lodge status along with the right of nominating a Provincial Grand Master to the Grand Master for his approval.

The adjourned Convention was held on Thursday, May 4, 1854, in London, as planned. The minutes read as follows:

Minutes of an adjourned Convention of Delegates from the several Lodges working under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held pursuant to notice in the Lodge Hall, London, Canada West, on Thursday, the 4th of May, A.L. 5854.

W. Bro. James Daniell, W.M. St. John's, 209, presiding. Twenty-five Delegates present.

St. John's Lodge, No. 209, having been opened in the third Degree in the usual form, the minutes of the Convention held in St. John's, 231, Lodge Hall, Hamilton, Canada West, on 24th November last, were read and confirmed.

Several communications were read, including one from the Grand Lodge of Ireland to V. W. Bro. Kivas Tully, P.M. of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 222, when it was moved by W. Bro. T. B. Harris, seconded by W. Bro. Caldwell, and

Resolved - That this Lodge be now closed and the delegates form themselves into a Committee of the whole, to take such steps as they may deem expedient for the formation of a Grand Lodge in Canada West. Carried.

The Lodge was then closed in the usual form.

In Committee of the whole, W. Bro. James Daniell in the Chair.

Resolved - That a Committee be appointed to draft a copy of a Constitution for the Government of a Grand Lodge of Canada to be established in this Province, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Convention. Carried.

Resolved - That the Committee consist of Worshipful Bros. James Daniell, T. B. Harris, Dr. Henwood, William Young, J. E. Hall and Very Worshipful Bro. Kivas Tully. Carried.

Resolved - That the adjourned meeting of this Convention be held in Hamilton on the first Thursday in September. Carried.

Resolved - That a copy of the proceedings of this Convention be forwarded to all the Lodges in Canada West, also to the Provincial Grand Lodge of this Province, asking their co-operation in the establishment of an Independent Grand Lodge in Canada. Carried.

Resolved - that W. Bro. T. B. Harris be President of the Committee.

Resolved - That Bro. Robert C. McMullen be requested to continue his services as Secretary of this Convention and Committee. Carried.

Resolved - That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Masonic Mirror and Keystone and the Masonic Review. Carried.

Resolved - That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Chairman, Wor. Bro. James Daniell for his conduct on this occasion. Carried.

Resolved - That the thanks of this Convention be given to Bro. Robert C. McMullen for his services as Secretary. Carried.

Resolved - That the thanks of this Convention be given to the W. M., Officers and Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 209, G.R.I., for their kind attention to the several Delegates and for the use of their Masonic Hall. Carried.

The Convention then adjourned.

R. C. McMullen, Secretary

[Source: Robertson, History, Vol. II p 710-11]

The names of the twenty-five Delegates were not recorded in the Minutes as noted and if they did, in fact, exist on a separate piece of paper, it had disappeared by the time Robertson was preparing his History. One other item of note is the spelling of “Daniell” and “Daniels”—the former appears in Robertson’s History while the other appears in the documents and printed minutes of King Solomon’s Lodge. Both refer to the same individual.

The plan to meet on September 9, 1854, in Hamilton was not carried out. It appears that at a meeting of King Solomons Lodge on November 9, 1854 there was a “substitute” meeting of the Convention involving members of King Solomons; Binbrook No. 358 IC, Binbrook (W. Bro. Jeremiah Taylor); St. John’s No. 231 IC, Hamilton (W. Bro. Thomas Bird Harris) and St. Thomas No. 232 IC, St. Thomas (W. Bro. T. B. Warren). The attendees (for it is not at all clear that this was an official meeting of the Convention) voted to accept the offer of the creation of an Irish Provincial Grand Lodge for Canada West, and then elected W. Bro. James Daniell (of St. John’s Lodge, No. 209 IC, London) as Provincial Grand Master. This action was a reversal of the decisions taken by the full Convention on May 4, 1854. The Lodge Minutes for this meeting contain only the terse statement “The remainder of the evening was occupied with the business of the Convention.”

Minutes of the meeting of the Convention were, however, prepared and published by the Secretary, Bro. R. C. McMullen as follows:

Toronto, 11th *November*, A.L., 5854

SIR AND BROTHER

Hereunder you have Copy of the Resolutions passed at a meeting of Delegates from Irish Lodges, held in the Masonic Hall, Church Street, Toronto, on Thursday, 9th instant.

Yours fraternally

R. C. McMULLEN,
Secretary

Resolved - That the offer of a Provincial Grand Lodge, by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, leaving the Nomination of the Provincial Grand Master to this Convention, be accepted, provided that the Grand Lodge grant to this Provincial Grand Lodge, the privilege of issuing Warrants and Certificates, retaining the Fees. A nominal value for such privilege to be fixed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge.

Resolved - that W. Brothers P.M.s TULLY and ALLEN do draft a statement of facts, showing why such powers are required, to be submitted to the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

W. Bro. P. M. JAMES DANIELS of St. John's Lodge, 209, London, C.W., was then elected Provincial Grand Master, subject to the conditions of the foregoing Resolutions.

The Secretary was ordered to submit a copy of these Proceedings to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ireland, with the statements referred to in the 2nd Resolution.

The meeting then adjourned.

R. C. McMULLEN,
Secretary

[Source: Photocopy of original in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

The two letters called for in the second resolution were drafted and sent to Grand Lodge of Ireland — the first letter from the Secretary of the Convention being undated and the second dated November 29, 1854.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The undersigned as Secretary of a Convention of Delegates from Lodges working under Warrants issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland begs respectfully to submit the following resolutions passed at the adjourned Convention held in the Lodge Hall of King Solomon Lodge No. 222 on Thursday, 9th day of November A.L. 5854 A.D. 1854 as follows.

Resolved “That the offer of a Provincial Grand Lodge, by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, leaving the Nomination of the Provincial Grand Master to this Convention, be accepted, provided that the Grand Lodge grant to this Provincial Grand Lodge, the privilege of issuing Warrants and Certificates, retaining the Fees. A nominal value for such privilege to be fixed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge.”

Resolved “that W. Bro. P.M.s Tully & Allen do draft a statement of facts, showing why such powers are required, to be submitted to the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Ireland.”

W. Bro. P. M. James Daniels of St. John’s Lodge, 209, London, C.W., was then elected Provincial Grand Master, subject to the conditions of the foregoing Resolutions.

I have therefore most respectfully to request that the M. W. the Grand Lodge will take into consideration the position of the Brethren in Canada as submitted by P.M.’s Tully & Allen and that as early as possible I may be informed of the action taken by the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Ireland addressed to me at Toronto C. W. per Cunard Line of Steamers.

I have the honor to subscribe myself

R. C. McMullen,
Secy to the Convention

I forward printed Copy of the Resolutions.

[Source: Photocopy of original letter in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The undersigned having been appointed by resolution to draft a statement of facts, showing why certain privileges are required by the brethren in this Province, beg to submit the following:

- 1st. The rapid increase of Lodges, working under Warrants from the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Ireland, demands a local governing body.
- 2nd. The difficulty experienced in corresponding with the M. W. the Grand Lodge, and consequent detriment to the Craft, requires that the Provincial Grand Lodge for this Province should have more extended powers that are usually granted by the Constitution.
- 3rd. The objections to remit the Fees for Warrants and Certificates being a yearly amount sufficient to form the basis of a Benevolent Fund, which is much required in this Province.

