

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales,

AND THE

Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

2ND MARCH, 1909.

During the three months ending 31st December, 1908, there have been issued:—Mark Certificates, 491; total registered, 56,097.

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

600, "Wallasey," Liscard, Cheshire.

601, "United Service," Woodstock, Cape Colony.

Royal Ark Marine Certificates, 114; number registered, 9,701.

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

R. W. Bro. WILLIAM ALBAN HAIG-BROWN, J.P.,
to be District Grand Master for Bombay, in succession to
R. W. Bro. The Hon. Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, K.C.I.E. ;

R. W. Bro. FREDERIC SIDNEY JERMAINE-LULHAM,
to be District Grand Master for Victoria, Australia, in
succession to R. W. Bro. Charles Roper Martin, appointed
25th May, 1891, who from advancing years and failing
health has tendered his resignation to the Most Worshipful
Grand Master. The Board begs to acknowledge with grati-
tude his services to the Mark Degree.

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

R.W. Bro. ALFRED SEYMOUR BANKART,
as District Grand Master for Auckland, New Zealand.

R.W. Bro. SIR GABRIEL STOKES, K.C.S.I.,
having returned to England, his resignation as District Grand Master for Madras has been tendered to, and accepted by, His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Board would desire to acknowledge his distinguished services to the Mark Degree. The District for the time being has been placed under the charge of the Deputy District Grand Master.

It appears from the Return of Wicket Lodge, No. 577, Calcutta, dated April 9th, 1908, that on April 4th a ceremony of Installation was performed in the Lodge and a Brother was placed in the Chair and invested his Wardens. The regular meeting of the Lodge in April was due on the 27th, being the fourth Monday of the month, therefore the meeting on the 4th of April must have been one of emergency, at which it is unconstitutional for a Master to be installed. In reply to inquiries made on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, it was stated that a dispensation was granted by the District Grand Master for the Installation to take place on the date mentioned. The General Board duly considered the facts, when it directed the Lodge to be informed that no dispensation for holding the regular meeting of the Lodge could be properly given for any day more than seven days before or after that fixed by the by-laws of the Lodge, and that consequently the placing of a Brother in the Chair on the date given, and at an emergency meeting, was such an irregularity that the Brother in question acquired no status thereby, and cannot be regarded as a regularly installed

Worshipful Master, nor can the Wardens appointed by him be considered as serving so as to qualify them for the Chair under Rule 99, Book of Constitutions. But this shall not extend to render void the advancement of any candidates regularly qualified in other respects. As the irregularity does not extend to the election of the Worshipful Master it was ordered by the Board that the minute of his election in March last be put for confirmation at the next regular Lodge meeting, and if it be confirmed, that the W.M. elect be forthwith installed, and he may then appoint and invest the officers. He and they will then hold office until April, 1910. Inasmuch as the irregularity arose from acting upon a dispensation granted under some misapprehension which it is now impossible to inquire into, the Board has not inflicted any penalty upon the Lodge. The Board further requires these Resolutions to be read in open Lodge and entered on the minutes.

The Members of the "Hengist" Lodge, No. 125, have presented a petition praying that the name of the Lodge may be changed to the "Bournemouth," and as it had received the approval of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, R. Loveland Loveland, K.C., the Board has sanctioned the change.

It having been reported to the Grand Master's Royal Ark Mariner Council that an unqualified Brother had been installed as a Worshipful Commander of the Caldene Lodge, No. 501, the Board, after consideration, directed that a special dispensation dated *nunc pro tunc* should be issued on the proper petition being received; that the Worshipful Commander should be re-obligated in presence of a Board of Installed Commanders at the next regular meeting; and that the Lodge be fined One Guinea.

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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 Battle), 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 has elected on the Annuity Fund, without proceeding to a poll,

BRO. GEORGE HENRY PARKE,

of the Provinces of West Yorkshire and Lancashire.

The following cases have been relieved:—

Bro. W. J. D. (Lodges Nos. 65 and 472, Lancashire)	£20
Bro. G. L. (Lodge No. 330, Worcestershire)	... £10
Bro. R. F. M. (Lodge No. 28, South Wales)	... £10
Mrs. B. A. S. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 178, Wiltshire) £20
Mrs. M. R. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 385, London) £20
Mrs. A. F. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 10, Gloucestershire) £20
Mrs. L. S. S. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 390, Kent) £10
Mrs. E. K. (Widow of a Brother of Albany Lodge T. I., Isle of Wight) £5
Son of the late Bro. W. D. Y. (Lodge No. 81, Madras)	£6

The Board recommends to Grand Lodge grants to—

Bro. G. H. P., Lodge No. 36, Lancashire, No. 110, West Yorks. £100.

To the widow of a Brother of Friendship, Unanimity, and Philanthropic Lodge No. 191, Somerset, £30.

FRANK RICHARDSON, *President.*

CHARLES BELTON, *Vice-President.*

C. FITZGERALD MATIER, *G. Sec.*

4th February, 1909.