

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
of England and Wales,

AND THE

Colonies and Dependencies of the British Empire.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

6TH MARCH, 1906.

During the three months ending 31st December, 1905; there have been issued:—Mark Certificates, 367; total registered, 50,842.

Since the last report Warrants have been granted for five new Lodges, viz. :—

- No. 578, "Vryheid," Vryheid, Natal.
- „ 579, "St. George," Dargaville, Auckland, N.Z.
- „ 580, "Concord," Whangarie, Auckland, N.Z.
- „ 581, "Edward," Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
- „ 582, "Pirie," Port Pirie, South Australia.

Royal Ark Mariner Certificates, 76; number registered, 8,444.

Warrants for two Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, viz. :—

“Shropshire,” to be attached to the Shropshire Lodge,
No. 444, Shrewsbury.

“Phoenix,” to be attached to the Phoenix Lodge, No.
502, Cape Town, South Africa.

His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been graciously pleased to re-appoint for a further term of three years—

R.W. Bro. The Right Honourable The Earl of Lathom, as Provincial Grand Master for Lancashire.

His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been graciously pleased to appoint—

R.W. Bro. Colonel Arthur Grey to be District Grand Master for the Punjab, *vice* R.W. Bro. The V. Rev. Henry James Spence-Gray, deceased.

R.W. Bro. The Honourable Mr. Gabriel Stokes, C.S.I., to be District Grand Master for Madras, *vice* R.W. Bro. The Honourable Mr. Herbert Bradley, I.C.S., resigned.

The Board has great regret in reporting the death of R.W. Bro. W. T. A. Powell, in his 93rd year. For the last 11 years he had filled the high and important office of Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Bristol, where his loss will be very severely felt.

The R.W. Dist. G. Master for Jamaica having requested an opinion as to whether it is legal and proper for Installed Masters under this constitution to take part in and confer the Mark degree in Royal Arch Chapters and Craft Lodges under the Scottish Constitutions, the Grand Registrar gave

the following opinion, a copy of which was duly forwarded to R.W. Bro. E. Z. Leon :—

“ 3, BRICK COURT,

“ TEMPLE, E.C.

“ December 7th, 1905.

“The question asked by the Dist. G. Master for Jamaica, in his letter of 4th November, raises a point which does not appear to have been touched by the report of the General Board on 1st December, 1896. The then Grand Registrar (R.W. Bro. Frank Richardson) gave his opinion in answer to a question asked by the Dist. G. Secy. of S. Africa, with reference to a W.M. of an English Mark Lodge taking part in conferring the Mark degrees in a Scottish Craft Lodge, ‘he, not being a Scottish Mark, or even a Royal Arch Mason of the (Scottish) Constitution.’ The opinion was: ‘I do not see anything wrong in this; the Scotch acknowledge the English Mark, and *vice versa*.’ With this view, if I may respectfully say so, I thoroughly concur. But the Dist. G. Master for Jamaica raises the further question of the *propriety* of an Installed Master of the Mark under our Constitution lending himself for the purpose of conferring the Degree in a Royal Arch or Craft body under the Scottish Constitution, where the Scottish body may not have an officer qualified to do so, and where the body itself is entering into unfair competition with our own Mark Lodges on the spot, by giving the Degree for half-a-crown or five shillings or for nothing, as the case may be. To afford such assistance appears to me to be highly improper; and I think R.W. Bro. Leon ought to be informed that, under the circumstances disclosed in his letter, while one of our Installed Masters may, without impropriety, be present in such a

body while the Degree is being conferred, he ought not to lend himself to anything which would be detrimental to our Lodges.

“JOHN STRACHAN,

“G. Reg.”

The Dist. G. Master for Burma having requested a ruling on the point: “Can a Lodge adjourn?” the proposed adjournment having been for the purpose of enabling the W. Master elect to be installed at a Meeting dating back to the regular day of Installation, when he was unable to be present, the Grand Registrar ruled as follows:—

“3, BRACK COURT,

“TEMPLE, E.C.

January 10th, 1906.