The undersigned humbly submit that should the prayer of the resolution be granted by the M. W. the Grand Lodge, it would do more for the prosperity of the Craft in this Province than any other course that could be adopted; in fact, it would tend to cement the bonds of Universal Brotherhood more closely, and would eventually lead to a junction of all lodges working under other jurisdictions, thereby avoiding the impending necessity of forming an independent Grand Lodge.

The undersigned also respectfully submit that the great delay caused by the irregular communication with the Grand Lodge, when promptness is required, particularly in reference to certificates, justifies the Private Lodges in claiming more extended powers than are provided for in the Constitutions— And the fact that several distressed brethren from England and Scotland, as well as Ireland, have been annually relieved by the private lodges here, whereas comparatively few, if any, Canadian brethren have claimed assistance from the Parent Grand Lodge, requires the most serious consideration of the M. W. the Grand Lodge as to a reduction of the fees—and in carrying out this arrangement, we respectfully urge that an annual amount, to be fixed by the M. W. the Grand Lodge, would be the most satisfactory mode of settlement.

The undersigned, in conclusion, would state, on behalf of the several

Lodges working under the Irish jurisdiction, that in adopting this course they are solely influenced by the desire to further the interests of the Order generally, and not by a rebellious or factious spirit—and should the M. W. the Grand Lodge consider it advisable to adopt any other course that would carry out the intentions of the Representatives of the several Lodges, they would be prepared to adopt it, and humbly submit to the decision of the M. W. the Grand Lodge.

All which is respectively submitted.

(signed)Kivas Tully, P. M.

George L. Allen, P. M. No. 222

Toronto,

November 29th, A. L. 5854

[Source: Photocopy of original letter in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

To apply some subtle (or, perhaps, not too subtle) pressure on both the Grand Lodge of Ireland and United Grand Lodge of England, the brethren provided information for an article in the British Colonist edition of November 22, 1854.

Masonic - A Canadian Grand Lodge

Much inconvenience has for a long time been experience by the members of the Masonic fraternity, in consequence of the great, though perhaps necessary, delays which have arisen in the transaction of business with the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland. It has been felt also that the transmission of dues to the mother country, by the Lodges here, was an inconsistent proceeding; for not only are the brethren there far more wealthy than those in this colony, but we in Canada are called upon much more frequently to administer to the necessities of brethren arriving from England, than those there are to assist any who may hail from this Province. The interests of the institution in Canada have doubtless been much impaired by these current disadvantages; and it was with the desire of removing anything like an impediment in the continued and continual progression of the fraternity, that it was deemed advisable to establish a Provincial Grand Lodge for Canada. To this end a meeting of delegates from the various Lodges was held in London some months since, when the initiatory steps were taken to bring about the wished for result. Communications were then opened with the Irish Grand Lodge, which have progressed so far, very favourably; and at another meeting of delegates held last Thursday at Toronto, the progress the negotiators had made was laid before the meeting, when the following resolutions were passed:—

“Resolved—That the offer of a Provincial Grand Lodge, by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, leaving the Nomination of the Provincial Grand Master to this Convention, be accepted, provided that the Grand Lodge grant to this Provincial Grand Lodge, the privilege of issuing Warrants and Certificates, retaining the Fees. A nominal value for such privilege to be fixed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge.”

“Resolved—that W. Bro. P.M.s Tully & Allen do draft a statement of facts, showing why such powers are required, to be submitted to the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Ireland.”

W. Bro. P. M. James Daniels, of St. John’s Lodge, London, C.W., was then elected Provincial Grand Master, subject to the foregoing Resolutions. The Secretary was ordered to submit a copy of these proceedings to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ireland with the statements referred to in the second Resolution.

At present, the English Lodges have not taken any active part in the matter; but a very general feeling exists among them to support the movement by their countenance and, as speedily as possible, to join in under the authority of the Provincial Grand Lodge. All brethren must see how much such a step would tend to unite the members of the fraternity in this Province still more closely in those bonds of harmonious fellowship for which they have been so long and so widely distinguished; and it will be indeed a propitious day when all the various Lodges in Canada shall be united under the command of one common Provincial Grand Master, and thus be able the more effectively to promulgate and carry out, in the manner peculiar to masons, the glorious principles of their time-honoured institution.

It is a matter which excites no small amount of pleasurable feeling among the Masonic fraternity here, that the choice of the first Provincial Grand Master has fallen upon W. P. M. James Daniell, Mast of St. John’s Lodge, 209, London; not only because he is a citizen of our own, but for the reason he has ever been foremost to carry out the great principles of the order,—has laboured for years to promote its efficiency, and has attained to an amount of Masonic proficiency which eminently adapts him to discharge those high and important functions which he has been elected to fulfill.

[Source: Photocopy of original letter in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

The Grand Lodge of Ireland reviewed the proposals from Canada West at its next regular assembly, December 27, 1854 and its decisions were contained in a letter from the Grand Secretary dated January 8, 1855, and directed to Bro. R. C. McMullen, Secretary of the Convention.

Free Masons' Hall, Dublin, Ireland
8th January, 1855

Dear Sir and Brother - I am directed to inform you that the resolutions forwarded through you and Bro. G. L. Allen, P.M., No. 222, and Bro. Tully, from a Convention of Delegates meeting in the Hall of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 222, at Toronto, on the 9th November, 1854, were duly laid before the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland on Thursday evening, the 4th January, 1855, and the M. W. the Grand Lodge were pleased to confirm the Report of the Board of General Purposes, who had them previously under their consideration. The decision of the Grand Lodge is, viz.:

That the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland cannot recommend His Grace the Duke of Leinster, the M. W. the Grand Master, to grant a Provincial Grand Lodge to Memorialists on any other terms than those usually granted, and with the prescribed powers granted to other Provincial Grand Lodges.

But I am directed to assure the Brethren in Canada West, &c., that the Grand Lodge deeply regret that any inconvenience has arisen by the irregularity of the correspondence with the Brethren from the Grand Secretary's office, and to state that arrangements have now been made that such irregularities for the future shall not occur. The sudden death of our brother George Rankin, Deputy Assistant Grand Secretary, in September, placed the affairs of the office in some little confusion. The committee appointed to regulate the office have concluded their sittings, and their suggestions are now acted upon, and I am sure will give every possible satisfaction to the Order generally. The Grand Lodge at its last meeting appointed Bro. Lucius H. Deering, Deputy Assistant Secretary, in lieu of our lamented Brother G. Rankin.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally.
S. Fowler, D. G. S.

Bro. R. C. McMullen,
Secretary to Convention,
Masonic Hall, Toronto, Canada West.

[Source: Photocopy of original letter in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

A spirit to try and reach an accommodation had obviously been balanced by the need to ensure that no one single Irish Provincial Grand Lodge had authorities

exceeding those of the others. Probably, too, there was a recognition that if the authorities had been granted to Canada West, there would remain precious little need for the continued loyalty to the Grand Lodge itself, as there would be no tie except for the annual payment of a fixed sum for Warrants and Certificates issued in the name of the Grand Lodge.

