

District Grand Lodge of Mark Master
Masons of England and Wales, etc.
(Queensland).

AT THE REGULAR HALF-YEARLY COMMUNICATION

HELD IN THE

NORMAN CHAMBERS, BRISBANE,

ON

FRIDAY, 27th AUGUST, 1909,

THERE WERE PRESENT :

Right Worshipful EDWARD HARRY COURTENAY LUCK, J.P.,
F.R.G.S., &c., &c., District Grand Master, in the Chair.

Wor. ROBERT HARRIS MILLS, S. Dis. G. W.,

as Deputy District Grand Master

Wor. REGINALD VICTOR PINES, Dis. G. Secretary P. Dis. G. W.

Wor. HOWARD OLIVER NEWPORT, P. Dis. G. Overseer,

as Dis. G. Senior Warden

Wor. GILBERT MUIR, P. Dis. G. Overseer, as Dis. G. Junior Warden

Wor. HERBERT CHARLES REEVE, Dis. G. Registrar

Bro. ROBERT FISHER NEILSON, P. Dis. Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.,

as Dis. G. Senior Deacon

Bro. THOMAS JAMES ROTHWELL, P. Dis. G. Steward,

as Dis. G. Junior Deacon

Bro. EZEKIEL HENRY LARTER, S.W. Toowong No. 520,

as Dis. G. Inner Guard

Bro. CHRISTOPHER HEIKE District Grand Tyler

Opening.

District Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn prayer, at 8.10 p.m.

Roll Call.

The Roll of the Lodges in the District was called, the following being represented :—

St. George Lodge, 103—Three Past Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens

Toowong Lodge, 520—Three Past Masters and Senior Warden
Courtenay Luck, 526—One Past Master

Trinity Lodge, 572—One Past Master

Minutes.

The Minutes of the regular Half-yearly Communication held on Friday, 26th February, 1909, were read and confirmed.

Dispensations.

The District Grand Secretary reported the following Dispensations granted during the half-year :—

Comet, No. 260—To postpone regular meeting

Bundaberg, No. 599—To wear Mark clothing at a ball

Townsville, No. 554—To instal Master without serving as Warden

Victory, No. 598—To postpone regular meeting

Trinity R.A.M., No. 572—To postpone regular meeting

Report of District Grand Committee.

The District Grand Secretary then read the report of Dis. G. Committee, embodying his own report of his visit to some of the Northern Lodges, as follows :—

TO THE DISTRICT GRAND MARK LODGE OF QUEENSLAND.

The Committee met on Thursday, 26th August, when the inward and outward correspondence was read and reviewed.

It also held a special meeting on 14th June, to consider whether Dis. G. Lodge should contribute a portion of the expenses of the District Grand Secretary, who was visiting North Queensland on Craft business, and it was decided that this Dis. G. Lodge should pay one-fourth of the expense of the visit of Wor. Bro. Pines. The Dis. G. Secretary has presented a report of his visit to the Denison and Townsville Lodges, which the Committee submit herewith to District Grand Lodge.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF DISTRICT GRAND MARK LODGE OF QUEENSLAND.

On returning from my visit to Proserpine on Craft business, where I had been accompanied by Wor. T. E. Thorpe, Master of the Townsville Mark Lodge, No. 554, and District Grand Junior Warden, we had a stay of three days in Bowen, while waiting for the steamer to Townsville.

While in Bowen we had the opportunity of interviewing many of the members of the Denison Lodge, No. 564, and impressing upon them the necessity of endeavouring to revive the interest of members of the Lodge in the work of the degree. As several of the members had accompanied us to Proserpine to assist in consecration of the new Craft Lodge there, there was ample opportunity, both on the way down and back, to talk over the possibility of having a meeting during

our stay in Bowen on the way North, and with the hearty co-operation of Wor. A. Mackenzie, a very old member of the Comet Lodge and the first Master of the Denison Lodge, a meeting was arranged to be held on Friday, 25th June.