“I have read the letter from R. W. Bro. J. Copley Moyle, and have no hesitation in saying that a Lodge, whether Craft or Mark, can no more be adjourned to the next day, or the next week, or the date of the next regular meeting, than it can meet on an unauthorised day. When the labours of the day or evening are ended and the brethren disperse, the meeting comes to an end. It is the duty of the W.M. to see that it is properly closed before the dispersal, and the J.W. ought to declare that ‘it stands *closed* accordingly, until’ &c. *Not* that it ‘stands *adjourned*.’ Should this formality not be observed, the Lodge meeting does not continue into a subsequent day, but comes to an end, and the officers responsible for the grave irregularity may be disciplined by higher authority. It follows that the Lodge meeting of the 1st of November *came to an end* when the W.M. left the chair and the brethren dispersed, and he and

his Wardens became amenable to the District authorities for the irregularity of omitting the closing ceremony. Of course, their defence would be that they acted on the advice of the Dep. Dist. G.M., and their plea of '*respondeat superior*' ought to be respected. The meeting of the 6th December would be a separate and distinct meeting of the Lodge, and could not by any possibility be considered a continuation of any previous meeting. If the W.M. elect was installed at that meeting, his installation and the investiture of officers must date from 6th December and not from 1st November.

"JOHN STRACHAN,

"G. Reg."

A serious irregularity in a Provincial Lodge was laid before the Board. The W. Master, who was not qualified according to Art. 99, was installed under the powers of an irregular Dispensation granted by the Provincial Authorities, such Dispensation being the sole prerogative of the M.W. Grand Master.

The Board ruled that a Dispensation must be applied for in the regular manner, and that on the receipt thereof (dated *nunc pro tunc*) the W. Master should be re-obligated before a Board of Installed Masters at the next regular meeting, and that the attention of the Provincial Grand Secretary should be called to this serious breach of the Book of Constitutions.

The Board begs to acknowledge with grateful thanks a copy of a "Lecture on Masonry," by W. Bro. F. T. Elworthy, the author.

Also a trophy of ancient Mahratta knives or daggers, presented by W. Bro. Henry Thorpe, P.G.Std.

On the Report of the District Grand Master for Burma, the Board recommends that the Warrant of the Irrawaddy Lodge, No. 530, Saigaing, be erased.

The Warrant of the Etruscan Lodge, No. 308, Longton, has been surrendered through the Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire.

The Warrant of the Menzies Lodge, No. 560, Western Australia, has been surrendered. The Board recommends that these Lodges be removed from the roll.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE

The thirty-eighth Annual Festival will be held on 4th July, 1906, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, has most kindly consented to take the chair.

The Grand Secretary will be happy to receive the names of Ladies and Brethren willing to act as Stewards.

The Sub-Committee on Education, having carefully considered the Annual Reports of the Head Masters and Mistresses of the Schools at which the various pupils on the Fund are being educated, has awarded the Silver Medals for proficiency in studies and general excellence to

Donald Anthony Mead,

being educated at the Monoux Grammar School, Walthamstow, and

Frances Ethel May Lane,

being educated at the High School, Chesterfield.

The Board have elected on the Educational Fund, without a poll,

Robert John Aitken, son of Bro. Thomas Aitken, of the Percy Lodge, No. 114, Guildford, Surrey; and

Lilian Louisa Sanders, daughter of the late Bro. Thomas Sanders, St. Martin's Lodge, No. 379, Liskeard, Cornwall.

The Board has to report the death of an annuitant, Mrs. Mary Alicia Head.

The following cases have been relieved:—

Bro. C. T. T. (Lodge No. 70, Ipswich), £36.

Bro. T. C. (Lodge No. 75, Brighton), £10.

Mrs. K. C. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 214, Abergavenny), £20.

FRANK RICHARDSON, *President*.

CHARLES BELTON, *Vice-President*.

G. FITZGERALD MATIER, *Grand Secretary*.

1st February, 1903.

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N.B.—The Newly Revised BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS, Edition 1895, WHICH MUST BE PRESENTED TO EVERY CANDIDATE ON HIS ADVANCEMENT, can be had at the Grand Secretary's Office, in two sizes, price 1s. 6d. per copy, bound in cloth. Postage extra.

The Twenty-first Edition of the "**MARK CALENDAR AND ROLL OF GRAND OFFICERS**" (for 1906), with useful information, price 6d. per copy, is now ready.

IMPORTANT

THE NEW TRACING BOARD authorised by Grand Lodge is now ready for issue, and may be obtained from any Masonic Jeweller or (unframed) from the Grand Secretary. Price, stretched on canvas, unframed, 25/.

The Grand Secretary begs to direct the attention of Masters of Lodges to the necessity of communicating to him any change in the day or place of meeting so soon as the resolution for effecting such change shall be confirmed.—Vide "Book of Constitutions," Articles 119, 123, 124; Edition 1895.