Certainly the letter's contents were discussed by the Irish Lodges in Canada West and the Masters of the Lodges agreed to convene the Convention in Hamilton on May 14, 1855. King Solomon's Lodge met on May 10, 1855 and resolved that: "the delegates of this lodge be instructed to advocate at the meeting in Hamilton on the 14th inst. a united action with the English Lodges of Canada West, for the purpose of petitioning the Grand Lodge of England, Ireland and Scotland to grant a united separate Grand Lodge for the Province." This was a recognition that a unified front was stronger—and that while the Irish Lodges totalled 12 actively involved in the move to independence (St. John's at Hawkesbury and the two Irish Lodges in Canada East are not counted as they do not appear to have figured prominently in events up to this time), there were 66 English Lodges (52 in Canada West; 11 under the Provincial Lodge of Montreal and William Henry and 3 under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec and Three Rivers) and 2 Scottish Lodges in Canada East.

The Convention met at Hamilton on May 14, 1855. It's first item of business was to appoint a delegation consisting of V. W. Bro. Thomas B. Harris and W. Bros. James Daniell, George L. Allen and R. C. McMullen, to attend the forthcoming meeting of the (English) Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada to be held at Niagara Falls on July 19, 1855. Their purpose was to propose and urge the value of united action in the formation of an independent Grand Lodge. By this time, the former Convention Secretary, R. C. McMullen had been elected as Master of King Solomon's Lodge and had, perforce, handed the secretarial duties over to Bro. John W. Baine. The minutes of the Hamilton meeting were issued in form as a circular and sent to all Canadian Lodges and leading members of the Craft in both Canada West and Canada East.

At a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton, on Thursday, the fourteenth day of May, 5855, for the purpose of forming a Canadian Grand Lodge.

1. It was moved, seconded and resolved.

That all the lodges in Western Canada be requested to send Delegates to meet the Provincial Grand Lodge at the "Clifton House", Niagara Falls, on Thursday the nineteenth day of July next, when a Committee will be prepared to give every information on the subject.

2. It was moved, seconded and resolved.

That after the said meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge the delegates will assemble at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton, on the second Monday in August, next, to confirm their proceedings, and to proceed with the formation of "The Canadian Grand Lodge", the election of Officers and such other matters as may be deemed necessary.

Worshipful Sir & Brother

As above we send you the two resolutions for the consideration of your Lodge, with the view that you will appoint Delegates, so that your Lodge may be fully represented.

Yours fraternally,
John W. Baine, Secretary

Thos. B. Harris, Presiding

Hamilton, June 7th, 5855.

[Source: Photocopy of original in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

As already noted a similar move towards independence had also occurred in English Lodges at about the same time and for basically the same reasons: the financial impact of funding the operations of a Grand Lodge and several Provincial/District Grand Lodges; the difficulties of communication and the transfer of funds and receipt of Warrants and Masonic Certificates; and the refusal by the Grand Lodge of England to permit the Canadian brethren to elect their own Provincial Grand Master and their insistence on the Grand Master's prerogative to appoint the PGM. However, it was the individual Irish Lodges who undertook to meet with the (English) Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West on July 19, 1855.

Carefully prepared resolutions were ruled out of order by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who thereupon adjourned the meeting until the following day. On July 20, having felt that the autocratic and unsympathetic actions of the Provincial Grand Master (Sir Alan Napier Macnab) and his Deputy prevented movement towards a solution, a resolution was unanimously passed calling a meeting for October 10, 1855, in Hamilton “for the purpose of considering the expediency of establishing an Independent Grand Lodge for Canada.” On that date history records that the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons Canada was founded and that twelve Irish Lodges (1 in Canada East and 11 in Canada West) immediately affiliated with the new Grand Lodge as did forty-one Lodges of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West (28 located in Canada West and 13 in Canada East).

THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA IS FORMED

As there are very few copies of the Proceedings of the first few years of the new Grand Lodge of Canada, it is worth outlining some of the events of the first five years and to flag the role played by the Irish Lodges in spite of being “outnumbered” by their English colleagues.

FORMATION MEETING - OCTOBER 10, 1855, HAMILTON

At a Convention of Delegates from the Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 10th day of October, 1855, in conformity with a summons issued under the following resolutions passed at a meeting of Masons, held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, the 19th day of July, 1855, when it was resolved:

That a Convention of Delegates be held at Hamilton, on the 2nd Wednesday in October next, for the purpose of considering the expediency of establishing an Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, and to proceed with such matters as may be deemed most desirable for the benefit of Masonry in the Province.

It was likewise resolved:

That the Secretary be instructed to address a communication, embodying the foregoing resolutions, to every Lodge in the Province, inviting and urging upon them to be properly represented at that Convention.

The following Lodges¹² were duly represented by their properly qualified

¹² The current situation of each Lodge has been listed by the author in square brackets for clarity, it does not appear in the original Proceedings.

officers:

Brockville Lodge,	Brockville	[now Sussex No. 5 GRC, Brockville]
Niagara Lodge	Niagara	[now St. John's Lodge of Friendship, No. 2]
Union Lodge	Grimsby	[now Union No. 7 GRC]
Norfolk Lodge	Simcoe	[now Norfolk No. 10 GRC]
Nelson Lodge	Clarenceville	[now Nelson No. 9 GRQ, St. Armand]
St. Andrew's Lodge	St. Andrews	[became No. 12 GRC, expired in 1856]
Golden Rule Lodge	Stanstead	[now Golden Rule, No. 5 GRQ]
St. George's Lodge	Montreal	[now St. George's No. 10 GRQ]
Zetland Lodge	Montreal	[became No. 13 GRQ, expired 1879]
Barton Lodge	Hamilton	[now The Barton No. 6 GRC]
Dorchester Lodge	St. Johns	[now Dorchester, No. 4 GRQ, Chateauguay]
Prevost Lodge	Dunham	[became No. 8 GRQ, Dunham, PQ]
St. George's Lodge	St. Catharines	[now St. George's No. 15 GRC]
Strict Observance Lodge	Hamilton	[now Strict Observance No. 27 GRC]
Amity Lodge	Dunnville	[now Amity No. 32 GRC]
Composite Lodge	Whitby	[now Composite No. 30 GRC]
St. George's Lodge	London	[now St. George's No. 42 GRC]
King Solomon Lodge	Woodstock	[now King Solomon's No. 43 GRC]
St. Lawrence Lodge	Montreal	[now St. Lawrence-Zetland No. 14 GRQ]
Great Western Lodge	Windsor	[now Great Western No. 47 GRC]
Acacia Lodge	Hamilton	[now Acacia No. 61 GRC]
Shefford Lodge	Waterloo	[now Shefford No. 18 GRQ]
Hoyle Lodge	Lacolle	[became Hoyle No. 14 GRQ, expired 1877]
St. John's Lodge	Hamilton	[now St. John's No. 40 GRC]
Independent Lodge	Quebec	[became Harington No. 17 GRQ, exp. 1880]
Lodge of Social and Military	Virtues Montreal	[now Antiquity, No. 1 GRQ, Montreal]
Wellington Lodge	Dunnville	[became Wellington No. 52 GRC, exp. 1865]
Hawkesbury Lodge	Hawkesbury	[became. Hawkesbury, No. 210 GRC, exp. 1888]
St. John's Lodge	London	[now St. John's No. 20 & St. John's No. 209A]
King Hiram Lodge	Ingersoll	[now King Hiram No. 37 GRC]
St. John's Lodge	Cayuga	[now St. John's No. 35 GRC]
St. Thomas Lodge	St. Thomas	[now St. Thomas No. 44 GRC]
Brant Lodge	Brantford	[now Brant No. 45 GRC]
Vaughan Lodge	Vaughan	[now Vaughan No. 54 GRC, Maple]
Wellington Lodge	Stratford	[became Wellington, No. 28 GRC, exp. 1858]
Harmony Lodge	Binbrook	[now Harmony No. 57 GRC]
Brighton Lodge	Brighton	[now Brighton, No. 29 GRC]
St. Andrew's Lodge	Quebec	[became St. Andrew's, No. 6 GRQ, expired]
King Solomon's Lodge	Toronto	[now King Solomon's No. 22 GRC]
Prince Edward's Lodge	Picton	[now Prince Edward No. 18 GRC]
Thistle Lodge	Amherstburgh	[now Thistle, No. 34 GRC]

The Convention was opened at half-past 4 o'clock, P.M., with solemn prayer.