On our return to Bowen on that day, the meeting was held, and was attended by every available member of the Lodge, and the ceremony of advancement was very ably performed by Wor. Bro. Thorpe, three candidates, members of the Kennedy Lodge, No. 1175, being advanced on that occasion.

Previous to this there had been no meeting of the Lodge since December, 1905, and no advancements since August, 1903, but there is every reason to believe that fresh interest will now be taken in the Lodge by its members, who assured me that the meeting for election would be held at its proper date this year, and the installation in due course afterwards.

In connection with the Denison Lodge, I cannot speak too strongly of the very great assistance given me in infusing fresh enthusiasm into the members by Wor. Bro. Thorpe, who has promised that when the installation of Master next takes place, that he will organise a party of Townsville Brethren to go down to Bowen and assist. The opening of the railway from Bowen to Proserpine in the near future should also prove a factor in getting new candidates for advancement, as no doubt the members of the new Craft Lodge at the latter place will take advantage of the proximity of a Mark Lodge to take the degree, and the advisableness of doing so will no doubt be strongly placed before them by Wor. John Cameron, the Master of the Anderson Lodge, and a Past Master in the Mark degree.

Leaving Bowen on Sunday, 27th June, I journeyed to Charters Towers, where I was met at the station by Wor. A. Steele, the Master of the Charters Towers Lodge and other members. This Lodge is one of the strongest in the District, and I regret that the shortness of my stay did not allow of having a meeting, as I was there only a day and a half.

On my return to Townsville on Wednesday, 30th June, I spent a day and a-half there, and on that evening held a meeting of the Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, when I elevated Bros. Ross and O'Callaghan, of the Townsville Mark Lodge. A meeting of the Mark Lodge was held at a later hour on the same evening, when three candidates were advanced.

In both the Lodges I visited, I gave instruction in many points of working, and the Brethren expressed their gratification at receiving a visit from Dis. G. Lodge officials. Of the kindness and hospitality received by us it is impossible to say enough, as every effort was made to make my stay in the different towns a pleasant one, and it is undoubtedly a benefit to all concerned to make frequent visitations to the country Lodges.

REGINALD V. PINES, P. DIS. G.W.,

Dis. G. Secretary.

The Committee is pleased to report that a new Mark Lodge has been established at Geraldton. Wor. A. J. P. McDonnell, a Past Master of the Trinity Lodge and Past District Senior Grand Warden, was appointed by the R.W. Dis. G. Master to act as his deputy *pro tempore*, for the purpose of constituting and consecrating the Lodge, which was inaugurated on Monday last, and named the "Davids" Lodge, after Wor. Smith William Davids, Dis. Grand Inspector of Works, and the present Master of the Trinity Lodge, No. 572.

The number of Certificates applied for during the half-year is 19—apportioned amongst the different Lodges as under:—

Toowong, No. 520	4
Bundaberg ,, 539	2
Townsville ,, 554	10
Stannite ,, 589	2
Victory ,, 598	1
Total	19

This is without those who have been advanced in the Trinity Lodge for the purpose of becoming foundation members of the new Lodge at Geraldton.

Since the last meeting of Dis. G. Lodge, Right Worshipful Alfred John Stephenson, District Grand Master of Craft Freemasons in Queensland, has been in-talled as Master of the Toowong Lodge, No. 520, and Wor. Alex. Corrie, Deputy Dis. G. Master in the Craft, has been installed Master of the St. George Lodge, No. 103.

On behalf of the Dis. G. Committee,

HERBERT C. REEVE,

Dis. G. Registrar.

Brisbane, 26th August, 1909.

Wor. H. C. Reeve, District Grand Registrar moved, and Bro. R. D. Neilson, P. Asst. Dis. G. Dir. of Cers., seconded, that the report be received and entered on the Minutes.—Carried

The same Brethren then moved the adoption of the report, and after some remarks from the R.W. District G. Master, expressing his pleasure at the establishment of a new Lodge at Geraldton, the motion was carried.

