

### **Report of the Grand Superintendents of the First Masonic District.**

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta:

Speaking generally the Chapters in my district have made favorable progress during the past year and one of the most outstanding events during my tenure of office as Superintendent was my visitation to North Star Chapter No. 2 at its regular Convocation on the 8th day of February, 1916, where there was a veritable field day of all the Companions and when some half dozen candidates received the three Degrees. At the time of the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta North Star had a membership of about 200, and the only members of this Chapter who signed the Petition for a reinstatement of the Charter under the Grand Chapter of Canada were 19, and this number has not increased, but if anything it has diminished.

One of the most regrettable occurrences during my year was the spreading of the much-talked-of legal proceedings instituted under the authority and direction of the Grand Chapter of Canada. We had hoped at one time that this might have been averted in my Masonic District; but the fact that harmony prevailed in this District seemed but an added reason why action should be taken but it was with difficulty that the Grand Chapter of Canada found any person who was willing to lend his name as Plaintiff in an unmasonic war.

At the time of the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, Capital City Chapter, Edmonton, was the Chapter which was under dispensation and retained its allegiance to Grand Chapter of Canada. The opposition in this Chapter came largely from the then and succeeding Grand Superintendents.

However, one has only to remark that the above mentioned companions were decidedly out of harmony with the great majority, because it has been found necessary for Capital City Chapter to divide itself and form another Chapter known as Norwood Chapter under dispensation, which was started some nine months ago; and, of course, the addition of this new Chapter, Norwood, under the Grand Chapter of Canada, is not overlooked in the calculation of the numerical strength of the Grand Chapter of Canada, irrespective of the need of justification for another Chapter.

It is very gratifying to me to notice in North Star Chapter the number of young and enthusiastic members, a large number of whom are conversant with the entire floor work, so much so that they could supply three teams at least for any degree, and it has not been necessary for a P.Z. to fill even in minor office for at least three years. It also pleased us much to observe that candidates met in a most creditable way examination in the different degrees.

### **Mount Horeb Chapter, Wetaskiwin.**

This, my home Chapter, has had a fair measure of success throughout the year, notwithstanding the fact that a large number of our Companions have been called to the front. Peace and harmony prevails in this Chapter.

The Companions are enthusiastic in their support of the Grand Chapter of Alberta and will do their share in furthering the cause of Capitular Masonry in this District.

I cannot close my report without making some reference to the beneficial effect of the endorsation and stamp of approval of His Honor Judge H. C. Taylor, upon the regularity of the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta. It will be remembered that Judge Taylor is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and is a Past Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and his decided stand in the matter has had a great deal to do with the setting at rest of a great many misstatements that were persistently made by the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

In this District I am pleased to report that but a few of the Companions under Canada are out of sympathy with the G. C. of A. The vast majority of the membership, weary of the misrepresentation and strife engendered by it, would welcome an opportunity to gracefully and fraternally ally themselves with us in the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

Fraternally submitted,

H. I. MILLER,

Grand Superintendent First Masonic District.

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#### **Report of the Grand Superintendent of the Second Masonic District.**

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta:

There are in the Second Masonic District, over which I have supervision, the following Chapters: Alberta No. 1, Otuskwan No. 9, Bow Valley No. 10, and Calgary No. 11.

During the year two of the Chapters, namely, Alberta No. 1 and Otuskwan No. 9, have suffered severely by having their affairs become the subject matter of litigation.

It is needless to say that I did all in my power to avoid the same and counselled our Companions against it at any cost or sacrifice, and I believe had it not been for the untoward and unseemly influence of the Grand Chapter of Canada our records would have remained unsmirched by reference to civil courts.

Alberta Chapter No. 1 is the oldest Chapter in the Province and during its career, while neglecting no demand made on it for charitable purposes, it had, in addition to providing itself with necessary regalia and furniture, accumulated a surplus of funds dedicated to benevolent purposes. That this paraphernalia, along with the surplus of such funds, should become the subject matter of dispute, let alone litigation between its members, is to be more regretted than I can express. When this Chapter, with others, decided that the time had arrived when in the best interests of Capitular Masonry a Grand Chapter of Alberta should be formed, and for some time prior thereto to my knowledge as a member of that Chapter, there was not a single dissenting voice and even the Plaintiff in the action, Dr. N. J. Lindsay, expressed no dissatisfaction. After the Grand Chapter of Alberta had been formed, and indeed some time thereafter, through seeds of dissension sown by the then Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, Judge MacWatt, a number of Companions withdrew from the rank and file and as shown by their petition signed by 13 Companions sought reinstatement of Alberta Chapter No. 106, under the Grand