V. W. Bro. C. Magill (Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden) was called upon to preside.

V. W. Bro. Thomas B. Harris was requested to act as Secretary.

On the recommendation of a committee appointed to consider rules and

regulations for the government of the Convention,—the rules and regulations for conducting public business, contained in the Book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, were, *mutatis mutandis*, unanimously adopted.

On motion of V. W. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson, it was unanimously agreed that each Lodge represented at the Convention be entitled to three votes.

It was moved by V. W. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson, seconded by W. Bro. Dr. Fenwick, and unanimously adopted:

That the following brethren be a Committee to prepare resolutions for the adoption of this Convention—Bros. Thos. B. Harris, D. Brown, D. Curtis, Wm. M. Wilson, A. Bernard, Dr. Lundy, W. C. Stephens, G. Railton, W. B. Simpson, Richard Bull, and John Osborne.

The Convention adjourned till 7 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention resumed its sitting at half-past 7 P. M., V. W. Bro. C, Magill presiding.

The Committee appointed to prepare resolutions for the adoption of the Convention submitted the following preamble:

Whereas, the existence of Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons in this province, hailing from three several Grand Lodges, is a system productive of much evil to the Craft, creating a diversity of interests and allegiance,—an absence of harmony in action and working, perpetuating local and national feelings and thus estranging the affections of brethren, whose Order knows no country and is confined to no race: and,

Whereas, the Benevolent funds of Canadian Freemasons, small as they are, are constantly taxed to relieve needy brethren from Europe, while our resources are doubly drawn upon by contributions to the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, and to the Provincial Grand Lodges Canada, thus creating a constant drain upon those funds from which but little return can ever be expected: and,

Whereas, the distance between Canada and the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland presents a very serious difficulty in regard to the necessary correspondence, as well as the prompt receipt of Warrants and Certificates, which have been delayed for months, and in some cases for years, greatly to the inconvenience of the fraternity in Canada: and,

Whereas, important communications, and even remittances of money, have been suffered to lie for years in the Grand Secretary's office of England, without the least acknowledgement of their having been received in due course, brethren being compelled to leave the Province before they could receive from England the

certificates for which they had long previously paid: and,

Whereas, the communications of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada to the Grand Lodge of England,—though respectfully and masonically expressed, especially when in the form of petitions or remonstrances, have been treated with silent contempt, their very receipt remaining unacknowledged: and,

Whereas, the Provincial Grand Masters of Canada and their Deputies are not appointed by, and are entirely irresponsible to the Freemasons of Canada, being the mere nominees of the Grand Lodge of Great Britain,—the members of which can know but little of the state of the Craft, or the masonic position of individuals in this Province: and,

Whereas, whilst the Provincial Grand Lodges are thus rendered irresponsible to and independent of the Craft in Canada, experience has shown that they are unable to secure from the parent Grand Lodges that attention and respect which are due to their position:

Therefore be it resolved:

That in order to apply a remedy to the evils—to form perfect fraternal union and harmony, establish order, ensure *tranquility*, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the fraternity of Canada all the Blessings of masonic privileges,—it is expedient, right and our bounden duty, to form a Grand Lodge of Canada.

It was moved, in amendment, that the following words be added to the resolution:

And that the same be now organized, but that the working thereof be held in abeyance until the actions of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, be made known on the subject.

On a division, the amendment was negatived by 38 Lodges to 3. The original motion was then, after due consideration, carried with one dissentient,—the dissenting brother desiring it to be understood that his dissent was caused from the absence of full instructions from his Lodge; he individually expressing his hearty concurrence in the original resolution.

It was then moved by W. Bro. G. L. Allen, seconded by W. Bro. Wm. Bellhouse,

and unanimously adopted:

That we, the representatives of regularly warranted Lodges here in Convention assembled, resolve:

That the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada be and is hereby formed upon the Ancient Charges and Constitutions of Masonry.

On motion of W. Bro. J. Osborne, seconded by Bro. J. H. Isaacson, it was unanimously resolved:

That a Committee be appointed, consisting of W. Bros. W. M. Wilson, W. C. Stephens, R. Bull, Dr. Lundy, A. Bernard, T. B. Harris and Dr. Duggan—with power to add to their number, to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till Thursday morning, at 11 o'clock.

Note:

The current situation of each Lodge has been listed by the author in square brackets for clarity, it does not appear in the original Proceedings.

[Source: *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada from 1855 to 1860 Inclusive*, p 5-8.]

THURSDAY, 11th Oct. 1855

The Convention resumed sitting at half-past 10 o'clock, A. M., V. W. Bro. C. Magill, presiding.

The Committee appointed to prepare rules and regulations presented their report.

It was moved by W. Bro. A. S. Abbott, seconded by Bro. Taylor, and unanimously resolved:

That the draft of Constitution, now read by the Secretary, be and is hereby adopted as the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On motion of W. Bro. A. S. Abbott, seconded by Bro. J. B. Butler, it was unanimously adopted:

That rules and regulations having been adopted, the Convention proceed to the election of Grand Officers, to hold office until the 2nd Wednesday in July, A. L. 5856.

The following officers were declared duly elected:

M. W. Bro. Wm. Mercer Wilson	Grand Master
R. W. Bro. A. Bernard	Deputy Grand Master
R. W. Bro. W.C. Stephens	D.D.G.M. Western District
R. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson	D.D.G.M. Central District
R. W. Bro. W. Eaden	D.D.G.M. Eastern District
R. W. Bro. Richard Bull	Grand Senior Warden
R. W. Bro. James Daniel	Grand Junior Warden
R. W. Bro. Rev. Dr. Lundy	Grand Chaplain
R. W. Bro. William Bellhouse	Grand Treasurer
R. W. Bro. Thos. B. Harris	Grand Secretary

The Grand Master elect was pleased to make the following appointments:

V. W. Bro. Rev. G. Scott	Asst. Grand Chaplain
V. W. Bro. C. Magill	Grand Senior Deacon
V. W. Bro. George L. Allen	Grand Junior Deacon
V. W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson	Asst. Grand Secretary
V. W. Bro. Thomas Duggan	Grand Superintendent of Works
V. W. Bro. J. Osborne	Grand Director of Ceremonies
V. W. Bro. G. E. Fenwick	Asst. Grand Director of Ceremonies
V. W. Bro. J. W. Haldimand	Grand Sword Bearer
V. W. Bro. William T. Thomas	Grand Organist
V. W. Bro. Geo. W. Powell	Grand Pursuivant
V. W. Bro. J. R. Holden)	Grand Stewards
V. W. Bro. J. C. Butler)	
V. W. Bro. Jno. Morrison	Grand Tyler

On motion of W. Bro. Taylor, seconded by W. Bro. James Daniel, it was unanimously adopted:

That every Lodge concurring in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada,

shall have authority granted them for the purpose of continuing their work, and that some reasonable time be mentioned therein to enable them to make out the returns to the parent Grand Lodges; and should they fail to fulfill this engagement, then all protection from the Grand Lodge of Canada will cease.

