

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
of England and Wales,

AND THE

Dependencies of the British Crown.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

31ST MAY, 1909.

During the three months ending 31st March, 1909, there have been issued :—Mark Certificates, 659; total registered, 56,756.

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

- No. 602, "Sudan," Khartoum.
- „ 603, "Stradoose," March, Isle of Ely.
- „ 604, "Tylery," Abertillery, Monmouth.
- „ 605, "Bede," Monkwearmouth.

Royal Ark Mariner Certificates, 96; number registered, 9,798.

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

R.W. Bro. The Hon. Mr. MURRAY HAMMICK, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
to be District Grand Master for Madras, in succession to
R.W. Bro. Sir Gabriel Stokes, K.C.S.I., who tendered his
resignation on his return to England;

R.W. Bro. Sir WM. BULKELEY HUGHES HUGHES-HUNTER, Bart., to be Provincial Grand Master for North Wales, in succession to his father, the late Col. Sir Charles Hughes-Hunter, Bart. ; R.W. Bro. JAMES CARTMELL RIDLEY, to be Provincial Grand Master for Northumberland and Durham, in succession to R.W. Bro. Col. W. Mathvin Angus, C.B., whose retirement from failing health was announced, September, 1908.

The Board has officially to announce, with the most sincere regret, the death of the Most Worshipful Brother, the Right Honourable Earl Egerton of Tatten, Past Grand Master. The late Most Worshipful Brother was a member of Grand Lodge in very early days, and was appointed Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire and North Wales so long ago as 1872. On the division of this Province in 1880 he became Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire, and held this high office until 1893, when he resigned.

He was appointed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (now our Most Gracious Majesty the King) as Deputy Grand Master in 1884, and in 1887 succeeded to the exalted position of Pro Grand Master, which he filled with the utmost dignity and advantage to Grand Lodge for the term of three years until 1890.

His Lordship, when Chairman of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 1885 gave a special donation as a nucleus of a fund to provide certain annuities for Mark Masons and their widows, and we are primarily indebted to him for the success of this Fund, which has been productive of so much good among many poor brethren and their widows.

His loss will be severely felt not only in this degree, which owes so much to him, but by Freemasonry generally.

The Board has to announce, with very great regret, the death of R.W. Bro. Col. W. E. Brymer, Provincial Grand Master for Dorset, who had for the last fifteen years ruled that Province with the greatest ability and most careful attention to the requirements of the Mark Degree.

The Province will for the present be placed under the control of W. Bro. John A. Sherren, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge.

Also the death of R.W. Bro. Dr. C. J. Egan, of King William's Town, who was appointed District Grand Master of South Africa Eastern Division in May, 1891. His careful attention to, and wise supervision of, the Mark Degree in this District had been largely conducive to its prosperity and increase, and his loss will be very severely felt.

The District will for the present be under the charge of W. Bro. C. A. Carter, of Port Elizabeth, as the Deputy District Grand Master in Charge.

The Grand Master begs to present the following message:—

Twenty-six years having elapsed since a permanent addition was made to the number of Grand Officers, during which period a very large increase has taken place, both in number of the Lodges, and Members of the Order, the Grand Master is of opinion that the time has arrived when some addition may be properly and advantageously made to the list of Grand Officers annually appointed.

The Grand Master therefore recommends that an addition be made accordingly, that such addition take the form of the appointment annually of two additional Deacons (six in all), and a Deputy Director of Ceremonies, and that the same take effect on and after the Grand Festival, 1st June, 1909,

and that the following alterations be made in the Book of Constitutions :—

Rule 2 be amended by inserting between 29 and 30 the words—

“ Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies,” and

“ Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies,”

and that Rules 204 and 206 be altered accordingly.

Rule 41 be amended by substituting the word “ Six ” for the word “ Four ” before the word “ Deacons,” and by inserting the words—

“ Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies ”

between Grand Director of Ceremonies and Two Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

The Forty-first Annual Festival will be held on 7th July, 1909, and R. W. Bro. The Very Rev. Edward Reid Currie, D.D. (Dean of Exeter), Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, 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 Board have elected on the Educational Fund, without a poll,

EDWIN BERNARD STYLES,

son of the late Bro. Edwin Styles, of the Chiswick Lodge, No. 357; Ashlar, No. 236, and the Camden Lodge, No. 418, London and Middlesex.

The following cases have been relieved :—

Bro. T. R. (Lodges Nos. 9, 540, Devon) £30
Bro. P. E. (Lodge No. 297, South Wales)	... £15

Mrs. C. K. (Widow of a Brother of York Lodge T. I., N. and E. Yorks)	£10
The daughter of a Brother of Lodges Nos. 2, Hants; 66, 383, Devon	£10

FRANK RICHARDSON, *President.*

CHARLES BELTON, *Vice-President.*

C. FITZGERALD MATIER, *G. Sec.*

6th May, 1909.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business on 6th May, 1909, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

“That the cordial thanks of the Members of the General Board be and are hereby tendered to their President, R.W. Bro. Frank Richardson, for the very able and courteous manner in which he has presided over the meetings of the Board during the past year.”

ALFRED J. THOMAS,

Chairman of the Finance Committee.