Chapter of Canada, and which, having been granted upon the authority of that Grand Chapter's Constitution, of more than nine remaining they became the mouthpiece of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

If it can be masonically accepted that a scant number over the "Constitutional nine" are better entitled to the furniture and paraphernalia acquired and paid for by a membership of over 250 and further that a baker's dozen can more efficiently administer a trust fund dedicated to charitable purposes, than ten-fold that number, then we can comprehend justification for the Grand Chapter of Canada's action through their mouthpiece and we can better understand the legislation upon the Statute Books of that Grand Chapter depriving the majority the right of rule in matters purely internal and peculiarly within their own sphere. The efficiency of that legislation not being quite to the liking of Judge MacWatt, his now proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Canada as follows, supplies any deficiency:

"Notice of motion of M. Ex. Comp. D. F. MacWatt, P. G. Z., that Section 81 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the following sentence:

"The warrant is the sole property of the Grand Chapter. If it be surrendered by the Chapter dissolved, then it and all the paraphernalia, books and funds of the Chapter immediately become vested in the Grand Chapter. To withhold any of such property is a Masonic offence and renders the offender liable to prompt discipline."

While I have no desire to question the decisions of the courts of the land, I believe that I am well within Masonic bounds when I say that Masonic law and procedure should have been invoked in the present case, and that, while the paraphernalia and furniture were being accumulated, as well as the funds, we had uppermost in our minds the advancement of Capitular Masonry and the needs of dependents as opposed to the ultimate ownership of the property and funds. However, in view of the enactments of the Grand Chapter of Canada and the above proposed amendment thereto, the same can neither be said nor thought of that Grand Body.

Before leaving this subject we believe that the Companions of Alberta Chapter No. 1 will be the more closely drawn together by reason of this unfortunate circumstance and, as is often the case, good will come out of evil.

#### **Otuskwan Chapter No. 9.**

The foregoing remarks apply with equal force to Otuskwan Chapter No. 9, which has also been the victim of litigation in the suit of George Hill v. G. Allen, et al., and as an illustration that good has come out of evil, I would point to the fact that this Chapter since the litigation has ceased, has not only recovered from the untoward effects but has made truly remarkable strides, having received and exalted since that time some thirty-six candidates, enabling this Chapter to replace the furniture and paraphernalia of which it was deprived, and to establish a greater fund for charitable purposes than that taken from them.

#### **Bow Valley Chapter No. 10.**

Bow Valley No. 10, located at Gleichen, has enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity commensurate with the circumstances surrounding them, being in a farming community with a large proportion of their membership actually engaged in sowing and reaping the bountiful harvest



with which that portion of Alberta and the Province in general has been blessed. I had the pleasure of visiting this Chapter last May upon the occasion of the official visit of the Grand Z. to that Chapter, and we had a most enthusiastic and splendid reception. I am glad to report that the work in this Chapter is well in hand and every officer and member is filled with a spirit of devotion and loyalty to this Grand Chapter.

#### Calgary Chapter No. 11.

While this is the youngest Chapter within my district it has been a veritable home of Capitular Masonry in the city of Calgary.

While the furniture and the paraphernalia of the other two Chapters in Calgary, and particularly Otuskwan, were in dispute, the Companions of this Chapter threw open their doors and placed their belongings at the disposal of Otuskwan Chapter, and while the other two Chapters were at times weary and ill at ease they always found a haven of rest and security within their portals, and their encouragement, counsel and sympathy in strenuous times has been and is the keystone and bond of union in the Arch of Capitular Masonry within my District.

This Chapter, along with other Chapters within my District, has received not only official but many fraternal visits from me.

In conclusion I point with pride to the report of the Grand Scribe E. for details of the splendid progress that has been made by each of the Chapters in my District, and express my thanks to the Excellent Companions for honor conferred upon me.

Fraternally submitted,

THOMAS RANKINE,

Grand Superintendent Second Masonic District.

#### Report of the Grand Superintendent of the Third Masonic District.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z. Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta.

In submitting my report as Grand Superintendent I have not the pleasure of stating that peace and harmony uniformly prevails throughout my District. I have been aware through the address of the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, for 1915, and through other channels, that there has been a diversity of opinion as to the sufficiency of the credentials of J. S. Lambert at the Convention held the 29th of May, 1914. So far as this matter is concerned it can at once be set at rest, because I, personally, was present at the Convocation of Bekah Chapter when this resolution was discussed and there was only one person who spoke against this motion, which was carried.