On motion of W. bro. Jas. Daniel, seconded by W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, it was resolved:

That a Committee be appointed to revise and amend the rules and regulations, and to report at the first Annual Communication.

The following were appointed to the Committee, viz:

V. W. Bros. W. C. Stephens, R. Bull, Dr. Lundy, C. Magill, Thos. B. Harris, Wm. Bellhouse, and Dr. Duggan.

Moved by W. Bro. Dr. Lundy, seconded by Bro. Taylor, and resolved:

That a Committee be appointed to assist the Grand Secretary on the Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge, and that the purchase of the Grand Lodge regalia, together with the books and all other necessaries, be confided to such Committee.

The following Brethren were appointed:

V. W. Bros. W. C. Stephens, Dr. Lundy, R. Bull.

On motion of W. Bro. A. Bernard, seconded by W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, and unanimously adopted:

That the thanks of the Grand Lodge of Canada and of the Craft in general, are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to the brethren of Hamilton, for the indefatigable zeal and perseverance which they have evinced in devising the best means of establishing the Grand Lodge of Canada, as well as for their generous hospitality to the brethren from a distance.

It was, on motion of W. Bro. Dr. Lundy, seconded by W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, resolved:

That the seal no produced be used for temporary purposes, and that a new one be

procured by the Committee on Correspondence.

On motion of W. Bro. A. Bernard, seconded by W. Bro. Wm. Bellhouse, it was unanimously resolved:

That the Grand Secretary be instructed to request all Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada to forward to him, at an early day, the number of their Warrant and the date of their formation, duly authenticated.

The Convention was adjourned, to meet at 9 o'clock on Friday morning.

[Source: Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada from 1855 to 1860 Inclusive,
p 8-10.]

FRIDAY, Oct. 12, 5855

The Convention resumed its sitting at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 5 o'clock, P. M.

In consequence of V. W. Bro. C. Magill having declined to accept the office of Grand Senior Deacon, the Grand Master elect appointed W. Bro. Geo. L. Allen to be Grand Senior Deacon and W. Bro. Thos. Perkins to be Grand Junior Deacon.

On motion of W, Bro. Richard Bull, seconded by W. Bro. J. R. Holden, it was unanimously adopted:

That the Grand Master elect be requested to name three members of the Grand Lodge as a deputation to proceed, with as little delay as possible, to the residences of such Grand Masters or Past Grand Masters as may be convenient, for the purpose of inviting them to this Grand Lodge, to install the M. W. Grand Master elect.

The Grand Master appointed the following Brethren such deputation:

W. Bros. A. Bernard, W. C. Stephens, and Thos. B. Harris.

The Convention was adjourned with solemn prayer.

ATTEST Thos. B. Harris

Grand Secretary

[Source: Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada from 1855 to 1860 Inclusive,
p 10.]

FRIDAY, November 2, 5855

The Convention resumed its sitting at 6 o'clock P. M.

Present:

M. W. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson	Grand Master elect
R. W. Bro. W. C. Stephens	D. D. G. M. elect
R. W. Bro. R. Bull	Grand Senior Warden elect
R. W. Bro. James Daniel	Grand Junior Warden elect
R. W. Bro. Rev. Dr. Lundy	Grand Chaplain elect
R. W. Bro. William Bellhouse	Grand Treasurer elect
R. W. Bro. Thos. B. Harries	Grand Secretary elect
V. W. Bro. Henry Grist	Grand Senior Deacon <i>pro. tem.</i>
V. W. Bro. Thomas Perkins	Grand Junior Deacon
V. W. Bro. John Osborne	Grand Dir. of Ceremonies
V. W. Bro. Dr. T. Duggan	Grand Supt. of Works
V. W. Bro. J. R. Holden	Grand Steward
V. W. Bro. John Morrison	Grand Tyler

Brethren

Bro. D. Benedict	Bro. R. Benner
Bro. W. H. Park	Bro. J. A. Bruce
Bro. J. Rogerson	Bro. J. E. Dallyn
Bro. J. B. Ellison	Bro. James Smith
Bro. W. G. Crawford	Bro. T.C. Brownjohn
Bro. C. Norton	Bro. L. Rosenband
Bro. William T. Thomas	Bro. Albert Drey
Bro. C. Magill	Bro. C. Kelly
Bro. M. Davis	Bro. A. C. Quimby
Bro. John Austin	Bro. I. C. Chilman
Bro. J. R. Skinner	Bro. J. W. Mulloch
Bro. T. T. Roe	Bro. A. Randall
Bro. G. F. Thomas	Bro. George Nixon

Bro. George Vandyke
And other visiting Brethren.

The deputation appointed to proceed to the residences of such Grand Masters as may be deemed expedient, to invite one or more of them to assist at the installation of the Grand master of Canada, reported:

That they had proceeded to Detroit, and secured the services of the M. W. the Honorable H. T. Backus, Past Grand Master of the M. W. the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, who was in attendance, and ready to proceed at once to the consecration, installation, and investiture of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The M. W. Bro. H. T. Backus was introduced, and took his seat on the Throne.

The M. W. Grand Master and Grand Officers elect of the Grand Lodge of Canada were then presented.

The M. W. Past Grand Master, H. T. Backus performed the ceremonies of consecrating the Grand Lodge of Canada, and installed the Grand Master and invested and installed the Grand Officers in due and ancient form.

The Grand Marshall declared:

That in the name and by the authority of the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry, and the proceedings of a Convention convened pursuant to the same,

I proclaim this new Grand Lodge, by the name of "the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada," duly constituted.

On motion of the R. W. Grand Senior Warden, seconded by the R. W. Grand Junior Warden, it was unanimously resolved:

That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to the M. W. Bro. the Honorable H. T. Backus, for his fraternal kindness in consecrating this Grand Lodge, and installing the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the impressive manner in which that important ceremony was performed.

The M. W. Grand Master then closed the Grand Lodge in Ample Form, with

solemn prayer.

ATTEST,

Thos. B. Harris

Grand Secretary

[Source: Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada from 1855 to 1860 Inclusive,
p 11-12.]

In the elections the following members of Irish Lodges were elected and appointed to grand office: R. W. Bro. James Daniel (of St. John's 209 IC, London) as Grand Junior Warden; R. W. Bro. Thomas Bird Harris (of St. John's 231 IC, Hamilton) as Grand Secretary (an office he would hold for the next twenty years); and Bro. John Morrison (of St. John's 231 IC, Hamilton) as Grand Tyler. This is not a disproportionate number given that there were only a total of 23 elected and appointed officers.