District Grand Treasurer's Statement.

In the absence of the Dis. G. Treasurer, the Dis. G. Secretary read the following statement of funds of the Dis. G. Lodge.

Balance at last meeting on 16th February		£115 18 5
Receipts since—From Lodges	£27 9 8	
Fees of Honor	4 14 6	32 4 2
		<hr/>
		£148 2 7
Expenditure—Grand Lodge	£38 14 6	
Books of Constitution	3 15 0	
Dis. G. Sec. Honorarium	15 15 0	
Auditors Fees	1 1 0	
Travelling Expenses	5 0 8	
Petty Cash, Postages, Tele-grams, Exchange, &c.	4 7 11	
Bank Charge	0 5 0	
Accounts passed not yet paid	7 1 6	76 0 7
		<hr/>
Leaving a balance of		<u>£72 2 0</u>

Of which £50 is in Government Savings Bank.

Wor. R. V. Pines, Dis. G. Secretary moved, and Wor. G. Muir, P. Dis. G.O., seconded, that the statement be received and entered on the Minutes.—Carried.

Correspondence.

The correspondence for the half-year was laid on the table, the following letter from Grand Lodge being read in full, as was also the report of the General Board therein referred to.

Grand Secretary's Office,

Mark Masons' Hall,

Great Queen Street,

London, W.C., 4th June, 1909.

Dear Sir and Bro.,

In reply to your letter of 8th April, with respect to the serious irregularity in the _____ Lodge, I can only say that as the District Grand Master has dealt with the case and granted a Provisional Dispensation, we have upheld his authority and issued the Dispensation of the Grand Master.

I would venture to point out to you that there are certain matters which cannot be altered, for which no Dispensation can be given, and the regular meeting of a Lodge can only be altered for seven days before or after is one.

I enclose you a copy of the report of the Board, with the ruling in the case of _____ Lodge, — —, which is very similar to this one.

I sincerely hope that as the Lodge has been so very dignifiedly dealt with, it will show good fruit in the future.

Yours fraternally,

J. F. MACIER, P.G.W.,

Grand Secretary.

R. V. PINES, Esq.,

Brisbane.

The following is the copy of the extract from the General Board's report referred to in G. Secretary's letter:—

It appears from the Report of _____ Lodge, No. — —, 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 Dis. G. Master directed that the name of the Lodge referred to in the G. Secretary's letter should be omitted from the report.—R. V. PINES, DIS. G. S.

The telegram from Wor. W. H. J. Mayers, announcing the formation of the "Davids" Lodge at Geraldton was also read.

It was directed by the R.W. Dis. G. Master, that the letter from the Grand Secretary, together with the report of the General Board should be inserted in the Proceedings for the information of Brethren generally. It was also resolved that in future the Proceedings should be published after each meeting of Dis. G. Lodge instead of annually as heretofore.

Apologies.

The following apologies were received and ordered to be recorded:—

Comet Lodge, No. 260—Master Wardens and Overseers

PRESENT AND PAST OFFICERS.

Wor. C. G. Holmes a'Court	Deputy Dis. G. Master
Wor. A. H. Hunt	P. Dis. G. W.
Wor. F. J. Arnold	Dis. G. Treasurer

OTHER MEMBERS.

Wor. Alex. Corrie Master St. George Lodge, No. 103

Joint Fund of Masonic Relief.

The Dis. G. Master suggested that Dis. G. Lodge might make a donation to the Joint Fund of Masonic Relief. He instanced the good work done by the Fund, and mentioned that Dis. G. Craft Lodge, as also Dis. G. Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Queensland, voted donations at their annual meetings.

Wor. H. C. Reeve moved, and it was seconded and carried unanimously, that the sum of £2 2s. be donated to the fund.

Closing.

There being no further business, Dis. G. Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer at 9.10 p.m.

H. COURTENAY LUCK,
District Grand Master.

R. V. PINES,
Dis. G. Secretary.
86-88 Queen Street.