Speaking further with respect to Bekah Chapter I was equally surprised to hear from our Grand Z., J. N. Rankin, that there was a further equally glaring mis-statement with respect to Very Ex. Comp. D. L. Murison, First Principal of our Chapter, contained in the annual address of the present Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada at page 21, which reads as follows:

"Bekah Chapter No. 176, I am pleased to report, has now peace and harmony within its portals. A letter has been received from the

Scribe E., of this Chapter, properly attested, asking to have Comp. D. L. Murison, one of the Companions, who was named by this Grand Body last year for suspension, restored to full membership. The reason put forth for this request is that Comp. Murison ably assisted in bringing about peace and harmony in the Chapter. I trust Grand Chapter will take this request into consideration, and do what is right. In every case where a Companion has made an application to be restored, and who has not been named by this Grand Body for suspension, I have suggested he be welcomed back to the fold."

During the last year I have been closely and intimately associated with Very Ex. Comp. D. L. Murison, and his work in connection with Bekah Chapter No. 7 as its First Principal, and I could not comprehend that our Companion Murison would be carrying on the work as First Principal of this Chapter under the Grand Chapter of Alberta and at the same time requesting that he should be restored to full membership in the second and other Bekah Chapter in Macleod under the Grand Chapter of Canada. I am glad to be able to state with absolute certainty that there is no foundation whatever to the statement or imputation above quoted and Comp. Murison has voluntarily placed in my hands as your Grand Superintendent from this District a signed statement, which I append to my report.

With some irony I am, perhaps, able to agree that peace and harmony does prevail in the so-called Bekah Chapter No. 176 under the Grand Chapter of Canada, because there are so few actually belonging to that Chapter that strife must of necessity be limited.

I am able to state that since the formation of Bekah Chapter No. 176 in Macleod under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Canada, or speaking more accurately, the reinstatement of the warrant which had been declared null and void by the Grand Chapter of Canada, that they have not been able to hold a single meeting for want of a quorum.

I am aware that some time ago the officers of Bekah Chapter under the Grand Chapter of Canada issued an untruthful and misleading statement that a number of the Companions of this Chapter were loyal to the Grand Chapter of Canada, and that at this meeting they proposed to exalt Brother Dr. Millburn, and that, in accordance with this notice, Dr. Millburn drove 18 miles to present himself for exaltation only to find that there were insufficient Companions loyal to the Grand Chapter of Canada to regularly open the Chapter and that the Candidate had to return home.

I may say that after a residence of 39 years in Macleod and district I am personally and intimately acquainted with every member of Bekah Chapter at the time of the erection of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, and I am personally aware that there are not ten members of Bekah Chapter who are not loyal to the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

Since the installation of the officers of Bekah Chapter under the Grand Chapter of Canada about a year and a half ago, I am credibly informed and believe that they have not held a single Convocation.

#### **Golden West Chapter.**

This Chapter is located at High River and is the Chapter which remained neutral at the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, as shown by the resolution presented at the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

I am intimately acquainted with Dr. Stanley, Past First Principal, and I have it from him that over 90 per cent of the Companions of Golden West Chapter are in sympathy with the Grand Chapter of Alberta and that the reason they have not thrown in their lot with the Alberta Grand Chapter is that in doing so they would antagonize not more than half a dozen of their old members and that they are of the opinion that it is only a matter of time before these few Companions will see eye to eye with the majority of the members of Golden West Chapter and their action will be unanimous, and while I have been approached to the end of forming a Chapter in the town of High River under the Grand Chapter of Alberta, I am of opinion that this Grand Chapter has acted wisely in withholding action in this regard, believing that it is better that the Companions of High River should come as a unit in due course than to come with a dissension of even the two or three.

I am aware that an informal convention is being called at an early date by the Companions of Golden West Chapter to the end of petitioning the Grand Chapter of Alberta for admission as a Chapter under its Grand Jurisdiction.

If we were to adopt the same line of procedure in High River as has been adopted by the Grand Chapter of Canada in placing a Second Chapter in Macleod and at other points where there are not more than enough Companions to successfully carry on one Chapter, it would be simply ruinous. Our whole attitude is to build up rather than to tear down the work of Capitular Masonry.

The only other Chapters in my Jurisdiction are Shekinah, at Lethbridge, Kether, at Pincher Creek, and Hillvue, at Hillcrest, and as Shekinah and Kether Chapters were openly opposed to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, I, of course, have had little, if anything to do with them, but a goodly number from each of these Chapters have personally expressed to me their wish to be associated with the Grand Chapter of Alberta. Hillvue Chapter has taken definite steps to cast in their lot with this Grand Body.

I regret that owing to my Parliamentary duties I have been compelled to send in this report rather than to present it in person.

Fraternally submitted,  
ROBERT PATTERSON,  
Grand Superintendent Third District.

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