Not all of the Irish Lodges immediately broke with Dublin. Some, formed in 1854 and 1855, while desirous of independence also had a strong relationship with the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Vaughan Lodge, whose Irish Warrant had been signed and issued on May 8, 1854, had its first set of By-Laws approved and printed in 1855: the first two articles setting out the obedience of the Lodge and its members to the Grand Lodge of Ireland and its orders, rules and regulations and that the By-Laws would be read to every new member and in open Lodge once every year. Although the Lodge was represented by W. Bros. James Dick at the Convention of October 10, 1855 in Hamilton and the Lodge's vote in support of the independence action was recorded, it did not move to immediately sever its relations with Ireland.

Sir & Brother

I am instructed by the W.M. and Brethren to inform you of the proceedings the various Masonic Lodges here in Canada have taken in order to form an Independent Grand Lodge for themselves. At a Masonic Convention held in the City of Hamilton last October when it was unanimously agreed to form an Independent Canadian Grand Lodge when they elected their Grand Master and Officers. They have now declared themselves a Legal Grand Lodge for Canada and is prepared to issue Warrants and Certificates.

This Canadian Grand Lodge have requested this Lodge to join their Lodge which we have declined to do until we would acquaint the G. L. of Ireland of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada. You will please inform us on this subject with express directions how to act at as early a period as possible.

I remain, Sir and Brother
Yours fraternally

John Fowler, Esq,
D. G. S.

M. Holmes
Secretary

Sir and Brother

You will please send us instructions how to act on the following.

In case one of the members have to Die or any one of the Order

Could we

Assemble and Bury a Brother in Masonic order without a Dispensation from the G. L. for that purpose.

[Source: Photocopy of original in Grand Lodge of Ireland archives]

The Grand Lodge of Ireland, meanwhile, was one of the first Grand Lodges to recognize the new Grand Lodge of Canada and immediately sent a letter to all Irish Lodges in the jurisdiction stating "If your allegiance is still to Ireland you must pass resolutions, if you have a desire to unite with the Grand Lodge of Canada, pay up your dues and return your Warrant, then pass resolutions that you affiliate with the Grand Lodge of Canada." For Vaughan Lodge, a weight had been lifted: on June 24, 1856, a Motion was made, seconded and approved to pay up all

dues owed to Ireland, to seek a new Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Canada, and to request the Grand Lodge of Ireland to permit the Lodge to retain its Irish Warrant (a request that was refused by Dublin). Warrant No. 236 IC was returned to the Grand Lodge of Ireland on December 9, 1856 and a new Warrant dated December 16, 1856, was issued to Vaughan Lodge, No. 26, at Maple (the new name of Nobleville), Canada West.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA—THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

The creation of a Grand Lodge did not solve all the problems faced by the Masons in the United Provinces of Canada. Three years of challenges and frustrations would be faced by our Grand Lodge, primarily in the bringing together of all Masonic Lodges in the Canadas as evidenced by the Proceedings for the years 1855 to 1860 inclusive. For the details on the meetings and correspondence of the English Provincial Grand Lodge, we are indebted to M. W. Bro. Robertson, who provides this in the second Volume of his History.

1856

On October 10, 1855, forty-one Lodges would be listed as represented at the formation meeting of the new Grand Lodge of Canada. But this left 58 Lodges remaining loyal to England, under the authority of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West and the two District Grand Lodges of Montreal and William Henry and Quebec and Three Rivers.

At the First Annual Communication of the new Grand Lodge (July 9, 1856, Hamilton), thirty-three Lodges would be represented—24 of the 41 from the formation in 1855 and 9 newly formed Lodges under dispensation¹³. None of the

¹³ The nine were all formed in the period between October 10, 1855 and July 9, 1856, and included: St. Andrew's, Caledonia (now No. 62 GRC); St. John's, Ingersoll (now No. 68 GRC); King Lodge, King (now No. 70 GRC); Kilwinning, London (now No. 64 GRC); Alma, Galt (now No. 72 GRC at the renamed Cambridge); Rehoboam, Toronto (now No. 65); Jacques Cartier, Montreal (ceased working by 1859); St. Francis, Melbourne (later No. 67 GRC and now No. 15 GRQ and located at Richmond) and Victoria, Sherbrooke (later No. 71 GRC and now No. 16

absent Lodges had closed: they were simply not represented by their officers or proxies and no List of Subordinate Lodges is attached to the Proceedings. The amended Constitution was presented, the Grand Master reported he had visited all Lodges in the jurisdiction and relations within the jurisdiction as well as outside and the support and recognition which was being received from other Grand Lodges—the Grand Lodge of Ireland having been the first to grant recognition, followed by some American Grand Lodges, particularly Michigan. But no reply to letters to United Grand Lodge had been received and the Grand Lodge of New York had pronounced the new Grand Lodge as schismatic and rebellious. On the positive side a petition was received from brethren in Kingston to form a new Lodge (eventually to be Cataraqui, No. 92 GRC) and referred to a committee. Warrants numbered sequentially from 1 to 39 were recommended and authorized—eight Lodges had failed to provide the requisite information to the committee in time for an assessment to be made and the numbers allocated for their Warrants.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West (which met in May 1856) reported that “seven more lodges¹⁴ had deserted the standard of the Provincial Grand Lodge, viz: Prince Edward No. 8, at Picton; No. 9 at Brockville; No. 11, Barton, at Hamilton; No. 12, Union at Grimsby; No. 15, St. George’s at St. Catharines; No. 22 Strict Observance, at Hamilton and No. 51, Acacia, at Hamilton” (Robertson, Vol. 2, p 741). A decision had been made to “publish the facts” of the insubordination of the English Lodges in breaking away to form a schismatic grand lodge and to communicate this to all other Grand Lodges, particularly those in the United States. It can have been of little solace that while United Grand Lodge was prepared to consider a motion whereby “the Prov. G. L. of Canada West should enjoy all the immunities and privileges of an independent Grand Lodge, save and except, that it shall once in every three years submit the names of two or more brethren to the M. W. the G. M. of England, who shall appoint one of them to be Prov. G. M. . . .” the advice that this motion was to be presented and considered was communicated through the medium of the Freemasons’ Magazine and not by letter or other communiqué, which could only have diminished its intent. The limitation of such authority to Canada West only, thereby excluding the two District Grand Lodges in Canada East from similar benefit, can not have sat well with eastern brethren. And the actions by the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland in not replying to letters from the Provincial Grand

GRQ). Dispensations were confirmed and warrants were ordered issued for all nine Lodges at the Second Communication 1856.

¹⁴ The seven followed the actions of Norfolk Lodge (now No. 10 GRC) of Simcoe.

Lodge outlining concerns and the expression of the need for an independent grand lodge were also criticized in Canada West¹⁵. It would appear that Grand Lodge, per se, might have influenced the direction eventually taken by London into a more positive and conciliatory direction, but the manner of conducting the business of Grand Lodge by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, were not permitted to be discussed on the floor of United Grand Lodge and the issue continued to hang and to be dragged through the semi annual Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge in October 1856.

