

8
16th January, 1880.



PROVINCE

OF

Worcestershire.

A decorative flourish consisting of a central scroll-like element with symmetrical, pointed ends, centered on a horizontal line.

REPORT

OF THE

Charity Organisation Committee.



CHARITY ORGANISATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT of the Charity Organisation Committee, appointed by Provincial Grand Lodge on 16th September, 1879, and which will be presented to a Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at Worcester, on Wednesday, the 17th March 1880, for adoption.

Your Committee beg to report that with the view of carrying out the object with which they were entrusted, viz. :—*The formation of a Charity Scheme for the Province of Worcestershire*, they have held three meetings; the first at Worcester, on 20th November, 1879; the second at Kidderminster, on 29th December, 1879; and the third at Kidderminster, on 16th January, 1880. After deliberation your Committee resolved to recommend:—

That the *Charity Organisation* should have for its object the increasing of the number of *Life Governors* and *Life Subscribers* to the great Masonic Charities.

That it should be carried out *in connection with*, and as *an integral part of* the operations of *Provincial Grand Lodge*, and

That, with the view of concentrating the voting power of the Province, it is most *desirable* that all voting papers immediately on receipt thereof be forwarded by the Lodges and Brethren in the Province to the Secretary of the Charity Committee.

Your Committee then proceeded to formulate regulations for carrying out the object in view, and they now submit for the approval and adoption of the Provincial Grand Lodge the following

RULES.

1.—That for the purpose of increasing the number of *Life Governors* and *Life Subscribers* to the three Masonic Charities, and of organising and concentrating the voting strength of the Province at the election of candidates for the same, a Committee to be called *The Charity Committee*, be formed to act on behalf of the Province of Worcestershire, which Committee shall meet twice a year, at a convenient time after the voting papers are received, at such place as a majority of the Committee shall from time to time appoint, to consider what cases shall be supported, to issue circulars to all Masonic bodies, and Charity Subscribers, in the Province, soliciting their support to the chosen cases, and to transact any other necessary business pertaining thereto. In the case of an equality of votes at any meeting, the Presiding Officer at that meeting shall, in addition to his own vote, have a casting vote.

2.—That such Committee shall consist of the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Chaplain, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Secretary, and Members to be elected by Lodges in the Province, in open Lodge, in the month of in every year, the number to be governed relatively by, and in proportion to, the number of Life Votes held by each particular Lodge for the Masonic Charities, whether belonging to the Lodge or to subscribing members thereof, that is to say :—The representation of each Lodge on the Committee shall be based upon its voting strength, which must be vouched for to the satisfaction of the Committee, in the following proportions, namely:—Each Lodge and its members having *Ten Life Votes*

for the Masonic Charities, shall be entitled to have *one* representative; each Lodge and its members having *Twenty Life Votes*, shall be entitled to have *two* representatives, and *one* representative for every additional *Twenty Life Votes* beyond that number. Any member of a Lodge being a Life Governor of *two* of the Masonic Charities shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Committee. Should the elected Charity representative of any Lodge be prevented by sickness or any other unavoidable cause, from attending the meeting of the Committee, he may depute some other member of his Lodge to attend in his stead.

- 3.—That for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Charity Organisation, a fund be established by the subscriptions of Freemasons, Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic Bodies of *One Guinea*, payable annually.—*Lewises* (being minors) and *Ladies* may become subscribers to the fund.
- 4.—That at the first meeting of the Committee in each year, a ballot shall be taken for the priority of presentation to as many *Life Subscriptions* as the amount in the hands of the Provincial Grand Treasurer will allow—the *form of the ballot to be decided by the Committee*.—The Charity shall be selected by the successful subscriber, and the sum requisite to secure a *Life Subscription* shall, within fourteen days after the ballot is taken, be paid by the Treasurer to the Charity so selected, in the name of the successful subscriber, or be sent through the Steward of the Charity (if any for the Province served that year), at the option of the successful subscriber.
 - (a) That every subscriber shall have one name in the ballot for every complete Guinea standing to his credit in the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Book at the date of the ballot, but shall be entitled to only one nomination.
 - (b) That each successful subscriber shall give a promise, in writing, to continue the payment of his or her subscription until the full amount of the *Life Subscription* is paid up, and the subscriber shall not be eligible for another nomination, till the amount is paid.
 - (c) That any subscriber whose subscription is not paid previous to, or at the meeting, shall be excluded from the ballot at that meeting, and subscribers twelve months in arrears shall forfeit all moneys they may have paid into the fund, and shall cease thereupon to be entitled to the privileges of subscribers, except for cause allowed by the majority at the next half-yearly meeting.
 - (d) That any subscriber who has paid the sum of *Five Guineas* without drawing successfully, shall be entitled to a nomination in priority, as a *Life Subscriber without ballot*.
- 5.—That no candidate for the benefits of either of the Charities shall be eligible for selection for support by this Committee unless duly proposed and seconded by members of the Committee, who must have made themselves well acquainted with the particulars of the case.
- 6.—That no petition for the benefits of either of the Charities, shall be presented on behalf of any Candidate, unless the same has been submitted to the Committee through the Secretary, seven days at least before its meeting.
- 7.—That in order to facilitate the selection and adoption of Candidates for the benefits of the Masonic Charities, the Charity Committee shall have power from time to time to

make such By-Laws as to their mode of proceeding in such selection and adoption as they may deem necessary, which By-Laws shall be submitted to, and ratified by, Provincial Grand Lodge at its next meeting.

- 8.—The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Committee, and keep minutes thereof. He shall issue summonses to the members fourteen days at least before each meeting, and transact all other business pertaining to the office.—He shall forward Lists of the names of subscribers to the Charity Representatives of each Lodge in the Province, who shall be expected to advocate the objects of the Charity Committee, amongst the members of their respective Lodges; and whose duty it shall be to collect the subscriptions and transmit the same to the Secretary, on account of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, not later than the _____ day of _____. The Secretary shall lay a Report of the proceedings of the Committee before the Provincial Grand Lodge, at its regular annual meetings.
- 9.—That any question arising upon the construction of the Rules of the Charity Committee shall be settled by the Committee, whose decision on the matter submitted to them shall be final.
- 10.—That the Rules affecting the Charity Committee may be altered or varied from time to time to meet existing circumstances, by a vote of *two thirds* of the members of the Committee present, at any half-yearly meeting, *but not otherwise*; but no proposal for alteration thereof shall be entertained, unless 23 days' notice in writing be given to the Secretary, who shall insert the proposed alteration in the Summons convening the meeting; and such alterations, if intended to be permanent, must be confirmed by the Provincial Grand Lodge in the mode prescribed by its Bye-Law, No.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Organisation Committee,

EDMUND A. H. LECHMERE,

Provincial Grand Master, Chairman.

16th January 1880