At this October meeting letters were tabled whereby England had offered the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West and the District Grand Lodges of Montreal and William Henry and Quebec and Three Rivers a reduced set of fees but no adjustment in authority. The reply from the Provincial Grand Master of Quebec and Three Rivers, R. W. Bro. Thomas Douglas Harrington, indicated that this would not be accepted. He also went on to indicate that, in his opinion, the most senior English Masonic authorities in the Canadas were very weak — “Sir A. MacNab, has never taken an active part in any way . . . he has been all but useless” and that R. W. Bro. Badgeley, PGM of Montreal and William Henry, had exercised little energy and interest in the Craft. In Canada West, the Deputy PGM, R. W. Bro. Ridout has assumed much of the administration of the Craft and was well respected but “. . . never liked to exercise such necessary firmness as he would probably have done had he been the actual bona fide Masonic ruler. The Deputy PGM of Montreal was timid and declined to act in the absence of the PGM.” Disapproval of the lack of inadequate action by London was expressed by the Provincial Grand Lodge in the strongest terms. A strong committee to frame a petition to England was appointed.

¹⁵ As the Petitions and letters had been directly to the Grand Master *and not Grand Lodge*, they had not been laid in front of the latter for discussion and action, leading to the Motion published in the Freemasons' Magazine. The Grand Master simply ruled that documents addressed to him were **not** to be placed in front of Grand Lodge for discussion and neither were the Grand Master's replies at such time as he issued them.

1857

At the Second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, 44 Lodges were represented by their officers or proxies—34 warranted Lodges and 10 under dispensation¹⁶. The List of Subordinate Lodges names 49 Lodges and the five Lodges not represented at the Annual Communication were, simply put, absent. Amendments to the Constitution were received and approved and the reports of DDGMs of the newly formed Districts were received: Central, Hamilton (17 Lodges) and Eastern Townships. No reports are included for Toronto or Montreal Districts. Amendments to the evolving Constitution were presented and approved. The report on Foreign Correspondence recorded recognition from the Grand Lodges of Florida, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kentucky (which the Grand Master had visited on the invitation of that Grand Lodge), Texas and Vermont. Although 5 DDGMs were elected and installed in July 1856 (London, Hamilton, Toronto, Central and Montreal) only the report of the DDGM of the Montreal District (6 Lodges) was printed in the Proceedings.

In his address the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson, noted that events in Canada continued to “excite the liveliest interest in the Masonic world.” He noted that the formation of seven Districts, headed by a DDGM in each, had relieved him of many administrative matters; but he had undertaken to visit all the Lodges in the “lower province” as he had done the year previously in the “upper province.” He remarked on his disappointment when, after being invited to lay the cornerstone of the Cobourg Town Hall, the Mayor withdrew the invitation as Cobourg Lodge¹⁷ still retained its allegiance to the Provincial Grand Lodge and that body would perform the ceremony. He noted that the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada had been formed on April 2, 1857 and formed an important link in the Masonic chain where “the mysterious and impressive word lost in the catastrophe of the First Temple, is herein brought to view” Although he did not provide details he upheld the grievance of several brethren regarding innovations which conflicted with their religious beliefs and

¹⁶ The ten were all formed between July 1856 and July 1857 and included: St. James' at St. Mary's (now No. 73 GRC); St. James' at Maitland (now No. 74 GRC and located at South Augusta); Rising Sun at Farmersville (now No. 85 GRC at Athens); St. John's at Delaware (now No. 81 GRC at Mount Brydges); Wilson at Toronto (now No. 86 GRC); Beaver at Strathroy (now No. 83 GRC); Albion at Newbury (now No. 80 GRC); St. John's at Paris (now No. 82 GRC); Clinton at Clinton (now No. 84 GRC) and King Hiram at Tillsonburg (now No. 78 GRC). Warrants for nine were confirmed at the 2nd Annual Communication of 1857: the dispensation issued to St. James Lodge at St. Mary's was not confirmed “due to some irregularities (Proceedings p 85).

¹⁷ This was a misnomer as the Lodge had been called St. John's from its formation in 1801 (Warrant No. 19 PRUC(A) and No. 764 ER and now No. 17 GRC). The name is more indicative of location than anything else.

that the innovations could not be sustained nor permitted. He concluded with the regret that he was not able to report “a more perfect union of the craft within the Province” He had tabled a letter which he had written to the Provincial Grand Secretary of Canada West on June 22, 1856, which had, he felt, contributed to the removal of the decision of non-intercourse between the two groups of Lodges as well as leading to a motion by the Provincial Grand Lodge “That the interests of Masonry require that perfect unity of the craft should be restored and maintained throughout the Province.” Further, the Provincial Grand Lodge had reappointed a Committee “with power to take such measures as they may consider expedient to effect such unity” and that it should meet with a similar committee from the Grand Lodge of Canada. In his conclusion the Grand Master noted that the demands of the profession would prevent him from accepting a nomination to the office of Grand Master for another year (i.e. after July 1858).

A Special Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West was held on January 8, 1857 and it again prepared and sent a Memorial to the United Grand Lodge on the growth of Freemasonry in Canada West since 1792 and the lack of response and close feelings which had been evident throughout the 1850's particularly London's refusal to grant the status of an independent Grand Lodge which led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The Petition concluded with the request that “your august Body (give) recognition to the establishment of this Provincial Grand Lodge as THE GRAND LODGE OF UPPER CANADA, with full and unrestricted powers” (Robertson, History, Volume 2, p 780-8). The Memorial had been sent to subordinate Lodges and thirty Lodges had replied giving approval to its contents. With this support an additional resolution was appended to the Memorial instructing Bros. R. H. Townsend and Rev. G. R. Portal, the representatives of the Provincial Grand Lodge in London, “to enforce the prayer of said Memorial” (Robertson, History, Volume 2, p 789) and the Memorial was also copied to the Provincial Grand Masters of the Districts of Montreal and William Henry and Quebec and Three Rivers in order to raise further (local) support.

The Memorial would receive much review and discussion in England and at Grand Lodge, but the concessions requested by the Provincial Grand Lodge would not be approved.

The twenty-fourth Semi-Annual Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Toronto on June 30, 1857, chaired by the Deputy PGM, R. W. Bro. Ridout, and with R. W. Bro. T. D. Harington (PGM Quebec and Three Rivers) in attendance. R. W. Bro. Ridout reported that England had not agreed to

the Memorial and he (reconfirmed) that the earlier PGL decision of non-intercourse with Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Canada had been rescinded. In the discussions that followed a set of resolutions were made and passed, two of which were of great import: firstly, “That with unfeigned grief, this Provincial Grand Lodge, in fidelity to the Order within the province, is constrained to declare that a separate organization is necessary for the efficiency and stability of Freemasonry in Canada.” and, secondly, “That on the confirmation of the foregoing resolution (at the next regular meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge) this Grand Lodge shall declare itself an independent Grand Lodge, all warrants from the Grand Lodge of England being returned thereto.” In addition, it was agreed to continue the Committee to continue the negotiation with the Grand Lodge of Canada for union of the two independent bodies¹⁸.

¹⁸ Perhaps the greatest opportunity for union of the two differing groups of Freemasons (differing in their allegiance and method of obtaining independence, not in basic fundamentals) occurred on March 16, 1857, with the funeral of Bro. Samuel Zimmerman at Niagara Falls. He was a prominent capitalist and railway contractor who had been killed at the Desjardins Bridge on the Great Western Railway, at Hamilton. Masons from many jurisdictions on both sides of the border assembled and while there is no definitive listing of attendees, it did bring together members of the two differing Canadian camps and can only have demonstrated that there were many areas of similarity. Perhaps occasional “side discussions” also assisted in reinforcing this reality.

1858

At the 3rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada (July 14, 1858, Toronto), fifty-nine Lodges were represented—44 warranted Lodges and 15 under dispensation¹⁹. Reports of the DDGMs of London, Central, Montreal and Eastern Townships were received (Hamilton and Toronto are not printed in the Proceedings and it is assumed none were received). In his address the Grand Master remarked on a number of matters: his refusal to issue a dispensation to form a new Lodge at Demarara, an island in the Caribbean, although he considered the area “unoccupied” by any particular Grand Lodge; and his willingness to consider the formation of Provincial/District Grand Lodges where the number of Lodges warranted such a step. His most important comments concerned the achievement of satisfactory and “honorable” terms for union of the two Grand Lodges and the report of the Committees of the two Grand Lodges was made available to the members.

A Special Communication of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada²⁰ was convened on July 14, 1858, in Toronto, by representatives of forty Lodges (31 warranted and 9 under dispensation). The first item of business was to confirm the issue of Warrants for the nine new Lodges. The second item was to present the terms of union achieved with the Grand Lodge of Canada which were thereupon unanimously adopted. A deputation was then appointed with instructions to “proceed to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and inform that Grand Lodge that the preamble and resolutions for effecting a union of the craft in Canada, as submitted by M. W. Bro. T. D. Harington, had been unanimously adopted by this Grand Lodge” (Proceedings 1858, p 231). The delegation completed its task and reported back to the Grand Lodge that they had

¹⁹ The fifteen (or fourteen, see possible double entry for St. John's, Norwichville) were formed between July 1857 and July 1858 and included: Cataraqui, Kingston (now No. 92 GRC); St. Mark's, Port Stanley (originally Middlesex No. 211 IC, formed in 1850, and now St. Mark's No. 94 GRC); Maple Leaf, St. Catharines (now No. 103 GRC); St. Mark's, Drummondville (originally No. 60 GRC before the union of 1858, No. 105 GRC in 1858/9, now extinct); Markham Union, Unionville (now No. 87 GRC at Markham); St. John's, Norwichville (now No. 104 GRC, Norwich); Sharon, Sharon (now No. 97 GRC, Queensville); Valley, Dundas (now No. 100 GRC); Iron Duke, Arthur (later No. 56 GRC before the union of 1858, whose dispensation was cancelled in 1860 due to a lack of “properly qualified officers”); Mount Brydges at Mount Brydges (later No. 102 GRC, whose warrant was surrendered in 1862); St. James', St. Mary's (held over from the previous year when its Warrant was not issued and now No. 73 GRC); Northern Light, Kincardine (now No. 93); St. John's, Norwichville (this appears to be a duplicate entry for the St. John's already listed although this second entry in the Proceedings shows it represented by R. W. Bro. Thomas B. Harris, proxy); Burford at Burford (now No. 106 GRC); and St. Paul's, Lambeth (now No. 107 GRC). In addition to the fifteen, in his address the Grand Master indicated that he had also issued dispensations to form Phoenix Lodge at Guelph (which appears to have been stillborn as there is no entry in the List of Subordinate Lodges for the Lodge for 1858, 1859 or 1860) and Blenheim Lodge at Drumbo (now No. 108 GRC at Innerkip).

²⁰ It is unclear when this style and title was first officially adopted.

been courteously received and informed that the others had also adopted the articles of union unanimously. Thereupon the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab led his Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Canada where they were received and the union was cordially and happily effected.

The union would see 63 warranted Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons joined by 52 warranted Lodge of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada. One of the first actions of the Grand Lodge would be to rationalize the seniority of all warranted Lodges and renumber their Warrants.

1859

At the 4th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada (July 13, 1859, Kingston), ninety-three warranted Lodges were represented by their officers or proxies and six Lodges under dispensation²¹ were also represented (15 warranted Lodges and two under dispensation were not represented)—probably about one hundred attendees. This may not appear to be a significant number of brethren, but they represented over ninety percent of all registered Lodges. The reports of the DDGMs of London , Hamilton, Toronto, Central (21 Lodges), Montreal (4 Lodges of which Jacques Cartier was reported as defunct) and Eastern Townships (7 Lodges). A proposal to increase the number of districts to fourteen had been reviewed by a committee, but the conclusions and recommendations were not unanimous and the issue was held over for reconsideration by the committee during the year.

In his address, the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Wilson noted that the union of the craft in Canada had been achieved by “ignoring all personal and local feeling” in order to attain a greater purpose. The achievement had been warmly received by sister Grand Lodges. However, initial recognition by United Grand Lodge of the new Grand Lodge of Canada West was seen as an attempt to limit the authority of Grand Lodge and after writing to the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, directly, M. W. Bro. Wilson reported that this had been resolved. Recognition by the Grand Lodges of Scotland and New York were the most important, but by this year

²¹ The eight Lodges under dispensation had been formed between July 1858 and July 1859 and included: Union, Sydenham (name changed with Grand Lodge approval in July 1859 to Albion, now No.109 GRC, at Harrowsmith); Central, Prescott (now No. 110 GRC); Morpeth at Morpeth (became No.111 GRC and the Warrant was surrendered in 1881); Maitland, Goderich (became No. 112 GRC and in 1883 it amalgamated with Goderich No. 33 GRC); Wilson, Waterford (now No. 113 GRC); Hope, Port Hope (now No. 114 GRC); Cassia, Sylvan (now No. 116 GRC at Thedford); and Stanbridge at Stanbridge, CE (became No. 117 GRC but was a founding Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Quebec in 1869 and is now No. 19 GRQ).

virtually all American Grand Lodges had extended recognition. The American proposal to form a General Grand Lodge was noted but it does not appear that any discussion was held on the issue or that any action was taken.

1860

At the 5th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada (July 11, 1860, Ottawa), 117 Lodges were represented by their officers or proxies—95 holding warrants, 1 which just affiliated (Corinthian No. 834 EC at Peterborough) and 21 under dispensation. Reports of the DDGMs of London, Hamilton, Toronto, Ontario*, Prince Edward*, Central, Huron*, Wilson*, Montreal and Eastern Townships districts were received (those marked “*” were formed after the 1859 Communication). The Committee on Warrants recommended that Warrant No. 101 of Iron Duke Lodge, which had been returned, be cancelled and the number “101” assigned to Corinthian Lodge at Peterborough. Warrants were recommended to be issued to the twenty-one Lodges working under dispensations.

Compared with previous years, the address of the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Wilson, can be described as one of great happiness. Positive developments (such as the exchange of Grand Representatives with United Grand Lodge and his personal visit to the Grand Lodge of New York) far outweighed the few negative ones. In the latter category, English warrants of St. George’s No. 643 and St. Lawrence No. 923 had been properly surrendered to the District Grand Master of the District of Montreal and William Henry who had handed them back to “certain brethren who have since continued to work in an irregular manner, considering the full recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada by the United Grand Lodge of England.” A protest was to be made.

It was now that our first Grand Master, M. W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson took his leave and at the elections R. W. Bro. Thomas Douglas Harington was elected and installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.

QUESTIONS OF THE FRATERNITY

Our regular “Questions of the Fraternity” section has been omitted from this special Issue.

CUSTODIAN’S CORNER

Our regular “Custodian’s Corner” section has been omitted from this special Issue.

BOOK NOOK

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